



NEWSLETTER

July
2018

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www.alaska-trails.org

ALASKA TRAILS NEWS AND NOTICES

ALASKA TRAIL STEWARDS NEEDS PEOPLE WHO LOVE TRAILS



Come join the Alaska Trail Stewards on one of our several trail work projects this summer. Alaska Trail Stewards is an Alaska Trails program designed to help give volunteers opportunities to maintain and improve the trails that they and many others love. Below are the volunteer days we have scheduled so far for July. For more information on the program and to register for one or more of the work parties see:

<http://www.alaska-trails.org/alaska-trail-stewards.html>

- July 7: Build sustainable reroutes on the Middle Fork Trail in Chugach State Park
- July 14: help improve a segment of trail tread on the Upper Winner Creek Trail
- July 24: Brushing an extremely thick section of the Turnagain Arm Trail

POSTED RECENTLY ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

- Thanks to all the great volunteers and the US Forest Service for a great day on working on a new section of trail from Rocky Creek to Victor Creek! *(Photo courtesy of Loogpla Cowden.)*
- Thanks to the hardy volunteers who helped repair the Horsetail Trail in Whittier last Saturday!
- Fun day to participate with the Student Conservation Association in the CIRI Day of Service at Taku Lake. Happy Solstice.
- Broke the ice with our new brush cutter this morning. Fun to get it dirty and help clear some of the STA trails on the Hillside. Hope to keep putting it to good use.
- Check out our Facebook page at:
<https://www.facebook.com/alaskatrails/>



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>

STATEWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE IN JULY

It's time to get your Recreational Trails Program grant application started.

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 grants are administered through the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation. The 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.

Questions? Contact Darcy Harris at 907-269-8699 or darcy.harris@alaska.gov.

STATEWIDE LINKS

- Eagle Watch (state parks newsletter): <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/eaglewatch/eaglewatcharchive>
- Outdoor Rec Trails Board recruiting new members (deadline Aug 1): <http://notice.alaska.gov/189969>
- The governor declared June 2 Alaska Trails Day: <http://tinyurl.com/ycvcotmh>
- 14 Places To Canoe, Kayak In Nat Forests (incl Prince William Sound): <http://tinyurl.com/yag7xpyo>
- 5 of the Coolest Wheelchair-Accessible Trails to Visit at US National Parks (includes Denali National Park trail): <http://tinyurl.com/yb9q5vs5>
- As parks suffer from overuse, time to remember trail etiquette (opinion): <http://tinyurl.com/yboeen2r>

TIS THE SEASON

- Beware the bruins: <http://tinyurl.com/yd85j76p>
- Being bear aware can save your life: <http://tinyurl.com/y77u90oe>
- Protect yourself: <https://craigmedred.news/2018/06/22/protect-yourself/>
- Hiker encounters large brown bear on Flattop Mountain, underscoring importance of bear awareness: <http://tinyurl.com/y9gxxdhs>
- Bear advice dispute:
 - Afraid of bears? There are far more dangerous things in the Alaska outdoors: <http://tinyurl.com/y8nuh7q4>
 - Bad bear advice might be worse than no advice at all: <http://tinyurl.com/yctc4crj>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- State Set to Release Emerging Sector report at Confluence Sept. 12 – 13: <http://tinyurl.com/ya7y7oe4>
- It's a bluebird day in Alaska and you're at work? Find a way to steal away: <http://tinyurl.com/ycr88be3>
- When the Brooks family ventured to the Brooks Range for a summer adventure, winter reared its head: <http://tinyurl.com/y9qhbv9c>
- Outdoor Explorer radio show:
 - River stories: <http://tinyurl.com/y7nt8o9f>
 - Nature as therapy: <http://tinyurl.com/ydbj9csn>
 - Revisiting minimizing your impact: <http://tinyurl.com/y88jhfnp>

SOUTHCENTRAL NEWS AND NOTICES

NEW MULTI-USE WINTER TRAIL TO BE BUILT IN DENALI STATE PARK

Friends of State Parks Mat-Su (FoSP) was recently awarded nearly \$47,000 in grant funding by the Mat-Su



Trails and Parks Foundation (MSTPF) for winter trail grooming equipment. The grant, in addition to FoSP's \$20,000 contribution, helps solidify Alaska State Park's plans to construct and maintain a 15-mile, winter multi-use connector trail between K'esugi Ken campground and the Byers Lake trail system in Denali State Park (DSP). The trail will be designed to accommodate two-way snowmobile traffic and provide a new opportunity for winter recreationists to

experience areas of Denali State Park which have previously been inaccessible.

