

ALASKA  
TRAILS

# NEWSLETTER

June  
2017

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907/334-8049

[www.alaska-trails.org](http://www.alaska-trails.org)

## ALASKA TRAILS NEWS AND NOTICES

### PROGRAM PROVIDES TRAIL USERS A WAY TO GIVE BACK TO TRAILS

Alaska Trail Stewards welcomes anyone who wants to work hard and help out on the trails, whether you're new to trail maintenance or have been using tools for years. Several events are already on our schedule, including Middle Fork Trail (three different events), Flattop-Canyon Road Trail (two events), Kachemak Bay weekend, and Chugach State Park on National Public Lands Day in September. For more information see: <http://www.alaska-trails.org/volunteer--alaska-trail-stewards.html>

### NEW LOGO WILL REPRESENT ALASKA TRAILS INTO THE FUTURE

Meet the new Alaska Trails logo! The Alaska Trails board wanted a newer, more professional logo that will help build Alaska Trails' brand. We've had the old logo for many years (it's there on our masthead) and it has served us well. The newer logo, designed by Inger Deede of Agnew::Beck, has a different feel. It uses the mountains, a huge part of trails in Alaska, to create an abstract "A." The two-toned color scheme can mean many things to different people. For example, it can stand for winter and summer—we're out on the trails all year—or the light and dark so strongly represented in our seasons. Or how about the Yin and Yang of some trail trips? You decide what it means to you.



### ALASKA TRAILS HAS TOOL TRAILERS READY FOR TRAIL PROJECTS



As you start planning trail building and maintenance projects, remember that Alaska Trails has mobile tool caches available to loan to organized trail groups in Southcentral and Interior Alaska. One cache is in the Fairbanks area and the other is in Anchorage/Mat-Su Valley area.

The trailers were upgraded recently and have a plethora of trail tools including mcleods, pulaskis, rakes, gloves, and much, much more. If you would like to borrow one of the caches, please contact us (info on masthead).

### ALASKA TRAILS LINKS

- From our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/pages/Alaska-Trails/707066126002590](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Alaska-Trails/707066126002590)
  - Thanks to the Chugach Mountain Bike Riders for cleaning up the Alaska Trails Tool Trailer.
  - Celebrating the new wayfinding signs on the Chester Creek Trail. Great Job Anchorage Park Foundation.

## ALASKA TRAILS NEEDS YOUR HELP TO PRESERVE, PROMOTE TRAILS

This newsletter is brought to you free by Alaska Trails. Our mission is to enhance the Alaska trail experience by supporting sustainable, world-renowned trails through advocacy and education. We couldn't do this without support from our members. Please join or renew your membership here: <http://www.alaska-trails.org/join.html>

All year long we strive to:

- Promote the health, social and economic benefits of trails by educating users through forums, conferences, information materials, training and other activities.
- Preserve and improve public trail access by assisting public and private organizations in forming coordinated programs, policies, and standards.
- Promote sustainable trail systems for all users by developing and providing technical assistance for trail projects.

## FOUR EASY WAYS TO HELP FUND ALASKA TRAILS

With the help of other organizations, you can help Alaska Trails continue advocating for trails.

**FRED MEYER REWARDS:** Sign up for the Community Rewards program by linking your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to Alaska Trails at [www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards](http://www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards). You can search for Alaska Trails or by our nonprofit number – 91035. Then, every time you shop and use your rewards card, you are helping Alaska Trails earn a donation! You still earn your rewards points, fuel points, and rebates, just as you do today.



**AMAZONSMILE:** If you shop at Amazon, please take the simple extra step of signing up for AmazonSmile.



It's the same Amazon website, but when you shop from AmazonSmile, you can make a donation to Alaska Trails at the same time: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/73-1677483>

**GOODSEARCH:** GoodSearch.com is a search engine that donates half its revenue, about a penny per search, to charities designated by the user. You use it just as you would any search engine, and, it's powered by Yahoo!. Just go to [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) and be sure to enter Alaska Trails as the charity you want to support.



