



NEWSLETTER

DEC
2023

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www.alaska-trails.org

ALASKA TRAILS NEWS AND NOTICES

TRAIL TALES BRINGS YOU MORE FUN TRAIL STORIES

ATTEND SOLD OUT! Our partners at Healthy Futures have recruited an all-star cast for the December 5 show and the tickets are gone already! But we have more events coming in 2024.

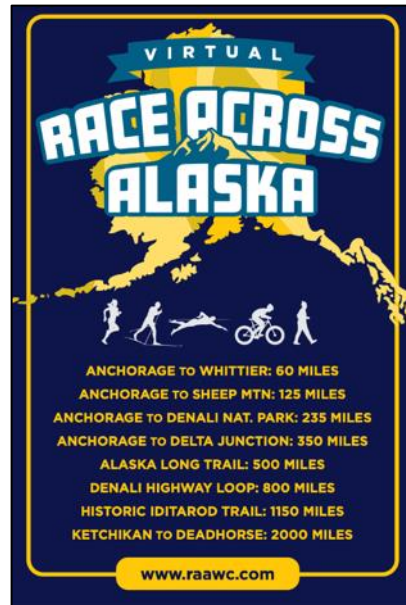
Alaska Trails runs the Trail Tales storytelling series as a fundraiser for itself while also partnering with a different community organization for each event. In the spirit of Arctic Entries, storytellers share seven-minute stories about their trail experiences, adventures, and life in general. Our 2024 Trail Tales events will be held at the Anchorage Museum and tickets cost \$20.



Our next non-sold-out event will be on January 23, 2024, at 7 p.m. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets will go on sale soon. Put the other Trail Tales events on your calendar: January 23, February 20, and March 19. For more information and to purchase tickets when they become available, visit: www.alaska-trails.org/trail-tales

VIRTUAL RACE ACROSS ALASKA BENEFITS YOU AND ALASKA TRAILS

ENTER/DONATE The Race Across Alaska Winter Challenge, a multi-sport challenge, is a great way to get outside while challenging yourself to stay happy and healthy during winter. And you can also be helping our cause to help build and maintain some of the best trails in the world!



Here's how it works. You can run, walk, fatbike, indoor bike, XC ski, swim, or any activity you like. You can choose from eight different virtual distances – from 60 miles to 2,000 miles, which is a whopping 22.3 miles per day. Now that's a challenge. The goal is to log as many miles as you can over the three months of winter to get (virtually) from location A to B. You can also participate as a team (friends/family/school).

You will have the ability to log your miles, track your progress, collect virtual badges, and see how you rank up to others on the leader board daily. You can invite others to this challenge to help you to stay motivated all winter long.

Online registration has begun, and the virtual race starts on Winter Solstice – December 21. **See the website for more details:** www.raawc.com/Race/AK/Anchorage/AlaskaChallenge

RAAWC is a fundraiser for Alaska Trails and two other worthy nonprofits: Nordic Skiing Association of Anchorage and Challenge Alaska. **For every racer that participates, \$10 will be donated to the non-profit of your choice OR you can divide between all three PLUS racers can donate additional funds to support our non-profit donation goal.** Last year more than \$55,000 was donated through participation and donations! Alaska Trails is very grateful for the financial support from the race, but also the boost it gives to the community by inspiring an active, healthy lifestyle.



The official race cannon will be fired at the Zoom Kickoff Party on December 21 at 6pm AKS (10pm EST). Join the Facebook group to hear about pop-up Zoom and/or Zwift FREE workouts along with facebook live videos: www.facebook.com/groups/824863588292365

SEEN RECENTLY ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE



Nov 17: We had a great time at our 4th annual Land Manager Forum on Wednesday with a good turnout, both in person and on zoom! In case you missed it, all the presentation slides and video recordings have been posted to our website: <https://www.alaska-trails.org/land-manager-forum-2023>

Nov 2: "The Alaska Long Trail is not going to happen next week, but it's already showing real benefits, both in the near- and long-term." Clay Walker, Mayor, Denali Borough

Read this great article in the Alaska Business Magazine and learn more about our progress on the Alaska Long Trail!

