

ALASKA  
TRAILS

# NEWSLETTER

Aug  
2016

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

## ALASKA TRAILS NEWS AND NOTICES

### ALASKA TRAILS WORKING ON 'ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION' PLAN

Alaska Trails is leading an effort to bring a statewide Active Transportation Summit to Anchorage on October 11 and 12. The summit, co-sponsored by the Anchorage Metropolitan Area Transportation Solutions (AMATS), will feature nationally recognized engineer and active transportation expert Mark Fenton. As keynote speaker and summit leader, Fenton will use the knowledge and training he has developed over decades of work in the transportation field.

#### What is Active Transportation?

Active transportation refers to any form of human-powered transportation, such as walking, cycling, skiing, using a wheelchair, in-line skating and skateboarding. Bicycling to school or work, walking to the bus stop, or going out for an afternoon ski are all ways to use active transportation.

The Active Transportation Summit will pave the way for the establishment of an Active Transportation Coordinator, which Alaska Trails hopes to implement in 2017. The summit will be an opportunity for an inter-disciplinary group of stakeholders and others interested in active transportation to gather, strategize and network.

This will produce a refined work plan and vision for the position. Alaska Trails has used its statewide trails conference and other forums to highlight the health benefits of bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, including trails. This summit will take that further by gathering



advocates who can produce a plan to increase both the number of facilities and the number of users.

The goals for the 2016 Active Transportation Summit are to:

- Convene stakeholders to work on a draft Active Transportation Plan
- Agree on Active Transportation Coordinator position and work plan
- Broaden active transportation in Alaska to incorporate both health and economic benefits
- Develop a plan to engage business and political leaders in active transportation

Alaska faces a difficult situation. Obesity is increasing statewide. According to the State Department of Health, Alaskans spend \$459 million a year treating the effects of obesity. Almost 40% of adults and 30% of kids in Alaska are obese. Taken together, Alaskans who are overweight and obese account for 65% of the population. For children, it's not only bad for their health, but it also negatively

affects their academic performance. Children and adolescents who are overweight and obese have an increased risk of being overweight or obese as adults. At the same time, due to our state budget crisis, almost all state programs are being reduced, including public health programs.

Local solutions to obesity, like active transportation, are a great weapon in helping decrease that percentage and to make sure kids, and their families, are choosing healthy options. Active transportation networks allow people to transport themselves using their own power while getting exercise at the same time. To encourage active transportation we need systems of trails, quiet neighborhood streets, bike lanes and cycle tracks that connect homes with work, school, shopping, entertainment and other destinations. Such systems allow residents to enjoy the freedom of safely and conveniently getting where they are going without getting in a car. That's what the Active Transportation Director (ATC) will bring to Alaska.

The overall goals for the Active Transportation program include:

- Increasing the amount of funding to projects that enhance active transportation.
- Pursuing policies that expand active transportation opportunities.
- Promoting awareness and safety of trail use, biking, walking and other active transportation.
- Highlighting the health and economic benefits of active transportation.
- Enhance and amplify the work already being done to promote active transportation in Alaska.

Please contact Alaska Trails (info on masthead) if you would like more information on active transportation or to share your ideas.

*(Photo by Boyd Loving, courtesy of Rails to Trails Conservancy: A variety of active transportation options along New York's Hudson River Greenway.)*

## USE YOUR PERMANENT FUND TO HELP ALASKA TRAILS

Thanks to all those who have donated to Alaska Trails through Pick Click Give. There's still time to donate through your PFD. Donations can be added until August 31.

Don't miss this opportunity to help Alaska Trails build and maintain the trails you enjoy all across Alaska. Your support is critical to our work and we sincerely appreciate your support. Add a donation at: <http://www.pfd.alaska.gov/> (Look for the green button on the lower right).

## MORE WORK PARTIES PLANNED FOR MIDDLE FORK TRAIL

Another volunteer work party is planned for the Middle Fork of Campbell Creek Trail.

