



NEWSLETTER

SEPT
2022

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www.alaska-trails.org

ALASKA TRAILS NEWS AND NOTICES

TRAIL TALES COMING BACK FOR MORE OF YOUR TRAIL STORIES

ATTEND Alaska Trails is excited to be bringing back the Trail Tales storytelling series, partnered with a different community trail group each event. In the spirit of Arctic Entries, storytellers will share seven-minute stories about their trail experiences, adventures, and life in general. Our 2022 Trail Tales events will be held at the Anchorage Museum and tickets cost \$20.



Our first event will be on Tuesday, September 20, at 7 p.m., in partnership with Alaska Huts Association. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m.

Put the other Trail Tale events on your calendar:

- Tuesday, October 18th - Partner: Chugach Park Fund
- Tuesday, November 15th - Partner: Anchorage Park Foundation

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit: <https://www.alaska-trails.org/trail-tales>

APPRECIATION PARTY PLANNED FOR ALASKA TRAIL STEWARDS

We're so grateful for all the hard work our volunteers have done this summer. Please join us for our end of season Alaska Trail Stewards Volunteer Appreciation Party! This event will be held indoors at **Cynosure Brewing on September 22 from 6-8 pm** with optional outdoor seating if the weather is favorable. Let us treat you to some drinks and Moose's Tooth pizza to thank you for your hard work! We will also be awarding black hard hats to those volunteers who have attended five events with Alaska Trails this season. We encourage attendees to either be fully vaccinated or wear a mask. See you there!



RSVP at: <https://www.alaska-trails.org/event-details/ats-volunteer-appreciation-party-2>

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES WITH ALASKA TRAIL STEWARDS

VOLUNTEER, GET VACCINATED Alaska Trail Stewards volunteer events aren't over yet! We have four events scheduled in September, and we'd love for you to join us!

New to trail work? Not a problem. No experience is necessary, just sturdy boots, a good attitude, and a willingness to learn what it takes to keep our trails great. We can't wait to get out there with you!

Middle Fork Trail Day

Sep 10, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Eklutna Lakeside Trail Bike Brushing

Sep 17, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Little O'Malley Peak Trail

Sep 24, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Falls Creek Trail

Sep 24, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM



Learn more and sign up on our website: <https://www.alaska-trails.org/volunteer-opportunities>

Due to the ongoing COVID pandemic, **we encourage everyone to get vaccinated**. While masking is not necessary when working outside and properly distanced from non-household members, you are certainly welcome to mask while volunteering with us. For more information on COVID, visit the Centers for Disease Control website (<https://www.cdc.gov/>).

ALASKA TRAILS BENEFITS FROM THE GREAT ALASKA DUCK RACE

Buy a Duck for a chance to win \$10,000 and half of your entry goes to Alaska Trails!!



WHEN: September 10 | 11:00AM - 1:00PM

LOCATION: Ducks race from the Ship Creek Overlook Park Bridge to the Bait Shack just below the Bridge Restaurant on lower Ship Creek. Look for the big yellow duck!

PURCHASE TICKETS:

<https://tickets.greatalaskaduckrace.org/akduckrace/t/alaskatrails>

Winners NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN

\$10 ticket PRIZES:

1st place duck wins \$5,000
2nd place duck wins \$500
3rd place duck wins \$250

\$20 ticket PRIZES:

GRAND PRIZE duck wins \$10,000
2nd place duck wins \$1,000
3rd place duck wins \$500

BUY \$100 worth of tickets (at one time) and receive a muck in the mail! What is a muck? The muck is a mythical animal, part moose and part duck!

LAND MANAGER FORUM TO BE HELD IN NOVEMBER

ATTEND Alaska Trails will be holding its annual Land Manager Forum on **Tuesday, November 15.**

We are excited to bring land managers, trails groups, pro trail builders and trail enthusiasts together to highlight the many successes we have had and share what's worked and what hasn't. We hope you can join us to wrap up the trail season and begin planning for next year. (You can view last years' presentations here: <https://www.alaska-trails.org/land-manager-forum>)

The forum will be held at BP Energy Center in Anchorage. More details including agenda, speakers and more will be forthcoming. If you have any questions or ideas for the forum, send an email to Steve Cleary: steve.cleary@alaska-trails.org



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).

We are on the lookout for a tool trailer for one of our crews - a smaller version of the one that you see to the left. Please e-mail us at office@alaska-trails.org if you know of one for sale, rent, borrow or barter.

SEEN RECENTLY ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

Aug 29: Thank you to our small but mighty crew of volunteers who brushed over a mile of trail this past Saturday out near Moose Pass! They hiked the Falls Creek Trail and pulled small alders, spruce, and devil's club out of the ground in the trail corridor, lopped larger alders, cleared some drains, and removed a fallen tree from the tread. We appreciate you and are proud of the work that you accomplish on our trails!