<https://digital.akbizmag.com/issue/november-2023/one-step-at-a-time/>



ALASKA TRAILS NEEDS YOUR HELP TO PRESERVE, PROMOTE TRAILS

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.

EXECUTIVE BOARD HAS OPENINGS FOR INTERESTED PEOPLE

JOIN Alaska Trails is always interested in hearing from people who might want to serve as board members. By serving on the board, you help guide our group in its mission "to enhance the Alaska trail experience by supporting sustainable, world-renowned trails through advocacy and education." If you would like to run for the board sometime in the future, please contact us (info on masthead).



Looking Back, Looking Forward Grateful Either Way

We are grateful for many things as we head into the heart of winter. Looking forward to a bright 2024, we look back at 2023 with fond memories of trail projects, volunteer events, and significant progress on the Alaska Long Trail. Alaska Trails is excited to be part of the community that is building, maintaining, and promoting trails across our great state.

Race Across Alaska Winter Challenge

Staying mentally and physically healthy can be challenging during this dark time of the year. Recreating on trails helps bolster our physical and mental health. From hunting to fatbiking to strolling with family or running with friends – trails are great way to get outside.

One great way to get inspired to stay healthy is through the **Race Across Alaska Winter Challenge (RAAWC)** – Online registration began in November and the virtual race starts on the Winter Solstice – December 21. The RAAWC is a multi-sport, multi-distance winter challenge with the goal to log as many miles as you can over three months. It's a great way to stay active during the winter. You can walk, run, fat tire bike, trainer bike, cross-country ski or swim.



The **RAAWC** is also a fundraiser for the Alaska Long Trail project. It has raised over \$120,000 for the ALT in just three years! For every participant, \$10 will be donated to Alaska Trails **PLUS** racers can donate additional funds to support the development of the ALT. Alaska Trails is grateful for the financial support from the race, but we also appreciate how it inspires an active, healthy lifestyle. This year, two other non-profits are also beneficiaries – Challenge Alaska and the Nordic Skiing Association of Anchorage (NSAA). We are excited and honored to be partnering with them.

Looking Ahead to the 2024 Season

We are prepping for a great 2024. Alaska Trails staff have been meeting with land managers, such as Chugach National Forest and Chugach State Park, to plan projects both for our paid trail crews and our volunteer events. We are excited to help land managers build and maintain trails in 2024 and beyond.

This work is due to your support. We are grateful to all our financial donors – especially our 325 Pick.Click.Give donors, who donated over \$21,000 this year. There are many great non-profits in Alaska, and your support means so much to us.



The Alaska Long Trail

Alaska Trails is looking forward to continuing work on the Alaska Long Trail in 2024. Alaska is long overdue for this type of world-class hiking trail and the economic diversification it will bring to our state. Alaska Trails worked together with partners to secure funding for the Alaska Long Trail in the FY2024

state capital budget, and Governor Dunleavy approved \$1.434 million for three projects in Chugach State Park. This is in addition to the \$4.22M secured in FY 2023.



We are ready to continue the work of securing the rest of the funding to be able to connect 500+ miles of Alaska via a sustainable and exceptional trail system. Alaska Trails will continue to work with its partners to highlight the great trails on the Long Trail route that already exist and to connect the dots to make this expansive vision a reality.

In this holiday season, we wish you health and good times AND we hope some of those times will include some fun trail adventures.

Happy Trails and Happy Holiday from Alaska Trails!

STATEWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

STATE PARK PASS PRICES TO GO UP, 2024 PASSES AVAILABLE NOW

Alaska State Parks annual parking passes can be purchased beginning Nov. 15, and are good to the end of 2023 and throughout 2024. A price increase for the 2024 calendar year will go into effect on Jan. 1, 2024.

A Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation (DPOR) Director's Order beginning in January includes moderate fee increases to the annual parking pass, day-use parking, permits and some State Parks cabins throughout the state. The additional revenue will go to the division's budget to help maintain Alaska State Parks facilities and support outdoor recreation in Alaska.

"Since prices go up at the beginning of the new year, we expect to sell a lot of 2024 passes prior to that – so don't wait to get your pass," warned Director Ricky Gease of the Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation. "When you consider how many outdoor experiences you can squeeze into an entire year, the annual Alaska State Parks pass is quite a deal. It's also a great holiday gift!"

