



NEWSLETTER

AUG
2022

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907/334-8049

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.** Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. We will also be having events on Tuesday, October 18, and

Tuesday, November 15.

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

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES RETURN WITH ALASKA TRAIL STEWARDS

VOLUNTEER, GET VACCINATED Alaska Trail Stewards volunteer events are back! We'd love for you to join us!

The mission of the Alaska Trail Stewards Program is to provide volunteer-based trail maintenance services to public land managers and others who have responsibility for safely and sustainably maintaining trails throughout Alaska.

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!

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/>).

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 on 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

July 31: Our volunteers did some great work clearing brush off the Eklutna Lakeside Trail yesterday! They biked in to have time to clear some of the trail further out to make sure bikers and hikers alike have a safe and fun trail to use. Would you like to join in the fun and work on a trail with us? We have lots of exciting events coming up! (See story on Page 1.)



July 25: Our volunteers had a blast biking out Powerline Pass past the German Bridge to do some brushing this past Saturday! Big thanks our hardworking volunteers, Leo (Trails Technician for Chugach State Park) for bringing out the chipper, and to the Chugach Park Fund for sponsoring the event!

July 21: On this thankful Thursday, we are grateful for our wonderful volunteers who brave the wet weather to come help us maintain the trails we know and love! We couldn't do it without you! A hardworking crew joined us last night to brush the Silver Fern and Gasline Trail, clearing lots of overgrown vegetation to make the trail safe and fun for everyone. We are also grateful to the Chugach Park Fund for sponsoring this event and for their continued support that makes trail maintenance like this possible.



We have some fun volunteer events coming up! To see all our upcoming volunteer events and to sign up, visit: <https://www.alaska-trails.org/current-volunteer-opportunities>

July 14: Our partners at the BLM are looking for an intern who will assist BLM Alaska's recreation and visitor services program by improving web-based recreation pages, developing improved multi-media materials for recreation outreach, and developing recreation fee business plans, recreation area management plans, and other operational needs.

<https://usaconservation.applicantpool.com/jobs/819528.html>

PLAY July 20: Check out this fun way to support our trails by simply doing what you love, and win some prizes in the process! Big thanks to Hoarding Marmot for helping support trail maintenance!

Shared from

The Hoarding Marmot is at The Hoarding Marmot.



July 19 · Anchorage, AK ·



We've got EVEN MORE PRIZES! Trail Bingo is taking off, and now we've got even more sponsors on board to provide sweet prizes for our bingo players. **Swing by either The Hoarding Marmot or @midnightsunbrewingco to pick up a \$10 card and bike, run, and hike your way to prizes to help support trail maintenance from @alaskatrails and @singletrackadvocates**

July 12: Alaska Trails is a proud partner on this project! BIG thanks to the Chugach Park Fund for all their support of Little O.

Shared from

Alaska State Parks is in Glen Alps, Anchorage.

July 12: Little O'Malley Trail has received SO MUCH LOVE in the past couple of years, and now the upgrades are almost done!

Big thanks to our partners at Chugach Park Fund for the vision and persistence, Alaska Trails for their hard work on the trail, and all the amazing contributors who support the vision of our trail community: the Rasmusen Foundation, Marcia Bandy, GCI, Anchorage Petroleum Women's Association, Alyeska Pipeline Service Company, Atwood Foundation, The Alaska Community Foundation, Marianne Holman, Genevieve, Jean Pierre, Andre Rosay in Memory of Melanie Rosay and so many more individual donors.  
THANK YOU ALL!



ALASKA TRAILS NEEDS YOUR HELP TO PRESERVE, PROMOTE TRAILS

DONATE This newsletter is brought to you free by Alaska Trails. Our mission is to enhance the Alaska trail experience by supporting sustainable, world-renowned trails through advocacy and education. We couldn't do this without support from you. **Please donate to help us continue our work:** www.alaska-trails.org/donate
All year long we strive to:

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

STATEWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR CONFLUENCE SUMMIT IN SEPTEMBER

Registration is now open for the 7th Annual Confluence: Summit on the Outdoor Recreation Economy, Sept. 7-9 in Haines! Be sure to get signed up before prices go up on Aug. 25.



These organizations have already indicated plans to attend: Department of Interior; USDA Rural Development; US Forest Service and USDA Southeast Alaska Sustainability Strategy; Chilkoot Indian Association; Sustainable Southeast Partnership; National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Alaska State Parks, Haines State Forest, Haines Borough, Skagway Economic Development Corp., Sitka Trail Works, and many more.