Interested in joining us at one of our upcoming volunteer events? To learn more, visit: <https://www.alaska-trails.org/current-volunteer-opportunities>



Aug 15: How great do these trail stewards look in their personalized black hard hats at our Glen Alps trail brushing event this past weekend? You, too, can earn your own black hard hat! All you have to do is volunteer with us for 5 events in a season. We have just enough events left on our schedule for you to earn your very own black hat (a couple more events will be added to the schedule soon), so even if you have never volunteered with us, you can still make a huge difference on our trails and look stylish doing it!

Visit our website to learn more and sign up for our events:

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

Aug 15: Check out this cool project and amazing video. It's aspirations mirror those of the Alaska Long Trail:

"...the Lost Sierra Route will accommodate hikers, mountain bikers, moto riders, equestrians, trail runners, hunters, and anglers."

<https://www.outsideonline.com/video/lost-sierra-route-multi-use-trail/>

Aug 11: Thankful Thursday!

Alaska Trails is very grateful to Mighty Bikes for their generous grant for our Russian Jack Mountain Bike Trail project. Not only does Mighty Bikes teach hundreds of kids safe, fun biking each summer with an amazing cadre of volunteers, but they also support local trail projects. Thanks Mighty Bikes!



Aug 11: Our volunteers and the Alaska Trails ED Steve Cleary got lucky with the weather last night for a great volunteer event at Honey Bear. We were able to clear the rest of the trail up to the alpine. And thanks again to the Chugach Park Fund for their wonderful support of our efforts.

BIG thanks to the volunteers - check out our upcoming events if you would like to join in on the fun:

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

Aug 8: Some excellent progress was made on the Horsetail Falls Connector Trail in Whittier this past Saturday! About 100 feet of trail was constructed, plus some rock retaining wall was put into place. The work our Alaska Trail Stewards volunteers are doing is nothing short of incredible! If you'd like to join us at one of our future events to make a lasting impact on our trails, please check out our website and sign up:

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



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.

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).

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Steve Cleary, Executive Director



2022 Summer Season: Success with Crews, Long Trail

Alaska Trails has a lot to be grateful for as the summer season ends. With fall approaching, it is more important than ever to make sure that we stay safe, healthy, and active. Recreating on trails continues to be a great way for Alaskans to bolster their physical and mental health.

Trail Crew Update

Alaska Trails has two trail crews in the field this summer. Our crew working with the US Forest Service in Cordova has finished up their work out at Child's Glacier and is back on the McKinley Lake trail where they began their season. They will continue working there until mid-September.



Our two trail crews.

Through our ongoing partnership with many entities and thanks to many funders, another Alaska Trails crew has worked on various trails in the Southcentral area. The Chugach Park Fund has continued to support our work, both paid and volunteer. Their funding enabled our crew to do many needed repairs on trails in Chugach State Park. Other trail work included brushing on the Crescent Lake Trail and the Winner Creek trail in conjunction with the US Forest Service. Alaska Trails is grateful to the Kenai Mountains Turnagain Arm National Heritage Area and the National Forest Foundation for their support of

our work.

In September, the crew will work on finishing the final few hundred feet of the Little O'Malley Peak trail which requires special attention due to steep slopes and the unreliable rocky terrain. That work and brushing out at Eklutna Lake are made possible by Recreational Trails Program grants through the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation and the Federal Highway Administration. We are excited to finish out the season with a great September.

The Alaska Long Trail

Planning and projects continue in the effort to connect Seward to Fairbanks by trails. We are still elated that 7 out of 15 Alaska Long Trail projects made it into the state FY23 budget. Unfortunately, all the projects outside of the Anchorage area were vetoed by the governor. We are still excited for the partners who did receive project funding including: the Anchorage Park Foundation, the Municipality of Anchorage, and Chugach State Park.

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.

Happy Trails,



STATEWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE FOR RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM

APPLY It's time to get your Recreational Trails Program grant application started.

RTP grants provide reimbursable, matching funds to develop and repair recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both non-motorized and motorized recreational trail uses. Grants are also available for trail-related environmental protection, safety, and educational projects. The grants are administered through the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation. The timeline is below. For more information see:

<http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/grants/trails.htm>

Questions? Send an email to: parks.RTPgrantapp@alaska.gov.

- August 22: Applications available online
- September 30: Mandatory public notices must be posted
- October 31: Application submission deadline

Photo: RTP work on Government Peak Recreation Area trails courtesy of Valley Mountain Bikers and Hikers.



PRACTICE CAUTION ON TRAILS DURING HUNTING SEASON

As we get into hunting season, please take care while using trails. This is not just a hunting season issue, but there is typically more gun activity this time of year.