2024 Annual Parking Passes can be purchased for \$60 until Dec. 31, 2023 at:

- <https://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/passes>
- DNR Public Information Centers in Anchorage and Fairbanks
- Retailers throughout the state (including REI in Anchorage, one of the most popular places to get the pass) by Nov. 30



On Jan. 1, 2024, the cost of the pass will change to \$75. The 2024 passes have been honored since November 15 at all DPOR-managed parking areas. Parking areas at Pillars Boat Launch, Arctic Valley,

Eagle Rock Boat Launch and Eagle River Nature Center are not covered by the parking pass and fees must be paid directly to the managing organization.

The 2024 Boat Launch passes will also be available on Nov. 15, priced at \$150 each. Disabled veterans with appropriate documents can obtain a Disabled Veteran Camping Pass, good for five years, at no charge.

Annual passes make great holiday gifts! For information on group discounts for purchasing a large amount (25 or more), contact Wendy Sailors at 907-269-8738 or wendy.sailors@alaska.gov

From a Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation press release

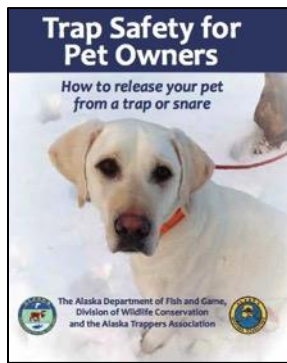
STATE BOARD TO REVIEW RTP GRANT APPLICATIONS

On December 7 the Alaska Outdoor Recreation Trails Advisory Board (ORTAB) will meet from 9am to 4pm to consider 11 (eleven) RTP (Recreational Trails Program) grant applications. The public is welcome to join the virtual meeting. Click here to join the meeting: <https://tinyurl.com/2p9etrx>. To see the full agenda, go here: <https://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/Notices/Attachment.aspx?id=144889>.

From What's Up? by Peg Tileston

RESOURCES HELP REDUCE PET/TRAPPING CONFLICTS

Trapping season opens November 1, so trail users who let their dogs run loose should make sure they know some basic information about traps and trap lines. A pamphlet and videos are available.



PAMPHLET: A pocket-sized pamphlet titled "Trap Safety for Pet Owners" describes the types of traps and snares that may be encountered and provides illustrated instructions on how to free pets swiftly and safely. It is produced by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and the Alaska Trappers Association (ATA). Copies are available free of charge at department offices or may be viewed on the website at: <http://tinyurl.com/m6oulhk>. More information, including video footage featuring trap removal instructions, is found on the department's website at www.adfg.alaska.gov (see "Sharing the Trails" under the

"Hunting > Trapping" dropdown menu),.

VIDEO: The ATA also sells a 30-minute video, "Sharing Alaska's Trails," that includes information such as how to know if you are on a trap line, trap line safety, the physics of handling and opening traps and



snares, and tips for first-aid for pets accidentally caught in traps. The video doesn't promote trapping but deals with the practicalities of sharing the trails. A three-minute excerpt of the DVD can be found on YouTube (www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jk242jZwEAQ). To order a copy of the DVD check the ATA store (www.alaskatrappers.org).

Most trapping seasons run from November 1 to the end of February, but the season for a few species lasts longer. Wolf traps could be active well into April.

ACTION NEEDED TO HELP SLOW CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate changes affects everyone, especially winter sports enthusiasts like snowmachiners, mushers, cross-country skiers, and fatbikers.

A warming climate can mean shorter winter seasons, and more extreme events like snow droughts and rain-on-snow events. These will just get worse unless we slow climate change, which means we need to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.

But can the actions of one or two people make a difference? They sure can. Especially if more people are doing the same. Here are two things you can do right now to help make a difference.

Join "Fix My Funds" <https://fixmyfunds.org/>



Fix My Funds is a group of climate and financial experts working to help you take control of your investment power and shift the economy toward a sustainable future. This group regularly has sign-on letters and petitions urging investment businesses to make more sustainable choices.