**BAGOY'S:** Anchorage-based Bagoy's Florist and Home helps through its Helping Hands web fundraising program (<http://tinyurl.com/oavza6p>). When you order online from Bagoy's ([www.bagoys.com](http://www.bagoys.com)) there is a check box at the bottom of the payment page that says "This is a Helping Hands order." When you check that box, the list of enrolled organizations are shown and you can choose Alaska Trails from the list.



## EXECUTIVE BOARD HAS OPENINGS FOR INTERESTED PEOPLE

Alaska Trails is interested in hearing from people who might want to serve as board members. The board currently has several openings. By serving on the board you help guide our group in its mission "to enhance the Alaska trail experience by supporting sustainable, world-renowned trails through advocacy and education." If you would like to run for the board some time in the future please contact us (info on masthead).

## DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Steve Cleary, Executive Director



## New Volunteer Coordinator Brings New Energy to Alaska Trails

Alaska Trails is excited to welcome Katelyn Guinn as our new Volunteer Coordinator! Katelyn will be recruiting volunteers for all the Alaska Trail Stewards projects this summer. In addition, she will help expand the number of volunteer projects and partners. Katelyn moved to Anchorage with her dog, Ruby, from Dallas, TX, in August 2016. She jumped right in to volunteering with Alaska Trails on the Middle Fork Trail in Chugach State Park on National Public Lands Day in September.



“I just moved here from Texas and I don't know anybody, so I thought it would be a good place to meet some like-minded people,” Katelyn said in a recent Alaska Geographic video on the Alaska Trail Stewards program. Watch the entire video here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Cj75XqSgr8>

Katelyn not only met people, she became the Volunteer Coordinator for the Alaska Trail Stewards. She started in that position as a volunteer but is now a paid seasonal staff member. Katelyn is helping build and better organize the program, and is adding social events, like the popular Trivia Night, to reach out to even more potential volunteers – and have some fun.

Katelyn graduated from Texas State University with a double major in English and education. She taught high school English to seniors at an inner-city high school before deciding to move to Alaska on a whim. While subbing in the Anchorage school district, she's been able to see the need for a trails program at the schools around Anchorage.

Because of her drive to help and volunteer with the trails program, the Volunteer Coordinator position is a perfect fit. Katelyn has truly hit the ground running and we are excited about the possibilities for the Alaska Trail Stewards.

Last summer was a great success for the Alaska Trail Stewards. The volunteer workforce translated to 60 volunteers, roughly 1,183 hours and 25 miles of trail maintained or improved on seven projects. The volunteer time was valued at over \$32,000. The volunteers also take a great sense of pride in giving back to the trails and public land they love.

And even more is planned for this summer – thanks to Katelyn and all our partners – with great projects in Chugach State Park, Kachemak Bay State Park and the Chugach National Forest.

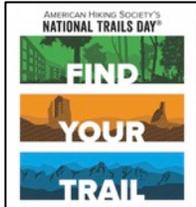
Alaska Trails has relied on many partners for this program and we hope to keep expanding that circle. Special thanks to the National Park Service RTCA team, Joe Hall of Chugach State Park, Eileen Kazura of Alaska Geographic, Jeff Samuels of the Student Conservation Association, Mike Morganson of REI, James Sowerwine, Blaine Smith, Lia Slemmons and financial sponsors ConocoPhillips and the Kenai Mountains - Turnagain Arm Heritage Area.

Happy Trails,  
Steve Cleary

## STATEWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

### ALASKANS TO CELEBRATE NATIONAL TRAILS DAY IN JUNE

Several events will be held across Alaska in celebration of National Trails Day. Most will be held on Saturday, June 3. For information on specific events see the Southcentral, Interior and Southeast regional news sections.



National Trails Day is the American Hiking Society's signature trail awareness program. It inspires the public and trail enthusiasts nationwide to seek out their favorite trails to discover, learn about, and celebrate trails while participating in educational exhibits, trail dedications, gear demonstrations, instructional workshops and trail work projects. For more info see: <http://www.americanhiking.org/national-trails-day/>

### WASILLA MEETING TO DISCUSS REX TRAIL DECISIONS, MONITORING

The Rex Trail will be discussed at a meeting in Wasilla on Thursday, June 1.