The party will be held on August 20, 9am-4pm. Anyone 16 years and older is welcome to join. Please bring gloves, lunch, water, and rain gear. Also, work clothes you don't mind getting dirty, including boots and long pants.



Meet at the Lower Glen Alps parking lot. Volunteers will hike 2 miles to the work site and will be back to the trailhead by 4pm. The work will build new sections of trail to replace old, eroded, and muddy spots.

Volunteers must register by emailing Steve Cleary at [steve.cleary@alaska-trail.org](mailto:steve.cleary@alaska-trail.org). Another work party is planned for September 24.

*Special thanks to Conoco-Philips and the Alaska Conservation Foundation for their generous support of the Alaska Trail Volunteers program.*

*(Mike Downs photo: Trail crew at work on the Middle Fork trail.)*

## 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 have lots 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).

## 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.

## STATEWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

### SNOWMOBILE TRAILS PROGRAM VETOED, ADVOCATES FIGHT FOR IT

Gov. Bill Walker has vetoed the Snowmobile Trails Grant Program, according to Darcy Harris, Alaska state trails program coordinator.

"At this point we are suspending all activities associated with the program including the upcoming grant cycle, August meeting, and the Snowmobile Trails Advisory Council," Harris wrote in an email on June 30.

A "small amount" of funds still remain from last year, but no decision has been made on what will happen to those," Harris wrote.

However, some advocates are still fighting for the grant program, which was overseen by the state Division of Parks and Recreation with the help of the Snowmobile Trails Advisory Council (SnowTRAC). Dan Mayfield, a Mat-Su Borough assemblyman who sat on SnowTRAC, sent the following email on July 20:

*“Good evening,*

*There MAY be a glimmer of hope for SnowTRAC. The Governor and several Legislators attended the Mat-Su Borough Assembly meeting this evening. Having previously written the Governor and staff about SnowTRAC funding, he was familiar with the strong case to fund this program. I briefly restated the need for the program, how it was funded and the benefits and asked if there was any plan to reinstate funding in time for our August grant cycle. The Governor indicated that they were working on reinstating the funds but that the program may be structured differently. He did not elaborate on that. Later, I was able to speak with him for a moment and offered my assistance in working through any revamping of the program. He indicated that he would be in contact with me.*

*I also had the opportunity to speak with a few of the Legislators who indicated they may be able to put together something in support of SnowTRAC if I did not hear something from the Governor soon.*

*The best that can be said at this time is that this is a work in progress and there may still be hope.*

*I am grateful for Governor Walker's further consideration. I am also grateful to the Mat-Su Legislators who showed up at this meeting and have shown interest in keeping SnowTRAC funded. Many thanks to Senator Dunleavy, Representative Gattis, Representative Tilton, Representative Keller, and Representative Hughes.*

Mayfield replied on July 28 to another query, just before deadline for this newsletter, about the status of SnowTRAC or the Snowmobile Trails Grant Program:

*The Governor has indicated that he has something in the works that will restore funds but that it may have a different structure. Several Legislators have also told me that the money will be restored. Unfortunately, even after asking for specifics, I have not heard of any solid plans as yet. Time will tell if their commitment has substance.*

## **RECREATIONAL TRAILS GRANT APPLICATION PERIOD TO OPEN**

Applications for the Recreational Trails Grant Program will be available starting August 15.

The Recreational Trail Grant Program provides reimbursable, matching grant funds for trail easement acquisition, development and maintenance of trails and trail-related facilities. The program also provides funds for safety and educational programs. To learn more about the program, please visit the Recreational Trails Program page at: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/grants/trails.htm>

## **CAN ALASKA TRAIL BUILDERS LEARN SOMETHING FROM ILLINOIS?**

Illinois may be a long way from Alaska, but both states are struggling financially. The article below, written by Steve Buchtel, executive director of *Trails for Illinois*, and featured on the American Trails website, discusses one way to deal with trail construction and maintenance despite shrinking budgets. This is particularly relevant for Alaska given that survey results released in Alaska's recent Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (story later in this newsletter) show that trail maintenance and improvements are one of the highest needs for Alaskans to access and enjoy the outdoors.