Take a personal action

Turn down the thermostat. Heck, you already know how to deal with the cold when you're outside. Do the same when you're inside! Turn down the heat in your house and put on another layer or two. Turning down the heat helps reduce the amount of fossil fuels we are using. And maybe it'll make you be able to handle those outside winter temps just a little better!



Climate change may seem like an overwhelming problem, but we humans created it one step at a time, and we can solve it that way, too. Let's do what we can to ensure that future winters still have usable snow for us and for our children, grandchildren, and beyond.

FORAKER GROUP OFFERS CLASSES FOR NON-PROFITS STATEWIDE

The Foraker Group, which is dedicated to strengthening Alaska's non-profits, offers classes about the proper workings of non-profit groups, which include many trail and trail user groups. If you are a member or employee of a non-profit group, consider taking one of the classes, which are offered in several communities and statewide by teleconference. For more information visit the Foraker Group website (www.forakergroup.org/).



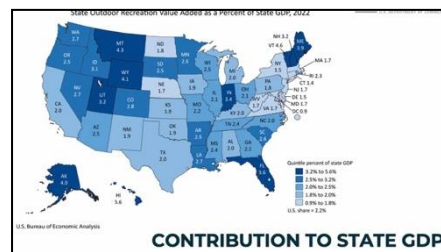
SEEN RECENTLY ON STATEWIDE FACEBOOK PAGES

ALASKA OUTDOOR ALLIANCE

Nov 17: We're up! A lot! Alaska's outdoor recreation continues to flex its muscle and support the argument that investing in outdoor recreation infrastructure is good for health and economic well-being. New federal data shows that in 2022, AK's outdoor rec economy accounted for \$2.6 Billion or 4% of state GDP, up from \$2.2 Billion the year before. Join AOA on Zoom on Dec. 6 at noon to dig into the details to learn how RVing, recreational boating and fishing, snow sports, camping and hiking create jobs and commerce.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/9845415428?omn=84793158634>



STATEWIDE LINKS

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Hike Along the Northern Alaska Range, Denali National Park (Luc Mehl): <https://tinyurl.com/36mwbc5h>
- The Avalanche Factor—Modern Era of Avalanche Education (Luc Mehl): <https://tinyurl.com/5xwfnpzf>

SOUTHCENTRAL NEWS AND NOTICES

COMMENTS SOUGHT FOR E-BIKE AMENDMENT FOR CAMPBELL TRACT

The deadline is December 14 for comments on the Proposed Ring of Fire Resource Management Plan Amendment for the Campbell Tract final environmental assessment and unsigned Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

The proposed amendment would allow for class 1 electric bikes (e-bikes) on trails in Campbell Tract. The BLM developed this proposed amendment and environmental assessment with public input received through a listening session, a 30-day public scoping period, and a 30-day public comment period on the preliminary environmental assessment. Through these engagements, the BLM received 184 comments that helped inform the process.



During the protest period, anyone who has participated in this process and has an interest that is or may be adversely affected by the planning decisions may protest approval of these decisions. BLM's webpage provides detailed instructions (<https://tinyurl.com/yc7xc75z>) for how to file a written protest to the BLM Director, which can be done in hard copy to the one of the below addresses

or electronically on the BLM's ePlanning website by clicking the green 'File Protest' button by the Final EA document.

Maps and other planning documents associated with the project can be found on the NEPA Register Documents Page: <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2022130/570>

From What's Up? by Peg Tileston; photo by Bob Wick BLM

MAT-SU FOUNDATION GRANT APPLICATION DEADLINE IN JANUARY

The Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation wants to fund your next trail, park, or outdoor recreation project.

The Mat-Su Trails & Parks Foundation partners with organizations and local governments on projects and efforts that expand and enhance the valley's network of trails and parks.

Submit your grant application by January 3, for our next review of grant applications. Contact info@matsutrails.org for any questions or to discuss your next project.

- Learn More About MSF Grants: <https://matsutrails.org/ourgrants/>
- MSF Grant Guidelines: <https://tinyurl.com/bdh7i692>

SEEN RECENTLY ON SOUTHCENTRAL FACEBOOK PAGES

ALASKA STATE PARKS

Nov 9: ****Chugach update****

The Albert Loop Trail located near the Eagle River Nature Center in Chugach State Park has reopened for public use, effective today, November 9, 2023! 🍷

The trail is closed annually between late summer and winter freeze-up to reduce the potential for human-bear encounters.