The meeting will be held from 6:30 to 8:30pm at the Curtis D. Menard Memorial Sports Center for Rex Trail Decisions And Trail Monitoring Report. Three topics will be presented:

- A summary of the 2008, 2009, and current decisions regarding use of the Rex Trail.
- The results of the Trail Monitoring Report published in 2016.
- Upcoming and completed pilot projects that address certain highly degraded sections of the trail.

The eastern Rex Trail is an important multi-use trail, extending 50 miles from approximately milepost 280 on the Parks Highway in the west, to the Wood River in the east. A recent increase in non-winter motorized travel coincided with the severe degradation of many portions of the trail.

To slow further degradation of the trail, the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) issued a decision to seasonally restrict use of wheeled vehicles greater than 1500 pounds in 2008, and issued an amended decision that allowed for expedited permitting of certain large tracked vehicles in 2009. As part of these decisions, currently extended through the 2017 hunting season, DNR initiated a trail monitoring study that collected trail condition data twice a year for 9 years. The results of this study were published in the 2016 Rex Trail Long Term Monitoring Report.

With assistance from Alaska Department of Fish and Game and Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, DNR has also begun pilot projects to test the feasibility of trail improvements to support a variety of vehicle types on certain sections of the trail. If you have any questions regarding this notice, please contact Adam Leland at (907) 451-2722, or email [adam.leland@alaska.gov](mailto:adam.leland@alaska.gov).

*(From What's Up? by Peg Tileston; photo of Rex Trail courtesy of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources.)*



### GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR IMPROVING BIKE INFRASTRUCTURE

People interested in improving bicycle infrastructure and advocacy initiatives have until July 21 to submit letters of interest for the People For Bike Community Grant Program.

This program offers funding for important and influential projects that leverage federal funding and build momentum for bicycling in communities across the United States. Grants of up to \$10,000 are

provided for bicycle infrastructure projects and targeted advocacy initiatives that make it easier and safer for people of all ages and abilities to ride.

Eligible applicants include nonprofit organizations with a focus on bicycling, active transportation, or community development; city or county agencies or departments; and state or federal agencies working locally. Full applications will be due October 13. For more information and to see the grant guidelines, go to <http://www.peopleforbikes.org/pages/grant-guidelines>.

*(From What's Up? by Peg Tileston)*

## APPLICATIONS DUE FOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE ASSISTANCE

Could the National Park Service help in your community to create close-to-home recreation opportunities and protect nearby nature?

Apply by June 30 to be considered for technical assistance with your locally led conservation and outdoor recreation project. The community assistance specialists in our Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program can help you to:

- Increase access to outdoor recreation and the natural world;
- Improve community health with new opportunities for more active living;
- Promote conservation and encourage stewardship of local resources;
- Benefit the local economy by improving quality of life;
- Connect youth to the outdoors and engage the next generation of conservation stewards; and
- Build partnerships that support your project's success!

To find out if we can help your community, review the application process. Then call or email our staff member nearest you to discuss your idea. We want to talk with you informally before you apply, to explore and develop your project idea and help you make the best of your application. Please let us know by the end of May if you intend to submit an application.

Still need help deciding to do something great in your community with our help? Watch this short video: <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/rtca/multimedia.htm>

Applications are due by June 30. For more information: <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/rtca/apply.htm>

*(From NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program email)*

## SNOWMOBILE TRAILS PROGRAM APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE



Grant applications for the state Snowmobile Trails Program are now available. Public notice for applications must be posted by June 10. Grant applications must be submitted or postmarked by July 1.

This program, administered by the state Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, provides reimbursable, matching grant funds for trail easement acquisition, development and maintenance of trails and trail-related facilities for snowmobile use. The program also provides funds for snowmobile safety and educational programs.

Matching funds are not required for safety and educational grant programs. Grant funds are generated from annual registration fees paid to the state by snowmobile owners statewide. For more information on the Snowmobile Trails Grant Program and the Grooming Pool, please visit:

<http://tinyurl.com/q33aj9m>

For general grant questions regarding the program please contact the Grants Administrator (907/269-8709). For project development questions please contact the State Trails Coordinator (907/269-8699). Or contact either one through the Department of Natural Resources email page

<http://tinyurl.com/3umsvj5>.

## RTP GRANT APPLICATION PERIOD STARTS EARLIER THIS YEAR

The timeline and associated deadlines for Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant applications are shifting a few weeks earlier this year.