The combined funds from both organizations allowed DSP to purchase an Argo Conquest 8x8 XT-L, front-end blade and 12-foot mini groomer. This equipment will be used to construct the trail this coming winter and to groom and maintain the trail for seasons to come. Most of the trail will be 14 feet wide, although there will be some variation due to landscape restrictions. It will connect 12 miles of established trails at both locations and provide the opportunity to groom an additional four miles of trail around Byers Lake. The majority of the project's funding came from the Alaska Department of Natural Resources Recreational Trails Program (RTP). Alaska State Park's received an RTP grant to kick off the initiative.

(From Friends of State Parks, Mat-Su website. For the rest of the story see: <http://tinyurl.com/y7pxvngd>. Photo: FoSP Board Members pose with State Parks staff in front of the new equipment.)

ANCHORAGE ADOPT-A PROGRAMS INCLUDE TRAILS, PATHWAYS

Adopt a highway, pathway, road or trail and see the difference you make! Calling all businesses, organizations, groups, churches, families or individuals. You can make a big difference in the beauty of our community and our state by signing up with Anchorage's Adopt-A Programs: Adopt-A-Highway, Adopt-A-Pathway, Adopt-A-Road, Adopt-A-Trail/Park.

Volunteer to adopt a 1 to 2 mile stretch of road or trail or a specific park this summer for litter cleanup and be the conduit for a cleaner, more beautiful Alaska. You can have a choice of open routes that are close to your home, church or business whether it be on a state highway, road or pathway or a city street, street trail or park. Find the right fit with one of our programs. Simply call or email one of the programs listed below to find out which route will be best for you.

Adopters agree to perform a minimum of three cleanings of the area adjacent to the selected areas during the non-snow months for a minimum of three years. Bags and safety vests are provided. Adopt a Park or Trail is a 1-year commitment. It's easy to become a recognized volunteer with one of these great programs!



- Adopt-A-Pathway: for multi-use trails along Glenn Highway, Eagle River Rd., Benson Blvd., 15th Ave., Debarr, Dimond, Huffman, and Tudor Road. Contact: ALPAR – 644-7968 or email: alpar@gci.net.
- Adopt-A-Trail or Park: Muni of Anchorage Parks and Recreation: 343-4587 email Michelle: FehribachMR@muni.org. For information, go to <http://www.muni.org/Departments/parks/Pages/Volunteering.aspx>

(From What's Up? by Peg Tileston)

APPLICATIONS FOR KENAI-TURNAGAIN AREA GRANTS DUE IN AUGUST

August 15 is the application deadline for Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm (KMTA) National Heritage Area grants. Applications will be reviewed at the September board meeting.

The KMTA area comprises the north-south road, rail, and trail corridors from Bird to Seward and includes the communities of Girdwood, Portage, Moose Pass, Cooper Landing, Sunrise, Hope, Portage, Whittier and Indian. KMTA awards grants to community projects that recognize, preserve, and interpret the historic, scenic, and natural recreational resources and cultural landscapes of the Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm historic transportation corridor. Projects must be located within the KMTA Heritage Area, be sponsored by a community, non-profit or government organization, and commit a minimum match of funding for at least 50% of project costs. Visit <https://www.kmtacorridor.org/grants/> for more information and to apply for a grant.

