



NEWSLETTER

Sept
2018

PO Box 100627; Anchorage, AK 99510-0264

907/334-8049

www.alaska-trails.org

ALASKA TRAILS NEWS AND NOTICES

TRAIL TALES EVENT TO SUPPORT ALASKA TRAILS, CHUGACH PARK

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 3rd, 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.

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 for the rest of this summer. For more information and to register see: <http://www.alaska-trails.org/alaska-trail-stewards.html>

- Saturday, Sept. 8: Lazy Moose Trail Volunteer Day #1 in the Mat-Su Borough
- Friday, Sept. 21: Volunteer Day in Hatcher Pass
- Saturday, Sept. 22: Volunteer Day in Hatcher Pass on National Public Lands Day
- Saturday, Oct. 6th – Lazy Moose Trail Volunteer Day #2

(Photo of Crow Pass Trail work party by Loogpla Cowden)

SAVE THE DATE! OUR FALL FUNDRAISER IS COMING IN OCTOBER

Our Fall Fundraiser will be held Friday, October 19, 6:30-10:30pm at the 49th State Brewery in Anchorage. Come celebrate a great year of trail building, volunteers and fun!

Come meet the Alaska Trails board and staff. Executive Director Steve Cleary will give an update on all the exciting summer projects that the Alaska Trail Stewards have been working on and a look at what's to come this winter and next year for Alaska Trails.

The event will include great food and drinks, door prizes, and a silent auction featuring outdoor gear and adventures and much more. For more information, please contact Alaska Trails (907/334-8049; office@alaska-trails.org) or see our Facebook event: www.facebook.com/events/2083252731991405/

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Steve Cleary, Executive Director



Alaska Trails Programs Keep Growing!

As fall descends, we can look back to a fun, productive summer on the trails. And we're not done. Thanks to a grant from the Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation, Alaska Trails is partnering with the Mat-Su Borough and Alaska State Parks on two volunteer days each. (See Page 1 for more.)

In late August, Alaska Trails teamed up with the Chugach Park Fund for a week of work on the Middle Fork Trail. Volunteers anchoring this exciting week were led by Joe Hall of Chugach State Park and Kristen Mrozowski, Trails Technician for Alaska Trails. Senior Airman Bryce Miracle organized many volunteers from JBER (Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson) who did an amazing job all week. DOWL and R&M Consultants sent volunteers on a beautiful day in the Chugach.



Alaska Trails started the summer season way back in May with a two-day training for Trail Crew Leaders. The goal of 20 volunteer events through the Alaska Trail Stewards program was established. We have even surpassed that goal and will exceed it before the snow flies. This also means that we will eclipse the impressive volunteer numbers from 2017, which were:

- 112 volunteers
- 756 hours of donated labor
- Volunteers improved 7,055 feet of trail on public lands
- \$23,059 in donated labor

All this great work is due to a number of committed volunteers who enjoy giving back to the trails they love. As that number of volunteers increases, along with the number of land managers who partner with us, the Alaska Trail Stewards program will continue to grow and prosper.

The Alaska Trail Stewards program has benefited greatly this summer from the skills, knowledge and dedication of our Trails Technician Kristen Mrozowski. She spent a good part of the summer leading the Youth Employment in Parks (YEP) program in partnership with the Anchorage Park Foundation and Anchorage Parks. After wrangling young adults all week, Kristen still led volunteer projects in the evenings and on weekends. For September and October, she will be back to full time with Alaska Trails, leading our volunteer efforts on trails. She spent the last week of August with the US Forest Service helping to replace a bridge on the popular Lost Lake Trail. We are very grateful for all her hard work and passion for trails.

The Alaska Trails board is gearing up for big things in the fall, including the Fall Fundraiser on October 19 and a Strategic Planning retreat the following day. We are excited to take more solid steps to plan for Alaska Trails' future.

See you on the trails,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Cleary".

(Photo: JBER Volunteers getting the job done on the Middle Fork.)

STATEWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

EVENTS TO CELEBRATE NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY IN SEPTEMBER

Several events will be held across Alaska in celebration of National Public Lands Day. Most will be held on Saturday, September 22.