### **The Vision**

*Trails for Illinois has a vision for creating jobs for young adults who earn scholarships building trails. Conservation corps are trained, coordinated and equipped by Trails for Illinois, deployed with volunteers from May through September each year, and help build and repair Illinois' network of non-motorized trails.*

### **The Need**

*Trails benefit Illinois, but funding is shrinking. In January 2013, 328 biking, walking, and trail projects in Illinois, totaling more than \$327 million dollars, were competing for \$49 million of available funding through the Illinois Transportation Enhancements Program (ITEP), the largest source of funding for trails and other nonmotorized projects statewide. Only 54 of those projects received funding.*

*Studies show that trails in Illinois benefit our communities on a Triple Bottom Line: economic, environmental, and health and wellness. Trails have consistently topped survey results, from recreational preferences to factors that influence home purchases and corporate relocation. From this perspective, the limited amount of trails funded left a mountain of opportunity on the table to improve the economic competitiveness and overall quality of life in the state.*

*Read more: [www.americantrails.org/resources/volunteer/Illinois-Trail-Corps-youth-work.html](http://www.americantrails.org/resources/volunteer/Illinois-Trail-Corps-youth-work.html)*

## **STATEWIDE OUTDOOR REC PLAN COMMENTS DUE IN AUGUST**

There's still time to comment on the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. The public has until August 5 to submit comments. See the revised draft plan at: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/scorp>.

Trails are mentioned extensively in the plan. For example, recreation professionals were surveyed and many said trail improvements were the most important need for getting people to use the outdoors.

The plan is large (132 pages), but more than half of the pages are appendices and the report is filled with graphics, so the actual reading is not as daunting as it may seem. Commenting on this report is important because it gives the public input on how federal funds are prioritized for outdoor recreation grants in Alaska. The plan helps to establish funding priorities for Land and Water Conservation (LWCF) grants through the next five years by measuring the supply and demand for public outdoor recreation resources throughout Alaska. Land and Water Conservation Fund grants are administered by the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation to provide matching federal dollars for outdoor recreation projects developed by eligible local, regional and state governments.

For more information, go to <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/grants/lwcf.htm> or contact the LWCF grants administrator Jean Ayers ([jean.ayers@alaska.gov](mailto:jean.ayers@alaska.gov) / 907-269-8694).

## **NATIONAL PARK SERVICE SEEKS TO HIRE PLANNER IN ALASKA**

The National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program will be advertising a GS-11/12 Outdoor Recreation Planner position next week on USAJobs ([www.usajobs.gov](http://www.usajobs.gov)). The vacancy will be open to all US citizens (not just current federal employees), with a duty station in Anchorage. People wanting to apply should be experienced and creative planners who bring great organization, facilitation, and collaboration skills to support diverse community-led outdoor recreation and natural resource conservation projects around Alaska.

The announcement on USAJobs will only be open from August 1-10. For more information

contact the hiring official Paul Clark (907-644-3586; [paul1\\_clark@nps.gov](mailto:paul1_clark@nps.gov)) or the human resources representative Carolyn Byrd (907-644-3351; [carolyn\\_byrd@nps.gov](mailto:carolyn_byrd@nps.gov)) To find out more about the Alaska RTCA see: [www.nps.gov/orgs/1005/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/orgs/1005/index.htm)

## STATEWIDE LINKS

- Officials at Denali National Park opted to kill a young problem bear when they learned it was injured and deformed: <http://tinyurl.com/godrkql>

### SOUTHEAST LINK

- Trail Mix Inc. expands statewide with Forest Service agreement: <http://tinyurl.com/z3xqmc2>
- Trip report: Chilkoot Pass: <http://tinyurl.com/zp5rqth>

### SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Outdoor survival tips Bear Country: <http://tinyurl.com/j3bg75m>
- Outdoors serves as an elixir to stress-inducing news: <http://tinyurl.com/jnamlz2>
- Craig Medred articles show proper behavior around bears: <http://tinyurl.com/j94ewzj>
- Delightful and deadly, Alaska waterways are a double-edged sword for kids: <http://tinyurl.com/ho3lehj>
- Expand your camp-cooking repertoire with ramen noodles, fresh shrimp: <http://tinyurl.com/zkrm4rt>

## SOUTHCENTRAL NEWS AND NOTICES

### MAT-SU TRAILS FOUNDATION SEEKING APPLICANTS FOR GRANTS

The Mat-Su Trails & Parks Foundation announces the start of its fall grant cycle. Letters of Intent (very brief "pitches" about your project) are due by 5pm August 1. Projects in the Mat-Su Borough may be eligible for up to \$10,000. For more information (and the Letter of Intent form) can be found at <http://www.matsutrails.org/grants>

*Timeline for Fall 2016 Grant Cycle:*

- **August 1:** applicant Letters of Intent due to [info@matsutrails.org](mailto:info@matsutrails.org)
- **August 12:** select applicants invited to submit a full grant application
- **September 1st:** grant applications due to Executive Director
- **September 1st – 30th:** MSTPF reviews projects/schedule site visits
- **October 11th:** Final Board Review
- **October 31st:** Applicants notified of award (or decline)

### MAT-SU TRAILS, PARKS FOUNDATION TO HOLD MUSIC FUNDRAISER

Join the Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation for the first annual Government Peak Music Festival on Saturday, August 20, at the Government Peak Recreation Area and Chalet.

This fundraising event helps support the foundation's work to promote awareness and advocacy for trails and parks in the Mat-Su Borough. The event will include live music, a beer garden (with locally brewed beer) and food vendors on site.

This is a full-day outdoor event for the whole family. Bring the kids from noon – 2pm for children's

activities including a child-friendly concert. Featuring Larry Zarella (of Denali Cooks) and The Carhartt Brothers. Children 12 and under are free but must be accompanied by ticketed adult.

Starting at 4pm the main stage will feature three bands: Denali Cooks, Braided River and The Carhartt Brothers.

For more information see: <http://matsutrails.org/music-festival/>

## CAMPBELL CREEK TRAIL BEING REALIGNED

The Campbell Creek Trail at Rovenna St. Spur is being realigned due to severe erosion along the creek. Construction will be through Aug. 19th (weather dependent). No trail closures are anticipated.

(From Anchorage Parks and Recreation Facebook [page](#))

## SOUTHCENTRAL LINKS

- Outdoor Explorer radio show: Adventures in Halibut Cove: <http://tinyurl.com/ztpcga5>
- Hike the Harding Icefield Trail and be transported to another world: <http://tinyurl.com/h5wb7du>
- Popular Kenai Fjords park gets a new leader: <http://tinyurl.com/j44a257>
- Man escapes deadly trap in Portage Valley: <http://tinyurl.com/hy7256d>
- Scrambling, paddling to the finish in Wrangell St. Elias National Park: <http://tinyurl.com/hqjtxbd>
- Backpacking with a 13-year-old delivers good and bad times: <http://tinyurl.com/zagp7x7>
- Watch — and feel — calving glaciers splash into lake at this Kachemak Bay campsite: <http://tinyurl.com/z3jeqt6>
- With bear danger rising, biologists urge park users to steer clear of Rover's Run: <http://tinyurl.com/jqwmypm>
- Nature happens: Bees, bears and moose join Crow Pass Crossing race: <http://tinyurl.com/h4ayuz3>
- Short and sweet, Mile High Saddle in Eagle River delivers views: <http://tinyurl.com/hhwzruc>
- Fire Damage to the McHugh Lake Trail: <http://tinyurl.com/jaethbf>
- McHugh wildfire caused by unextinguished campfire, officials say: <http://tinyurl.com/hbarpoy>
- Adventurer turns family event into his own personal competition: <http://tinyurl.com/jz855sx>

## INTERIORWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

### CHENA-ESTER DITCH TRAIL BRIDGE FINISHED, INSTALLED

A deep and steep cut in the Upper Chena-Ester Ditch Trail now has a new bridge over it. Project organizer Jimmy Fox recently finished the bridge with help from Allan Long and Heather Koponen.

