



NEWSLETTER

JUNE
2023

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www.alaska-trails.org

ALASKA TRAILS NEWS AND NOTICES

GIVE BACK TO TRAILS ON NATIONAL TRAILS DAY – SATURDAY, JUNE 3

VOLUNTEER Come celebrate trails by volunteering with Alaska Trails at one of three different locations. Volunteers will be doing a variety of tasks at each location – all with the goal of making our trails safer and more fun to use. Join us at Prospect Heights - Gasline Trail for some brushing and free non-alcoholic beverages from Athletic Brewing, University Lake Dog Park for a trail cleanup competition with Into the Woods Alaska which includes fun prizes; or Whittier - Horsetail Falls Connector Trail for brushing and tread work, plus a free BBQ and raffle prizes to follow! Come give back to the trails you enjoy all year-round. For more information on these and other volunteer events, go to: <https://www.alaska-trails.org/current-volunteeropportunities>.



For other National Trails Day events, see the Statewide section.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2023 ALASKA TRAIL STEWARDS SPONSORS!

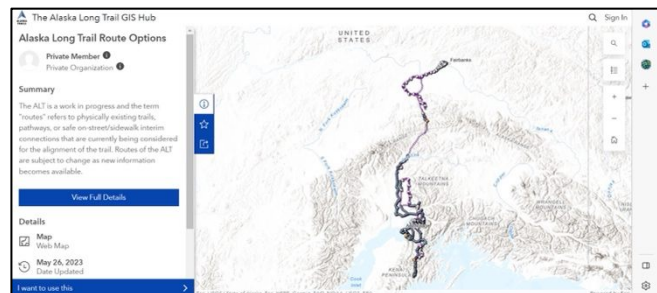


We are grateful to Go Hike Alaska, Fuse and Traverse, Revelate Designs, CRW Engineering Group, Trek Bicycle Store, and the Chugach Park Fund for their generosity in sponsoring Alaska Trail Stewards Volunteer Events this season. We appreciate their support in helping us to ensure our trails are in tip-top shape for all to enjoy. And a big thanks to Elevated Oats and Heather's Choice for donating trail snacks to help our volunteers refuel during trail events!

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 TRAIL STEWARDS RELIES ON VOLUNTEERS LIKE YOU

VOLUNTEER Alaska Trails is fortunate to have a core group of super volunteers who continue to lead the Alaska Trail Stewards volunteer program. Those super volunteers stepped up again in May to conduct a volunteer crew leader training to pass on their knowledge and skills to others who will lead volunteers during our many events this summer.



And those leaders will get to hone their skills soon as the volunteer events begin on National Trails Day – June 3! (See story on Page 1.) But our efforts are not just focused on one day and we have many other volunteer opportunities set up throughout the summer. We hope to help you give back to the trails that you love. Come join us!

Find out more on our Alaska Trail Stewards Program page: <https://www.alaska-trails.org/alaska-trail-stewards>

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).

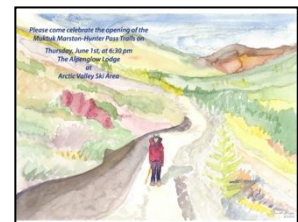
SEEN RECENTLY ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

May 26: There is a push to create a Turnagain Pass Master Plan, and public input is needed! This is a long-term plan for both winter and summer, and your comments and suggestions could influence how and where trails are constructed along this corridor. There are three upcoming meetings to voice your comments. To learn more and be added to their email list for updates, visit:

www.turnagainpassmasterplan.com

May 18: Building trails is a community effort. Please join friends of Alaska Trails - the Muktuk Marston-Hunter Pass Trails Committee - as they celebrate the official opening of the Muktuk Marston and Hunter Pass Trails.

- When: Thursday, June 1st, at 6:30 pm
- Where: Alpenglow Lodge at Arctic Valley Ski Area
- What: Come enjoy hikers' cake and a beverage before or after walking the new trail overlooking Ship Creek Valley. Be prepared for early summer conditions.





May 25: Yesterday we got to go scope out the new mountain bike trails in Russian Jack Park. Youth Employment in Parks will be working on them this summer thanks to a Community Challenge Grant from the Anchorage Park Foundation!

We are looking forward to creating some fun trails this summer!

May 17: We are excited to be part of TRAIL BINGO this summer along with Singletrack Advocates! Win some great prizes for hiking, biking, or running the trails this summer. It's all thanks to the The Hoarding Marmot so swing by on June 1st and get your BINGO on!

Shared from

The Hoarding Marmot

Trail Bingo coming soon to a used gear store near you 😊

We are so excited to keep our biannual fundraiser running! This summer proceeds will go to @singletrackadvocates and @alaskatrails

Can't wait to see everyone in the trails!