The vast majority of gun owners are responsible with shooting. Unfortunately, some are less responsible. The chances of something happening are low, but the consequences could be very high: death or wounding. Don't worry unnecessarily but do take care. Here are some resources:

- Hunting Safety: Information for Hunters and Non-Hunters (US Forest Service: www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5330495.pdf)
- Hike Safely During Hunting Season (American Hiking Society: <https://americanhiking.org/families-on-foot/hike-safely-hunting-season/>)
- Hunting seasons in Alaska: www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=hunting.whenwhere
 - For specifics you'll need to refer to the Alaska Hunting Regulations: www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=wildliferegulations.main

HELP CLEAN UP TRAILS AND MORE ON NATIONAL CLEAN UP DAY

VOLUNTEER Want to help clean trails with a nationwide effort?

National Clean Up Day, scheduled for September 17, is an event by Clean Trails. The effort also includes parks, beaches, mountains and open spaces.



In 2020 and 2021, the group partnered with Planet Oat to promote cleanup activities around the United States. It's happening again in 2022.

It's easy to create an event. All Clean Trails needs to start is your name, an email address, and zip code to keep in touch. You decide

what activities best suit you. To find out more check out the Clean Trails page:

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

Photo from Clean Trails

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

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT - ALASKA

August 19: *Throws papers in the air and kicks open office door*



WAIT! Are you prepared to #RecreateResponsibly this weekend?

The Bureau of Land Management has some cool 🇺🇸 free 🇺🇸 maps you can use for GPS on your mobile device -and share through Bluetooth-off grid. They're called georeferenced PDF maps and they should be on your pack list for all your backcountry adventures. 📖 📱

Make sure you can always find your way home safely. Learn more about Avenza Maps and download one today:
blm.gov/maps/georeferenced-PDFs

📌 Let us know in the comments if you don't see a georeferenced PDF map for your favorite BLM administered lands!

📷 Two hikers enjoy a view of the Mosquito Fork of the Fortymile Wild and Scenic River from the trail to the Lost Chicken Dredge along the Taylor Highway. BLM photo by Caroline Brown.



ALASKA OUTDOOR ALLIANCE



Aug 30: Alaska's ranking supporter of outdoor recreation infrastructure, Senator Lisa Murkowski, will be joining the annual Confluence Summit in person next week. Will you be there? It's not too late to register for the event, Sept. 7 - 9 in Haines. This year's theme, regenerative economies, has sparked a lot of new faces to join us including our counterparts from the Yukon. Visit www.alaskaoutdooralliance.org/confluence-ak for all the details and online registration.

STATEWIDE LINKS

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

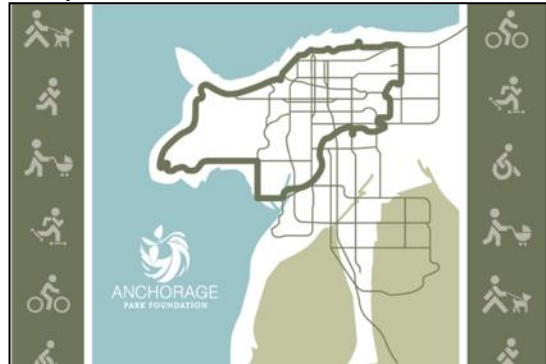
- Huts and public use cabins are an economic opportunity for Alaska: <https://tinyurl.com/ypv89jzu>
- Want to make progress on your outdoor training plan? Try taking small steps toward a big goal: (ADN): <https://tinyurl.com/amttxemw>
- Outdoor Explorer radio show and blog
 - The outdoor life of Congressional Candidates: <https://tinyurl.com/5cvfh8az>

SOUTHCENTRAL NEWS AND NOTICES

VIRTUAL MOOSE LOOP RACE TO RACE FUNDS FOR PARK FOUNDATION

ENTER The 2022 Moose Loop Virtual Race sponsored by ExerPlay, Inc. celebrates the world-class urban trails that loop around the city of Anchorage, in the shape of a moose! Participate in this family-friendly virtual event by running, walking, or biking on the Moose Loop trails in Anchorage or anywhere. Every dollar raised supports Anchorage parks and trails through the Anchorage Park Foundation. Register today!

- When: **September 23 - 30, 2022**
- Where: Anywhere along the Moose Loop trail system in Anchorage, or anywhere
- Events: Virtual 5K, 10K, Mini Moose (12.75K), or Mighty Moose (51.5K Moose Loop)
- Why: **Supporting our park and trail system supports the well-being of our community**
- Register here: <https://runsignup.com/Race/AK/Anchorage/TheMooseLoopRace>



CELEBRATE PUBLIC LANDS DAY 2022 WITH TRAIL PROJECTS

VOLUNTEER Come lend a hand on your public lands on September 24, Public Lands Day. We know of three events taking place as a part of Public Lands Day, all in Southcentral.