“A couple walking their dog on the trail stopped by and were very appreciative,” Fox wrote in an email.

The project was supported by the Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks and Recreation Department, which provided the building materials. An old makeshift bridge existed over the cut, but it was falling apart to the point of becoming a hazard.

Fox, who lives on Chena Ridge, has taken on the



upper and lower Chena-Ester Ditch trails as a project. Besides the bridge, he is working with trails advocate Seth Adams on getting public access easements from property owners for portions of the trails that do not have easements. Fox also formed the Friends of Chena-Ester Ditch.

The trails follow portions of the upper and lower Chena-Ester ditches, which were used to during Fairbanks' early years to transport water for mining operations. If you are interested in helping, please contact Jimmy ([jameslarkinfox@gmail.com](mailto:jameslarkinfox@gmail.com); 978-3976) or check out the Friends of Chena-Ester Ditch Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/ChenaEsterDitch1930/>). In addition to posts about trail work, the Facebook page has information about the history of the Chena-Ester Ditch.

(Note: The borough recognizes the trail system as the Chena FE Ditch, the FE representing Fairbanks Exploration Company, which built the ditch in the early 1930s.)

*(Photo courtesy of Jimmy Fox: Fox gives a thumbs up after installation of the new bridge.)*

## TRAIL WORK PARTIES CONTINUING FOR KOPONEN TRAILS PROJECT

Due to the steady, dedicated work of volunteers, hand finishing of the new 1.6-mile public-access trail on the Koponen Homestead is about halfway done.

The work parties will continue, usually every Wednesday and Saturday, until the trail is complete. Tools are provided. Volunteers need to bring only their own drinking water, gloves, appropriate clothing, and bug dope.

The trail forms a west-east connector linking existing trail easements on the homestead, which sits on Chena Ridge between Chena Pump and Chena Ridge roads on the west side of Fairbanks. The project is being managed by Friends of the Koponen Homestead, a community based non-profit with a primary mission of promoting and supporting the environmental and recreational aspects of the Koponen Homestead.

For more information or to get on the volunteer list contact Mark Harriger ([harrigerster@gmail.com](mailto:harrigerster@gmail.com); 479-5449), president of Friends of the Koponen Homestead.

For more information on the overall Koponen project see: [www.koponenhomestead.com](http://www.koponenhomestead.com)

## GROUP SEEKS TO HIRE FOR POSITION THAT IMPACTS TRAIL

The Interior Alaska Land Trust is advertising to hire a wetlands conservation projects coordinator. While the group's main mission is not about trails, the group does understand the importance of trails in connecting people to land, especially open space. It has incorporated trails in its past efforts and plans to do so in the future. Wetlands in the Fairbanks area have a lot of mostly winter trails used for a variety of activities. An announcement about the position is below:

***Wetland Conservation Project Coordinator.*** Interior Alaska Land Trust is seeking an independent, self-motivated individual to help conserve open space in the greater Fairbanks, AK area. This is a part-time (20-30 hr/week) contract position. Coordinator will work with public and government agencies, contact private landowners about conservation options, write grants for conservation projects, conduct public outreach, help manage lands protected by the land trust, and maintain a social media presence, among other duties. Requirements include strong organizational skills, good written & oral communication, access to computer and internet. Experience with GIS, real estate, and working with the public helpful. To apply, please send a resume and cover letter to [interioraklandtrust@gmail.com](mailto:interioraklandtrust@gmail.com) by August 10, 2016.

More info can be found on our website, [www.interioraklandtrust.org](http://www.interioraklandtrust.org).