May 9: Trail work notice: One of our paid trail crews will be working hard to improve the South Fork Eagle River Trail June through August, 2023. During this time, a trail crew of six people will perform minor reroutes around muddy areas, improve drainage, rehab old trail where reroutes occur, brush the trail, improve existing tread, and construct some plank walks over wet sections.



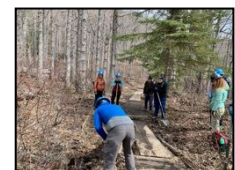
All trail improvements will be performed using crew labor only (no machinery). Please be aware that there will be helicopters overhead the week of June 5th, one day in July, and during the week of August 14th to deliver necessary trail materials, tools, and supplies to the trail crew. During transit, the helicopters will not fly over homes or roads, and will avoid populated trails below.

This project was funded through the Chugach Park Fund with a matching grant from the Rasmuson Foundation and additional funding from ConocoPhillips, Subaru of America, Inc., and Athletic Brewing Company.

To learn more about our paid trail crews, visit: <https://www.alaska-trails.org/trail-crews>

May 8: We had a great weekend of volunteer Crew Leader training to prepare for the quickly approaching season of volunteer events! We have a handful of events posted and will be posting more soon. Visit our website to sign up for the event that is right for you to ensure our trails are well-maintained this summer:

<https://www.alaska-trails.org/current-volunteer-opportunities>



May 2: Alaska Trails is excited to have recently become a 1% for the Planet Environmental Partner! 1% for the Planet business and individual members commit to giving 1% of their annual sales/revenue, or salary, each year to one or multiple 1% for the Planet Environmental Partners. By building and maintaining sustainable trails, Alaska Trails seeks to provide access to safe, inclusive and accessible nature-based activities for all. Learn more about how you or your business can give back through 1% for the Planet by visiting: <https://onepercentfortheplanet.org/>

DIRECTOR'S CORNER
Steve Cleary, Executive Director



Ready for a Great Summer Season in 2023

Summer is coming slowly in 2023, Alaska Trails is ready to hit the ground running – indeed we already have. We were excited to be back in-person for our annual trails conference in April and have been keeping the momentum going ever since. Here are some of the exciting highlights:

New Crews! New Truck!

Alaska Trails will have three paid crews in the field again this year. The crews began work in mid-May with a week of training, including an S212 chainsaw training, thanks to our partnership with the US Forest Service, and a Wilderness First Aid course. One crew will jump on the ferry to Cordova on June 1 and will spend the summer there working on two different projects. Another crew will split its time between Chugach State Park and USFS trails in the road accessible portions of Chugach National Forest. Our wonderful partner the Chugach Park Fund is sponsoring the third crew that will revamp the South Fork Eagle River trail in Chugach State Park.

Big Thanks to the Rasmuson Foundation for their grant to aid in the purchase of a truck for the crews – and we are very grateful to Delta Leasing for their continued support of our programs by providing a donation for the leasing of two more trucks!



Youth Employment in Parks



We are excited to have Alex Thornton leading the Youth Employment in Parks (YEP) program this year. Alaska Trails is honored to be part of this innovative collaboration with the Anchorage Park Foundation and the City of Anchorage. Through a 10-week summer program, Anchorage teens complete park improvement projects. Teens learn natural resource management job skills by building trails and restoring stream banks while increasing civic engagement, environmental awareness, and leadership skills.

Thanks and Farewell to Kate Thomas

We are grateful to Kate Thomas for her service on the Alaska Trails board since 2018. Kate's leadership and experience have proven very valuable to the organization and have given Alaska Trails many of the foundational supports it needs to continue to be sustainable into the future. We wish Kate the best in her new role with the City of Wrangell's Economic Development Department.



Happy Trails,

Steve Cleary

STATEWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

ALASKANS TO CELEBRATE NATIONAL TRAILS DAY IN JUNE



VOLUNTEER, JOIN IN Several events will be held across Alaska in celebration of National Trails Day, Saturday, June 3. See the list below. Or you can check out the National Trails Day website: <https://americanhiking.org/national-trails-day/find-an-event/>

National Trails Day is the American Hiking Society's signature trail awareness program. It inspires the public and trail enthusiasts nationwide to seek out their favorite trails to discover, learn about, and celebrate trails while participating in educational exhibits, trail dedications, gear demonstrations, instructional workshops and trail work projects. For more info see: www.americanhiking.org/national-trails-day/