Although the trail has been reopened, bear encounters are still possible and trail users should take appropriate precautions. Be prepared to encounter a bear and be knowledgeable in recognizing bear behavior and responding to an encounter.



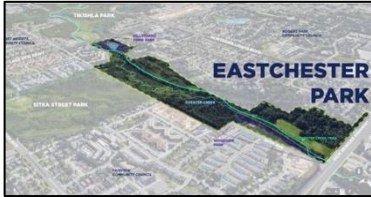
For more information on bear behavior and tips on how to manage a bear encounter, go to: <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/?adfg=livingwithbears.bearcountry>

While you're there- check out the new Salmon Viewing deck just below the main parking lot!



ANCHORAGE PARK FOUNDATION

Nov 24: Our month of gratitude for volunteers continues! If you ever wondered where Eastchester Park is located, our friends at Fairview Community Council can tell you.



They have been giving some love to the park as they plan for a future urban greenway that would link Eastchester to Hyder Street to Ship Creek Trail to the Coastal Trail and back on Chester Creek Trail in a loop. A loop within the Moose Loop! Thank you for winning the Re-Connecting Communities grant and for working to make your

neighborhood a healthy, happy place for families to thrive. Mark your calendar for December 6 at 6 pm at Fairview Recreation Center to learn more about Eastchester Park. Free food and fun!

Nov 16: It's time to celebrate volunteers! Singletrack Advocates (STA) board member and "Kincaid Trail Boss" Ryan Greeff helped build the first trail jumps in 2012. This year he and his wife Kim and son Ethan improved the "original skinny" with a modern prefabricated durable feature. Additional prefabricated features have been purchased and will be installed at Kincaid Park. STA hosted dozens of volunteer work parties over the past two years to improve the mountain biking experience on three trails - the Bolling Alley, Good Greeff, and Mighty Bike.



Their \$10k grant leveraged \$75k! Thanks to Rasmuson Foundation and Anchorage Parks and Recreation for supporting #APFChallengeGrants.

Nov 15: We are so grateful to Rails-to-Trails Conservancy for our grant to make walking and biking more accessible through the UMED District in Anchorage. We have an amazing partnership with UAA: University of Alaska Anchorage!

Nov 10: #APFCommunityChallengeGrants - It's time to celebrate volunteers! Alaska Trails worked with



local volunteers and Youth Employment in Parks crews to clear and build beginner and intermediate mountain bike trails in north Russian Jack Springs Park near the Polar Bear Park. The trails are designed for all types of users, including BMX and dirt jump bikes. Trails are separated from existing Nordic ski trails. Professional trail builder Happy Trails will make the final

improvements in summer of 2024. Donors and supporters include Rasmuson Foundation, Mighty Bikes and the State of Alaska Recreational Trails Program Anchorage Parks and Recreation.

Nov 4: Our Fall newsletter is out! You can sign up for our newsletter and read our digital version online at: <https://anchorageparkfoundation.org/2023/10/whats-happening-in-our-parks-trails/>

THE HOARDING MARMOT

Nov 21: Snow is on the ground and our favorite winter activities are back in session! Planning on recreating on Anchorage trails this winter? Join The Hoarding Marmot Trail Bingo to fundraise for

Nordic Skiing Association of Anchorage and Singletrack Advocates, and earn sweet prizes as you work your way through your card. Available December 1st at The Hoarding Marmot!

CHUGACH MOUNTAIN BIKE RIDERS

November 17: Thank you to everyone who sent emails in support of the Glenn Hwy Path. Connecting Eklutna to Mirror Lake Park was not included in the recommendations.

Please send a letter of thank you to Assemblymembers Kevin Cross (Kevin.Cross@anchorageak.gov) and Daniel Volland (Daniel.Volland@anchorageak.gov) for their work in adding:

1. The Glenn Hwy Path Connection at Artillery Rd.
2. Extending the Eagle River Rd Pathway to O'Riedner Rd.

The final plan will go before the Anchorage Assembly for approval. Please ask that the Assembly AMEND the final plan to include:

3. Glenn Hwy Path connecting Thunderbird Dr (Eklutna) to Paradis Ln (Mirror Lake Park).

Of the 100 nonmotorized projects budgeted for the 2050 MTP (Metropolitan Transportation Plan), 99 are in the Anchorage Bowl. It is a reasonable request to amend the plan to include a second Chugiak-Eagle River paved pathway.