Alaska Trails is holding two trail work parties. Any volunteers who attend will receive a coupon for \$5 off any food or drink at The Loft at Midnight Sun Brewing Co!

- Little O'Malley Peak trail: Help us finish the last portion of this trail. We're 97% there and just have a few hundred feet to go to make this trail more accessible and safe. <https://tinyurl.com/5hctrubs>
- Falls Creek Trail: Help clear brush off this beautiful trail that leads to an alpine lake and incredible views of the mountains and Turnagain Arm. <https://tinyurl.com/3k5wkyhe>

Or spend the morning on volunteer projects at the BLM Campbell Tract, including trail maintenance on the P-38 dog mushing trail, steel post removal, and putting the native plant gardens to bed for the winter. Wear warm clothes and sturdy boots/shoes; bring gloves if you have them. BLM will provide tools, extra gloves, and all other needed equipment.

- 8:30AM Registration begins at the Campbell Creek Science Center.
- 9:00 Service work
- 12:00PM Free & delicious lunch
- For more information see: <https://tinyurl.com/e22evyz4> or contact Ranger Daniella Barraza (dbarraza@blm.gov; 907-267-1249)

STUDY SEEKS INPUT ABOUT EKLUTNA AREA RECREATION

PARTICIPATE The goal of the study is to define current levels of recreation in the Eklutna area. The study is collecting information from residents and visitors on recreational activities occurring at all times of the

year, including type of activity, how often it is occurring and where it happens. Results will help inform development of a Fish and Wildlife Program for the Eklutna Hydroelectric Project. Data is being collected through October 2022.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

- Tell us in the Online Survey: Take the 5-minute survey to tell us about your most recent recreational outing in the Eklutna Area. Everyone, from one-time visitors to lifelong residents, is encouraged to take the survey! Survey Link: <https://arcg.is/1ur4jG0>
- Show us on a Map: Drop a point on your recreation designations, draw routes, or upload and trace our own tracking data to show where you recreate. Everyone is encouraged to share multiple destinations, routes and activities! Map Link: <https://bit.ly/EklutnaRecMap>

For more information, please visit www.eklutnahydro.com or contact Taryn Oleson-Yelle at toleson@rmconsult.com.

KENAI NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA PHOTO CONTEST DEADLINE SOON

ENTER The deadline for the Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm (KMTA) National Heritage Area photo contest is **September 30**. Amateur and professional photographers are invited to submit images that capture the essence of the Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm National Heritage Area (KMTA), which includes the area's trails, or speak to KMTA's role in preserving, promoting and protecting the national heritage area. All photographs must be taken within the KMTA area which include the communities of Indian, Bird, Girdwood, Whittier, Hope/Sunrise, Moose Pass, Seward and Cooper Landing. For more info go to <https://kmtacorridor.org/photo-contests/>



Photo of Lower Trail Lake by Rhonda Lynn, 2020 winner, Sweeping Views category

SEEN RECENTLY ON SOUTHCENTRAL FACEBOOK PAGES

ANCHORAGE PARKS AND RECREATION

Aug 25: 🇺🇸 It's back! The Ship Creek Trail is officially reopening today (8/25). After high water and rapid erosion closed portions of the trail earlier this summer, we are happy to announce that the trail is now open for all to enjoy. Thanks for your patience, Anchorage! We'll see you on the trail.

ANCHORAGE PARK FOUNDATION



August 18: We are so appreciative of our support from Matson in Alaska through their Caring for Alaska program. Teens from Youth Employment in Parks worked with volunteers on streambank restoration and trail-building at Far North Bicentennial Park, improved habitat at the Westchester Lagoon Waterfowl Sanctuary and built trails at University Lake. So glad they were able to get so much done before the rain!

Aug 16: Now is the time to provide your comments on extending the Ship Creek trail to the Small Boat Launch and building a new trail to Elderberry Park where it will meet up with the Tony Knowles Coastal Trail. We are so excited about this opportunity to make this connection using federal active transportation dollars. Learn more here: <https://www.connectcoastaltoship.com/>



SINGLETRACK ADVOCATES

August 9: Thank you everyone for coming out to tonight's trail work party at Kincaid. That was a lot of fun! Look at that water drain away from the trail with a little help of drainage work! 😊 We even got to see mama and baby moose clearing the brush at the parking lot:)



ALASKA STATE PARKS

Aug 5: ****Kachemak Bay Alert****
Tutka Backdoor and Sentinel Ridge:

🙄 Due to the continuing construction needs of the Tutka Backdoor and Sentinel Ridge Routes/Trail, we ask that the public to refrain from hiking them, especially in sub-alpine and alpine areas. ****see photos for details on areas to avoid****

Sensitive soils, steeper than desired grades, and trail alignment issues requires further drainage control, tread hardening, and rock structure construction.