As of late August, several events were listed on the NPLD website including at Eagle, Paxson Lake, Anchorage, and Juneau.

National Public Lands Day is the nation's largest, single-day volunteer events for public lands, held annually on the fourth Saturday in September.

NPLD brings together hundreds of thousands of individuals and organizational volunteers to help restore America's public lands. This year marks the 25th NPLD. The event began in 1979. For more info see: <https://www.neefusa.org/npld>



CONFLUENCE ON OUTDOORS SET FOR SEPTEMBER IN VALDEZ

Registration is now open for the Third Annual Confluence: Summit on the Outdoors, which will happen in Valdez on Sept. 12-13.

Confluence brings the outdoor recreation community together to explore and share ways to grow and promote Alaska's flourishing recreation economy.



This year's conference will have a diverse group of speakers and a heavier emphasis on business topics. Speakers and sponsoring organizations include UA Center for Economic Development, US Bureau of Economic Development, REI, Alaska State Parks, The Nature Conservancy, Geeks in the

Woods, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers and more.

For more information see: <http://valdezadventurealliance.com/>

STATE ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION CRITERIA CHANGING

Comments are due by September 28 on the scoring criteria for the Alaska Transportation Alternatives Program (ATAP) update to include:

- Align criteria with Community Transportation Program (CTP) formatting and standards and now includes weighting. Transportation Alternatives Eligible Project Sponsors and Transportation Alternatives Eligible Project Types are included in appendices A and B.
- This program will no longer be administered as a grant program. Infrastructure projects will be developed through the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities or through federal agency transfers.
- Matching ratio has been reduced from 20% to 9.03% (Alaska sliding scale).
- The program remains consistent with Transportation Alternatives Set-aside funding requirements.

For more see <https://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/Notices/Attachment.aspx?id=113841>.

For additional information or to submit comments, contact Marcheta Moulton, Small Federal Program Manager, at 907-465-8769 or email marcheta.moulton@alaska.gov.

(From What's Up? by Peg Tileston)

RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM OUTREACH DUE IN SEPTEMBER

It's time to get your Recreational Trails Program public outreach plan started.

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

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:

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

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND GRANTS AVAILABLE

The Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation is accepting grant applications for development or enhancement of facilities related to public outdoor recreation. Eligible applicants include state, regional, or local governments (cities, boroughs or tribal entities) that have the legal authority to provide park and recreation services on public lands.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant program provides up to 50 percent matching assistance for the cost of a project. The Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation anticipates \$1.5 million may be awarded to eligible Alaska projects.

Grant requests are limited to \$25,000 minimum and \$250,000 maximum in LWCF federal share. The total project cost must be at least \$50,000 to justify a \$25,000 grant request.

The application deadline is 4 p.m. on Friday, November 9. The application package is available online at <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/grants/lwcf.htm> or by contacting grants administrator Jean Ayers at jean.ayers@alaska.gov or 907-269-8694.

(From Department of Natural Resources press release)

STATEWIDE LINKS

- State parks newsletter: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/#> > Newsroom > Current Eagle Watch issue

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Medred: Water kills again: <http://tinyurl.com/y8ferpg2>
- Steep climbs, profuse sweat, plodding pace — let's go hiking!: <http://tinyurl.com/yc4h3epw>
- State joins Alaska moose hunter in U.S. Supreme Court case — again: <http://tinyurl.com/yayrav9j>
- Alaska Traverse 2018 (north to south): <http://bucktrack.com/alaska-traverse-2018/>

SOUTHCENTRAL NEWS AND NOTICES

COMMENTS SOUGHT FOR PROPOSED PATH ALONG SEWARD HIGHWAY

Comments are due by September 26 on the proposed Portage Curve Multi-Modal Connector Path along Seward Highway between Ingram Creek and an area north of Twentymile River.

In addition to constructing a critical piece of the Iditarod National Historic Trail, the proposed project

will provide a safe multimodal path separate from the highway to connect users to recreational opportunities along a heavily used segment of the Seward Highway. This accessible infrastructure will facilitate ongoing year-round recreation in the Portage Curve area.