ANCHORAGE

- Anchorage Trail Clean-Up Day, University Lake Dog Park: <https://tinyurl.com/54zeak39>
- Take a Hike!, BLM Campbell Creek Science Center (June 1): <https://tinyurl.com/28p3xb8t>
- Muktuk Marston-Hunter Pass Trails Opening (June 1): <https://tinyurl.com/5n82tu99>
- Gasline Trail Brushing, Chugach State Park: <https://tinyurl.com/3jwyh2m3>

VALDEZ

- Give the Love to Shoup Bay Trail! <https://tinyurl.com/26s8jrw>

WHITTIER

- Horsetail Falls Connector Trail: <https://tinyurl.com/4zfe6n7p>

SITKA

- 1st Annual Sitka Trail Master Summit: <https://tinyurl.com/c9752267>

FAIRBANKS

- Ester Dome Singletrack work party: <https://www.facebook.com/events/638431427830767/>

DELTA JUNCTION

- Donnelly Dome Hike: <https://www.facebook.com/events/3398369883810374>



WATCH FOR BEARS, MOOSE CALVES WHEN OUT ON THE TRAILS

It's calving season for the moose and things can get dangerous really fast when you surprise a moose or get too close, and the mama decides it's time to protect her young. And, of course, bears are out of hibernation and active. To learn how to avoid surprising animals and deal with uncomfortable or dangerous situations, check out these resources:

- www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=livewith.moose
- www.muni.org/Departments/parks/Pages/Wildlife.aspx



Also, check out this Alaska Science Forum column on early rising bears: <https://tinyurl.com/3sz8nybt>

Photo from Denali National Park by Ken Conger, National Park Service

ORGANIZATION AIMS TO HELP CLEAN UP TRAILS WITH YOUR HELP

Clean Trails is an international 501(c)3 nonprofit organization with a world-wide community of people dedicated to keeping our wild places and the trails that access those spaces free of litter.



According to the group, “study after study shows the highest indicator that someone will pick up litter is if they witness someone else picking up litter. That’s because peer group norms are more powerful than incentives, and when worked in concert with each other, they can provide impressive behavioral change impacts.”

If you’d like to help with this effort, check out the group’s website:

<https://www.cleantrails.org/>

WATCH FOR BIRD NESTS WHEN WORKING ON TRAILS

Trail work sometimes requires downing trees or clearing shrubs. When doing so make sure not to violate the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which makes it illegal for anyone to “take” migratory birds, their eggs, feathers, or nests. “Take” includes destroying or damaging active bird nests or eggs. Different areas of the state have different sensitive periods generally occurring between April 15 and July 25. However, if you encounter an active nest at any time leave it in place and protected until young hatch and depart. “Active” is indicated by intact eggs, live chicks, or the presence of an adult on the nest.



For more information and recommended time periods for avoiding vegetation clearing see:

www.fws.gov/alaska-bird-nesting-season

Photo from Denali 101: www.denali101.com/denalinationalpark/birds_of_denali.html

HELP SLOW CLIMATE CHANGE: 1% FOR THE PLANET, CLIMATE RIDE

Climate changes affects everyone, including trail lovers.

Climate change and other environmental problems may seem like an overwhelming problem, but we humans created them one step at a time, and we can solve them that way, too. Let’s do what we can to now for our children, grandchildren, and beyond.

Here are some things you can do right now to help make a difference.

Join or Donate to 1% for the Planet

The goal of this group is to “connect our members with high-impact environmental partners that align with their values and add to their brand story.”



The group was started in 2002 by Yvon Chouinard, founder of Patagonia, and Craig Mathews, founder of Blue Ribbon Flies. It now has more than 5,000 members. If you are a business, you can join the group. But even if you are not a business owner, you can still donate to the group.

1% for the Planet does not focus solely on climate change, but that is a big part of it. If you become member, you get to choose your own cause.

Find out more at: <https://onepercentfortheplanet.org/>

Take a personal action

Join or organize a fundraiser through Climate Ride: <https://www.climateride.org/>

Climate Ride helps mobilizes people to protect our planet through life-changing adventures. The group organizes charitable biking, running, and hiking events to raise awareness and support sustainability, active transportation, and environmental causes.

You can join one of the many already scheduled events, many are in-person but some allow for virtual participation. Or you can organize your own event or adventure. The page has a Design Your Own Event under its Events dropdown menu.

Find out more at: <https://www.climateride.org/>



SEEN RECENTLY ON STATEWIDE FACEBOOK PAGES

FAIRBANKS TRAIL AND WATERWAY USERS

May 21: Good opinion piece by John Schandelmeier in the Anchorage Daily News about University of Alaska on track to get more BLM land to develop to fund university operations. Schandelmeier focuses on the Denali Highway because he lives down there and because UA has shown an interest in some of the land down there. But UA will probably be looking at BLM lands in other areas of the state, too.