“Confluence AK: The Summit on the Outdoor Recreation Economic Development” is an annual conference where Alaskans come together to discuss trends in outdoor recreation and to share ideas to expand the sector.

Find out more here: <https://www.alaskaoutdooralliance.org/confluence-ak>

SEEN RECENTLY ON STATEWIDE FACEBOOK PAGES

ALASKA OUTDOOR ALLIANCE

July 28: New report helps illustrate that today's guides and trail crew workers can be tomorrow's entrepreneurs, CEOs, scientists, manufacturers, landscape designers and so much more.

<https://tinyurl.com/4ws3vwud>

STATEWIDE LINKS

- Gov. Dunleavy vetoes \$10.5M in funds for Alaska Long Trail project: <https://tinyurl.com/4r6crtpr>
- State trail funding vetoes give time for ‘discussions’ (Frontiersman): <https://tinyurl.com/vcee263u>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- 2022 Alaska Mountain Wilderness Classic Report and Results: <https://tinyurl.com/49kbjvjy>
- Good Walking, Clear Water in Baird Mtns (Brooks Range, Luc Mehl): <https://tinyurl.com/e5s36c9t>
- Alaska Community Forest Council to meet on Friday, Aug. 12: <https://tinyurl.com/43cjwyzm>
- Alaska Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Amendment 4 **public comment deadline Aug 15**: <https://dot.alaska.gov/stwdplng/cip/stip/>
- Breaking: House Bill Proposes Repealing Pittman-Robertson Act: <https://tinyurl.com/2e3pyyh5>
- These 4 Anchorage businesses are making trail-friendly snacks: <https://tinyurl.com/3udvfzvr>
- Spending Plan for Transportation Spreads Benefits Throughout Alaska: <https://tinyurl.com/2p8huhnu>
- OPINION: Alaska wins with America’s Outdoor Recreation Act (ADN): <https://tinyurl.com/52m8hzvs>

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 anyplace
- 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>



NEWSLETTER HAS SEVERAL WAYS TO HELP MAT-SU VALLEY TRAILS

Valley Mountain Bikers and Hikers had several notices in its recent newsletter about ways people can help trails in the Mat-Su Valley.

TRAIL CREW VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

VOLUNTEER There's lots happening at Government Peak Recreation Area this summer. **Come on out and be a part of it.**



We meet in the GPRA parking lot (look for the red VMBaH Trail Crew Trailer) at 6:30 pm every Tuesday night throughout July and August.

Our new expert mountain bike trail is under construction, and we need help finishing the lower part of the trail and installing signposts. This is the most challenging and varied mountain bike trail built on public land in Alaska so come be part of its creation! The trail has a beautiful climb through a fireweed meadow and a

challenging, jumpy and technical descent. When finished, it will add an additional 6,300ft lineal feet of trail to the GPRA trail system.

No experience is necessary. We supply the tools and training - you supply the muscle and good energy. Questions? Contact Mike Danz (akdanz@gmail.com)

MAT-SU BOROUGH BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN PLAN

COMMENT The MSB is developing a Borough-wide Bike and Pedestrian Plan to build out a safe and better-connected active transportation network. They would love your comments and help with identifying priorities for paths and trails. Go to www.matsubikeandped.com to leave a comment on the interactive map.

Or contact Kelsey.Anderson@matsugov.us for more information.

SAVE THE MATANUSKA GREENBELT

GET INFORMED VMBaH is part of the Save the Matanuska Greenbelt advocacy group working to keep the greenbelt intact and remove the current threat of a gravel pit on the Experiment Farm. The group has been meeting with members of the University of Fairbanks administration and communication continues to move forward.

We encourage you to check out the [Save the Matanuska Greenbelt website](http://www.savethematanuskagreenbelt.org) www.savethematanuskagreenbelt.org and sign up for email alerts and information. It is the best way to stay informed of the most recent news about the advocacy efforts.

Thanks for your support so far. It has made a difference.

NON-MOTORIZED CONNECTION PATHS PLANNED FOR SOLDOTNA

COMMENT The State of Alaska is announcing a Notice of Intent to Begin Engineering and Environmental Studies: Soldotna Community Connections and ADA Improvements proposal to construct non-motorized pathway and sidewalk improvements located in Soldotna Creek Park and the adjacent area to the east.

The purpose of this project is to provide safe and convenient non-motorized connections between community destinations, and to improve access to city facilities for those with disabilities. The project would provide pathway/sidewalk connections between Soldotna parks, residential neighborhoods, schools, commercial areas, and existing trails and pathways.