The project will include the addition of trailhead parking areas and connections to other recreational facilities such as the Alaska Railroad Corporation and the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center. The project will also provide safe access to DOT&PF proposed parking areas that will serve the subsistence hooligan fishery north of Twentymile River. The Chugach National Forest is preparing an environmental assessment for the Portage Curve Multimodal Connector Project.

For more info, see <http://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/chugach/landmanagement/projects>. Submit comments to Tim Charnon, Ranger, Glacier Ranger District (tcharnon@fs.fed.us).

(From What's Up? by Peg Tileston)

NEW FISH CREEK TRAIL CONNECTION INCLUDES ELEVATED STAND

A new Fish Creek Trail connection in Spenard is now open! The trail runs from Spenard Rd near the Holiday Inn eastward along the northern edge of Northwood Park to Northwood Dr. There's an elevated platform along the way, offering beautiful views of wetlands and wildlife.

(From Anchorage Parks and Recreation Facebook page)

TAKE A WALK ON TRAILS TO HELP CAMPBELL CREEK ESTUARY

The Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area needs a LOT of volunteers to visit the area and walk the trails more frequently until the Municipality of Anchorage can find a replacement for the camper hosts. Please consider taking a walk at this unique and spectacular natural area. Address to the parking lot is 9531 Selkirk Drive.

Volunteers are asked to do the following as they are able or have time: 1. Walk all 3 short trails that don't take long. 2. Pick up trash if you find any. 3. Write bc@farak.org to tell us that you were there. No fancy report, just the date, the time and anything notable, like, interesting wildlife or vandalism or inappropriate use such as dogs or cats in the natural area. Helpful guidelines for stewards and a copy of the posted natural area rules are available on request from bc@farak.org.

(From What's Up? by Peg Tileston)

CLOSURES LIMIT ACCESS TO KINCAID PARK'S JODHPUR PARKING LOT

Construction update: The Jodhpur parking lot in Kincaid Park will be intermittently closed August 15 until the end of September for the parking lot and access road improvements.

All permitted and scheduled events with defined use of the Jodhpur parking lot and access drive during that timeframe will be accommodated. Parking and trail access is available at the Raspberry Road parking lot and the Kincaid Outdoor Center.

Thank you for your patience while we complete these improvements. If you have questions or concerns, please call the Parks and Recreation office at 343-4355.

(From Anchorage Parks and Recreation Facebook page)

MAT-SU TRANSPORTATION FAIR TO INCLUDE TRAILS

The Mat-Su Transportation Fair will be held on September 13 from 3 to 7pm at the Curtis D. Menard Memorial Sports Center. The Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities, Mat-Su Borough, cities of Palmer, Wasilla and Houston, and the Alaska Railroad Corporation invite you to view and discuss project designs, updates, and programs at this one-stop transportation fair. The family-friendly event covers

roads, rails, and trails in the Mat-Su Borough and beyond. The Mat-Su Transportation Fair is free and open to the public. Parking is free. For more: go to <http://matsutranspofair.blogspot.com/>.

(From What's Up? by Peg Tileston)

SOUTHCENTRAL LINKS

- No Lazy Feat: A hiker's postcard from Lazy Mountain: <http://tinyurl.com/y8ww3ad9>
- Mat Su Trail App now on Android!: <http://tinyurl.com/y7xck5jc>
- Fairbanks Trails Challenge Guide (challenge ends Sept. 30): <http://tinyurl.com/y8w9xyst>
- Matanuska Greenbelt Trails (map of off-limits area): <http://tinyurl.com/yaokzd8e>
- Portion of Campbell Creek Trail temporarily closed for rehabilitation: <http://tinyurl.com/y8h23kfa>

INTERIORWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

MOVED PIPELINE GATE NEAR FAIRBANKS AFFECTS TRAIL USERS



Be Aware! Musers, bikers, jorers, 4-wheelers! The pipeline gate at Old Murphy Dome Road (mile 445 of the pipeline) has been moved to just south of where the Eldorado Creek trail crosses the pipeline and there's a big berm next to it. If you are used to traveling up Waterford Trail and using the pipeline to access Eldorado trail, that way is blocked now. Looks like the 4-wheelers are going over the berm next to the gate.