We are committed to working with non-profits or other organizations to achieve the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation's standards. Until these areas are addressed and fixed, Alaska State Parks considers the Tutka Backdoor and Sentinel Ridge routes/trails to still be under construction. 🙏

Thanks for your patience!



Aug 1: Just in case you were wondering! 🙄 The trail crew is done with the maintenance and brushing on Rabbit Lakes Trail in the Chugach. 🙏

THANKS to Chugach Park Fund and all the individual and corporate sponsors they partnered with! 🙏

Check out the trail and let us know what you think!



FRIENDS OF KACHEMAK BAY STATE PARKS



Aug 24: Photos of the ongoing progress of the State Park cooperative Yurt project with Zach Marley and his Eagle scout troop. Thank you to The Homer Foundation that awarded a designated grant to Friends of Kachemak Bay State Parks from the Opportunity Fund, an unrestricted fund managed by the Homer Foundation. Friends is using the grant to support Zach Marley's Eagle Scout project building a yurt platform near Diamond Creek for Alaska State Parks.

Aug 14: Portlock trail from Humpy creek has been disappearing under brush and this summer a group of ladies headed up by Nicky and Jane have been over there at least 5 times this summer (volunteering for Friends, with Friends equipment) to begin the clearing of this beautiful trail. To clear the thick brush & alders takes alot of work and time. Later we need to find a team to remove many trees that are across the trail. The brush is now cleared almost to alpine, but still more to go! Be sure to thank your volunteers Nicky Szarzi, Jane Wiebe, Ruth Dickerson, Lyn Maslow, Cindy Sisson, Anna Dickerson, Judy Steyer plus water taxis that provide transport just for gas reimbursement, Alan's water taxi, Forrest Water Taxi, Mako's plus Bill Hague and Bob Norberg and many others that keep your park open!



Aug 12: Eveline State Recreation Site is bursting with fireweed and wildflowers! If you haven't made it out to see all of the recent trail and facility improvements, now is the time to go! This accessible Homer side trail is well maintained and boasts a gravel trail loop, new interpretive panels thanks to the Gary Thomas 100 Men Project, newly upgraded outhouse location, mowed trails, a new trailhead kiosk, picnic table platform, and more!

<https://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/aspunits/kenai/evelinesrs.htm>

CHUGACH MOUNTAIN BIKE RIDERS

Aug 16: We are so thankful to Mighty Bikes for a TRAIL CHAMPION grant to help us cover construction costs for the new Bee-Line trail at Mirror Lake! We hope your young riders love it!

August 5: The "Bee-Line" jump line and "Lazy-G" pump trail at Mirror Lake, Alaska are OPEN!



Access is off of HOT TAMALES and the OVERLOOK singletrack trails. Open your Trailforks settings and resync your "downloaded regions" to see them on the map! <https://www.trailforks.com/>

Bee-Line (Ben's Line) is an homage to the Hillside trails and their workers. It'll get you in shape for some enduro runs.

Lazy-G is named after Ben's dog Georgie, whose ashes are spread with Ben's on top of Bear Mountain overlooking the park. It's a pumpy fun trail - go slow the first time!

These were built as an extension, an "Annex" of

Ben's Bike Playground. Enjoy!

Thanks to our fantastic CMBR volunteers, trail builders Happy Trails, Inc., and our graphic designer Aurora for busting out the safety inspection punch list so we could get these trails open.

Excellent photo by Kevstr

SOUTHCENTRAL LINKS

- Alaska Geographic publishes guide to Kenai National Wildlife Refuge canoe trails: <https://tinyurl.com/2p9z64uy>
- New trail will increase access to alpine terrain in Chugach State Park but draws objections from residents of South Fork Valley: <https://tinyurl.com/2p9d4bhf>
- Risk of human-bear conflicts closes Eagle River's Albert Loop Trail: <https://tinyurl.com/2p99uyxb>
- Hike Peak 2 Trail in Anchorage: <https://andreakuipoabroad.com/hike-peak-2-anchorage-alaska/>
- Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation July newsletter: <https://tinyurl.com/27dh8a9n>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Soldotna makes the People for Bikes "Top Adventure Biking Destinations" in part because of trails: <https://cityratings.peopleforbikes.org/stories/our-top-adventure-biking-destinations>

INTERIORWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

FAIRBANKS BORO TRAILS PLAN UPDATE NEARING COMPLETION

An update of the Fairbanks Comprehensive Recreational Trail Plan is working its way through the system to be formally accepted.