(The nonmotorized budget is a separate line item for projects not associated with road improvements.)



SOUTHCENTRAL LINKS

- 8 Incredible Glacier Hikes Near Anchorage Alaska: <https://tinyurl.com/yc84k4pv>

SLIGHTLY OFF TRAIL

- State files lawsuit asking court to affirm Campbell Lake public access: <https://tinyurl.com/2mu2287a>
- Alaskan Sled Dog & Racing Association opens new venue to the public: <https://tinyurl.com/55sm284y>
- Judge blocks rule allowing personal watercraft on Kachemak Bay: <https://tinyurl.com/ycxxzrfd>

INTERIORWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

SEEN RECENTLY ON INTERIOR FACEBOOK PAGES

FAIRBANKS TRAIL AND WATERWAY USERS

Nov 12: The latest destination marketing video by Explore Fairbanks has many images of land and water trails. It's good to see. Trails are a huge part of the Interior Alaska experience. It's good to remind our local leaders of that when dealing with funding and other trail issues.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gq8_pRgrzqY



GOLDEN VALLEY ELECTRIC ASSN.

November 1: ATTENTION WINTER TRAIL USERS: GVEA is performing right-of-way clearing in areas



that include extensive winter trail traffic in the Goldstream Valley. Winter trail use will be temporarily effected by crews using equipment in these areas. Please pay close attention to any posted signage and follow instructions to keep yourself, your furry companions and our crews safe.

- Crews will work north from Gold Hill Road toward Sheep Creek Road, beginning along Lullabelle Lane.
- They will continue north of Sheep Creek Road along Hay Way Road.
- Crews will go north of Hay Way Road until they reach Lawlor Road.
- After working along Lawlor Road, they will begin working north along Miller Hill Road, turning east along Railroad Drive and working in a northeast direction until

they reach Ballaine Road.

Among other trails, the Tanana Valley Railroad Trail (west) and Goldstream Winter Cycling Trail will be covered in this clearing section.

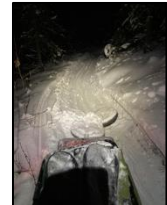
If you have any questions about right of way clearing, please call the Operations department at (907) 452-1151 ext. 5870.

FAIRBANKS CYCLE CLUB

Nov 26: Goldstream Sports is now grooming the Ester Dome Singletrack trails!

Shared from
Goldstream Sports

Nov 25: Ever thought about fat biking the EDS? We are grooming it. Check it out. The red outer loop and the Henderson drop have had multiple passes with the groomer.



ALASKA DOG MUSHERS ASSOCIATION



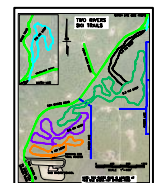
November 7: Reminder that trapping season started Nov 1. Please be aware on the trails and keep your dogs safe. We will be hosting an educational evening with the Alaska Trappers Association on Thursday December 14 at 7pm on how we can all safely Share the Trails and how to release traps if your animal is caught. We do ask that all dogs on the trail system and property be leashed for their safety and that of mushers, sled dogs, and other users.

<https://tinyurl.com/2fxbpcau>

NORDIC SKI CLUB OF FAIRBANKS

Nov 25: The Two Rivers Ski Trails have a new map. Head out there for a ski on some groomed trails. Nicely behaved dogs are welcome! And if you're looking for other places to ski, check out our Other Local Trails for Skiing page.

<https://www.nsfairbanks.org/trails/other-local-trails/>



ALASKA SKIJORING & PULK ASSOCIATION

Nov 13: Unfortunately, we just got word that Midnight Sun does not plan to open ski trails to the public this winter. As many of you may know, ASPA has historically groomed and maintained this trail system on a volunteer basis. We thank those who have donated in the past for us to be able to provide this service to the community. We will continue to maintain Creamer's Field, and grooming there should begin this week now that we have a bit more snow. Please consider making a trail donation so we can continue our efforts.

