



# NEWSLETTER

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

## ALASKA TRAILS NEWS AND NOTICES

### TRAIL TALES #8 TO SUPPORT AK TRAILS, CHUGACH PARK FUND

Alaska Trails is excited to present the eighth installment of the Trail Tales storytelling series. We are starting a new format and will be partnering with a different community trail group each time.

Alaska Trails is excited to team up with the Chugach Park Fund as our community partner for Trail Tales #8. In the spirit of Arctic Entries, storytellers will share seven-minute stories about their trail experiences, adventures and life in general. Come enjoy this fun event and support Alaska Trails and the Chugach Park Fund.

Trail Tales #8 will be held at 49th State Brewing Company (717 West 3<sup>rd</sup>, Anchorage) on Wednesday, September 26. Doors open at 6:30. Stories start at 7:00 pm. Tickets will be \$15. Food and drinks will be available for purchase throughout the evening.

### ONE-DAY SUSTAINABLE TRAIL TRAINING OFFERED IN HATCHER PASS

Alaska Trails will host a one-day training in August in the Mat-Su Valley.

The training will be held Saturday, August 11, from 8:30am to 4pm at Independence Mine State Park in Hatcher Pass. The program is designed for volunteers. It will teach participants the basics of sustainable trails, common problems on trails, and a process for identifying and cataloging those problems. Data will be collected and organized in such a manner that land managers will be able to use it for their trail crews or for volunteer trail maintenance. The program includes both classroom and fieldwork.

For more information and to RSVP, please contact us (907/334-8049 or [office@alaska-trails.org](mailto:office@alaska-trails.org)).

### 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>

- August 21: Build sustainable reroutes on the Middle Fork Trail in Chugach State Park
- August 25: Trail tread improvements to the Crow Pass Trail
- August 25: Build sustainable reroutes on the Middle Fork Trail in Chugach State Park

## STATEWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

### RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE

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](mailto:darcy.harris@alaska.gov).

### STATEWIDE LINKS

- Eagle Watch (state parks newsletter): <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/eaglewatch/eaglewatcharchive>
- BLM *Frontiers* news journal (Summer 2018): <http://tinyurl.com/y9zew2g8>
- Alaska Parks & Hiking Trails (guide): <http://www.alaska.org/things-to-do/parks-and-trails>

#### *TIS THE SEASON*

- Bear shot after it smashes SUV window and climbs inside at Anchorage trailhead: <http://tinyurl.com/yde98ymg>

#### *SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL*

- Medred: A skeptic's take on the husky that 'rescued' the deaf hiker: <http://tinyurl.com/y8e7lfyh>
- 2018-2021 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program Amendment 1 is available for Public Comment (deadline August 12): <http://dot.alaska.gov/stwdplng/cip/stip/index.shtml>
- An ode to Crocs, those ugly shoes that are so useful in Alaska: <http://tinyurl.com/y8c4eqxj>
- Outdoor Explorer radio show: National park journeys: <http://tinyurl.com/y9chnhpc>
- Fees are increasing for some state trailheads and public use cabins: <http://notice.alaska.gov/190590>

## SOUTHCENTRAL NEWS AND NOTICES

### 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)*

## SHIP CREEK TRAIL GETS SIGNS TO HELP USERS FIND THEIR WAY

The first wayfinding signs are in on the Ship Creek Trail!

These posts alert trail users to which trail they are on, the mileage, and provide an emergency locator code to allow emergency services to find people more efficiently.

If you'd like to learn more about Anchorage Trails wayfinding, please view this Anchorage Park Foundation webpage:

<https://anchorageparkfoundation.org/2018/02/anchorage-trails-wayfinding/>

*(From Anchorage Parks and Recreation Facebook page)*



## CAMPBELL TRACT ENTRANCE WORK WOULD AFFECT TRAILS

ANCHORAGE, Alaska – An Open House and Public Comment meeting will be held on August 9 from 5 to 7pm at the BLM Anchorage Field Office, 4700 BLM Road, on the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the realignment of the entrance to the Campbell Tract.

To improve safety at the entrance to the Campbell Tract, the proposal is to relocate the entrance to align with the intersection of East 68th Avenue. An upgrade to the intersection to accommodate the new entry is also planned. The new entrance road would begin at the intersection of East 68th Avenue and end near the Smokejumper Trailhead parking lot, where the current BLM Road and Science Center Drive intersect.

In addition, the proposed action includes the clearing of about three acres of vegetation, expansion of the existing Smokejumper Trailhead parking lot, and construction of a new trail from the northeast corner of Elmore and BLM roads to intersect with the Moose Track Trail. The construction, which will take place in 2019, will require a temporary re-routing of the Moose Track and Lynx trails and temporary closure of the Smokejumper Trailhead parking lot during expansion. Deadline for comments is August 24. Submit comments to [blm\\_ak\\_afo\\_roadalignment@blm.gov](mailto:blm_ak_afo_roadalignment@blm.gov).