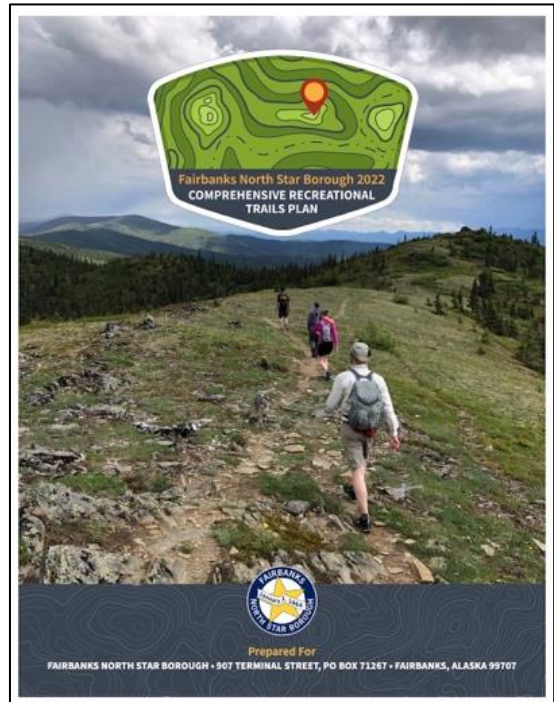
On August 25, the Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly referred the plan update to the FNSB Planning Commission and Platting Board for their recommendations. Recommendations from both panels are due back on September 30. Each board will have an opportunity for public comment. The Planning Commission's next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, September 13. The Platting Board's next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, September 21. For information on the:

- Planning Commission: <https://fnsb.gov/475/Planning-Commission>
- Platting Board: <https://fnsb.gov/481/Platting-Board>

The assembly should have the trail plan back sometime in October for the final approval, when there will be another opportunity for public comment. This is the first update to the trail plan since 2006 and the first major overhaul since it was first adopted in 1985.

For more information:

- Ordinance accepting the plan (not yet adopted by the assembly): <https://tinyurl.com/mr3zsabk>
- The current trail plan: <https://tinyurl.com/yckeyez9>
- Trail plan update site: <https://www.fnsbtrailsplan.com/>



FAIRBANKS SUMMER TRAILS CHALLENGE ENDS THIS MONTH

The Fairbanks Trails Challenge ends on September 30.

The challenge, a popular event held twice a year by the Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks and Recreation Department, is free for anyone who wants to participate. Just find the signs and photograph



yourself with the sign in the background. Then share your “selfie” photo on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram by typing “#FNSBtrails” in your post, OR post your picture on the FNSB Parks & Rec Facebook page, OR email your photos to trails@fnsb.gov.

If you can prove you made it to at least 10 Summer Challenge Trails you will earn the elusive “Trailblazer Award” and be placed in a drawing for awesome prizes from our sponsors! Participants under the age of ten can find at least five signs to win the Junior Trailblazer Award, and seniors aged 60+ can find 5 to get win the Sourdough Trailblazer Award! To claim prizes, remember to register for the program and complete the trail checklist form.

To help find the signs, download the Fairbanks Trail Challenge booklet at:

<https://tinyurl.com/2p8spa34>

Questions? Contact Bryant Wright at bwright@fnsb.us or 907-459-7401. For more info and how to register see:

- Facebook Event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/360929696162074>
- Trails Challenge webpage: https://fairbanksak.myrec.com/info/activities/program_details.aspx?ProgramID=30256

Photo from Evangeline Orr from Trails Challenge Facebook page

INTERIORWIDE LINKS

- Backpacking trip comes with a view (Pinnell Mtn Trail, News-Miner): <https://tinyurl.com/mpus5jrp>
- Making Memories on a Murphy Dome Mountain Bike Misfire: <https://tinyurl.com/2ek2w66j>
- Beaver Creek & the Summit Trail with the family: <https://tinyurl.com/5fsc97nj>

SOUTHEAST NEWS AND NOTICES

SEEN RECENTLY ON SOUTHEAST FACEBOOK PAGES

TRAIL MIX, INC.



Aug 24: Clear skies = time to fly! 🚁

Today we want to send out some appreciation to the amazing pilots and crew Coastal Helicopters Inc.! Whether it's hundreds of bags of gravel, tricky bridge parts, or even a few crew members—Coastal is always able to get us where we need to go. 🌲

Thank you Coastal for helping us build and maintain Juneau's trails!

Aug 23: Woah check it out! There's a trail under all that brush! 🗨️

Thank you to all the volunteers who came out for our first Trail Stewards event with the Tongass Chapter of Trout Unlimited #581 on the Fisherman's Access Trail! 🧑🌾 Our hardworking volunteers cleared away branches, brush, and trees to provide passage to Montana Creek.