RTP grants provide reimbursable, matching funds to develop and repair recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both non-motorized and motorized recreational trail uses. Grants are also available for trail-related environmental protection, safety, and educational projects.

The Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation has adjusted the grant application period to provide for a more efficient process. The new timeline is as follows:

- All application and informational documents will be available at <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/grants/trails.htm> on or before July 15;
- Applicants must begin public outreach on their proposed projects by September 15;
- Grant applications must be submitted by October 15.

Anyone with questions about RTP grants may contact Darcy Harris at 907-269-8699 or [darcy.harris@alaska.gov](mailto:darcy.harris@alaska.gov).

*(From Alaska Department of Natural Resources press release)*

## WATCH FOR BIRD NESTS WHEN WORKING ON TRAILS

Trail work sometimes requires downing trees or clearing shrubs. When doing so make sure not to violate the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which makes it illegal for anyone to “take” migratory birds, their eggs, feathers, or nests. “Take” includes destroying or damaging active bird nests or eggs. Different areas of the state have different sensitive periods generally occurring between April 15 and July 25. However, if you encounter an active nest *at any time* leave it in place and protected until young hatch and depart. “Active” is indicated by intact eggs, live chicks, or the presence of an adult on the nest.

For a PDF document with more information and recommended time periods for avoiding vegetation clearing see: <http://tinyurl.com/kwubruc>

## WATCH FOR MOOSE WITH CALVES WHEN OUT ON THE TRAILS

It’s calving season for the moose again and things can get dangerous really fast when you surprise a moose or get too close and the mama decides it’s time to protect her young. An Eagle River woman was sent to the hospital recently after accidentally getting between a mother moose and her calves. Read about it here: <https://craigmedred.news/2017/05/25/near-deadly-attack/>

To learn how to avoid surprising moose and how to deal with aggressive moose, check out these resources:

- <https://www.muni.org/Departments/parks/Pages/MooseontheLoose.aspx>
- <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=livewith.moose>

## STATEWIDE TRAILS AND PUBLIC LANDS RELATED NEWSLETTERS

- Eagle Watch, State Parks (several recent issues have had trail-related stories): <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/eaglewatch/eaglewatcharchive>

## STATEWIDE LINKS

- Outdoor Explorer radio show: Creating an active transportation network: <http://tinyurl.com/kd6hw7w>
- Fourteen Best Places To Canoe And Kayak On National Forests (includes Prince William Sound): <http://tinyurl.com/n6pm892>
- New trails proposed in Denali National Park: <http://tinyurl.com/l4yccl0>
- From Northern Soundings: A Trek Down Memory Lane: Writer Ned Rozell retraces an 800-mile journey (hiking the Alaska Pipeline corridor): <http://tinyurl.com/m4bk9fe>
- 5 Less-Traveled Hiking Trails to Hit This Summer (#5 is Gates of the Arctic): <http://tinyurl.com/knb9gfy>
- Trans-Alaska Trail update: <http://tinyurl.com/mnmdnxo>
- New 'Hiking Alaska' book offers more routes, more color — and more heft: <http://tinyurl.com/mzpphd7>

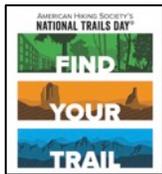
### SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Teach Alaska kids to be bear aware from an early age: <http://tinyurl.com/kzs2qr6>

## SOUTHCENTRAL NEWS AND NOTICES

### TRAILS DAY EVENTS TO BE HELD ACROSS SOUTHCENTRAL

The following events are being held as part of National Trails Day in communities around southcentral



Alaska. Unless otherwise noted:

- No RSVP is needed
- The events will be held on Saturday, June 3
- More information can be found at: <http://nationaltrailsday.americanhiking.org/ntd-events/>

### ANCHORAGE AREA

- Singletrack Advocates work parties at Kincaid Park (meet at Raspberry parking lot) and Hillside Park (bottom of Drone Lane) starting at 8:30am. More information at: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1051949564937502/>
- A trail work project on the Middle Fork Trail in Chugach State Park starting at 9am at Glen Alps parking lot. To register and get more information: <http://www.alaska-trails.org/middle-fork-trail.html>