The project has potential to encroach slightly into the mapped base (100-year) floodplain area associated with the Kenai River Project. Actions that may encroach into the base floodplain would include pathway and sidewalk improvements, roadside hardware, drainage improvements, signage and lighting, utility work, and vegetation clearing and grubbing. Any encroachments are anticipated to be minor, with no net changes to the base flood elevation, thus they would not result in significant encroachments.

Construction for the proposed project is anticipated to occur in the fall of 2023 and is expected to take two construction seasons to complete. For more information, contact Noah King, Project Manager, at 269-0657. **Submit comments** to Brian Elliott, Regional Environmental Manager, at brian.elliott@alaska.com.

From What's Up? by Peg Tileston

COMMENTS SOUGHT ON MINERAL CREEK AREA DEAL IN VALDEZ

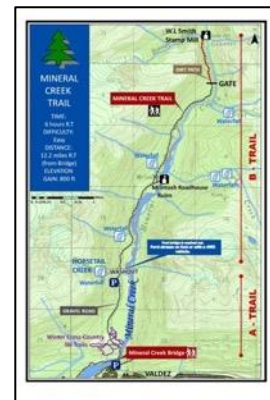
Comments are due by August 16 on the request for a Cooperative Resource Management Agreement for the Mineral Creek Area from the City of Valdez to authorize management of 80 acres of state lands in the vicinity of Mineral Creek.

Specifically, the city seeks to restrict motorized use of the lands and manage for public recreation consistent with Valdez Municipal Code. The primary purpose of the request is to ensure public safety along the Mineral Creek Trails which are used year-round for skiing, hiking, and biking.

No new development is proposed; however, the application identifies infrastructure currently installed within the project area including informational signage and locking gates in locations where the trails intersect with managed right-of-way associated with Mineral Creek Road.

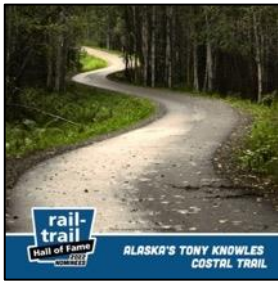
For more information or to submit comments, contact Evan Dodd at (907) 269.7480 3 or e-mail evan.dodd@alaska.gov. A public notice is available at: <https://tinyurl.com/ab6n3bfp>

From What's Up? by Peg Tileston



SEEN RECENTLY ON SOUTHCENTRAL FACEBOOK PAGES

ANCHORAGE PARKS AND RECREATION



VOTE July 22: 🗳️ On your mark, get set, VOTE! Anchorage's Tony Knowles Coastal Trail was nominated for the 2022 Rail-Trail Hall of Fame. While Alaska may not have the largest population, but we definitely have the most heart. With that said, go ahead and get your vote on, and show how much we love our trails. Voting is unlimited, and ends Tuesday, August 2 at 7:59 Alaska Time.

Here's how you can vote:

➡️ <http://railstotrails.org/hofvote22>

July 21: 📣 Shoutout to our Youth Employment in Parks (YEP) crew, who were interviewed and featured on Outdoor Explorer with Paul Twardock! YEP is a summer program that offers Anchorage high schoolers between the ages of 16 and 19 an opportunity to get paid while learning new skills. If you want to hear more about how this team worked to improve trails around University Lake, then check out the rebroadcast of their interview tonight (July 21) from 8-9 p.m. on Alaska Public Media.



➡️ Learn more about YEP at

<https://www.muni.org/Departments/parks/Pages/YEP.aspx>

➡️ Check out the Outdoor Explorer at <https://alaskapublic.org/2022/07/19/341222/>



July 13: Geese, salmon, and purple dinosaurs—oh my! 🦕💜

If you love a good story and beautiful artwork, check out the recently installed Stories of Fish Creek signs around Woodland Park in Spenard! These gorgeous signs created by Lee and Alex Post, Jane Peyton Johnson, Holly Mititquq Nordlum, Scott Clendaniel, and Rhonda Scott celebrate the stories of the area, and you can conveniently see all six signs on a lovely wander along the Fish Creek Trail from McRae Rd. to Iowa St.

Thank you to Spenard Community Council, NeighborWorks Alaska, AARP, and Anchorage Park Foundation for collaborating on this great project!

SINGLETRACK ADVOCATES

Kincaid Trail Crew

Wednesday, August 10 at 6 PM

Jodhpur Parking Lot

Come help us work on the Southside Kincaid Trails! Meet at Jodhpur Parking lot.

