



NEWSLETTER

JULY
2023

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www.alaska-trails.org

ALASKA TRAILS NEWS AND NOTICES

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY VOLUNTEER EVENTS A SUCCESS

VOLUNTEER Thanks to all the volunteers who came out for a day of trail work on Saturday, June 3, for National Trails Day! And a big thanks to Matson in Alaska and the Chugach Park Fund for sponsoring the brushing event at Gasline Trail in Chugach State Park. We are grateful for their support and partnership. Volunteers brushed 2,000 feet of trail and improved drainage for 200 feet of the trail. Snacks from Elevated Oats and non-alcoholic drinks from Athletic Brewing Co. were a great reward for hard work at the end of the event.



Fourteen dedicated volunteers joined us in Whittier on National Trails Day as well on the Horsetail Falls Connector Trail for some brushing and tread work, and they enjoyed a BBQ

afterwards! And a committed volunteer crew picked up about 200 pounds of waste from the trails around University Lake. Together, we left the trails better than we found them.

Trails like these need your help, not just on National Trails Day. We would love to have you join us for a future event! Visit: <https://www.alaska-trails.org/current-volunteer-opportunities>

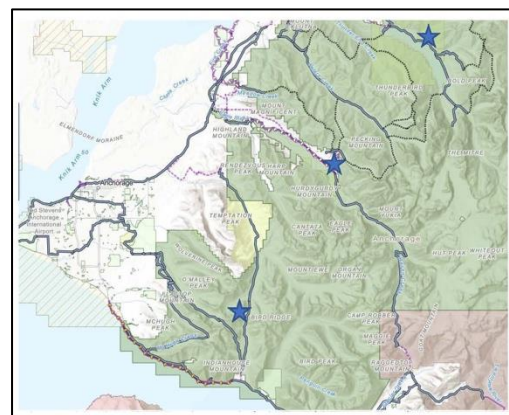
THREE ALASKA LONG TRAIL PROJECTS SURVIVE BUDGET PROCESS

Great news for trails this summer! On June 19th, Governor Dunleavy enacted the FY2024 state budget, and THREE Alaska Long Trail projects totaling \$1.434 million are in it, thanks to an amendment submitted by Senator Wielechowski and support from Senator Merrick and Representative Saddler!

The three projects are in Chugach State Park:

- Eklutna Trailside Improvements: <https://tinyurl.com/4nem272p>
- Ram Valley - Reestablishing Access: <https://tinyurl.com/6nvv653m>
- Indian Valley Trail Reroute: <https://tinyurl.com/2p9c64jw>

Alaska Trails is the funding recipient for all of these projects and will be working closely with the Chugach State Park's staff and local contractors over the next couple of years.



We are excited and grateful to see funding for trails in the state capital budget for two years in a row now. This support in the bipartisan state legislature and Governor's administration is a testament to the economic viability of the long trail concept and to the importance of specific trail segments to communities. Each of the funded projects will bring economic and health benefits to local residents but will also contribute to the growth of statewide outdoor recreation economy in the heart of Alaska.

Thank you to everyone who wrote letters of support for these projects!

See projects details on Alaska Trails' Alaska Long Trail page: <https://www.alaska-trails.org/state-budget-funding-for-alt>

NEW HUB ALLOWS YOU TO EXPERIENCE THE ALASKA LONG TRAIL

Alaska Trails is excited to announce the online mapping resource for the Alaska Long Trail. Visitors to the brand-new Alaska Long Trail ArcGIS Hub can:

- Explore interactive maps of the ALT with links to trail guides
- Share suggestions and feedback about the entire ALT or specific segments
- Plan an Alaska Long Trail adventure and hike, bike, or packraft portions of the most completed section between Seward and Eagle River.



If you are interested in adventuring on any of the Alaska Long Trail segments between Seward and Eagle River this summer, Alaska Trails will be grateful for your feedback at the end of your journey. You can sign up to be contacted here: <https://tinyurl.com/4ts299xz>

Check out the hub here: <https://the-alaska-long-trail-hub-alaska-trails.hub.arcgis.com/>

ALASKA TRAILS HAS TOOL TRAILERS READY FOR TRAIL PROJECTS



BORROW 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 a bunch 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).

SEEN RECENTLY ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

June 26: Happy Pride Month from all of us at Alaska Trails, especially our Cordova Trail Crew who celebrates with rainbows and smiles despite the rainy weather! At Alaska Trails, we strive to make sure everyone feels welcome on the trails and on our trail crews. We want to create safe, inclusive experiences for LGBTQA+ folks to enjoy, advocate for, and support the trail systems they love.