I hadn't seen this posted anywhere so it was a surprise today.

(From Facebook: Goldstream Community page post by Marjie Richards)

OLNES POND TRAIL SYSTEM COURTESY OF GRANT, VOLUNTEERS

Thanks to a Recreational Trails Program grant and our volunteers, Olnes Pond in Lower Chatanika State Recreation Area (Northern Region) is developing a multi-use trail system.

The new trail system connects campsites to the trail and allows campers to ride their ATVs right out of their campsites onto the trail. State Parks is working to provide a trail system linked to the campsites that will get folks on the trail and off the campground road.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of Alaska State Parks. We see over 350 volunteers every year, and it's because of their generosity and hard work that trails and campgrounds are kept up and running throughout the summer months.



For more information about volunteering, see: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/vip/index.htm>

(From Alaska State Parks Facebook page)

BLM GAME MANAGEMENT MAPS HAVE USEFUL TRAIL INFORMATION



The Bureau of Land Management - Alaska recently released 13 new georeferenced PDF maps of the Game Management Units on public lands in Alaska. These maps show land status, controlled-used areas, and where and when OHVs can be used.

After initial download, the georeferenced PDF maps work on GPS-enabled mobile devices with an installed mobile map application. For instructions and access to the new subsistence map series, visit us on the web at <https://www.blm.gov/maps/georeferenced-PDFs>.

Maps will also be linked to their corresponding Game Management Unit web pages on the BLM website at: <https://www.blm.gov/programs/natural-resources/subsistence>

(From Bureau of Land Management – Alaska Facebook page)

INTERIORWIDE LINKS

- Trip Report: Kesugi Ridge has great view-to-effort ratio: <http://tinyurl.com/y8mwjpbu>
- Fairbanks explores Summer Trails Challenge: <http://tinyurl.com/y8ezrqzs>
- Mastodon Trail no longer expected to open this year: <http://tinyurl.com/yc2t223p>
- Rex Trail moose buggy permit increases to \$240: <http://tinyurl.com/yag82huo>
- Trip report: Mount Prindle at its best when there's some frost in air: <http://tinyurl.com/ydevnb78>

SOUTHEAST NEWS AND NOTICES

PUBLIC MEETINGS TO DISCUSS PROPOSED TONGASS FOREST PLAN

The Petersburg and Wrangell Ranger Districts will hold public meetings in September to gather community input on the proposed action for the Central Tongass Project, which includes trails and recreation, in the following locations:

- September 5 – WRANGELL from 5 to 7pm at the Nolan Center
- September 11 – KAKE from 7 to 9pm at the Kake Senior Center
- September 13 – PETERSBURG from Noon to 2pm and 5 to 7pm at Holy Cross House

The Central Tongass Project is a landscape-scale project located on the Petersburg and Wrangell Ranger Districts. At the Petersburg and Kake meetings, the Forest Service is also seeking input on the development of Tongass-wide Long-Term, Sustainable Cabin Management Strategy.

A link to the NOI and the Central Tongass Scoping Report can be found on the project webpage: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/tongass/landmanagement/projects/?cid=fseprd568085>.

Written comments on the project's proposed action will be accepted at these meetings. Comments may also be sent to: <https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public/CommentInput?Project=53098>.

For more information, contact Project Leader Carey Case at 907-772-3871.

(From What's Up? by Peg Tileston)

HELP SITKA TRAIL WORKS MAKE THE CROSS TRAIL MATCH

Sitka Trail Works has been working to complete the Sitka Cross Trail since 2006. This multi-use path is nearing completion.

To date, more than five miles of this popular trail is constructed. The Cross Trail connects neighborhoods to other popular hiking trails and downtown. The 2.6 miles of new trail will extend it from Harbor Mountain Road to Old Sitka with a connector to the cruise ship dock. Construction will begin in the spring once the required match for a \$1.8 million Federal Lands Access grant for the final phase has been secured.