By working to clear an official trail into the canyon, we were able to close down social trails that crossed over salmon habitat. Now, the salmon habitat is protected and anglers have a clear route to the creek. That's a win-win in our books. 🙌



Aug 16: Global Leadership Adventures rocks out on Perseverance Trail!



Last month, our Perseverance crew was joined by 19 incredible students from across the country who came to Juneau to learn all about trail work, land management, and leadership. They did a phenomenal job building drains, restoring a trail crossing, improving the trail's tread, and moving over 6000 lbs of rock!

With these students as the future, we have a lot to look forward to.



August 12: Yippee for YEP! 🎉

We had a blast partnering with Youth Employment in Parks (YEP) for a few weeks. YEP is a summer-long program run by the Zach Gordon Youth Center in coordination with City and Borough of Juneau, SAIL, and us! The YEP program gets youth who experience various forms of disabilities engaged in trail work, teaching both valuable and marketable to give youth a leg up in future jobs. 🧡 Our crew at Outer Point had a phenomenal time working with the YEP crew. Together, they removed old boardwalk, created a solid gravel trail, and built a turnpike. 🙌



Working with the YEP crew was a highlight of the season for many of our own crew members as well. 🎯 Working with YEP facilitates connections between our crew and the community. Through this partnership, our crew members were able to step into a mentorship role and grow their skillsets in teaching, training, and collaboration.

We're already looking forward to next season with YEP! 🥳



August 2: Step, swing, step, swing, step, swing. Rake, rake, toss. 🗨️

Ahhh, the sweet sounds of brushing season. 🥳 For the last couple of weeks, our crew members have been diligently brushing miles of trail. 🌿 Each day, crew members load up the trucks with brushers (the sturdier cousin of the weedwacker) and rakes. Brushing each year helps us keep at bay the constant growth of plants and makes trails that were once lost in brush visible again. 🗨️

August 3: We love volunteers! 🧡❤️💪

Runners from Juneau Ridge Race, mtbers from Juneau Mountain Bike Alliance, and a whole host of other community members showed up to work on Perseverance and Red Mill.

You might remember last August's big rainstorm that flooded Gold Creek and caused a section of Perseverance to wash away. Volunteers improved the trail tread of the reroute, cleared drains to ensure water flows off the trail, and collected big rocks to stabilize the banks of the creek and prevent further erosion. On Red Mill, people also cleared drains and brushed back plants and shrubs from the trail's edge.

We're so grateful to everyone who helped out, but there's still more to do! That's why we're hosting another volunteer day on Perseverance on Sunday, August 21. Sign up at bit.ly/perseveranceaug21.



SITKA TRAIL WORKS, INC.

Aug 19: PSA: the Harbor Mountain Trail will remain open but will require a steep bypass route during some maintenance next week.

The Forest Service trail crew will be making repairs on the first 1/4-mile of the Harbor Mountain trail from the parking lot at the end of the Harbor Mountain Road. They are scheduled to work 8/22 through 8/25 and will be back up there the following week if they don't finish the project next week. The crew will be using a mini excavator that will take up the width of the trail. Trail users will be routed around the work so they can still have access to the remainder of the trail without interrupting the crew while they're working. The path bypassing the work area is on is steeper ground with uneven footing.



August 13: PSA - the Indian River (Kaasda Heen) Trail will be closed for repairs next week at the second bridge. From our partners at the USFS:

Indian River Trail Closure, Milepost 1.8

During the week of August 15, Sitka Ranger District maintenance personnel will be replacing a log stringer bridge handrail on the Indian River trail. The trail will be closed at milepost 1.8 from noon on August 15 through 5PM on August 18. The closure may be extended or shortened depending on timing of completion.

The new handrail will be temporary as the entire bridge is expected to be reconstructed in 2023 with funds from the Great American Outdoor Act Great American Outdoors Act | US Forest Service ([usda.gov](https://www.usda.gov)).

Please call the Sitka Ranger District at 907-747-6671 if you have questions.





Figure 3. General Project Area and Approximate Alignment

August 2: There is a proposal to extend the Seawalk to O'Connell Bridge!

The Alaska Department of Transportation is working with the City of Sitka to design Phase II of the Sitka Seawalk, extending the 8-foot-wide pedestrian path from the library to Lincoln Street. The proposed Phase II project would be constructed in Sections, with Section 2 being the top priority. To learn more, check out the link below. There will be more opportunities for

public comment as the project progresses.

<https://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/Notices/View.aspx?id=207285>

JUNEAU PARKS & RECREATION

Aug 18: Due to structural damage, the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities has closed the Montana Creek Bridge (located beyond the Hank Harmon Public Range) to all vehicle traffic including ATVs until further notice.

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, which owns and operates Montana Creek Bridge, has determined that the bridge is no longer safe for motorized vehicles following substructure damage sustained during recent weather events.