<https://alaskaskijoring.org/store/>

Shared from

Midnight Sun Golf Course

Nov 13: After careful consideration, the Midnight Sun Golf Course has decided not to open public ski trails for the 2023-2024 winter season. We deeply care about the Fairbanks community, and our mission is to serve people who experience disabilities and disadvantaged youth. Additionally, Midnight Sun Golf Course is dedicated to providing jobs for people of all abilities. In order to do this well, we will focus our efforts on sustainable operations in the winter, which include Fairbanks Snowmobile Tours, Virtual Golf, and Midnight Sun BBQ & Pizza. Our experience has been that the ski trails have not provided the support to further our mission, and so we will be taking a break from opening trails to the general public this winter.

INTERIOR LINKS

- Sharing Trails workshop: Thursday, December 14: <https://tinyurl.com/2fxbpcau>
- Early Season at Eleazar's (ski trip in White Mountains): <https://tinyurl.com/y95e22wd>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- 'Tis the season for some Christmas trails music!: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FEeG2PtW8do>

SOUTHEAST NEWS AND NOTICES

SEEN RECENTLY ON SOUTHEAST FACEBOOK PAGES

SITKA TRAIL WORKS, INC.



Nov 28: Yesterday, Sitka Trail Works Executive Director Ben Hughey and two volunteers took to the Thimbleberry/Heart Lake trail to remove some blowdown on the trail. With winter storms, lots of barriers can impact local trails, if you see a tree down or big flood, be sure to let us know! Thanks Sitka!

Nov 20: Thank you to everyone who came out on Saturday to work on the Indian River trail! We had twenty folks throughout the day hauling lumber, creating new drainage solutions, and graveling muddy trail to make it more sustainable. If you haven't been on this trail recently, be sure to stop by and check out all their hard work. Thank you, Sitka!

 : @alexlkelsey



Nov 14: Sitka Trail Works is creating a new group for hikers in Sitka! We have heard and seen an increasing need for a platform to facilitate connections around outdoor adventures. This group is for all things outside. You can post about a hike you want to do and see if anyone wants to join, ask about recommendations for hikes, share trail maintenance issues, and connect with others in the community on all things trails. We will also use the group to share upcoming volunteer events and community hikes, so stay tuned!



Oct 31: Have you been on the Cross Trail recently? We are excited to share that our new signs have been installed at all the Cross Trail entrances! These signs have beautiful maps that showcase traditional place names for local geography. Lingít place names hold a deep meaning that help people exploring the trail understand the rich cultural landscape in Sheet'ká. Gunalchéesh/Thank you to Chuck Miller for reviewing the names, Lee House for designing the signs, Roland Wirth for the cartography, and Troy Bayne and Tyler Case for the installation. Happy hiking!



TRAIL MIX, INC.



Nov 27: Whew! That's a wrap! 🤪 Our dedicated trail coordinators Duncan, Nick, and crew leader Mark closed out the season in the snow last week out at 35 Mile!

Thank you Duncan, Nick, and Mark for your incredible work all season keeping our tools in tip-top shape, training and assisting crew members, and coordinating with our agency partners! We could not do what we do without the support of our community and the dedication of our staff! 🙌🙌

JUNEAU NORDIC SKI CLUB

November 17: SUPER VOLUNTEER ALERT!

Big thanks to Scott Fischer, John Neary, and @trailmixinc's Nick Marinelli for getting grooming implements stationed at Montana Creek and the Campground today. Next time you see them, make sure to say thanks for making skiing happen in our hopefully-not-too-distant future!

U.S. FOREST SERVICE - TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST

November 21: Do you enjoy being in nature & working with your hands? We have a great opportunity for locals in Southeast Alaska!

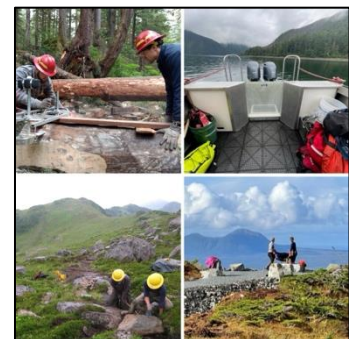
The Sitka Ranger District is looking for talented individuals to join our team as a permanent seasonal Forestry Technician (Recreation), a GS 5-6 position. Job duties include building trails and assisting with maintenance of facilities & cabins.