This can be a prickly subject. Many of the same people who love using their public land also support the university. But sometimes those two interests can butt heads. As Schandelmeier speculates:

--UA Lands sent a letter to the DNR indicating a strong interest in the land along the Denali Highway. These lands are potentially recreational plots that could be sold to the public as small plots. Or potentially to a tour company for a large hotel. Some of the land is near Tangle Lakes; a subdivision?



Let me stress that no decisions have been made at this time. But right now is the time to have your voice heard, either pro or con. Comments can be sent to Lacy Hamner at lacy.hamner@alaska.gov. She is the DNR contact.--

Schandelmeier has some other useful information:

--Here is how the process works. The lands available for conveyance are under federal BLM management. Once UA Lands makes requests, DNR coordinates with affected state agencies to determine if it is in the state's best interest to relinquish the selection. But there is public input before decisions are finalized. They are posted on the state's public notice site and the first requests are expected to be received from the university this summer and fall.—

Here's the story: <https://tinyurl.com/2p8fc3bp>

And here's the state's public notice site. If you want to stay informed, check this site regularly or sign up for a subscription (see link at bottom): <https://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/>

STATEWIDE LINKS

- Hiking tips and etiquette: What to know before tackling the trails (ADN): <https://tinyurl.com/4z7v37nb>
- Big water, little boat: Tatshenshini River to Yakutat (Luc Mehl trip): <https://tinyurl.com/432yztm3>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Explore Regenerative Economics at Confluence in Fairbanks, September: <https://tinyurl.com/ya2e3955>
- Teller To Wales: Riding And Rafting The Alaskan Coast: <https://tinyurl.com/223hdkwd>
- Veteran-run nonprofit uses therapeutic recreation to help other veterans: <https://tinyurl.com/bdhd8m9r>
- Bridge Project to Get Underway this Summer (Denali National Park): <https://tinyurl.com/2739tbcy>

SOUTHCENTRAL NEWS AND NOTICES

GOVERNMENT PEAK REC AREA HAS NEW MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS

The Valley Mountain Bikers and Hikers (VMBaH) down in the Mat-Su announced some new mountain bike trails in their May email newsletter. Read about the trails here:

In July 2022, VMBaH, in partnership with Happy Trails Inc., MatSu Trails and Parks Foundation, and the Rasmuson Foundation, broke ground on new mountain bike trails at Government Peak Recreation



Area (GPRA). We opened a brand-new zone, expanding the existing trail northward up the lower meadows at the base of GPRA, adding elevation and mileage. The climb starts directly above the two trails added in 2020, Puffball and Amanita, and is aptly named Field of Dreams, since it climbs through an amazing fireweed patch. This trail will be two-way, perfect for novice riders or more advanced riders looking for amazing views of the Knik Glacier.

For the advanced rider looking to push their skills, continue the loop and descend Gnarski 'n Hucks, southcentral Alaska's most advanced black diamond rated trail. This enduro trail features drops, machine-built jumps and berms, and raw old-school tech sections with plenty of roots and rock gardens. Please follow the sign advice and pre-ride, re-ride, freeride! While ride-arounds will be available for the biggest features, there are mandatory gap jumps and drops that will require commitment and focus.

We plan to have these trails open to the public early this summer. Our ridiculously rainy late summer and fall last year caused damage to the new trails before we could open them. We have plans to make repairs ASAP. Stay tuned for announcements about trail work days, and please consider coming out to do some gravel spreading and dirt repair with our amazing volunteer crew. In the meantime, please consider donating to VMBaH. The more money we raise, the better we can make the repairs necessary to these new trails and several of the existing ones!

SEEN RECENTLY ON SOUTHCENTRAL FACEBOOK PAGES

SINGLETRACK ADVOCATES

May 24: All of Kincaid is OPEN!!! Early season conditions exist. Remember to Pre-Ride before you Free-Ride. And be an annual STA donor too! Shred On!!!