June 25: Thanks to all the volunteers who came out and worked hard yesterday to give the Gasline Trail in Chugach State Park some love and attention. As you can see, the alders were taking over, and some drainage work was needed. Big thanks to Chugach Park Fund for sponsoring this event!

June 23: Want to get more involved in trail work this summer? We have a couple positions open on our paid trail crews right now! To learn more and apply, visit: <https://www.alaska-trails.org/jobs>

June 20: Fun day yesterday checking in with the hard-working crew on the South Fork Eagle River trail. They are off and running on the project that will make the trail to Symphony Lakes much more fun and sustainable. They are making good progress on fixing the wet areas.

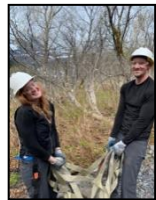
Alaska Trails' work at South Fork this summer was funded through the Chugach Park Fund with a matching grant from the Rasmuson Foundation and additional funding from ConocoPhillips Alaska, Continental Subaru

#SubaruShareTheLove and Athletic Brewing Company #twoforthetrails

Other sponsors include: Families Assisting Families, GCI, Pursuit and the Chugiak Eagle River Foundation



June 10: Alaska Trails is celebrating 20 years of improving our Alaskan trails this year! ConocoPhillips Alaska has been a key part of funding our trail projects for the last decade, and we are grateful for their support! <https://tinyurl.com/38xnhue7>



June 6: Fourteen dedicated volunteers joined us in Whittier on Saturday on the Horsetail Falls Connector Trail for some brushing and tread work, and they enjoyed a BBQ afterwards! Our Alaska Trail Stewards volunteers are so important to our work, and we appreciate you so much!

Want to join us at the next Whittier event, or another trail work day? Visit:

www.alaska-trails.org/current-volunteer-opportunities

June 5: A big thanks to everyone who contributed to our Spring Appeal last month! You helped us raise \$9,358 that will be put to immediate use this summer to improve our Alaskan trails. Thank you!

In case you missed this campaign and still want to support local trails, it's not too late – support us here: <https://www.alaska-trails.org/donate>



ALASKA TRAILS NEEDS YOUR HELP TO PRESERVE, PROMOTE TRAILS

DONATE 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 you. Please donate to help us continue our work: www.alaska-trails.org/donate

All year long we strive to:

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

STATEWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

ALASKA MOUNTAIN BIKE SUMMIT TO BE HELD IN OCTOBER

REGISTER Please save the date and join Chugach Mountain Bike Riders, Alaska Trails, Arctic Bicycle Club, and Valley Mountain Bikers and Hikers on Saturday and Sunday October 14 and 15 at the scenic Government Peak Chalet, for the second Alaska Mountain Bike Summit.

The Alaska Mountain Bike Summit seeks to bring together nonprofits, clubs, and mountain biking advocates from across the state to share information and plan a way to maximize the knowledge and expertise in the state to build, maintain, and ride more mountain biking trails.



At a glance:

- What: Alaska Mountain Bike Summit
- Where: Government Peak Chalet, 10690 North Mountain Trails Drive, Palmer, Alaska
- When: 9am - 4pm Saturday, 14 October and Sunday 15 October
- Why: to build a strong statewide mountain bike coalition
- Cost: (includes meals, facility, swag)
 - Scholarships available
 - Individuals \$85 (includes lunch both days)
 - Club table \$1000 (up to 5 participants)

More information including registration, agenda and other pertinent news will be coming soon. For questions contact: Will Taygan will@ChugachMTB.org

DO GOOD FOR YOURSELF AND OTHERS WHILE OUT USING THE TRAILS

When you are out enjoying the trails, remember that you can be a force of good. That starts by acting responsibly: respect private property, don't shortcut switchbacks, keep your dog under control, be quiet around homes. But you can do more than that. You can also be the eyes and ears for the community. If you see a problem with a trail, a problem with wildlife, or something suspicious, please report it.

Trail apps sometimes have a way to report an issue with the trail. For example, with OuterSpatial (<https://www.outerspatial.com/>), which is used by several agencies in Alaska, users can report issues on specific trails. (See "How can I explore specific Trail information?": <https://tinyurl.com/mk4je4hm>)

If the problem is wildlife related, you can report that to Alaska Fish and Game here: <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=reportwildlifeencounter.main>

If the problem is related to crime or public safety, you can report it to the Alaska State Troopers online or via texting: <https://dps.alaska.gov/AST/Home>

SEEN RECENTLY ON STATEWIDE FACEBOOK PAGES

ALASKA STATE PARKS

June 23: #DYK that Alaska State Parks has a partnership with OuterSpatial to provide you easy access to our trails and facilities in an easy to follow mapping format? 😊

Check it out and let us know what you think!