(From What's Up? by Peg Tileston)

SOUTHCENTRAL LINKS

- Walk on the Wild Side (Southcentral trails): <http://coast-magazine.com/walk-wild-side>
- Anchorage volunteers trim branches along city trail in effort to improve safety: <http://tinyurl.com/y9zyfoj>
- 12 Anchorage-area hikes you can do in about 5 hours or less: <http://tinyurl.com/yc563f46>
- Iditarod Trail Celebrates 40 Years as Designated National Historic Trail: <http://tinyurl.com/y92bdsnt>
- This is Singletrack Advocates (video): <http://tinyurl.com/ya952q6p>

MAT-SU

- New app for navigating Mat-Su trails: <http://tinyurl.com/ybq6defu>
- Lake Louise Boat Launch Improvements!: <http://tinyurl.com/ya7vbw6z>
- Hatcher Pass Explorations: <http://tinyurl.com/yctm6abp>
- New Smokey's Track completed in Willow: <http://tinyurl.com/y9suqzlf>

KENAI PENINSULA

- Sterling Highway reroute to alter trails, recreation sites: <http://tinyurl.com/y8xhhvhp>
- Refuge repairing boat launch, trails, and cabins: <http://tinyurl.com/y88kr9fs>
- Outdoor Explorer radio show: Whittier, gateway to the Prince William Sound: <http://tinyurl.com/y6w4azol>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- 'I'll never forget him': Alaskan husky rescues injured hiker crossing frigid Eagle River along Crow Pass Trail: <http://tinyurl.com/yayzjjwg>

INTERIORWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

TRAIL, CABIN CLOSURES PLANNED FOR STATE PROJECTS

It's going to be a busy summer season for recreational access upgrades in the Chena River and Lower Chatanika state parks recreation areas and several closures are planned.

Trailhead upgrades are planned in the Chena River State Recreation Area at the Compeau, Mastodon, and Upper Chena Dome trailheads. This work will improve hunter access, increase parking, and add restrooms. State Parks is also making a variety of upgrades at the Olnes Pond and Whitefish campgrounds at the Lower Chatanika State Recreation Area – adding culverts, re-grading the access road, and other maintenance.

The Upper Chena Dome Trailhead, Angel Creek Hillside Trail, and Upper and Lower Angel Creek public use cabins will close July 5 and reopen July 28. The closures are necessary because the Upper Chena Dome trailhead is the only access point and safe parking area for the Angel Creek Hillside Trail and cabins.

The Compeau Trailhead will close July 28 and reopen on August 12. However, the Compeau Trail will remain open and accessible from Twin Bears Camp at Mile 30 of the Chena Hot Springs Road.

The public can obtain current closure information by calling the Alaska State Parks Northern Region office at 451-2695.

Construction at the Lower Chatanika State Recreation Area was planned to begin on June 11. The Olnes Pond campground and day-use area at Mile 10.5 of Elliott Highway were to close to the public on June 11. The Whitefish campground and day-use area at Mile 11 of the Elliott Highway will remain open during construction at Olnes Pond. Once Olnes Pond reopens, Whitefish will close for construction. Both campgrounds and day-use areas will briefly reopen from June 29 to July 9 to accommodate campers during the July 4th holiday.

The projects are being funded by a federal Pittman-Robertson Act grant at a cost of approximately \$2.4 million. For more information contact Brooks Ludwig, 451-2698, brooks.ludwig@alaska.gov

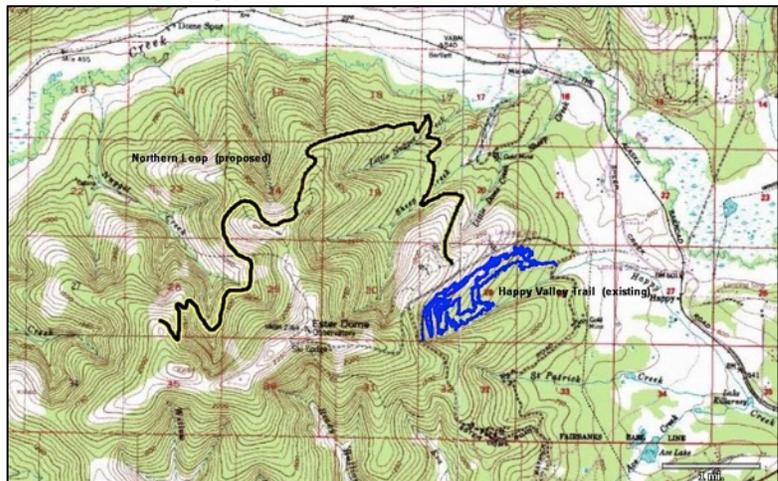
(From Alaska State Parks press release)

COMMENTS SOUGHT ON TRAIL PLANNED FOR ESTER DOME

Comments are due on a new motorized multi-use trail being planned on the north side of Ester Dome.