### KENAI PENINSULA

- Trails Day Fitness Hike on Kenai National Wildlife Refuge Centennial Trail: guided 3-mile hike on the Centennial Trail, Sunday June 4, 2pm – 3:30pm
- Several activities in Kachemak Bay State Park near Homer hosted by Friends of Kachemak Bay State Park. Activities start at 7am and include a guided hike and trail work projects. RSVP required by May 26 for most events. More information: [kbayvolunteer@gmail.com](mailto:kbayvolunteer@gmail.com) or (907) 435-7969 or <http://tinyurl.com/y8ddd2q>

## SEWARD

- Self-led hikes encouraged for Saturday and then a celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Seward bike path starting at 11am hosted by the Seward Trail Blazers and the Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance. More information: <http://tinyurl.com/y8dddk2q>

## CORDOVA

- A 3.5-mile guided hike on the McKinley and Pipeline Lakes trails hosted by the Chugach National Forest starting at McKinley Trail Cabin at 1pm.

## MAT-SU VALLEY

- A 6-mile hike of Red Shirt Lake Trail in the Nancy Lake State Recreation Area hosted by the Willow Trail Committee starting at 10am at the South Rolly Overlook.

## DENALI STATE PARK

- A 5-mile hike and trail work project on Curry Ridge hosted by Denali State Park and starting at 10:30am on Kesugi Ken Drive. RSVP to [carter.forney@alaska.gov](mailto:carter.forney@alaska.gov) or (907) 354-5890.

## WORK DONE ON NANCY LAKE CROSS-COUNTRY SKI TRAIL SYSTEM

Thanks to a partnership with three agencies the cross-country ski trails at Nancy Lake State Recreation Area got some needed attention this past April. Below is a story about the project by Emily Angel, interpretation and education program manager for the Alaska State Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation.

Terrific progress was made this month on the Nancy Lake State Recreation Area Cross-Country Ski Trails. The project was funded by a Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation grant. A cutting crew from Denali State Park, including Park Specialist Justin DiPaola-Allen and Natural Resource Technician Carter Forney, were assisted by students from the Mat-Su Career and Technical High School Forestry program, who provided some muscle for the project. They accomplished some timber felling, brush cutting, and hauling debris off the trail at an accelerated rate. Thanks to all for the help!



*(Photo: Mat-Su Career and Technical High School Forestry students pose with their instructor, Galen Sparks and Willow Area Park Specialist Vic Stanculescu.)*

## ANCHORAGE TRAILS WAYFINDING PROJECT KICKS OFF



May 16 marked the official launch of the Anchorage Trails Wayfinding project, an initiative more than three years in the making to improve the usability and safety of Anchorage's trails.

New mile markers at the mile and half-mile points have been installed all along the Chester Creek trail, and more will be installed on the Ship Creek Trail along with new maps and kiosks to help trail users navigate

the system. The mile markers have emergency locators so that trail users can contact emergency services in distress situations and communicate exactly where they are. We're excited that this Anchorage Live. Work. Play. project is being fully realized, through the help of our partners at Anchorage Park Foundation, Anchorage Parks and Recreation, Anchorage Police Department and so many trail volunteers!

*(Story and photo from Anchorage Parks and Rec Facebook page)*

## **ANCHORAGE PARK FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES 2017 GRANTEES**

The Anchorage Park Foundation recently approved \$200,000 in challenge grants for 16 community groups committed to improving Anchorage parks and trails. Several projects are trail-related and are listed below. To see the entire list go to: <http://tinyurl.com/y9fgqnoe>