<https://www.outerspatial.com/>

📷 Anu Maraimpillai, Kachemak Bay Sunrise



STATEWIDE LINKS

- Application for Public Easement Nenana-Dune Lake Trail-Public **Comment Period Extended** (deadline July 14): <http://notice.alaska.gov/211561>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Completion of Denali Park Road bridge pushed back to 2026: <https://tinyurl.com/45kpah7v>
- BLM **Extends Comment Period** for Public Lands Rule (ddline July 5): <https://tinyurl.com/42z63yc2>
- White House awards \$2.2B in transportation grants: <https://tinyurl.com/3a67xr6n>

SOUTHCENTRAL NEWS AND NOTICES

LAWSUIT OVER STEWART TRAIL ACCESS OFFICIALLY FINISHED

The long, drawn-out lawsuit over public access to the Stewart Public Trail is finally done. See this letter from the Friends of the Stewart Public Trail:

The litigation is now officially over. The defendants paid the legal fees they owed us, and this was used to pay our lawyers for the past work they had done. With that, all legal matters have been resolved.

The only remaining issue is to figure out parking, which we will do with the Municipality in the coming weeks. We will keep you updated on those developments.

This has been a long, costly effort, but the outcome was very successful. A huge part of the achievement was due to the community support we were able to focus and unleash.

Very rarely in life do we get to create a direct connection to future generations. This was one of those occasions. We should feel very good knowing that we have preserved a beautiful piece of earth for the public for eternity. Please exercise wise custodianship of the trail.

Sincerely,

Friends of the Stewart Public Trail,

friendsofthestewarttrail@gmail.com

SEEN RECENTLY ON SOUTHCENTRAL FACEBOOK PAGES



ANCHORAGE PARK FOUNDATION

June 25: The Moose Loop Trail Challenge is just three months away! This is our annual event to raise money for parks and trails. **Register today for the 5K, 10K, Mini Moose (25.75K), or Mighty Moose (51.5K Moose Loop).** Visit our website to sign up: <https://runsignup.com/Race/AK/Anchorage/TheMooseLoopRace>

June 7: Anchorage teenagers are out on the trails this summer working hard for all of us. Thank you! The Youth Employment in Parks program is a partnership with Anchorage Parks and Recreation with trail building skills provided by Alaska Trails and streambank skills provided by Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game.

This week they are at University Lake Dog Park working on shoreline restoration and building a new trail to protect the bank from erosion. If you see them out there give them a wave and a smile!



SINGLETRACK ADVOCATES

June 16: The Turnagain Pass Master Plan will provide a long-term guide for future improvements with a focus on safety and recreation access. **Have a look and feel free to share your thoughts with them. Maybe mountain bike trails in the high Alpine?** www.turnagainpassmasterplan.com



June 5: Upper dig deep has been changed back to the original line. The line has been armored with rocks. The ride around on the left side that has been eroding the whole area has been decommissioned, so no ride around! That ride around was never intended to be there when we first built the trail. Enjoy a black diamond!

CHUGACH MOUNTAIN BIKE RIDERS

June 7: **Has any group come up with trailbuilding design parameters for winter fat biking?** We're planning new "multiuse" trails, but our primary design consideration is to fit a pisten bully groomer down them for winter use - the XC ski trails are ski only and the mushing trails are mushing only, so these will be designed as beginner fat bike trails open to everyone.

However, we also want to harden the trail with crushed gravel for summer use, and find that XC ski and dog mushing grades are too steep for gravel retention, and for beginner fat bikers, who end up walking the hills, wrecking the groom.

Here's the specs so far: 12' clearing, 8' e-1 gravel (4" deep d-1 with fines - 2' dirt shoulders @3-5%). Average trail grade 5% with a short pitch max of 8% (really shooting for 7%, but 2%-8%).

No rolling grade dips, since they are too bumpy for the XC skiers we will be sharing the trail with, but instead using longer grade reversals. Also following the 1/2 rule for side slopes.

Anyone else building trails with a design use for winter fat biking?

And yes, that is a photo from the trailhead.



MAT-SU BOROUGH RECREATION AND LIBRARY SERVICES



May 31: Great news!!! The west trailhead parking lot is now opened at Settlers Bay Coastal Park! You can access this parking area by following South Settlers Bay Drive to where it intersects the south end of South Turner Drive and then going through a large gate. There are two new vault toilets in this area and easy access to the view platform. The new trailhead is opened from 6:00am to 9:00pm. We hope you enjoy the new additions to the park.