Bring your bike helmet, work gloves, shoes, and water. Bring a grade rake or flat shovel too, if you have them. We will also provide tools.

See you then!

Sign your online volunteer waiver before you come (You only need to sign this once per year.)

<https://app.waiversign.com/e/5ec6a0d0275df10018e1cde3/doc/5ec6a250b3c8af0017c68cb5>



CHUGACH MOUNTAIN BIKE RIDERS IS IN MIRROR LAKE, ALASKA.



July 14: We would like to celebrate Carlene today!

Not only did we run out of tools again last night (our favorite loppers are backordered), but Carlene earned her 10 hour TRAIL CREW hat!

Thanks Carlene!

ALASKA TRAILS

July 29: Check out the new trail guide from the Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation - lots of great exploring in the valley!

<https://matsutrails.org/2022/07/25/summer-2022-mat-su-activity-guide/>

FRIENDS OF KACHEMAK BAY STATE PARKS IS AT KACHEMAK BAY STATE PARK.

COMMENT July 26: IMPORTANT: IF YOU WANT TO SEE MORE STATE PARK "TRAILS ON HOMER SIDE OF THE BAY", PLEASE **SEND AN EMAIL TO SUPPORT COTTONWOOD**

EASTLAND TRAILS TO: cottonwoodeastland@gmail.com

Your input needed to make this happen!

Deadline for public comments 08/15/22

Please share this post

For more details: <https://www.friendsofkachemakbay.org/public-input>

July 11: Outhouses don't fall from heaven- it takes Outhouse Heroes and your contributions to make them happen!

The Outhouse at Kayak Beach (Grace Ridge trail) has been "cleaned up" and moved to a NEW location! This needed to be done ASAP and Volunteers Bill Hague and Chris Kelley dug a new hole in VERY rocky ground in record time and then moved the existing outhouse (after volunteer Jane Wiebe cleaned it up so its spic and span). Bill and Chris also filled in the old hole. Pouring rain did not slow them down. Thank a volunteer and support Friends of Kachemak Bay State Parks! this web page shows many ways folks can help out: <https://www.friendsofkachemakbay.org/support>



ISLAND TRAILS NETWORK

July 18: For those looking for Discover Kodiak Island's new trail on their Adjust Your Altitude Challenge, it now has a sign. Marin Ridge is also freshly brushed, thanks to this crew!

<https://kodiak.org/adjust-your-altitude>



July 1: ITN has recently acquired a skid steer to help with all the heavy lifting! This purchase was supported in part by a generous donation from Matson in Alaska. Thank you for supporting ITN and the Kodiak community.

Be on the look out for some upcoming volunteer opportunities this month to assist with some beach clean ups or moving some gravel with the Connecting Communities crew.

SOUTHCENTRAL LINKS

- Summer 2022 Alaska Long Trail Update (Mat-Su Trails and Parks Found): <https://tinyurl.com/mr25evj5>
- Matanuska Valley Moose Range Trail Reroute and Habitat Remediation: <https://tinyurl.com/4yvfd9hd>

- Amendment to trail permit on Susitna Lake (comment ddline August 5): <http://notice.alaska.gov/207499>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Outdoor Explorer podcast
 - Youth Employment in Parks (YEP): <https://alaskapublic.org/2022/07/19/341222/>

INTERIORWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

BLM BUILDS BOARDWALK AROUND WET PART OF SUMMIT TRAIL

The Bureau of Land Management is building a boardwalk over a perennially wet section of the Summit Trail in the White Mountains Recreation Area off the Wickersham Dome parking area.

That trail is popular in summer because it accesses Wickersham Dome. However, one section, near the intersection with one leg of the winter Ski Loop Trail, is wet through most, if not all, of the summer.



BLM crews have attempted several fixes. Boardwalk was installed there in the 1970s, but runoff channeled down and under the trail and boardwalk, according to Levi Lewellyn, an assistant field manager for BLM.

“The active freeze thaw cycles jacked and tore the board walk apart. The result was wet, uneven, and often exposed nails. Essentially not very user friendly for summer hikers, bikers, etc.”

We attempted a lot of fixes, with varying successes or lack thereof. Combining a winter trail with a summer trail is a difficult task.”

That section of trail is part of the Ski Loop, and people also use it in winter and shoulder seasons to access Wickersham Dome, so it is used year-round. To accommodate all seasons, BLM is building a boardwalk that roughly parallels and sometimes crosses the dirt trail. The hoped-for result is that hikers can use the trail in summer and keep out of the mud while the dirt/mud trail will remain for other users and for winter trail use.