- Far North Bicentennial Park Nature Preserve Signage – \$750  
Ann Gabler will install discreet signage for a quiet nature preserve with Far North Bicentennial Park that uses existing wildlife game trails used by park users. Signage will advise park users of the resource protection and natural character of the park area.
- Girdwood Beaver Pond Trail – \$8,250  
The Girdwood Trails Committee will improve a 1/2 mile rough drainage section of the Beaver Pond Trail, the non-motorized trail which connects the Bird to Gird trail along Turnagain Arm with Crow Creek Road.
- Hillside Park Singletrack Expansion – \$10,000  
Singletrack Advocates will build an additional 6 miles of one-directional singletrack bike trail that will interconnect with the existing Hillside STA trail system. This will bring 2.7 miles of advanced trails and 3.3 of intermediate trails to the system.
- Ruth Arcand Park Northwest Improvements – \$20,000  
Pacific Northern Academy and neighbors will bring a trailhead, multi-use loop trail and amenities to the northwest corner of Ruth Arcand Park.
- Wolverine Park Learning Lab – \$20,000  
Campbell Elementary School students in partnership with Schools on Trails will bring educational improvements and trail upgrades to nearby Wolverine Park. Campbell is the first STEM elementary school in Anchorage, and the park will have an outdoor learning lab for hands-on nature education opportunities.

*(From Anchorage Park Foundation email)*

## **TRUST CELEBRATES KODIAK'S TERMINATION POINT PROJECT**

Join Great Land Trust on June 2 for a free ribbon-cutting event to celebrate the completion of the Termination Point project on Kodiak Island! Along with Leisnoi, Inc., the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and other community partners, Great Land Trust has ensured that this land will be protected forever and available for the public to enjoy. A community-led hike will be led from 3:30 to 5:30 at White Sands Beach. For more information, go to <https://www.facebook.com/events/285216761889358/>.

*(From What's Up? by Peg Tileston)*

## CHURCH TO HOST BIKE, PEDESTRIAN SAFETY MEETING

St. Mary's Episcopal Church, a member of AFACT (Anchorage Faith and Action Congregations Together), is hosting a public meeting on bike and pedestrian safety on Wednesday, June 7, from 7 to 8pm. Marla Thompson, director of the Alaska Division of Motor Vehicles, and Katie Dougherty, project manager for Vision Zero Anchorage, will be present as we discuss concrete ways to make our streets safer for bikers and walkers. St. Mary's is at 2222 E Tudor Road (corner of Lake Otis & Tudor).

*(From Travis Montgomery)*

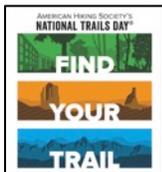
## SOUTHCENTRAL LINKS

- No more singletrack trails in (Anchorage) parks, please (opinion): <http://tinyurl.com/m3pfun9>
- (Kodiak) Island Trails Network "Trails Update": <http://tinyurl.com/mbdwj3r>
- Bears jam up plans for new mountain bike trails in Anchorage's Far North Bicentennial Park: <https://craigmedred.news/2017/05/19/three-bears-more/>
- Life with bears (in the Anchorage area): <http://tinyurl.com/n3v3bh7>
- Proposed cabin in Hatcher Pass backcountry would boost hiking options: <http://tinyurl.com/n2rq9w8>
- Mat-Su Borough trail passes now available for purchase online (single day and annual): <http://tinyurl.com/m5j3k3n>
- Soak up splendors of Denali at new K'esugi Ken Campground: <http://tinyurl.com/ycy6bzd2>
- Anchorage Park Foundation Fundraiser (June 14): <http://tinyurl.com/y7osa3vo>
- Anchorage Park Foundation summer schedule (includes trail volunteer opportunities): <http://anchorageparkfoundation.org/events/>
- Anchorage Parks and Recreation volunteer opportunities (including trails): <http://tinyurl.com/ybt8d9pw>
- Bikes and bunks (Eklutna Serenity Falls Hut): <http://coast-magazine.com/bikes-and-bunks>

## INTERIORWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

### TRAILS DAY EVENTS TO BE HELD ACROSS INTERIOR

The following events are being held as part of National Trails Day in communities around interior Alaska.



Unless otherwise noted:

- No RSVP is needed
- The events will be held on Saturday, June 3
- More information can be found at: <http://nationaltrailsday.americanhiking.org/ntd-events/>

### FAIRBANKS

- A trail volunteer training day starting at 10am at the Fairbanks REI store and hosted by Fairbanks North Star Borough, REI, Interior Trails, Alaska Trails and the Bureau of Land Management. More information: <http://tinyurl.com/y8ddd2k2q>
- Alaska Endurance Trail Run, a 6, 12, and 24 hour trail run/race held on the UAF West Ridge Trails, starting at 8pm on Friday, June 2. More information: <https://www.alaskaendurancetrailrun.org/>

## DENALI NATIONAL PARK

- A trail maintenance project hosted by Denali National Park and Preserve starting at 9am.