VALLEY MOUNTAIN BIKERS AND HIKERS

June 26: GPRA Update. Gnarski n' Hucks is open for business! Watch for intermittent closures as jump and line adjustments continue over the next few weeks.

If the caution sign blocks the trail that means crews are working to dial the flow of this black diamond beauty. We will try our best to leave the trail in a rideable condition and take down the sign after each work session. Be aware that this trail has large features such as gap jumps and drops, with a largely loose, rocky surface.

However, the access to Gnarski n' Hucks via the new Field of Dreams trail is a glorious two way trail which allows access to the top of the trail system with a flowy fun descent that is wide enough for two bikes to pass in most spots.

All trails at GPRA are running great right now, so get out and enjoy!



MAT-SU SKI CLUB



June 22: 🚦 Hey hiking friends, Blueberry Knoll (BBK) trailhead has been moved just a little to improve trail access. Look for these signs to lead you to the new trailhead located just after the first bridge on the Pioneer Loop. Thank you to the MSSC trail work volunteers ❤️ 🙌 !

Share this and let your friends know 🤗

ALASKA HUTS ASSOCIATION

May 29: Did you know? The Manitoba Hut is within only a few miles of a whole bunch of epic hiking and mountain biking on the Kenai. Check out the Manitoba Hiking Guide on our website to learn more about the local hikes! Most of the ones off the beaten path are best attempted early in the summer to avoid the #JulyJungle

<https://www.alaskahuts.org/manitoba-hiking-guide/>



FRIENDS OF KACHEMAK BAY STATE PARKS



June 5: Six of us had a fun and productive trails day weekend on Chugachik Island. We cleared and tidied up the trails and campsites. It's always interesting to see that you need to bring about the same amount of stuff for one night as you do a week. Thanks much to Bob Glen for the boat ride!



June 5: Trails Day 2023 had a small turnout this year (perhaps due to weather?) but they still got ALOT done! See the 3 posts on our page today showing China Poot Lake projects, Glacier Spit cleanup, and Saddle repairs. HUGE THANKS to Beluga Air LLC, Mako's Water Taxi , 49northalaskanadventures for providing transportation. Thanks to all the awesome volunteers that make KBSP more awesome.

There's much more work to be done this season! Send in your volunteer form to get on the FKBSP email list for opportunities to help out all summer!
<https://tinyurl.com/4vj63sxx>

HOMER TRAILS ALLIANCE

June 26: Weedwhacker extraordinaire! Ever wonder how Homer Trails are maintained? Volunteers for many of them!! If you love our trails, volunteer to help maintain them. Go to homertrailsalliance.org to sign up.

June 25: Thanks to the Americorps volunteers who helped Homer Trails Alliance two Sundays this month with trail building! You are awesome!

June 25: Thanks to all of the 25 volunteers who worked on the Homestead Trail last Sunday!! Thanks to the Americorps volunteers who helped, too! Lots of progress has been made. Interested in volunteering with Homer Trails Alliance? You can sign up on <https://homertrailsalliance.org>



June 12: A HUGE THANK YOU to the 25 volunteers who came to our work party on The Homestead Trail yesterday! We got SO much done! Including schlepping hundreds of board feet of lumber to build boardwalks at next Sunday's work party. Major headway rebuilding 180' stretch of KNSC/Hiking trail, and yet another crew was busy blazing new, dry, snowshoe/hike trail loops!!!!

SOUTHCENTRAL LINKS

- Lynx Lake Loop Guide (Nancy Lake Rec Area) : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2SzQ4i2R5NI>
- Mat-Su Water Trails: <https://tinyurl.com/3jfrjbx6>
- Hike Muktuk Marston Trail to Rendezvous Ridge Loop: <https://tinyurl.com/dbu5hzur>

INTERIORWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

FAIRBANKS COMPREHENSIVE TRAIL PLAN UPDATE PASSES

In June, the Fairbanks Borough Assembly passed the Comprehensive Recreational Trail Plan update – almost fully intact and by a 7-2 vote.

A last-minute compromise deal devised by Assemblyman Aaron Lojewski, and then refined by Mayor Bryce Ward and his staff, assuaged most of the private property concerns of several assembly members. In the end, only Assemblymembers Barbara Haney and Brett Rotermund voted against the plan update. And during comments at the end of the meeting, Assemblyman Rotermund said he was pleased to

see the compromise work.

“Even though I stuck to my ‘no’ vote, I’m pretty happy this thing passed,” he said.

To get the compromise, the plan update was changed in two significant ways.

- The definition of C trails was changed so that it now gives borough staff more latitude to expend resources on those trails.
- Several trails new to the plan were reclassified from A and B trails to C trails.