The new year-round trail would connect the Equinox Trail, where it parallels Ester Dome Road on its north side, to the Nugget Creek Trail near the top of Ester Dome. This trail would allow a route to the top of Ester Dome that avoids using Ester Dome Road. It would be entirely on state land.

However, construction of the trail is not guaranteed. An application for a public access easement has been filed with the Department of



Natural Resources. That application must first be approved by the DNR, which is accepting public comments. The deadline for comment is July 16. To comment see: <http://notice.alaska.gov/190401>

Geoff Orth, a local trail consultant and advocate, is heading up the project and is working with the Fairbanks Cycle Club. Orth also led the effort to create the Ester Dome/Happy Valley Singletrack Trails. Those trails were built for non-motorized use, but Orth says this route calls for a motorized multi-use trail because of a lack of year-round trail access to the top of Ester Dome on that side of the dome.

If the easement application is approved, construction of the trail would start sometime in 2019 and would probably take 2-3 years, according to Orth.

(Graphic: Black line shows proposed trail. Blue lines show Ester Dome/Happy Valley Singletrack Trails.)

TRAILS NORTH OF FAIRBANKS TO BE REROUTED FOR MINE PROJECT

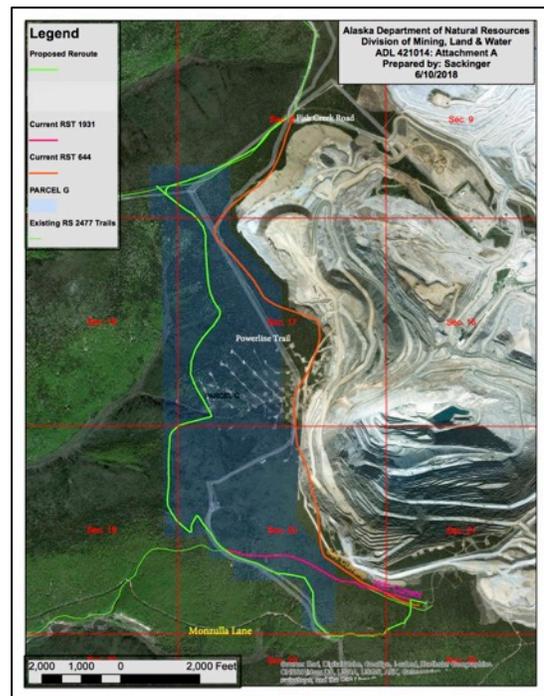
A portion of some trails connecting Gilmore Trail road and Cleary Summit will be rerouted to accommodate expansion of the Fort Knox gold mine. The reroute is expected to take place this summer.

The state Department of Natural Resources recently approved the reroute after a public comment period that ended on May 7.

The trails comprise a route that connects trails in the Cleary Summit area and trails north of Gilmore Trail road. The route is used by a variety of motorized and non-motorized trail users, including by the Gold Discovery Run, held in summer as a part of the Golden Days celebration.

Recent stories in the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner and the Alaska Journal of Commerce discuss the mine expansion:

- FDNM: Fort Knox expansion to extend mine life to 2030: <http://tinyurl.com/ya25vce9>
- AJC: Interior gold mine gets new life, \$100M expansion: <http://tinyurl.com/y9s77h87>