MAT-SU BOROUGH RECREATION AND LIBRARY SERVICES



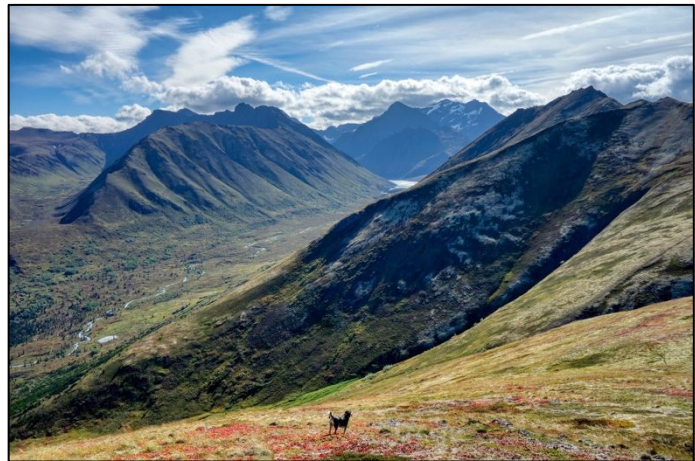
May 15: Break up is a very critical time of the year on our trails. Damage inflicted now can stay with us for the rest of the season. If you notice that you are leaving prints in the mud, we ask that you please consider using another more hardened trail until things dry out a little more. Some suggestions are, any of the paved bike paths and paved 8walking paths in the area such as the ones along the roads or at Alcantra Sports Complex, gravel trails like the Mat River Trail in Palmer, or the ones at Settlers Bay

Coastal Park, or the sand bars along the Matanuska River. Thank you for your help with this matter.

ALASKA STATE PARKS

May 26: ****CHUGACH PARK FUND DONORS HELP REBUILD EAGLE RIVER TRAIL****

Thanks to many donors, the Chugach Park Fund this summer will rebuild the last three miles of the South Fork of Eagle River trail in Chugach State Park. The Rasmuson Foundation provided a \$115,000 matching grant, and through generous donations by ConocoPhillips Alaska, Subaru Share the Love, Athletic Brewing and other donors, the project will go forward. 🙌



The South Fork work will be done by Alaska Trails, which will have a work crew camped near the trail for much of the summer. There will be some helicopter use to set up the camp and bring materials. The trail runs from an Alaska State Park trailhead parking lot back about 5.5 miles to Symphony and Eagle Lakes and backcountry beyond. The first couple of miles of trails were rebuilt several years ago; the remaining three miles are often brushy, wet, and braided. The expectation is for the new trail to be well defined and well drained!



If you're hiking the trail this summer, be aware that trail work will occur for several months, but the trail is expected to remain open throughout the summer. Other work funded by the Chugach Park Fund this summer includes brushing work on several trails in the park, and minor drainage/maintenance work. More information on the fund is at <https://alaskacf.org/funds/chugach-park-fund/>

📷 Laurie Zimmer, South Fork Overlook



May 10: A joint state/federal/private/nonprofit land deal facilitated by Great Land Trust will add nearly 35 public acres to the Kenai River near Eagle Rock Boat Launch, improving access for Alaskans and visitors. This land transfer to Alaska State Parks will be used to improve recreational facilities and conserve habitat along the river.

See details:

<https://greatlandtrust.org/projects/kenai-river-access-eagle-rock/>

May 5: ****South Fork Eagle River Trail Project****

Alaska Trails is beginning construction on the South Fork Eagle River (SFER) trail project beginning with Helicopter deliveries the week of June 5th.

Please be aware that there will be helicopters overhead the week of June 5th, one day in July, and during the week of August 14th. During transit, the helicopters will not fly over homes or roads, and will avoid populated trails below.

All trail work will be completed by hand. Thank you for your patience! ☀️ 😎



EAGLE RIVER/CHUGIAK PARKS AND RECREATION

May 19: Loretta French Horse Park will be ready for all our riders on May 25th.

CHUGACH MOUNTAIN BIKE RIDERS

May 26: Mirror Lake Singletrack Trails are OPEN!



Thanks to the 22 people who showed up last night to get them tuned up for your riding pleasure! Early conditions exist, so pre-ride, re-ride, and free-ride. We will have volunteers out working again today, so be aware. (Donating to CMBR is a great way to say thank you!) Enjoy!

Special shout out to the #AdoboMTB crew for bringing the families to trail work parties!

#MirrorLakeSingletrack #BensBikePlayground #ChugachMTB

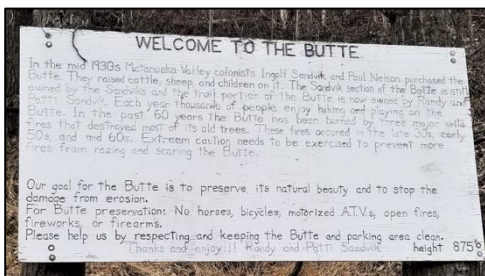
To clarify: ALL of the singletrack trails are open. Some of the multiuse trails are still pretty wet. Just turn around and use an alternate path if possible. Load up Trailforks for a map. There's almost always 2 or more ways to get to the top!

