



# NEWSLETTER

SEPT  
2023

PO Box 100627; Anchorage, AK 99510-0264

907/334-8049

[www.alaska-trails.org](http://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 organization for each event. In the spirit of Arctic Entries, storytellers will share seven-minute stories about their trail experiences, adventures, and life in general. Our upcoming 2023 Trail Tales events will be held at the Anchorage Museum and tickets cost \$20.

Our next event will be on Tuesday, September 19, at 7 p.m. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are on sale now! Put the other Trail Tales events on your calendar:

- Tuesday, October 17
- Wednesday, November 15
- Tuesday, December 5

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



### THERE'S STILL TIME TO JOIN IN THE GREAT ALASKA DUCK RACE!

**BUY TICKETS** Alaska Trails is lucky enough to once again be a part of the Great Alaska Duck Race! We benefit from each ticket you buy. **Tickets will be for sale up through the day of the race.** You will have a chance to win up to \$10,000! **Ducks will race on September 9 at 5 pm** from the Ship Creek Overlook Park Bridge to the Bait Shack just below the Bridge Restaurant on lower Ship Creek in Anchorage. Winners need not be present to win. If you buy \$100 worth, you get an extra ticket and a Muck (moose/duck combo)! Buy your tickets today, and we hope you get the lucky duck!



<https://tickets.greatalaskaduckrace.org/akexcel/t/alaskatrails/Team/Details>

### ALASKA TRAVERSE: NEW NAME FOR ALASKA LONG TRAIL

Alaska Trails has exciting news to share about the Alaska Long Trail. Since the inception of the current long trail concept in 2021, the name "Alaska Long Trail" has served as a placeholder. For the past year, Alaska Trails and our partners have actively gathered ideas and feedback to choose the name for the trail. At the most recent meeting of the Alaska Long Trail Coalition, a decision was made to formally name the trail as the Alaska Traverse (AKT)!

Below is more information about the naming process. If you would like more information on this change, please contact Alaska Long Trail Project Coordinator Mariyam Medovaya ([mariyam.medovaya@alaska-trails.org](mailto:mariyam.medovaya@alaska-trails.org)/ 907.360.9950). Thank you for your support for this project!

Frequently Asked Questions About the Alaska Traverse, Formerly the Alaska Long Trail

**What is the Alaska Traverse (AKT)?** A work-in-progress world-class trail system connecting 500+ miles of Alaska’s iconic terrain and diverse communities from the Pacific to the Interior, embracing the many ways Alaskans recreate outdoors and attracting visitors from all over the world.

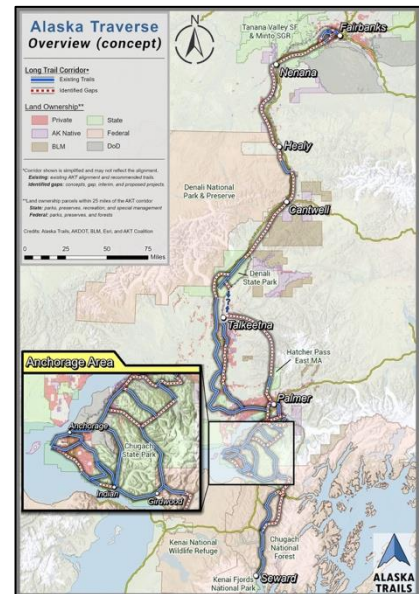
**Wait - isn't this the same as the Alaska Long Trail?** Yes! “The Alaska Long Trail” was the original working name of this concept.

**Why did the name change?** “The Alaska Long Trail” was a placeholder name that was never formally adopted. Throughout 2022 and 2023, Alaska Trails led a process to weigh options for making an official route name, deciding on the Alaska Traverse (AKT) in August 2023.

**Who named the AKT?** Alaska Trails and the coalition of organizations and individuals working on the concept and route, based on extensive input and feedback from stakeholders and the public.

**Why is it called the Alaska Traverse (AKT)?** Alaska Trails, coalition partners, and stakeholders created and weighed a series of criteria when it came to finalizing the name, taking into consideration the following factors:

- Ease and recognizability
- No conflicts with existing long trail names or concepts
- No conflicts with existing organizational names
- Broad support from stakeholders, partners, members, volunteers, and supporters
- A good acronym
- A name that built on existing and/or generated new excitement, both for stakeholders and coalition members, and general supporters
- Reflects the whole of Alaska and its diversity of history, culture and terrain



Ultimately, the Alaska Traverse (AKT) best met these criteria. For more information on the Alaska Traverse, see the Staff Corner feature later in this newsletter.