“We plan to keep both and by keeping them separate we won't be tearing up the boardwalk in the winter with snowmachines and groomers,” Lewellyn wrote in an email.

Most of the boardwalk will be built this year, but the rest won't be finished until next year, due to a seasonal employee shortage and other issues.

Summit Trail runs along the ridge past Wickersham Dome. Several miles out is a public-use, first-come-first-served trail shelter. BLM is also trying to get a couple of miles of the trail brushed out near the trail shelter.

“We had smoke jumpers lined out but alas this is a severe fire year,” Lewellyn wrote. “We will see how it all plays out.”

Photo by Eric Troyer

PINNELL MOUNTAIN TRAIL GETS HELP DURING NATIONAL TRAILS DAY

More than 30 volunteers helped improve the Pinnell Mountain National Recreational Trail on National Trails Day. The work party was organized by the Bureau of Land Management. Here's a report from Public Affairs Specialist Teri Balsler:

The National Trails Day volunteer work day on June 4 was a great success. We had 36 volunteers participate, which is 1 more volunteer than last we had last year! Many thanks to Fairbanks Hikers, Interior Alaska Trails and Parks Foundation, Resident Hunters of Alaska, and Backcountry Hunters and Anglers for promoting and participating in the event.

We had 3 work projects completed by volunteers and BLM staff:

1. bolster the boardwalk - provide more support for the planks to reduce flex in the boards
2. beautify the trail - remove caribou parts left over from the fall and winter hunt away from the trailhead and trail, pick up debris, and remove excess markers
3. revegetation - distribute additional seed and fertilizer in the disturbed area where needed. Only a few areas needed additional seed. Most places the annual rye we planted last year is working to provide soil stability and protection to recovering native vegetation.

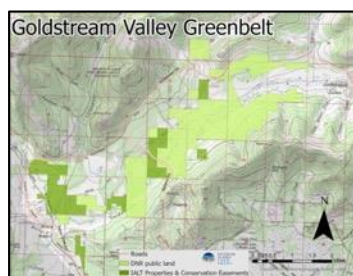
This is the only event we had planned for this year, but we plan to make the National Trails Day at the Pinnell Mountain NRT an annual event. As you know, boardwalks require maintenance and early June is such a beautiful time to work on the trail. We have plans to add additional signs and fencing as well as an effort to replace the boardwalk at Twelvemile Summit.



BLM photo by Deke Naaktgeboren: A volunteer carries out a piece of plywood found in the tundra during a National Trails Day volunteer work event at Eagle Summit on the Pinnell Mountain National Recreation Trail on June 4, 2022.

LAND TRUST CONTINUES WORK IN GOLDSTREAM VALLEY

The Interior Alaska Land Trust is continuing work to preserve land in the Goldstream Valley, which includes helping save many trails in the area. See the below excerpt from the group's recent newsletter. To find out more about the trust, including how to **donate to its work**, see <https://interioraklandtrust.org/>



We also continue to have strong community support for our Lower Goldstream Initiative. We worked with long-time friends and partners, Bob and Bobbie Ritchie, to conserve an additional forty acres in the heart of lower Goldstream. This piece of the puzzle is critical to our other efforts; we are getting closer and closer to connecting all the pieces. Soon, we will be able to concentrate on the periphery of the greenbelt, expanding conserved spaces and improving trails in other parts of Goldstream. Thank you to Bob and Bobbie Ritchie and all our members!

TRAILS CHALLENGE GUIDE HELPS TO FIND TRAILS IN INTERIOR

The Fairbanks Summer Trails Challenge is live, and the trails guide is out!

The guide is a great resource to help you find the trails challenge signs. See the guide here: <https://tinyurl.com/2p8spa34>

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



Anyone is allowed to participate in the search. When you find a sign, prove you made it by taking a “selfie” photo with the sign and posting it on social media with the hashtag “#FNSBTrails” or email your photo to trails@fnsb.us. And of course, leave the sign to be found by the next trail challenge participant.

Participants who find at least ten signs during the event can win prizes from local sponsors and the coveted Trailblazer Award. Participants under the age of ten can find at least five signs to win the Junior Trailblazer Award! Whether you find one or find them all, challenge yourself to get outside and enjoy nature!

least five signs.