INTERIORWIDE LINKS

- Agriculture easement established along Equinox trail on Sheep Creek Road: <http://tinyurl.com/ybev85we>
- Angel Creek trailhead, public use cabins closing next month: <http://tinyurl.com/yamwmbnr>
- Around, not across: Fastest in this year's AlaskAcross: <http://tinyurl.com/y8tb9v2p>
- Mount Healy was too gusty for hiking last Friday: <http://tinyurl.com/ydc8fygz>
- A winding trip up Angel Rocks: <http://tinyurl.com/y9qqdahe>
- Fairbanks summer Trails Challenge: <http://www.co.fairbanks.ak.us/pr/Pages/Trails-Program.aspx>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Camp-made yogurt wins camp cookout contest at Angel Creek cabin: <http://tinyurl.com/y9pr2vot>

SOUTHEAST NEWS AND NOTICES

TRAILS GUIDE NOW AVAILABLE FOR JUNEAU AREA

The Juneau Area Trails Guide is now available for purchase at two physical locations and online. The guide covers the most extensive trail system in Southeast Alaska, from accessible trails to historic mining routes, helping recreationists of all abilities to explore a wide variety of habitats and scenic attractions. The maps can be purchased at the Juneau Ranger District at 8510 Mendenhall Loop Road, the Discovery Southeast Bookstore in the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center, 6000 Glacier Spur Road, and online at the National Forest Map Store (<http://www.nationalforestmapstore.com/product-p/ak-3.htm>). The purchase price is \$14.

For more information: 907-586-8800.

(From What's Up? by Peg Tileston)

SOUTHEAST LINK

- Mendenhall Auto Center makes donation to trail improvement club: <http://tinyurl.com/y722eaa6>

NATIONWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

NATIONWIDE / INTERNATIONAL LINKS

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

TRAIL GUIDES

- 8 top trails to hike, bike or paddle in the Cable (Wisconsin) area: <http://tinyurl.com/y8zne398>
- 5 Glacier National Park loop trails: <http://tinyurl.com/ydhq53jx>
- 4 linked trails and 100 miles of biking bliss in western Wisconsin: <http://tinyurl.com/yaemm2yc>
- 10 Beautiful Trails for Hiking and Running: <http://tinyurl.com/yaxotj7q>
- Adirondacks overcrowded: 13 trails where you can find peace and quiet: <http://tinyurl.com/y9omhbt3>
- A guide for walking in, around Manhattan trails: <http://tinyurl.com/y88k6qmp>

FUNDING

- Horseback riding trails grant (application due August 1): <https://www.aqha.com/step>
- Gearjunkie & Merrell Donate \$10,000 To Hiking Trails: <http://tinyurl.com/ycdyscju>

TRAILS-RELATED NEWSLETTERS

- For the latest American Trails news publications: <http://www.americantrails.org/trailtracks/index.html>
- National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council (June): <http://tinyurl.com/yicyt9guz>
- Conservation Volunteers International Program (June): <http://tinyurl.com/y7uzr449>

OTHER NATIONAL LINKS:

- How to Break Free of the Campground (in national forests): <http://tinyurl.com/yb39v33n>
- 3,954 Miles of Trail Improved on National Trails Day: <http://tinyurl.com/yaragtda>
- Coalition for Recreational Trails, 2018 Annual Achievement Awards: <http://tinyurl.com/yarafwxl>
- New National Recreation Trails designated for 2018: <http://tinyurl.com/ya8e4br9>
- Trail Etiquette: Who Has The Right Of Way?: <http://tinyurl.com/y9s8bu>
- American Hiking Society Supports North Country National Scenic Trail Route bill: <http://tinyurl.com/y7gvmqfu>
- In Southwest Va., Trails Connect Region To Economic Growth: <http://tinyurl.com/yax2jv2j>
- Virtual tour to feature SE Michigan hiking, biking and water trails: <http://tinyurl.com/y9dwssj>
- 2017-18 Recreational Trails Program Annual Report: <http://tinyurl.com/y7nf7ou9>

INTERNATIONAL LINKS:

- Five beautiful biking trails near Stockholm, Sweden: <http://tinyurl.com/y987vpvy>
- 5 x Helsinki's best nature jogging trails: <http://tinyurl.com/y9dku225>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- A Guide To Mosquito Repellents, From DEET To ... Gin And Tonic?: <http://tinyurl.com/y9wat9bc>

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