Pedestrian access remains open at this time. However, if the condition of the bridge worsens then pedestrian access may also be closed. Alaska DOT&PF is monitoring the bridge daily during weather events for any change that would necessitate a full closure.

Alaska DOT&PF is currently evaluating options for repair. For further information, please contact the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities.



August 10: There's a public meeting tonight! You can learn about the draft Master Plan for the Montana Creek Recreational Area in the Zoom meeting that begins at 5:30 p.m. Questions will be addressed at the conclusion of the presentation and **public comments will be accepted via email to parks.rec@juneau.org through 5 p.m. on September 10.**

For more information about the Master Plan project, go to bit.ly/MontanaCreekMasterPlan.

SOUTHEAST LINKS

- Trail Mix (Juneau) August newsletter: <https://trailmixinc.salsalabs.org/thedirtaugust2022>

SLIGHTLY OFF TRAIL

- Biden-Harris Administration to Help Rural Communities Grow Outdoor Recreation Economy (incl Haines): <https://tinyurl.com/msujassu>

NATIONWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

HIKING SOCIETY SEEKS FUNDS FOR TRAIL LEADERS PROGRAM

DONATE The American Hiking Society is seeking donations for its NextGen Trail Leaders program.

This program, launched in 2018, provides a platform for a diverse cohort of five 18- to 40-year-old leaders in outdoor advocacy and stewardship to serve as influential, activist ambassadors for the hiking community.

American Hiking recruits, trains, and fosters the Trail Leaders in advocacy and service. Through the year, they work with AHS to protect, fund, and ensure access to public lands (particularly hiking spaces), while also amplifying the importance of justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion in the hiking community.

They have the opportunity to join over 100 trail advocates from across the country for Hike the Hill® advocacy week in DC, lead outdoor events and service projects, advocate directly with elected officials, engage through campaigns on social media, and participate in professional development activities.

If you support this work, consider donating to the American Hiking Society:

<https://americanhiking.org/ways-to-give/>

For more on the NextGen program see: <https://americanhiking.org/ambassador/#nextgen>

From American Hiking Society email



TRAILS FUNDING INCREASES IN HOUSE ANNUAL FUNDING BILL

ADVOCATE The House of Representatives passed its Fiscal Year 23 annual appropriations bill that included increased funding for trails and public lands. The American Hiking Society joined the environmental community in a statement of support celebrating the passage (<https://tinyurl.com/5n7vawh4>). The Senate has introduced its funding bill, but final passage isn't expected before November. AHS will continue to advocate for increased funding for trails! Join us in making your voice heard! (See sign-on letter here: <https://americanhiking.org/advocacy/take-action/>).

From Paperless Trail, AHS's monthly newsletter

CREW REQUESTS BEING ACCEPTED FOR AHS VOLUNTEER PROJECTS

APPLY FOR A CREW The Volunteer Vacations program is designed to send you a crew of eager volunteers, ready to assist with your trail needs. Volunteer Vacations are week-long trail building/maintaining projects organized by American Hiking Society. Most projects are one-week or shorter in length, consist of 6-10 crew members, and involve trail maintenance and building tasks on hiking trails on public lands.

Some land managers may consider hosting an Alternative Break Crew, in addition to a Volunteer Vacation. Alternative Breaks are volunteer trail stewardship projects designed specifically for college student groups and young professionals. Any government land management agency or nonprofit organization can request a crew. (non-profit organizations will need to be Alliance Members of AHS to host).

Learn more about hosting a Volunteer Vacation and/or an Alternative Break crew.

- Volunteer Vacations: <https://americanhiking.org/volunteer-vacations/host-information/>
- Alternative Break: <https://americanhiking.org/volunteer-vacations/alternative-break/host-information/>

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

- American Hiking Society’s Volunteer Vacations: <https://americanhiking.org/volunteer-vacations/>

FUNDING

- FOX Factory Trail Trust (**applications reviewed quarterly**): <https://tinyurl.com/bdfjevrd>
- Yamaha Outdoor Access Initiative (OHVs, **quarterly deadlines**): <https://yamahaoai.com/>
- Federal Highway Administration funding chart (has trails-related categories): <http://tinyurl.com/zqz2m8p>
- Clif Bar Family Foundation grants (for groups, projects; ddline Oct 1): <http://tinyurl.com/y5es3wjc>

OTHER NATIONAL LINKS:

- Trail Tools: Grubbing Tools: www.americantrails.org/resources/trail-tools-grubbing-tools
- How Trails Transform Communities // Biketown: www.youtube.com/watch?v=bBcFzjP31jQ

INTERNATIONAL LINKS:

- Trans Bhutan Trail in Time’s World’s Greatest Places: <https://tinyurl.com/35rm332f>

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