Introduced last year, there will again be a "Sourdough Trailblazer" category. To join that category, you need to be 60 and older and find at

To find out more and see a list of signs see the Fairbanks Borough Trails Office webpage: <https://tinyurl.com/2p94nb22>

SEEN RECENTLY ON INTERIOR FACEBOOK PAGES

BLM-WHITE MOUNTAINS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

July 20: We're open!

The Wickersham Dome Trailhead and the western portion of the NRA re-opened today, so come on out to the trails and cabins to enjoy the views, the solitude, and those ripening berry patches.

Due to reduced fire activity associated with the Minto Lakes Fire (#349) the temporary fire closure was rescinded just after midnight this morning, reopening many of the area's popular public use cabins and trails. See the full BLM news release here:

<http://ow.ly/1Pr550K0J0g>

Visitors should continue to exercise safe practices and

#RecreateResponsibly on public lands to prevent wildfires. Learn more about fire prevention here: <http://ow.ly/tAFx50K0J0h>

To stay tuned to fire activity monitor <http://ow.ly/PseV50K0J0c>

📷 Lee's public use cabin is accessible by OHV's up to 1500 pounds curb weight and 64 inches wide. Reservations for the Alaska cabins can be made at recreation.gov.



SKARLAND & PEARL CREEK PARK TRAIL USERS

July 8: Update - Almost all the signs are up. Still have 2 that I am looking for the perfect spot.

A big thanks to FNSB for doing the router work. They have an ancient computerized router - windows xp. Not easy to code it into submission. Also thanks you Interior Alaska Trails and Parks Foundation which funded the project. Now to get them installed. Map shows where they are going.



FAIRBANKS CYCLE CLUB

COMMENT Would you like to see a bike path between Fairbanks and the Badger Road? Then take time to comment on this.

The Department of Transportation is seeking comments about a proposed bike/pedestrian path along the Richardson Highway between mile 357 and 362 (from Fairbanks toward North Pole).

The project will connect a signalized crosswalk at the Old Richardson Highway/Badger Road intersection with an existing pathway near the Richardson Highway/Airport Way/Gaffney Road intersection. It will also include a pedestrian bridge and signage.

The project construction is scheduled for Summer 2023. **Comments may be submitted through August 10.**

To find out more, including where to comment see here: <http://notice.alaska.gov/207543>

FAIRBANKS TRAIL AND WATERWAY USERS

The News-Miner (<https://tinyurl.com/2p865thc>) is reporting that the United States Army Garrison Alaska now has a fee for getting a Recreational Access Permit. (And the permit name has changed to Sikes Act Permit.) People already holding a permit won't have to pay until their current permit expires and a new one is purchased.

Popular trails that require the permit are Donnelly Dome and some at Birch Hill Recreational Area, including the White Bear, Sonot Connector, Chinook, and Blackhawk trails.

The permit is rarely enforced (most people never see Army enforcement personnel), but it is the law.

Get your permit here: <https://usartrak.isportsman.net/>

DELTA JUNCTION TRAILS ASSOCIATION

July 13: DJTA has spent a lot of volunteer time and funds on developing our newest trail, The River



Walk Park. Our latest project for it was developing a road separated from the biomass area to include a leveled, rolled and compacted nice parking area. This was developed for all for a safe and separated area to access the trail head. This work was completed on July the 7th. On Saturday July the 9th it was discovered that a vehicle(s) tore up the newly compacted area by doing doughnuts in the area causing ruts and large rocks to create unsafe conditions. Also found were beer and whiskey bottles. Building and preparing the area was quite costly. This is vandalism. The Troopers have been notified. If you see something, please say something.

INTERIORWIDE LINKS

- Application for easement to Volkmar and Thompson Lakes Extended: <http://notice.alaska.gov/207373>
- A Sweet Hike up Sugar Loaf Mountain: <https://tinyurl.com/2a5h99p2>
- Easement Application for access trail in Kentucky Creek II Subdivision, east of mile post 135.5 Elliot Highway (deadline for comment: August 18): <http://notice.alaska.gov/207481>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- In an experienced field, just one finishes 2022 AlaskAcross event: <https://tinyurl.com/bdxm8sn2>
- Parts of Tanana Valley State Forest reopen to motorized use July 12: <http://notice.alaska.gov/207327>

SOUTHEAST NEWS AND NOTICES

COMMENTS DUE ON PROPOSED SEAWALK IN SITKA

Comments are due by August 7 on the Notice to Begin Engineering & Environmental Studies and Floodplain Encroachment on the Sitka Seawalk Phase II to improve accessibility to the Sitka National Historical Park (SNHP) and downtown Sitka by constructing a seawalk.