**SAVE THE DATE: FALL FUNDRAISER SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER**

**ATTEND** You are invited to Alaska Trails' annual fall fundraiser to celebrate our 20th anniversary!



This year, the fundraiser will be held at Hilltop Ski Area on October 12 from 6-9 pm. Tickets are \$50, and appetizers and drinks will be provided. We will have a silent auction with great items from local businesses!

This will be a great opportunity to meet and greet the Alaska Trails board and staff and talk trails with good company. Executive Director Steve Cleary will give an update on all the exciting projects Alaska Trails has been working on and a look at

what's to come this winter and next year. Buy tickets here: <https://www.alaska-trails.org/fall-fundraiser>

## ALASKA TRAIL STEWARDS RELIES ON VOLUNTEERS LIKE YOU

**VOLUNTEER** Have you been having fun getting out on the trails this summer? Would you like to help take care of those trails? Alaska Trail Stewards has several upcoming volunteer events. 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 here: <https://www.alaska-trails.org/current-volunteer-opportunities>



## 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).

## SAVE THE DATE FOR THE LAND MANAGER FORUM IN NOVEMBER

**ATTEND** The annual Alaska Trails Land Manager Forum will happen on Wednesday, November 15, at the BP Energy Center in Anchorage.

Details including agenda, speakers and more will be forthcoming. We hope you can join us to wrap up the trail season and begin planning for next year. You can find out more and view previous years' presentations here: <https://www.alaska-trails.org/land-manager-forum>

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.

## SEEN RECENTLY ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

Aug 29: Big thanks to everyone who came out for an unexpectedly warm and sunny Golden Shovel Celebration at Eklutna Lake this morning! And a special thanks to our speakers, Aaron Leggett (President of the Native Village of Eklutna), Kelly Howell (Chief of Staff to Lt. Governor Nancy Dahlstrom), Senator Bill Wielechowski, Ben Corwin (Chugach State Park Superintendent), Ricky Gease (Alaska State Parks Director), Matt Worden (owner of Lifetime Adventures and Go Hike Alaska), and Will Taygan (Executive



Director of Chugach Mountain Bike Riders). We are thrilled about the support for this project and can't wait to get to work fixing the drainage and erosion challenges of the Eklutna Lakeside Trail!

Aug 23: Huge shoutout to our Alaska Trail Stewards volunteers who brushed 3/4 miles on the Bird Valley



Falls Trail this past Saturday! This event was made possible by a sponsorship from Fuse & Traverse, and we thank them for their generosity!

Our volunteers enjoyed some free drinks at a volunteer social following the event thanks to Midnight Sun Brewing Company! We appreciate the support of our community, making volunteer events

possible and keeping us fed and hydrated!

If you are interested in joining us at a future volunteer event, please visit:

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

Aug 21: Our Board of Directors held their retreat on the trails this weekend, continuing our brushing work on the Gasline Trail in Chugach State Park! They brushed a total of 1100 feet of trail, clearing alders to widen the trail for all trail users to enjoy. Thank you for your hard work and your dedication to Alaska Trails!

If you would like to contribute towards our trail improvement efforts, we still have a number of volunteer events coming up. Learn more and sign up here: <https://www.alaska-trails.org/current-volunteer-opportunities>



Aug 17: Happy National Nonprofit Day! Did you know that Alaska Trails was established as a non-profit in 2003? That means we are celebrating our 20th anniversary this year! In the past 20 years, Alaska Trails has been a catalyst for building and maintaining world-class trails in Alaska. Without the support of our donors, volunteers, and partners, our work would not be possible. We appreciate you and your belief in our mission!



If you are interested in joining our donor community by supporting our work through a one-time or monthly donation, please visit <https://www.alaska-trails.org/donate>

Aug 14: Fifteen dedicated volunteers came out for a day of trail work on the South Fork Eagle River Trail on Saturday! Thanks to their hard work, 225 feet of new trail was constructed, bypassing an old fall-line trail and rerouting it to a lower grade, allowing for long-term sustainability. Big thanks to Chugach Park Fund for sponsoring this event! If you are interested in joining us, please visit:

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



Aug 8: Shoutout to our volunteers who continued extending the Horsetail Falls Connector Trail in Whittier this past Saturday! They finalized some sections that had been previously cleared and built a rock retaining wall and a drainage feature to finish two switchbacks!