Gain on the job experience, including safety trainings & certifications to further your career with the Forest Service.

This is a labor intensive position, but also a rewarding one. It will start in Spring 2024.

Jobs will remain open until filled, but ANILCA applications should be completed by 12/14/2023 on USAJOBS - <https://buff.ly/46iULkh>

For more details, or if you have questions -please contact the Sitka office at 907-747-6671 or Rebecca.Peterman@USDA.gov



SOUTHEAST LINKS

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Hiking Bear Lake, unnamed peak – Sitka (Starling Birch): www.youtube.com/watch?v=N7wut0SFJ4A
- Climbing Mount Edgecumbe – Sitka (Starling Birch): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lmjLZuv_H08
- Assembly approves \$300,000 for first phase of Juneau’s first ORV park: <https://tinyurl.com/3xkp3m69>

NATIONWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

NATIONAL RECREATIONAL PHOTO CONTEST OPEN NOW

ENTER American Trails sponsors the annual contest for photographs of designated National Recreation Trails across the country. The annual contest provides awards in several categories and shows off entries (and previous winners) on the NRT website. Winners receive a certificate, Trail Boss mug, coaster, and stickers, as well as recognition on our website and in one eNewsletter!

Deadline is December 15 of each year. Learn more: <https://buff.ly/3ZkVBLn>

GRANT OPPORTUNITY: TRAILS CAPACITY GRANT PROGRAM

American Trails administers the Trails Capacity Program and invests in building nationwide trails community capacity by funding trail stewardship training, maintenance, research, and education. This grant program targets funding for small local trail projects that engage the community and connect trail assets to a broader spectrum of users. The application portal opens on December 4. Find out more here:

<https://www.americantrails.org/the-trails-capacity-program>

From American Trails newsletter

FEDERAL HIGHWAY FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES TABLE UPDATED

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) updated the Pedestrian and Bicycle Funding Opportunities Table. See https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/funding/funding_opportunities.pdf. If you see the September 2022 version, then your computer cached the old table. Refresh (perhaps several times, and/or delete your cache), and you should see the November 2023 version.

The table is public information. You may share with anybody who wants to know about Federal funding for pedestrian, bicycle, and trail programs and projects.

Revisions include:

- Reorganized the program order.
- Added the Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program and SMART Programs.
- Included the Neighborhood Access and Equity Program eligibility under Reconnecting Communities.
- Removed the FTA Associated Transit Improvement program (the requirement was repealed).
- Added activity or project types:
 - Charging stations for electric bicycles and scooters
 - Encouragement and education activities
 - Public education and awareness programs
 - Technical assistance
- Revised a few categories:

- Several project types added eligibility for electric outlets and charging.
- Landscaping: added shade trees.
- Resilience, Spot Improvements, Stormwater: revised for clarity.

From email Julius Adolfsson, Active Transportation Planner & Statewide Bike-Ped Coordinator

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/>
 - Alternative (to Spring) Break: <https://americanhiking.org/volunteer-vacations/alternative-break/>
- Conservation International VIP newsletter (Nov 2023): <https://tinyurl.com/yzjhtkyy>

FUNDING

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

OTHER LINKS:

- Winter Recreation Planning: <https://www.americantrails.org/resources/winter-recreation-planning>
- Outdoor rec economy tops \$1.1 trillion, fueling efforts for support: <https://tinyurl.com/yhwnsx7x>
- REI sign-on letter of support for Outdoors for All Act: <https://tinyurl.com/3rvd7r2c>
- Free Foundations of Sustainable Trails e-Course Series: <https://tinyurl.com/8ypxw8th>

INTERNATIONAL LINKS

- Hong Kong’s extreme trails, irresponsible hikers are a risky combination: <https://tinyurl.com/8u78z2zf>
- The Trans Bhutan Trail: Restoring Ancient Pathway During the Pandemic: <https://tinyurl.com/2ukfn5hd>
- 10 Otherworldly Looking Hiking Trails: www.thetravel.com/otherworldly-hiking-trails-around-the-world/

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