The proposed project would continue the Sitka Seawalk from the Sitka Public Library to the O'Connell Lightering Facility and on to Totem Square and Lincoln Street. The proposed 8-foot-wide pedestrian pathway would include tidal fill with a riprap armor slope adjacent to Harbor Drive. Depending on the costs, the pathway would be gravel, asphalt or concrete surfacing and equipped with barriers or handrails as needed for safety along with lighting.

The project would also include interpretive signs and other pedestrian amenities if the budget allows. The project involves placing fill within marine waters, and as such, will include encroachments into the base floodplain. The encroachments are anticipated to be minor, with no net changes to the base flood elevation, thus they are not likely to result in significant encroachments. Additionally, no longitudinal encroachments are anticipated.

This project is divided into three sections. Construction for Section 2 is anticipated in 2023 or 2024 and for Sections 1 and 3 when funding is available. Your comments would help us evaluate potential environmental, social, and economic impacts of this project, as well as impacts to historic and cultural resources.

For more information to submit comments, contact Kathryn Erickson, Environmental Impact Analyst, at (907) 465-4498 or email kathryn.erickson@alaska.gov.

From What's Up? by Peg Tileston

SEEN RECENTLY ON SOUTHEAST FACEBOOK PAGES

TRAIL MIX, INC.

July 26: Point Bridget's slippery boardwalk has been replaced and revamped. 🔥

Crew members spent a couple of weeks at Point Bridget working to remove the slippery boardwalk and replace it with gravel. Our tenacious crew members scooped thousands of pounds of gravel to create a compact, smooth surface all the way out to Cowee Meadow Cabin. 🙌

There were a few sections that were much too muddy to be graveled, so our sharp-thinking crew created some stellar walkways to provide safe passage over the mud. In this video, you'll see Mark,

Sam, Hunter, and Liam work to repurpose the old boardwalk and two trees to create a sturdy walkway.

🪵 By using the boardwalk this way, it is significantly sturdier and less slippery.

Next time you hike at Point Bridget, you can leave the Xtratuffs behind since this trail is outta the mud! 🇺🇸

July 19: For their past 2 Trail Stewards sessions, SheJumps and Girl Scouts have been working together to take on the Outer Point trail. These hard-working ladies have been removing the boardwalk, grubbing the trail, and then adding gravel. 🪨

Fixing up Outer Point is high on our list as we strive to create more accessible trails throughout Juneau. The old boardwalk was incredibly narrow and beginning to break down. Girl Scouts and SheJumpers have been pulling up the heavy boardwalk and gaining a few muscles in the process. 🙌 Once the boardwalk is up, grubbing begins. After grubbing comes the trail fabric, which helps prevent vegetation from growing onto the trail and stops the gravel from sinking into the ground. Then comes wheelbarrow after wheelbarrow of gravel. 🪨 🪨 The final touch is added by raking out the gravel and compacting it into a nice, new trail. ✨



Thank you SheJumps and Girl Scouts!

P.S. If you're interested in meeting some amazing ladies and want to join in on our next work day, head over to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/shejumpsalaska/>

July 12: Passage on Perseverance restored! 🦶

Since late May, we've had a dedicated crew on Perseverance giving this trail some much needed love and care. They've accomplished a lot in a short amount of time including:



🌀 disassembling 2 damaged bridges and replacing them with culverts to direct water underneath newly constructed trail

▲ clearing landslide debris and reshaping the access trail from the parking lot

🌀 removing rockfall from the horn (where the trail hugs the cliff at the beginning)

▲ smoothing out the trail tread by filling in washouts and digging out exposed rocks

While there's still more to tackle, you can help! On Saturday, July 23, join us for a volunteer work day on Perseverance. We'll provide the tools and training to allow everyone to take part, no

experience necessary. RSVP now: bit.ly/perseverancejuly23

And a big thanks to Sage, Ambrose, and Laib as well as Mary, Toni, Jesse, Julio, Liam, and Sam for everything you've done so far.

July 5: Way to go Juneau-Gastineau Rotary Club! ✨

As part of our Trail Stewards Program, Rotarians have been working with us to improve the Lena Point trail. Most recently, we began work on a reroute of the trail, which will loop hikers down to the beach before hiking back up to the point.

To complete this transformation, volunteers grubbed out the new trail. Grubbing is the process of removing the top layer of vegetation, roots, and large rocks. Then, we lined the trail with rocks to help give it definition and create support to retain the beach gravel. Lastly, we gathered bucket after bucket of beach gravel to compact into the new trail.