To find out more detail about the compromise and the meeting, see this Interior Alaska Trails blog post:

<https://www.interioralaskatrails.org/2023/06/21/fairbanks-borough-assembly-passes-trail-plan-update/>

CHALLENGE OFFERS OPPORTUNITIES TO FIND TRAILS IN INTERIOR

The Fairbanks Summer Trails Challenge is live with 20 signs up and ready to find all over the borough.

The challenge started June 20 and lasts until September 30.

There are again three award categories: Trailblazer, Junior Trailblazer, and Sourdough Trailblazer. Trailblazers are 10 years old and up and must find at least 10 signs. Junior Trailblazers are up to 9 years old and must find five signs. Sourdough Trailblazers are at least 60 years old and must find five signs.



This event, put on by the Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks and Recreation Department, is an all-ages, all-abilities, outdoor scavenger hunt. The challenge is designed to get you out with your friends and family to explore our wonderful local trails, both new and familiar.

Anyone is allowed to participate in the search. When you find a sign, mark it off on your checklist, which you get when you register. You no longer need to prove you nabbed a sign by taking a selfie, but participants are still encouraged to take the photos and post them on social media with the hashtag “#FNSBTrails”. Putting it on

the Trails Challenge Facebook page is a great way to share. And of course, leave the sign to be found by the next trail challenge participant.

Participants who find the minimum number of signs for their category get their official award and can win prizes from local sponsors. Whether you find one or find them all, challenge yourself to get outside and enjoy nature!

To register, find out more and see a list of signs, see the Fairbanks Borough Trails Office webpage: <https://tinyurl.com/mscu47zu>

And check out the Trails Challenge Facebook Event here: <https://tinyurl.com/3tumm6am>

Get your Trails Challenge Guide here:

https://issuu.com/fnsbparksandrec/docs/summer_trails_guide_23

Photo from Evangeline Orr post on Facebook Event page.

BLM DENIES PERMIT FOR HELICOPTER DAY TOURS AT TOLOVANA

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has denied a permit for day tours at Tolovana Hot Springs that would have included helicopter landings. The decision was made on May 4. A public release announcing the decision was dated May 24. Below is from the decision statement:

A field inspection was conducted by BLM staff in mid-February, 2023, which illustrated a number of issues with the proposal for which no reasonable mitigations could be identified. The rationale for denial included increased noise and reduced bather privacy resulting from the proposed action that would likely create recreation conflicts and diminish user experiences of Tolovana Hot Springs Ltd guests. Other issues noted were a lack of sufficient water flow and water temperature from the seeps near the proposed tub location to support the proposal, and safety concerns arising from helicopter operations in close proximity to public recreational use. Due to the decision to deny the permit for the above stated reasons based on a field inspection by BLM staff, an environmental analysis was not completed.



According to the proposal submitted late last year, a hot tub would have been brought in for the operation and tours would have been done via helicopter with a maximum of three landings per day.

You can find the public release regarding the decision, as well as other documents including a scoping report on which the decision was based here:

<https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2021127/570>

Photo by Nathaniel Wilder/Alaska Public Media: Skiers make their way toward Tolovana Hot Springs in 2012

PRIVATE DONATIONS IMPROVE DOG MUSHING TRAILS

Several miles of Alaska Dog Mushing Association trails were improved earlier this year thanks to two \$20,000 private donations from the Interior Alaska Trails and Parks Foundation.



The trails were mowed and mulched, which levels the trail by trimming tussocks and stumps. This helps make grooming easier, especially early season grooming when uneven trails can make for a wild ride for groomers. The mowing also helps improve sight distance around corners.

About 14 miles of trail were mowed, making up nearly half of the total ADMA trails. The bulk of the work was done in May, though some mowing was done last fall. Much of the work was done on the Creamer's Field Migratory Wildlife Refuge. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game, which manages the refuge, oversaw the work.

Funding for the project came from a private endowment. The work was done by Greenstone Station, a Fairbanks-based business. The company owner, Shaun Patterson, built Shaun's Trail at Pearl Creek Nordic Park as an Eagle Scout project and also mowed the "ski field."

Organizers hope to continue mowing and mulching more of the trails next spring.

BOROUGH SEEKS COMMENT ON COMPREHENSIVE ROAD PLAN

COMMENT The Fairbanks Borough is seeking comments on its Comprehensive Road Plan. This process has been underway for a while. They took comments last year and now have a revised plan that is available for review and comment. While the people working on the Road Plan worked closely with those on the Comprehensive Trail Plan, trails advocates should still look closely at the revised road plan. Look for conflicts with roads and trails. Make sure your voice is heard.