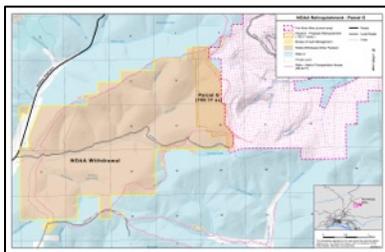
## DELTA JUNCTION

- Hike up Donnelly Dome with the Delta Junction Trails Association starting at 11am.

## TOK

- A 2-mile hike hosted by Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge starting at 10am. RSVP to 907-883-5312 [timothy\\_lorenzini@fws.gov](mailto:timothy_lorenzini@fws.gov).
- A 3-mile hike to Eagle Point hosted by Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge at Eagle Trail, 16 miles south of Tok, starting at 10am.

## TRAILS CROSS LAND BEING CONSIDERED FOR RELINQUISHMENT



June 1 is the deadline for comments on a proposal by NOAA to relinquish 709 acres on Gilmore Dome. The Gilmore Satellite Tracking Station is located on 8,855 acres of federally withdrawn lands adjacent to Fort Knox mine.

NOAA notified BLM last fall, with an interest to relinquish 709 acres of the withdrawal. This area is top filed by the State of Alaska for mining claims, and Fort Knox has been doing exploration work in area.

BLM will determine whether this partial relinquishment is suitable for return to the public domain.

Several trails run across the parcel being considered for relinquishment including a portion of the route of the Gold Discovery Run.

For more information, go to <https://www.blm.gov/press-release/blm-considers-request-relinquishing-federal-land-near-fox>. For additional information or to submit comments, contact Valerie Baxter at (907) 474-2363 or email [vbaxter@blm.gov](mailto:vbaxter@blm.gov).

*(From What's Up? by Peg Tileston)*

## TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE INCLUDES INTERACTIVE MAP

The Fairbanks Metropolitan Area Transportation System is updating the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) in order improve transportation for our region and comply with state and federal requirements.

The new plan will anticipate growth through the year 2045 and lay out a long-range vision for the transportation system in the Fairbanks metropolitan area. The goals to be reviewed in this update include:

1. Coordinate planning efforts to provide an integrated transportation and land use system that embodies smart growth principles and stimulates the economy to grow.
2. Provide a safe, efficient, secure, and interconnected multi-modal transportation system for all users.
3. Protect the environment, improve air quality, and promote energy efficiency.
4. Optimize the utility and lifespan of the existing transportation system.
5. Ensure adequate transportation facilities to support economic development.
6. Facilitate an open, honest, and transparent decision-making process conducted through constructive two-way communication between the project team, agencies, and the public.

Part of the planning process includes an interactive map where people can add comments (for example to add trail connections) and to like comments already added: <http://tinyurl.com/n272j46>

## LAKE AND TRAIL FESTIVAL TO CELEBRATE TANANA LAKES REC AREA

The Fairbanks Parks and Recreation Department will be hosting a Lake and Trail Festival, Saturday, June 10, at Tanana Lakes Recreation Area Non-Motorized Boat Launch. Our partners will provide paddling instruction in canoes, kayaks, and stand-up paddleboards throughout the day (pre-registration required). There will be many family oriented outdoor games, activities and classes. The Summer Trails Challenge will be unveiled too! For more information keep an eye on the Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks and Recreation Department website (<http://www.co.fairbanks.ak.us/pr/pages/default.aspx>) or its Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/Fairbanks-North-Star-Borough-Parks-Rec-285026928325274/>) or call at 459-1070.