VALLEY MOUNTAIN BIKERS AND HIKERS

May 15: Did you know that some of your favorite trails in the Mat-Su were built by Valley Mountain Bikers and Hikers? We're a nonprofit, all-volunteer organization. Help us maintain those trails and support planning for new trails by volunteering time (<https://vmbah.wildapricot.org/page-1075157>) or donating (<https://vmbah.wildapricot.org/page-1075174>). Every hour and every dollar counts! Please share this with your friends who also love biking and hiking. The more the merrier!



May 7: One of our board members climbed the south trail of Bodenbug Butte yesterday, May 6, and snapped some photos to share.



“The Butte” is probably the most-climbed peak in the Mat-Su. With two trails, an old one on the south side and a newer one (the “stairs side”) on the west, it offers easy access to a quick workout. The Butte makes a fine family hike too. The large parking lot at the West Butte trailhead requires a Mat-Su Borough parking pass or credit card payment, while the much smaller lot at the south trailhead is privately owned and works on an honor system of cash donations. The summit is about 1.5 miles from the west lot and about 1 mile from the south lot.

Elevation gain from each is about 700 feet.

Through donations several years back, Great Land Trust purchased the 40-acre summit and donated it to the Mat-Su Borough to be managed as public land for recreational use as part of the West Butte Trail and Natural Area. GLT put up the interpretive signs you see along that trail.

ALASKA TRAILS

May 26: There is a push to create a Turnagain Pass Master Plan, and public input is needed! This is a long-term plan for both winter and summer, and your comments and suggestions could influence how and where trails are constructed along this corridor. There are three upcoming meetings to voice your comments. To learn more and be added to their email list for updates, visit:

www.turnagainpassmasterplan.com

HOMER TRAILS ALLIANCE

May 21: Do you love to hike or walk on Homer Trails? We need your help maintaining and building trails! Come meet with us, June 7th. We need you, whether you can volunteer for an hour or ten. See you at Alice's, June 7th at 5 pm. This is a no-cost event!!!

<https://www.facebook.com/events/637566201049003>



FRIENDS OF KACHEMAK BAY STATE PARKS



May 22: Seeking a volunteer willing to learn how to do the routing of new signs for Friends of Kachemak Bay State Parks. We have all the equipment for the computer routing setup. Aron is willing to show someone the ropes! Please contact kbspstrails@gmail.com if you are interested and want to learn more.

May 11: Volunteers Dave, Aron, & Janet made a trip April 28 to Cottonwood Creek (Kachemak Bay Water trail campsite) to set up the trail kiosk & trail register. On the return trip, they passed 2 moose traveling on the beach as well. At Eastland Creek there was indication of a grass fire which is concerning because if the wind had been blowing differently it could have blown up into the canyon and started a significant fire. Thank you Volunteers! Get your Forms in so you can help us out this summer! <https://rb.gy/cyxx2>



This is a beach in Kachemak Bay State Park that you should explore, on foot, by 4-wheeler, by kayak, with friends. Eagles, moose, petrified wood, cultural history, geology, and knock your socks off fun. Dave B. Oh ya, sign the register!

(KODIAK) ISLAND TRAILS NETWORK

May 23: Summer 2023 Volunteer Opportunities! More to be added as they are planned. Sign up at <https://volunteersignup.org/KBTBF>

June 3, 2023: National Trails Day



fuel your adventure.

Celebrate the American Hiking Society's National Trail Day by hiking, assessing, and reporting on Kodiak's trail conditions. Please stop by our office between 7:30 am to 9:30 am to sign up for a trail you want to hike, get instructions for our assessment form, and enjoy FREE COFFEE & DONUTS to

June 17, 2023: White Sands and Pillar Creek Beach Clean Up

Meet at the White Sands Parking lot at 9:00 am for sign-in, supplies, and directions. Please bring rain gear, food, water, and bear deterrent. We will wrap up in the beaches are clean!

July 5, 2023: Mill Bay and Mission Beach

We will meet at Mill Bay Beach at 10:00 am for sign-in, supplies, and directions. The goal will be to clean Mill Bay Beach before heading over to Mission Beach. Please bring your own rain gear, food, and water.

Thanks, Matson in Alaska for supporting our organization and our island through your Caring for Alaska program!

SOUTHCENTRAL LINKS

- Anchorage has a terrific trail system. Here's where to start exploring: <https://tinyurl.com/bd379dff>
- Assembly backs efforts to make Cooper Landing more walkable: <https://tinyurl.com/ipz2eu42>
- OPINION: Trail support shows Anchorage's community spirit: <https://tinyurl.com/wzfnb5ak>
- (Kodiak) Island Trails Network volunteer opportunities: <https://tinyurl.com/3xysaymf>
- Crow Pass trail in line for upgrades (scroll down): <https://tinyurl.com/4dcnxvyz>
- Flattop Mountain Trail (The Most Popular Hike in Anchorage): <https://tinyurl.com/2vm9bj6f>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Alaska state agency gives preliminary approval to Valdez ski resort effort: <https://tinyurl.com/yf95tefp>

INTERIORWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

PLATTING BOARD APPROVES RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TRAILS PLAN

Last month, the Fairbanks Borough Platting Board adopted the borough administration's recommendations on advice to the Borough Assembly regarding the Fairbanks Comprehensive Trails Plan update.