SITKA TRAIL WORKS, INC.

July 28: The pilot week of our Youth Stewardship program was a success! The one-week summer camp was hosted by Sitka Tribe of Alaska and Sitka Native Education Program, with Sitka Trail Works staff leading stewardship projects on trails and public lands. The middle school age students learned about Native place names and stories, while getting their hands dirty in taking care of our shared lands. Students repaired non-skid material at Gájaa Héen (Starrigavan), cleared trail-side drainage on Kaasda Héen (Indian River), and brushed at Shis'gi Noow (Totem Park).



We're looking forward to continuing the program for a full season next year, with support from the USDA Southeast Alaska Sustainability Strategy.

July 28: Forest Service News Release

Blue Lake Road, Sawmill Creek Campground and Beaver Lake Trail Closures

Sitka, Alaska, July 28, 2022—The Sitka Ranger District will be using a helicopter to fly gravel to the Beaver Lake trail August 3rd. The Blue Lake Road, Sawmill Creek Campground, and Beaver Lake trail will be closed during helicopter operations.



(Photo credit: Lee House)

The road gate at the start of the Blue Lake Road will be kept closed while work is ongoing, and the Sitka Ranger District asks that pedestrians refrain from accessing the listed areas during the scheduled closures for their own safety and to allow employees to work with minimal interruptions.

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

July 13: We had a great time working with the Alaska's National Forests this weekend to highlight the value of partnerships in the Sitka Ranger District of the Tongass!

Shared from

Alaska's National Forests

July 13: Sitka Trail Works volunteers dig a drainage ditch on a local trail while our camera crew captures the action.



Volunteers are the heartbeat of Alaska's National Forests, so of course they are starring in our short film! USDA Forest Service photo by Jennifer Angelo.



ALASKA OUTDOOR ALLIANCE

June 30: Juneau "gets" it! Proposed sales tax extension would invest \$5 million in trails and outdoor infrastructure.

Initial 'shopping list' for 1% sales tax extension drafted: <https://tinyurl.com/3yj28s59>

SOUTHEAST LINKS

- Hiking on Mendenhall Glacier – Juneau: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XBDLa05_sLE
- Reminder: Sitka's multi-use paths are shared paths: <https://tinyurl.com/4j8vutf2>
- Old-Growth Forest Network to recognize two trails in Sitka on Aug. 15: <https://tinyurl.com/m3js36z9>

SLIGHTLY OFF TRAIL

- Hiking Crystal Mountain – Petersburg: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=azrACIK2fps>
- Construction starts on new cycling pump track (Sitka): <https://tinyurl.com/yckw9hmy>

NATIONWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

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

- Conservation Volunteers International Program newsletter (July): <https://tinyurl.com/3a7y7jvk>
- American Hiking Society's Volunteer Vacations: <https://americanhiking.org/volunteer-vacations/>
- 4-min video of AHS Volunteer Vacation project: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6-2xxwE_YUk

FUNDING

- FOX Factory Trail Trust (**applications reviewed quarterly**): <https://tinyurl.com/bdfjevrd>
- Yamaha Outdoor Access Initiative (OHVs, **quarterly deadlines**): <https://yamahaoai.com/>
- Polaris T.R.A.I.L.S. grants (ATV trail projects; due Sept 1): <https://tinyurl.com/y49dxbhe>

OTHER NATIONAL LINKS:

- Ice Age Trail thru-hiker becomes first woman to complete all 11 national scenic trails: <https://tinyurl.com/2y595ypy>
- Improving Accessibility on Public Lands: <https://tinyurl.com/yck42x87>
- How climate change affects hiking on the Pacific Crest Trail: <https://tinyurl.com/mue7tk5p>
- 11 Best Long-Distance Hiking Trails In The US: <https://tinyurl.com/3etpxtn2>
- National Trails Day Community Grant Event: From Chicago to Huron-Manistee National Forest (4-minute video): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m04UWz4uzRc>
- The 12 Best Mountain Bike Destinations in the USA [2022]: <https://tinyurl.com/4nekm76f>

INTERNATIONAL LINKS:

- 11 of the world's most dangerous hiking trails: <https://tinyurl.com/2zhh2ck4>
- 23 of the world's best hiking trails: <https://tinyurl.com/5fxscjut>
- Bhutan -- and its incredible cross-country trail -- welcoming tourists back: <https://tinyurl.com/5ew7xhmx>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Outdoor Recreation Drives Jobs (Outdoor Rec Industry report): <https://tinyurl.com/2p8r353j>

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