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

## 4-H GROUP PLANS CLEANUP OF ANCHORAGE AREA TRAILS

4-H Family and Friends will hold a trail cleanup of Westchester Lagoon and Coastal Trail on August 7 from 2 to 5pm. Welcome to all for cleanup and recycling, environmental education, activities and games, and picnic. For more information, contact Lee at 745-3360 or email [dahecimovich@alaska.edu](mailto:dahecimovich@alaska.edu).

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

## SOUTHCENTRAL LINKS

- Campbell Creek restoration puts Anchorage teens to work: <http://tinyurl.com/y7f6god2>
- KAYAK AK (Kachemak Bay): <http://coast-magazine.com/kayak-ak>
- Mineral Creek Trail in Valdez is a gem: <http://tinyurl.com/yaddx429>
- Local guidebook author makes Anchorage-area backcountry trails accessible: <http://coast-magazine.com/trail-time>

- Popular Eagle River trailhead reopened after last month's fatal mauling: <http://tinyurl.com/ydxk52te>

#### SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- A new hut with dramatic views rose up this summer in Alaska's Hatcher Pass backcountry: <http://tinyurl.com/ybn4m5uk>
- Stinging, burning, biting: Midsummer hiking on the Kenai means a beatdown of a bushwhack: <http://tinyurl.com/yayjcbbj>

## INTERIORWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

### NEWS-MINER STORY COVERS THREE BIG INTERIOR TRAIL PROJECTS

Several big trail projects are in the works in the Interior.

Closest to Fairbanks is the Ester Dome North Side Trail, which is in the planning stages. It would be built entirely on state Department of Natural Resources lands and is still in the process of gaining approval from the department. A little farther out is a reroute of a trail (officially two trails) north of Fairbanks. The reroute will accommodate expansion of the Fort Knox mine. Finally, a non-motorized trail in the Chena River State Recreation Area should be completed this year. This trail, which will provide year-round access to the Nugget Creek Public Use Cabin, has been under construction since 2011.

Fairbanks Daily News-Miner Outdoors Editor Sam Friedman covered these projects in a story in mid-July. Read the story here: <http://tinyurl.com/ycgd2zmx>

### FAIRBANKS TRAILS CHALLENGE OFFERS REASONS TO GET OUTSIDE

The Fairbanks Summer Trails Challenge offers great motivation for getting outside and exploring many of the wonderful trails in the Fairbanks area. This summer's challenge runs through September 30 and includes 12 trails.

Don Kiely recently posted this praise of the challenge on Facebook:

*In a wicked flurry of activity today, Carol Kleckner, Pixel, and I hit half of the FNSB Trails Challenge signs, nearly all of the in- and near-town ones, hiking some great trails along the way. What a great way for me to recover from yesterday's Chena Hot Springs Run and Soak! #FNSBtrails*

*We got the Sandpiper Trail at Tanana Lakes, Chena River Walk downtown, both Birch Hill ones, Cranberry Trail, and After Hours Trail.*

*I'm in total awe of whoever thought up this at the borough! So many people are getting out on the trails, in many cases exploring new ones. And based on all the posts on Facebook of the form "I'm going to look for the X sign, anyone want to join me?", it's enhanced the social aspect of trails too.*

*Now, on to the more challenging ones! Or at least the ones further out from town and longer distances!*



Find out more about the challenge at: <http://www.co.fairbanks.ak.us/pr/Pages/Trails-Program.aspx>

## INTERIORWIDE LINKS

- Hike and raft at the Granite Tors: <http://tinyurl.com/ycqx2urz>
- Delta Junction area trail guide: <https://www.salchadeltaswcd.org/trails/>
- Summertime and the paddling is easy with Alaska Dream Adventures: <http://tinyurl.com/y9ro9m5j>
- Fairbanks summer Trails Challenge: <http://www.co.fairbanks.ak.us/pr/Pages/Trails-Program.aspx>
- Trip report: Canoe excursion is a small sampling of the Yukon's tough offerings: <http://tinyurl.com/ya6joye9>

## NATIONWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

### TELL YOUR SENATOR: DON'T LEAVE TRAILS BEHIND

Congress is working on its budget for next year and infrastructure is expected to get a boost in funding—but some leaders want to leave out trails. Tell your senator to restore funding eligibility for trails of all types in the new budget funding.

As part of a plan to rebuild America, Congress is providing an additional \$10 billion in next year's budget for all types of infrastructure. But the current funding bill specifically denies eligibility for trails, walking, and biking projects from those new funds.

Sen. Amy Klobuchar (MN) recently introduced an amendment (S.3538, amending S. Amdt. 3399 to H.R. 6147) to restore eligibility for trails for the new funding. Write your senator now to support making trails, walking and biking eligible for new transportation funding!