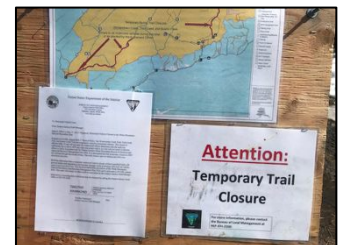
In March, the Borough Assembly had directed the Platting Board to "provide at least three alternative ways of connecting A and B trails without forcing landowners to give up their property through the platting process."

After a lot of discussion, the Platting Board passed recommendations that had been crafted by Mayor Bryce Ward, Director of Community Planning Kellen Spillman, and Bryant Wright, former Borough Trails Coordinator who is on a temporary contract with the borough for this issue.

To read about the specific recommendations see this Interior Alaska Trails blog post: <https://tinyurl.com/37r693td>

WHITE MOUNTAINS REC AREA NOT QUITE READY FOR SUMMER

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Eastern Interior Field Office will begin the summer season travel limitations for the White Mountains National Recreation Area and the Steese National Conservation Area on Saturday, May 13. As the summer season travel limitations take effect, the Wickersham Creek Trail, Trail Creek Trail, and Quartz Creek Trail will be temporarily closed to off-highway vehicles to prevent damage to wet trails during the transition to summer.



"I appreciate the public's patience and support in this temporary closure to help protect the trails during this vulnerable time," said Fairbanks District Office Manager Geoff Beyersdorf. "When people ride on wet trails in the spring, it leaves deep ruts that damage the trails and takes a lot of work to repair."

The closure will last until the end of the month or until trails are sufficiently dry to allow off-highway vehicles and other motorized vehicle use that will not cause damage to the trails, as is indicated in the Eastern Interior White Mountains Record of Decision and approved Resource Management Plan. During the temporary closure, the trails remain open for hiking and other non-motorized use.

For more information see: <https://tinyurl.com/vp2epdz2>

From BLM press release

SEEN RECENTLY ON INTERIOR FACEBOOK PAGES

INTERIOR ALASKA TRAILS AND PARKS FOUNDATION

May 30: Volunteer opportunity AFTER National Trails Day!



Go play on National Trails Day!! Then come clean up Table Top Mountain trail at Nome Creek.

Volunteers must be signed in per BLM VOLUNTEER RULES. Randy and Brian from IATPF will have the BLM form to sign.

We are brushing, so hedge trimmers (gas, electric) or loppers are the best. Please don't bring a chain saw.

We should be starting work SUNDAY JUNE 4 about 0900. We typically work until the early afternoon depending on weather. Should be on the NORTH side of the loop getting the dwarf birch cut back.

<https://www.lwpetersen.com/alaska-guide/table-top-mountain-trail/>

FAIRBANKS TRAIL AND WATERWAY USERS



May 29: The Fairbanks Offroad Lions have been hard at work on a much-needed ORV park at Tanana Lakes Recreation Area. This project has taken years of work between the borough and the Lions.

The park will be to the east of the part of South Cushman road that has a locked gate. That area already has some well-used four-wheeler trails. You can see where the park will be in this amendment to the Tanana Lakes Rec Area Master Plan:

https://fairbanksak.myrec.com/documents/tananalakesmasterplanupdate_final.pdf

You can see photos of some of the work done by the Lions on the group's Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/FairbanksOffroadLions>

Thank you, Lions!

May 26: Interested in helping build a new cabin for the White Mountain National Recreation Area trails? The Folk School has a cabin-building class for the soon-to-be newest White Mountains cabin.

<https://folk.school/events/event/log-cabin-construction-2/>



May 26: John Risser already posted about some upcoming led trail walks being put on by the Fairbanks borough Parks and Rec Department. Looking at the Parks and Rec Event page, there are several more coming up. Keep an eye on it, if you're interested.

<https://www.facebook.com/FNSBParksandRecreation/events>

May 26: This is my last Spring Trails Report for the season. For the most part, trails are drying out nicely (despite today's rain). A few low-lying trails are still wet in places. Many of those are like that through much of the summer. Please just try to do the best you can to avoid damaging those areas.