Please note: THIS IS JUST A PLAN. It is a guiding document for where roads should go IF AND WHEN they are built. This does not mean the borough is going to start building all these roads right away. (The borough will not build most of the roads on the plan, maybe none.)

This is a good approach to development. While there may be some road/trail conflicts with the revised plan, it is better to get these issues figured out early and with some thought to how everything is integrated.

Take a look at the revised plan and leave your comments. All information should be found on this page: <https://fnsbroadsplan.com/>

SEEN RECENTLY ON INTERIOR FACEBOOK PAGES

ALASKA STATE PARKS

June 15: ****Northern Region Update****

The ATV Trail at Olmes in the Lower Chatanika River SRA is eroding into the river creating a public safety hazard. 😞

Staff in the Northern Region have set up some flags to alert riders but they will be blocking the washed out areas, please be aware if ATViing in this area. Thank you!



INTERIOR ALASKA TRAILS AND PARKS FOUNDATION



June 4: Randy (VP) and Brian (Treasurer) went out to trim up Table Top Mountain Trail today.

We knocked back the dwarf birch with hedge trimmers from the alpine area to below the boardwalk (about a mile and cleaned up fallen trees and new growth to the trailhead covering 2 miles). Tough work for sure!

The eastern side of the loop has not looked this good in decades!

Lots of water on the trail. Snow still blocks the top from easy access. Spring is just coming to Nome Creek! Let us know what you think of the trail!

SKARLAND & PEARL CREEK TRAIL USERS

Stan Justice, June 26: I have been out benching another section of the Skarland that is hard to groom because the side slope is so steep that the snowmachine wants to tip over and the drag tracks low. As you use the reworked section try to stay on the high 1/3 of the trail. The high 1/3 is the cut bench so naturally compacted Loess. The middle third is boot packed loess and the lowest third is where I toss the duff and roots. The lower side of the trail will revegetate if we keep traffic off.



I have done a lot of digging along the Skarland and only in this area found buried pebbles. They seem to be buried 4-5 inches deep. I understand loess accumulates at a rate of an inch every 1000 years. By what process did these pebbles get incorporated into the loess thousands of years ago? Location is above Red Fox Rd. near the tire swing.

Thanks

Stan Justice; June 14: I attended the Joint Mobility Task Force, a group of DOT, Cities, and borough folks with BPAC (Bicycle Pedestrian Advisor Committee). The BPAC is part of FAST Planning and advocates for bikes and pedestrians. On the agenda was the Skarland Trail issue at Ballaine and Yankovich where the path gets obstructed every winter by loader over clearing the road. Head of DOT operations offered to install marker posts as a temporary measure to hopefully show loader operator where to stop. Great to see the issue get some attention.

Was interesting to hear discussion about our post covid world. DOT has only half their positions filled limiting what they can do. FNSB puts jobs out to bid and gets no bids. Or they get a bid at 5 times what the job should cost.

NORDIC SKI CLUB OF FAIRBANKS



June 24: **Volunteers are needed** to do trail work at Birch Hill Recreation Area. It's part of a project to improve the Birch Hill trails and make them easier to groom and otherwise maintain. The SCUM were out recently helping.

If you'd like to help with this project, here's the most pertinent information.

--Contact Tom Helmers at trails@nscfairbanks.org and he'll direct you to the appropriate trails. After you've finished, let Ann Jamieson know what trails you worked on and how much time you spent. She can be contacted at: treasurer@nscfairbanks.org

--But surely you want to see pics of these buff guys out working the trails!

<https://sonotkkaazoot.org/2023/06/23/scum-volunteer-18-hours-of-trail-work/>

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH PARKS & REC

May 8: Tanana River Recreation Access Improvements Project

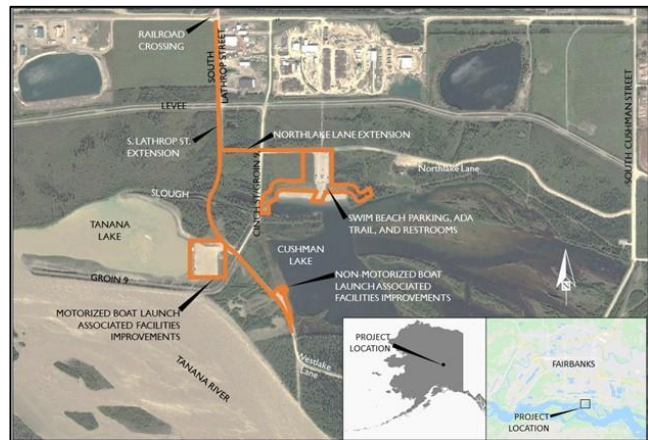
CONSTRUCTION UPDATE (6/20):

Construction is ramping up at Tanana Lakes Recreation Area with traffic control and parking lot closures starting soon. Only one lot (swim beach lot, motorized boat launch lot, and non-motorized boat launch lot) will be closed at a time during weekdays throughout the summer, with no closures on weekends. Plan for potential delays on park roads and alternative access points for your activities.