Sitka Trail Works needs just a few more donations to get to the \$25,000 local fundraising goal. This local match is crucial for leveraging a grant from the Rasmuson Foundation. We thank all our friends that have already donated for this project. We are now just \$1065 away from our local match goal. Can you help us get the rest of the way?

To make a special donation - restricted for this project - you can donate online now through our CrowdRise fundraiser: <http://tinyurl.com/y83u37ny>
(From Sitka Trail Works Facebook page)

GANGWAY FINDS NEW LIFE AS A TRAIL BRIDGE IN JUNEAU



An unused gangway made a great bridge at the Switzer Creek today. A great example of what combined community resources can do!

Thanks to all the collaborators for helping us make this happen!: Juneau-Gastineau Rotary Club Juneau Glacier Valley Rotary Juneau Parks & Recreation Rotary Club of Juneau CBJ Docks and Harbors, and CBJ Street Maintenance.
(From Trail Mix Facebook page)

SOUTHEAST LINK

- The Chilkoot Trail is a hike through history: <http://tinyurl.com/y8ckbznf>

NATIONWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

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

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

TRAILS-RELATED NEWSLETTERS

- For the latest American Trails news publications: <http://www.americantrails.org/trailtracks/index.html>

CONTESTS

- National and International Trails Awards (nomination deadline Dec 3): <http://tinyurl.com/y7rbfw7g>

TRAIL GUIDES

- Lake Erie Islands Water Trails: New Mainland Trail a big hit with paddlers: <http://tinyurl.com/ycg9yer4>
- 14 Round-the-Mountain Hikes You Need to Do: <http://tinyurl.com/yckh9ye2>
- 10 most beautiful trails to hike, bike and explore South Carolina history: <http://tinyurl.com/ycl342kd>
- The Best Mountain Bike Trails Near Salt Lake: <http://tinyurl.com/ycd6jxbe>

VOLUNTEERING, LOBBYING

- Torres del Paine (Chile) Volunteer Trip: <http://tinyurl.com/ybgtaauy>
- Land and Water Conservation Fund support: <https://americanhiking.org/advocacy/take-action/>

FUNDING

- Federal Highway Administration funding (includes trails categories): <http://tinyurl.com/zqz2m8p>

STUDIES

- Study: Even a Little Walking May Help You Live Longer: <http://tinyurl.com/y8a5rona>
- The Scientific Reason Backpacking Makes You a Better Person: <http://tinyurl.com/yb6feucj>

TRAILS AND TECH

- Navigate Hiking Trails With Hikepack: <http://tinyurl.com/yc9sz67r>

OTHER NATIONAL LINKS:

- On The Golden Anniversary Of The National Trails System: <http://tinyurl.com/yakf7yjb>
- Ways to Minimize Your Impact on the Trail: <http://tinyurl.com/y83kzl7u>
- 11 tips for day hiking with young children: <http://tinyurl.com/ydzyt9hk>
- REI continues support of National Scenic Trails, invests nearly \$645,000 in 2018: <http://tinyurl.com/y8kgsdca>
- Crowd-funding for National Forest Service trails: <http://tinyurl.com/y8uenfhx>
- Improving Access to Urban Trails (opinion): <http://tinyurl.com/ycqabmwq>

INTERNATIONAL LINKS:

- Top six shaded trails for running and hiking in Hong Kong's summer heat and humidity: <http://tinyurl.com/ydeur3za>
- In new book, stories of an Alaskan who learned to ride horses in order to explore Patagonia – solo: <http://tinyurl.com/yb3e2256>
- Our First Time Bikepacking (amusing 12-minute video): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6oYA6_3Bjr8
- Pedals To Paddles: An Epic Remote BC Bikeraft: <http://tinyurl.com/ku3vbzu>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Sixteen National Forests Near National Parks: <http://tinyurl.com/yakymnzd>
- Vietnam's Daring Golden Bridge Takes a "Hands-On" Approach to Tourism: <http://tinyurl.com/y7blcbxd>

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