Want to join in on the fun? We have a number of upcoming events, and we need YOU to help us build and maintain these trails! Learn more and RSVP here:

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



Aug 6: Last weekend some of our volunteers got to learn from the best! Mike Shields, trail expert who has been designing and building trails since 1960, taught a course on trail hydrology and structures. This course will help our volunteers more confidently lead events to improve our trails, and was made possible thanks to a Strengthening Organizations grant from The Alaska Community Foundation.

Aug 4: Hope you can get outside today for #greatamericanoutdoorsday and celebrate, appreciate, and enjoy our great Alaskan outdoors!

Today we commemorate the third anniversary of the Great American Outdoors Act, signed on August 4, 2020. The legislation established the National Parks and Public Lands Legacy Restoration Fund and guaranteed permanent funding for the existing Land and Water Conservation Fund. This funding is crucial for trail projects in Alaska and across the nation!



Aug 3: Throwback Thursday to a day of trail work earlier this summer on the Ptarmigan Creek INHT Access Trail in Chugach National Forest! Thanks to hardworking volunteers and a partnership with the U.S. Forest Service - Chugach National Forest, 17 retaining logs were reset or replaced and trail tread was improved by spreading gravel, making the trail experience much more pleasant!



This volunteer project was made possible by a Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm National Heritage Area grant, and we can't thank them enough for their support in improving trails for all. If you are interested in volunteering at our future trail work events, please visit:

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

Aug 2: Alaska Trails was lucky enough to have a booth at the Anchorage Economic Development Corporation's luncheon next to the Anchorage Park Foundation, so we were able to tell lots of folks about the Alaska Long Trail, the Moose Loop and much more!

#### ALASKA TRAILS LINKS

- Trail projects seen as positive steps in 500-mile Alaska Traverse plan: <https://tinyurl.com/2p9yr8ky>

### 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](http://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.

## STAFF CORNER

Mariyam Medovaya and Sam Dinges



# New Voices Talking About a New Name



## Progress Continues for the Alaska Long Trail - Now Called the Alaska Traverse (AKT)

By now, you have likely heard of the Alaska Long Trail - a 500-mile conceptual trail connecting Seward to Fairbanks. Alaska Trails, a statewide non-profit, is coordinating this ambitious project, working with a wide coalition of partners including representatives from each region along the route. Since the coalition began working on this trail concept in 2021, the name "Alaska Long Trail" has served as a placeholder. During the past year, Alaska Trails gathered ideas and feedback to select a new name, and finally, in



August 2023, the trail became the Alaska Traverse (AKT)! Work will begin soon on a trail logo and signage.

Apart from the new name, there are other exciting Alaska Traverse developments to share.

For two years in a row, the Alaska State Legislature and Governor Dunleavy have supported Alaska Traverse projects. During the most recent session, the State Legislature funded three Alaska Traverse projects in Chugach State Park for \$1.4 million dollars. These funds will rebuild the Indian Valley Trail along a more sustainable route, repair damaged motorized and non-motorized sections of the Eklutna Lakeside Trail, and support feasibility and alignment research for reestablishing public access to Ram Valley. Much gratitude goes to Senator Bill Wielechowski for championing this project and Governor Dunleavy for retaining these worthy projects through the veto process. Support from Senator Merrick and Representative Saddler were also instrumental in keeping the two Eagle River area projects in the budget.

In the Mat-Su, Alaska DNR recently issued a preliminary approval for a Mat-Su Borough application for a trail connecting Government Peak Recreation Area (GPRA) to Skeetawk and 16 Mile. This segment, the GPRA Traverse, will create 12 miles of new trail in Alaska's second most visited state park and connect the large parking lots at GPRA and Skeetawk to the main Hatcher Pass trail network. Fundraising for this project is currently underway, and this long-awaited decision by DNR is an important step towards connecting the Alaska Traverse to the Mat-Su Borough.



On the federal funding side, Alaska Traverse capital projects in Chugach National Forest and Denali Borough have received over \$10.3 million in federal appropriations since 2021. With these funds, Chugach National Forest will construct several missing segments of the Iditarod National Historic Trail (INHT) and install necessary bridges to complete the INHT section of the Alaska Traverse. Denali

Borough, with the help of AK DOT is completing design and engineering for a section of separated pedestrian pathways along Parks Hwy. Much gratitude is due to Senator Murkowski for championing the Alaska Traverse project and helping to secure the necessary funding through federal appropriations.