This project will provide a multitude of much needed improvements to the park.

Before heading to Tanana Lakes Recreation

Area for some fun this summer, be sure to check our Facebook page or the Federal Highway



Administration project page. We will post newsletters periodically throughout the summer to provide updates on areas affected by construction.

Thank you for your patience!

For more information, visit the links below:

<https://www.fnsb.gov/1005/Ongoing-Projects>

<https://highways.dot.gov/federal-lands/projects/ak/fnsb-tanana-1>

SALCHA SKI CLUB

June 23: Summer trail etiquette. Dogs are OK during the summer. They MUST be on a leash or 100% responsive to voice commands. We do not want any conflict between trail users or other dogs!

No motorized vehicles. No bikes, sorry, but they erode the trail quickly. Clean up after your pet!

Bag it or scoot the poop well off the trail. Mosquitos, well, let's just say bring along a lot of repellent!

Remember we share the trails with moose, bears traveling thru the area, and other wildlife. Make some noise and enjoy our trail system! Donations for trail maintenance can be made at Salcha Store.

INTERIORWIDE LINKS

- Solstice Sub-24 Adventure: <https://tinyurl.com/4dvr5nw6>
- Land Use Permit to Alaska Renewables for trail construction and meteorological towers (comment deadline July 7): <http://notice.alaska.gov/211597>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- FNSB Parks & Rec- Intro To Hiking, July 12: www.facebook.com/events/781126250143226/
- Off Road Vehicle Park Coming Together (Fairbanks): <https://tinyurl.com/47wj6v4s>
- Tanana Lakes Recreation Area undergoes expansion project: <https://tinyurl.com/5n7uc8yc>
- Off-road vehicle park starts to take shape: <https://tinyurl.com/y7kd6hap>
- AlaskAcross 2023: Eagle Summit to Chena Hot Springs: <https://tinyurl.com/2bpenjh9>

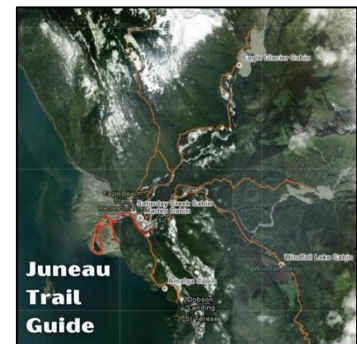
SOUTHEAST NEWS AND NOTICES

GET READY FOR JUNEAU AREA TRAILS WITH THE 'TRAIL GUIDE'

Are you ready for spring and summer hiking in the Juneau area? To prepare for the trails, make sure to check out our new Trail Guide: <https://trailmixinc.org/trails/>

One of our favorite features of the Trail Guide is the cabin locator! Booking a cabin has never been easier. Head to the guide, find the cabin you're interested in, click on it, and then follow the link to the cabin reservation page. Throughout the summer, our crews will be collecting more data to add to the map.

While you're hiking, you can also help Trail Mix maintain our trails! With over 200 miles of trail, it's hard to monitor damage alone. That's why we need your help reporting trail damage. If you come across a fallen tree, broken boardwalk, or any other unsafe trail conditions, snap a picture and note the location. Then, fill out the Trail Damage Report (<https://trailmixinc.org/damage-report/>). Your report enables us to quickly respond to damaged trails and coordinate with our agency partners.



From The Dirt, a Trail Mix newsletter

SEEN RECENTLY ON SOUTHEAST FACEBOOK PAGES

TRAIL MIX, INC.

June 13: Perseverance Trail Transformation ✨ ✨

Embracing the challenge and showcasing resilience, we celebrate the incredible transformation of the Perseverance Trail. Explore the trail and become part of the journey



May 30: Gravel Magic 🧙‍♂️

Our devoted Trail Maintenance Team tirelessly transforms the Treadwell Ditch Trail, enhancing your hiking and riding experience one bag of gravel at a time.

In this makeover, the team diligently cleared away obstinate roots and rocks. Then, they compacted gravel, transforming the trail into a smooth path.

SITKA TRAIL WORKS

June 16: You're invited! Join Sitka Trail works and Partners to celebrate finalizing a vision decades in the making at the grand opening of the Cross Trail! Meet at 9:00am at the Starrigavan boat launch parking lot which is where the Cross Trail now starts/ends!