## INTERIORWIDE LINKS

- Handy guide details dozens of outdoor trips in Fairbanks area: <http://tinyurl.com/hogfaq7>
- Trip report: Old mining roads around Eva Creek wind farm are worth exploring on a bicycle: <http://tinyurl.com/gp9omtm>
- Fairbanksans hike, float and bike 55 miles around McCarthy: <http://tinyurl.com/znhralv>
- White Mountains cabin reservations go online: <http://tinyurl.com/gu5mpvz>
- Trip Report: Group paddles 389 miles from Nome Creek to Yukon River bridge: <http://tinyurl.com/gm3xdfc>
- BLM plan for 6.5 million acres calls for mix of mining, conservation: <http://tinyurl.com/jnjnga5>

## NATIONWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

### GROUP SAYS BLM GETTING HEAT OVER PLANNING CHANGES

The Americans for Responsible Recreational Access (ARRA), an advocacy group for motorized recreational trail users and horseback riders, had a recent update on the efforts of the federal Bureau of Land Management to change its planning process.

*The Bureau of Land Management has begun to receive a little heat over its proposed revision of its planning rule process. The concerns range from the fact that the new process emphasizes a landscape-level approach to the reduced the amount of time for public comment.*

*We discussed this issue in our March newsletter and expressed our own concern that the effort would focus too much on the landscape-level perspective rather than just planning for BLM land use. Congress has begun to weigh in and concerns are being expressed on both sides of the aisle. At a recent hearing before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Senator Lisa Murkowski, R-AK) Chair of the Committee and Senator John Barrasso, (R-WY) Chairman of the Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests and Mining, both expressed concerns about 2.0. Barrasso probably summed it up best when he said, "While there is no doubt that the BLM's current planning process is often cumbersome and inefficient, I am concerned that instead of increasing public involvement and streamlining the planning process, Planning 2.0 will be less efficient, more costly, and marginalize experts who are integral to public land management."*

*Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) was also critical that the agency was shortening the time available for public review of proposed resource management plans (RMPs). "I am pleased that the BLM has made early public participation a goal, but I've got to say, I am concerned that the agency is working against itself by proposing to reduce minimum public comment period." 2.0 is proposing to reduce the public comment period on proposed draft plan from 90 days under existing regulations to 60 days, hence Senator Warren's concerns.*

*(From ARRA [July newsletter](#))*

### AMERICAN TRAILS OFFERS FREE REPORT ON HIKING AND HEALTH

Walking is our best medicine. Just step outside your front door, find a trail, and take a hike. U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy's 2015 Call to Action to promote walking has highlighted that brisk walking (or hiking) can do wonders for our health. According to the Mayo Clinic, brisk walking or hiking can help: prevent or manage heart disease & high blood pressure, achieve a healthy weight, prevent and

manage Type 2 Diabetes, and improve mental health.

You can read more in American Hiking's *Hiking Trails in America: Pathways to Health* report. Download the report for free here (3.3MB): <http://tinyurl.com/zlojhwg>  
(From American Hiking Society's *Paperless Trail* newsletter)

## 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)

### RECENT TRAILS-RELATED NEWSLETTERS/MAGAZINES

- American Trails (July): <http://tinyurl.com/jxejzfu>
  - A bike path spanning the entire East Coast
  - Scotland introduces new snorkel trail
  - Mega trail to connect ancient routes in the Balkans
  - and more...
- National Forest Foundation *Tree-mail*: <http://tinyurl.com/gw9ms53>
  - Hiker with Cerebral Palsy Completes the Pacific Crest Trail
  - 30 prettiest lakes in wildlands

### GRANTS

- *International Mountain Biking Association* Grants page: [www.imba.com/resources/grants](http://www.imba.com/resources/grants)
- American Hiking Society's 2016 National Trails Fund Projects: <http://tinyurl.com/jge5tez>

### ADVOCACY

- Email support for the *Outdoor REC (Recreation's Economic Contributions) Act*: <http://tinyurl.com/jco6g42>