The Chena River State Recreation Area is scheduled to open tomorrow. I haven't heard differently. Check the Alaska State Parks Facebook page for any updates:

<https://www.facebook.com/AlaskaStateParks>

At last report, the White Mountains National Recreation Area trails were still closed to motorized use. I haven't heard any differently. Check the White Mountains Trail Conditions Report for updates:

<https://www.blm.gov/visit/white-mountains/trail-update>

Or the BLM-White Mountains Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/BLMWhiteMountains/>

Last trail report here: <https://www.interioralaskatrails.org/2023/05/12/2022-spring-trail-reports/>

May 23: The updated Trails Plan goes before the Assembly on June 8. There is no public hearing on the plan at this meeting, however, the public may comment during comment section A which is for topics not on the agenda. Please consider testifying in support of the plan.

May 19: Mindy Eggleston of Delta Junction was one of the First Lady's Volunteer of the Year recipients. Among other things Mindy has helped start and run the Delta Junction Trails Association. Congratulations Mindy!

<https://gov.alaska.gov/first-ladys-volunteer-of-the-year-awards-ceremony-honors-seven-alaskans/>



FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH PARKS & REC

May 17: Just a reminder! Construction is ongoing up at Birch Hill! Please avoid parking in areas being worked on, beware of hazards and people working in the parking lots. Thank you for your patience!

Construction in the North & South Lot of Birch Hill begins May 9th and may continue into June. Please be advised!

May 8: CONSTRUCTION UPDATE:

Today marks the official start of the Tanana River Recreation Access Improvements Project. 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.

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>

INTERIORWIDE LINKS

- Reframing Stupid: A "Summer" Ski Trip in the White Mountains: <https://tinyurl.com/yc6dfwem>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- FNSB Parks & Rec- Intro To Hiking, July 12: www.facebook.com/events/781126250143226/
- REI classes in June on hiking, backpacking (free): <https://www.rei.com/events/p/us-ak-fairbanks>

SOUTHEAST NEWS AND NOTICES

SEEN RECENTLY ON SOUTHEAST FACEBOOK PAGES

SITKA TRAIL WORKS, INC

May 17: For the next few days, Sitka Trail Works staff is taking to the field to do some site scoping for our summer youth program! So far we've identified some fun projects on the Forest & Muskeg Trail. It was a great morning enjoying the sun and getting excited for camp!



May 5: The Trail Works crew is making great progress on the Cross Trail Connector to HPR! In the third photo you can get a glimpse at the unique "corduroy" construction technique, where we lay down logs over the mud to hold the base course of rock from sinking. These refined construction techniques reduce future maintenance and keep the Cross Trail smooth for all to enjoy!

TRAIL MIX, INC.

May 8: The sun is shining and our field season is off to a great start! 🌞

Welcome back Trail Coordinators Duncan and Nick and returning Crew Leaders Jesse, Julio, Hunter, and Mark. A big welcome to our new Crew Leader Omar! This week, our crew leaders are back at the shop and we're spending the week prepping for FOUR crews to start next Monday! 🙌 We'll spend the week scoping out project sites, sharpening tools, and preparing for another awesome season.

We'll share sneak peeks of our upcoming season on social media all this week. Make sure to follow along so you know where our crews will be this summer. ☀️ 😊



SOUTHEAST LINKS

- On the Paper Trail (Sitka Trail Works 2023 spring newsletter): <https://tinyurl.com/37cy4bxk>
- Sitka Forest Service approves improvements to section of Ship Cove Trail: <https://tinyurl.com/3f44h9bc>

NATIONWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

TRANSIT TO TRAILS ACT REINTRODUCED IN NATIONAL HOUSE

One of American Hiking's biggest legislative priorities, the Transit to Trails Act has been reintroduced. Heather Klein Olson, Acting Executive Director was featured in the congressional press release, "American Hiking Society praises the reintroduction of the Transit to Trails Act by Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ) and Rep. Jimmy Gomez (D-CA-34), which will expand access to public lands for urban and rural areas, especially

underserved communities by reducing transportation barriers. This legislation will make sure that the communities that need them most will be able to access trails, parks, and open spaces. Congress must swiftly pass this legislation as part of transportation and infrastructure legislation.” Add your voice to support this act here: <https://americanhiking.org/advocacy/transit-to-trails-act-take-action/>

From American Hiking Association newsletter

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/>
- National Forest Foundation awards (deadline June 7): <http://tinyurl.com/px7y6ke>

OTHER LINKS:

- Comprehensive Mountain Bike Trail Development Resource: <https://tinyurl.com/yckw8fsa>
- Trails Capacity Program 2022/23 Impact Report: <https://tinyurl.com/3d6h4xbe>
- Google Maps Enhances National Parks Features for Easier Exploration: <https://tinyurl.com/ykb4ze9e>

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