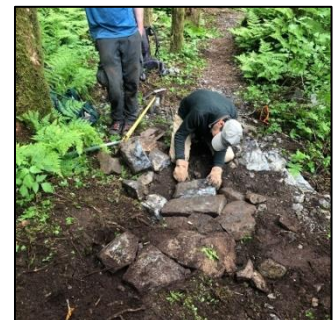
After the formal opening, choose your own adventure and hike back as far as you'd like. The trail now connects all the way through to the Indian River trail with over 10 access points along the way. A car pool with friends is encouraged. Hope to see you there!



June 7: It is an exciting week at Sitka Trail Works! Yesterday we started training for our summer camp leaders, and on Monday, we start camp! Yesterday, we learned leadership skills like communication, and got to explore our own leadership styles. Today, we learned the Lingit names of a lot of our work sites from our Cultural Coordinator, and we got to take to the field and practice how to safely use tools. Tomorrow the team learns first aid from @amsea.training and Friday we wrap up. We look forward to sharing more updates on our Youth Program

throughout the summer! Happy hiking!

June 5: This weekend, Sitka Trail Works co-hosted the first Annual Trail Master Summit in partnership with the USDA Forest Service, Sitka Cycling Club, SAIL, and the Salty Spoke. In this two-day workshop, participants spent time learning about sustainable trail building and took to the field to do some hands on learning. We worked on some of the mountain bike trails off of the Cross Trail by adding rocks to smooth out muddy patches, increasing water drainage areas to prevent erosion on the trails, and added in a "rolling crown switchback" which will increase safety on a turn. Thank you to all the partners who made this possible and to all of the participants who spent their weekends improving Sitka's trails!



JUNEAU PARKS & RECREATION

June 13: **The City and Borough of Juneau Parks and Recreation Department (CBJ) requests your input on a planning study** (bit.ly/BonnieBraeSurvey) on the Bonnie Brae Access Trail to Treadwell Ditch. **A public survey is open through 5 p.m. Saturday, July 15.**

The CBJ is working in cooperation with the United States Forest Service and Federal Highway Administration to complete the study. The work is being funded by the Federal Lands Access Program. The planning process begins with a survey and will include additional public involvement, with the goal being a conceptual reconstruction plan for the trail.

Please take the survey (bit.ly/BonnieBraeSurvey) to provide information on how you use the Bonnie Brae Access Trail, if you use this trail to access the Treadwell Ditch, and if alternate routes to the Treadwell Ditch should be developed.

The study will take about a year, with a planning document to be completed in spring 2024.



SOUTHEAST LINKS

- The Dirt: May 2023 (Trail Mix newsletter): <https://tinyurl.com/4xuff6d2u>

NATIONWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

ADD YOUR VOICE IN SUPPORT OF THE OUTDOOR RECREATION ACT

SEND LETTER Congress has an opportunity to pass the largest outdoor recreation package in decades this year! Bipartisan legislation, America's Outdoor Recreation Act (S. 873) has been introduced in the Senate and similar legislation is being considered in the House.

It's up to all trail users to contact their Members of Congress to tell them to pass this critical legislation NOW to transform equitable access to the outdoors and recreation opportunities for all trail users and all visitors to public lands!

The American Hiking Society has a letter already written that you can sign and add to, if you like: <https://americanhiking.org/national-trails-day/advocacy/>

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/training/calendar

TRAILS-RELATED NEWSLETTERS

- American Trails "Trail Tracks": www.americantrails.org/newsletter

VOLUNTEER

- Am. Hiking Society's 2023 Volunteer Vacations: <https://americanhiking.org/volunteer-vacation-trips/>

FUNDING

- FOX Factory Trail Trust (**applications reviewed quarterly**): <https://trailtrust.com/>
- Yamaha Outdoor Access Initiative (OHVs, **quarterly deadlines**): <https://yamahaoai.com/>

OTHER LINKS:

- Man walks 14,000 to map the American Perimeter Trail: www.youtube.com/watch?v=nMNvUsDPK64
- 9 New National Recreation Trails Added to the National Trail System: <https://tinyurl.com/2s3cypvh>
- ITS 2023 Impact Report - ITS in Reno Breaks Attendance Records: <https://tinyurl.com/bdmvy75j>

The Alaska Trails board meets via teleconference the first Tuesday of every other month from 5-7pm. If you want to hear more about Alaska trail topics, share trail information, or propose a trail project, join us. 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 seven days before the first of the month. Send stories to Editor Eric Troyer at fbxtrails@gmail.com