### TRAIL GUIDES

- Meet a Water Trail: Georgia's Okefenokee Wilderness Canoe Trails: <http://tinyurl.com/jfsqepk>
- Hiking Across Wisconsin: Top Forest Trails By Region: <http://tinyurl.com/jgrmpeo>
- REI's Adventure Projects (biking, hiking, running, skiing, climbing): <http://www.adventureprojects.net>
- 6 Top Biking Trails in the Pacific Northwest: <http://tinyurl.com/hujzboz>
- Trailforks, a mountain biking trail database and management system: <http://www.trailforks.com>
- 3 Best Trails in Flathead National Forest (Montana): <http://tinyurl.com/gplq2j6>
- The 10 Best Running and Biking Trails Near Center City Philadelphia: <http://tinyurl.com/z6modze>
- 5 Bucket List Trails in the U.S.: [www.active.com/outdoors/articles/5-bucket-list-trails-in-the-u-s](http://www.active.com/outdoors/articles/5-bucket-list-trails-in-the-u-s)

### TECH AND TRAILS

- Fairfax County, VA, online trails tool: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/trails/>

### OTHER NATIONAL LINKS:

- Spectacular paddling trails reach the remote and private side of Texas: <http://tinyurl.com/hw7rt3w>
- 'On Trails': where, how and why the earth's creatures wander: <http://tinyurl.com/gqx7n38>

- Amazing New Map Details Nearly Every Single Hiking Trail in California: <http://tinyurl.com/z3j2nsm>
- Top honors for the Tennessee Valley Water Trails story map: <http://tinyurl.com/hyphlnb>
- Hiking along forgotten Indian trails: <http://tinyurl.com/zn885ba>
- Booby Traps Warning For Motorcyclists On Public Trails: <http://tinyurl.com/hl5o9ep>
- Be An Outdoor Ambassador: How To Implement Low-Impact Recreation Skills: <http://tinyurl.com/hlmw8js>
- Walking Makes Strides in All Kinds of Communities: <http://tinyurl.com/h4sru72>
- Big donations to restore Wonderland and Enchanted Valley national park trails: <http://tinyurl.com/zdowfmn>
- 7 kid-friendly games to play on trail walks and nature hikes: <http://tinyurl.com/z2mats6>
- Woman who died on Appalachian Trail has lesson for us all: Keep moving: <http://tinyurl.com/hmk9zfe>
- With volunteer labor, Idaho trail users help fill maintenance gap: <http://tinyurl.com/j8qs3m9>
- Three Great Resources For Converting Old Roads To New Trails: <http://tinyurl.com/jabx57v>

#### INTERNATIONAL LINKS

- The best trails to see Singapore's surprisingly diverse wildlife: <http://tinyurl.com/z3ctfnf>
- Yukon Territory
  - The New Yukon Gold Rush: Mountain Biking: <http://tinyurl.com/hc5tcl3>
  - First Nation teens find jobs, adrenaline-pumping fun on Yukon mountain bike trail: <http://tinyurl.com/zym6kgw>
  - Whitehorse must be firmer with rogue trail builders, critics say: <http://tinyurl.com/hl4ml8m>
  - Montana Mountain (Carcross, Canada) Biking App guides users to trails, shops: <http://tinyurl.com/z9yanbb>
  - Whitehorse Trail Guide app: <http://tinyurl.com/zdv9psn>
- Mountain biking trail apps for mobile devices (Canada and more): <http://trailmapps.com/index.asp>
- Why Paris Is Building Highways for Bikes: <http://tinyurl.com/zw4ckm7>
- 'Our trails aren't built for that': eBike riders risk fines in Canberra nature parks: <http://tinyurl.com/jbjshba>

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The Alaska Trails board meets via teleconference on the second 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. More info: [office@alaska-trails.org](mailto:office@alaska-trails.org)

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 [eric.troyer@alaska-trails.org](mailto:eric.troyer@alaska-trails.org)