Motorized and nonmotorized trail use accounts for nearly 12 percent of all trips in the U.S.—that's why trails, crosswalks, sidewalks, and bike lanes are so important for a balanced transportation system. Yet these projects receive less than 2 percent of federal transportation funding.

These are wise investments that help create healthier, more connected communities. They also give us greater transportation choices and boost local economies, benefiting everyone.

This link from our partners at Rails-To-Trails Conservancy will automatically connect you with your senator when you enter your address: <http://tinyurl.com/ydhj5xvu>

*(From American Trails email)*

### CRUCIAL TRAIL FUNDING PROGRAM WILL EXPIRE WITHOUT ACTION

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), one of our most important programs for preserving the outdoors, will expire on September 30 if Congress does not act to permanently ensure it continues by "reauthorizing" it.

Before we get into what we can do to get it renewed, let's take a step back to shine a light on the history of the LWCF and all it has accomplished. LWCF funds have expanded and completed hundreds of new trails (including National Scenic and Historic Trails, which are celebrating their 50th Anniversary this year!), built our National Parks, and funded many of your favorite local parks.

Wow, right?! You may be asking yourself, "How do we pay for such a great program?" Here's the great thing, it doesn't cost the taxpayer anything!! The LWCF is funded by fees from offshore energy development with the idea that if the government permits drilling offshore, some of the money raised should go to preserve our most cherished places on land. That's why in 1964 Congress passed the LWCF to safeguard natural areas, water resources and our cultural heritage, and to provide recreation opportunities to all Americans.

Fast forward to today, this crucial program is set to expire on September 30 if Congress doesn't act (the program was last reauthorized in 2015 with overwhelming bipartisan support). So, what is AHS doing to make sure Congress acts? In partnership with a coalition of organizations, AHS is joining with congressional leaders to raise the public attention and build momentum to get this legislation passed.

To read more and find out how you can take action see: <http://tinyurl.com/yb9pg994>  
(From American Hiking Society website story)

## APPLY FOR AN EMERGING LEADERS SCHOLARSHIP!

The online application is now available for the Hulet Hornbeck Emerging Leaders Scholarship Program at the 2019 International Trails Symposium (ITS) and Training Institute. This program will bring 16 young adults, ages 21-28, to Syracuse, New York April 28 to May 1, 2019.

At the ITS, Emerging Leaders will learn from experts, get practical experience with a service project, network with professionals, engage in discussions with career advisors, and take a step closer to a career in the trails world, so they, too, can leave a lasting legacy on the world— as Hulet did.

Diversity and inclusivity are important to us so that we can meet everyone's deepest needs, values, and long-term interests. We welcome individuals of all backgrounds to apply regardless of past trails experience. We are more interested in potential.

The deadline to apply is October 15. For more info: <http://tinyurl.com/y7bkhhdu>  
(From American Trails email)

## 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)

### CONTESTS

- National and International Trails Awards (Call for award nominations will be available by August 1): <http://tinyurl.com/y7rbfw7g>

### TRAIL GUIDES

- Ultimate Summer Hike Guide to 10 Awesome Michigan Trails: <http://tinyurl.com/y9mtzp75>

### STUDIES

- Building Connectivity Through Recreation Trails (Virginia): <http://tinyurl.com/yd9yfsgy>

### TRAILS AND HEALTH

- Writing Prescriptions to Play Outdoors: <http://tinyurl.com/ydejhku2>
- Take a Walk in the Woods. Doctor's Orders.: <http://tinyurl.com/y7b73wcb>
- Improving Public Health Through Public Parks And Trails: <http://tinyurl.com/y9qlxtbj>

### FUNDING

- Polaris T.R.A.I.L.S. Grant (for ATVs; Sept 1 and March 1 deadlines): <http://tinyurl.com/zcz8u7a>

### *TRAILS-RELATED NEWSLETTERS*

- For the latest American Trails news publications: <http://www.americantrails.org/trailtracks/index.html>
- National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council (July): <http://tinyurl.com/ybys3r49>

### *OTHER NATIONAL LINKS:*

- Three Trail Terrors To Conquer In National Forests: <http://tinyurl.com/yby9rftn>
- Accidentally released emails show Trump officials dismissed benefits of protected public land in favor of logging and drilling: <http://tinyurl.com/ycj6p6rk>
- Horses As Trail Users: <https://www.americantrails.org/resources/horses-as-trail-users>
- This 1946 map shows how Native American trails became the streets of Brooklyn: <http://tinyurl.com/y7dy4blq>

### *INTERNATIONAL LINKS:*

- World's longest and most extreme hiking trails: <http://tinyurl.com/y8bh9wjj>
- 7 Famous Pilgrimages Around the World That You Can Walk or Cycle: <http://tinyurl.com/y8jgsrnq>

### *BOOK*

- Escape by Bike: Adventure Cycling, Bikepacking and Touring Off-Road: <http://tinyurl.com/y8899962>

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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)