*(From the FNSB Parks and Recreation Department website)*

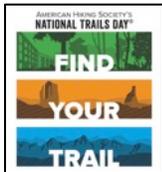
## INTERIORWIDE LINKS

- East Fairbanks to get more bike, pedestrian paths: <http://tinyurl.com/mte4mv5>
- (Opinion) Paths to recreation, safety: Bike and pedestrian improvements will help nonmotorized road users: <http://tinyurl.com/merdkfg>
- Feds may give up land near Fort Knox: <http://tinyurl.com/mvttuku>
- (Opinion) Federal land transfer a win-win: Parcel near Fort Knox mine offers opportunity for mine, opportunity: <http://tinyurl.com/m52rjyj>
- Noyes Slough and Chena River Cleanup Day, June 10: <http://tinyurl.com/kfag6m6>
- Trash outlasts volunteers at river cleanup: <http://tinyurl.com/y9h9bse7>

## SOUTHEAST NEWS AND NOTICES

### TRAILS DAY EVENT TO BE HELD IN JUNEAU

The following event is being held as part of National Trails Day in communities around southeast Alaska.



Unless otherwise noted:

- No RSVP is needed
- The event will be held on Saturday, June 3
- More information can be found at: <http://nationaltrailsday.americanhiking.org/ntd-events/>

### JUNEAU AREA

- A trail maintenance project on Outer Point Trail hosted by Trail Mix starting at 9am at Mile 12.25 North Douglas Highway.

## SOUTHEAST LINKS

- New federal spending bill would defuse Southeast Alaska logging controversy (trails involved): <http://tinyurl.com/n7ptpsm>
- (Kodiak) Termination Point Community Celebration (June 2): <http://tinyurl.com/lrzx79t>

## NATIONWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

### NATIONWIDE / INTERNATIONAL LINKS

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#### WEBINARS, MEETINGS, CONFERENCES, TRAINING, ETC.

- For a listing of upcoming trail webinars workshops, conferences, and other meetings, see the American Trails calendar at: [www.americantrails.org/Calendar.html](http://www.americantrails.org/Calendar.html)

#### FUNDING

- National Forest Foundation Matching Awards Program (deadline June 26): <http://tinyurl.com/px7y6ke>
- Horseback riding trails grant (application due August 1): <https://www.aqha.com/step>

#### TRAIL GUIDES

- Best Dog-Walking Trails In Orange County (CA): <http://tinyurl.com/kou25rj>
- Some of the Best Trails for Mountain Biking Around Grand Junction: <http://tinyurl.com/kd93zam>
- Best Hiking Trails Near Winchester VA: <http://tinyurl.com/mjuwl6t>

#### OTHER NATIONAL LINKS:

- National Park Maps (1,608 free high-resolution national park maps): <http://npmaps.com>
- Hiking Trails and Mud Season: Caring for Trails When They Need It Most: <http://tinyurl.com/myl8do6>
- 10 of the best US hiking trails: <http://tinyurl.com/kqpaeu2>
- Review of Certain National Monuments Established Since 1996; Notice of Opportunity for Public Comment (none are in Alaska; comment deadline is July 10): <http://tinyurl.com/l28ef7s>
- Hiking America's Trails is the Subject of a New "Informed" Piece with Rob Lowe: <http://tinyurl.com/y7pvzgs2>

#### STUDIES

- Cycling to work linked with large health benefits: <http://tinyurl.com/kzklw2e>
- Why green spaces are good for grey matter: <http://tinyurl.com/lphybc8>
- 5 ways nature boosts happiness, according to science: <http://tinyurl.com/k2hajsv>

#### INTERNATIONAL LINKS:

- South Africa Outdoor Fun: 5 great Joburg hiking trails: <http://tinyurl.com/l9xvrta>
- Explore Five Amazing Hiking Trails in Parks Across Brazil: <http://tinyurl.com/ybnod26g>

#### SLIGHTLY OFF TRAIL

- No cars are allowed on the most adorable official US Highway: <https://roadtrippers.com/trips/16679177>
- There's An App For That (outdoors-related apps): <http://tinyurl.com/kxk7ue4>

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The Alaska Trails board meets via teleconference on the first Tuesday of each month from noon to 1:00 pm. If you want to hear more about Alaska trail topics, share trail information, or propose a trail project, join us for an hour. Members and the public are welcome. Call for more information and meeting details [907-334-8049](tel:907-334-8049).

A copy of this newsletter will also be posted to our web site. Newsletters come out at the beginning of each month. Deadline for articles is five days before the first of the month. Send stories to Editor Eric Troyer at [fbxtrails@gmail.com](mailto:fbxtrails@gmail.com)