Thus far, much of the funding that Alaska Trails and other partners have secured has focused on closing small gaps between existing trails, rerouting unsustainable trail segments, and repairing damaged sections of trails. This approach has helped to both advance the Alaska Traverse project and reduce the backlog of maintenance on our State and Federal lands.

Clearly, momentum is building for the Alaska Traverse. Alaska Trails is grateful to the legislators, funders, donors and volunteers that have helped move this project forward. Together we are improving the existing trails and outdoor recreation infrastructure along the Alaska Traverse and building new trails to create a continuous 500-mile adventure! Learn more:

<https://www.alaska-trails.org/alaska-traverse>

*Mariyam Medovaya is the Alaska Long Trail (now Alaska Traverse) Project Manager at Alaska Trails. Sam Dinges is the Alaska Long Trail (now Alaska Traverse) Mat-Su Coordinator at Alaska Trails.*

## STATEWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

### EVENTS TO CELEBRATE NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY IN SEPTEMBER



**VOLUNTEER** Several events will be held in September across Alaska in celebration of National Public Lands Day.

As of late August, three events were listed on the NPLD website including in Anchorage and Sitka. **See the Southcentral and Southeast sections for more details on those events.**

National Public Lands Day is the nation's largest, single-day volunteer events for public lands, held annually on the fourth Saturday in September. NPLD brings together hundreds of thousands of individuals and organizational volunteers to help restore America's public lands. The event began in 1979. For more info see: <https://www.neefusa.org/npld>

### RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM APPLICATIONS DUE IN OCTOBER

**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. Questions? Contact the State Trails Coordinator at (907) 269-8699.

- Week of August 21, 2023: The current application becomes available online at: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/grants/trails.htm>
- September 30, 2023: The mandatory public notices must be posted by this date.
- October 31, 2023: Applicants must submit their application electronically and/or by mail on a USB flash drive. All applications must be received electronically or postmarked by this date.

For more information see: <https://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/grants/trails.htm>

## BUY AMERICA WAIVER ISSUED FOR SMALL RTP GRANTS, OTHERS

American Trails sent out the following email in August. The waiver affects projects below \$500,000, so that should cover most, if not all, grants issued in Alaska. The maximum Recreational Trails Program grants given out in Alaska are \$300,000: <https://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/grants/trails.htm>

A long-standing impediment to effective implementation of the Recreational Trails Program (and other federal funding of trail projects) has been addressed by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

FHWA published the Waiver of Buy America Requirements for De Minimis Costs and Small Grants. This notice is the waiver: <https://tinyurl.com/4d9wbu4k>. There is no need for waiver applications for projects that meet the criteria of this waiver.

The waiver is applicable only to awards that are obligated or subawards that are made on or after the effective date of the waiver, August 16, 2023. The waiver is applicable to subawards only if the subawards are made by a pass-through entity for a specific project. Electric Vehicle (EV) chargers continue to be subject to the FHWA Buy America EV Charger Waiver.

PLEASE NOTE: If the total amount of the project is below \$500,000, the Buy America requirements for iron, steel, manufactured product, and construction materials is waived. If the total amount of the project is over \$500,000, the allowable threshold for noncompliant products is the lesser of \$1,000,000 or 5% of total applicable costs for the project. However, if the noncompliant products include iron, steel, manufactured products, the FHWA's threshold amount of 0.1% of the total contract amount or \$2,500 applies.

For questions, email Edwin Okonkwo ([Edwin.Okonkwo@dot.gov](mailto:Edwin.Okonkwo@dot.gov)) or Brian Hogge ([Brian.Hogge@dot.gov](mailto:Brian.Hogge@dot.gov)) with the Federal Highway Administration Office of Infrastructure.

## LWCF GRANT APPLICATIONS DUE BY END OF OCTOBER

**APPLY** Application packets for Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) 2024 grants were available starting August 1.

The Alaska Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (DPOR) administers this competitive reimbursable grant program in partnership with the National Park Service. LWCF can provide up to 50% of costs for eligible outdoor recreation projects. An estimated \$1 million in LWCF federal funding will be available in this grant round. Eligible applicants include state, regional, local and tribal governments with the legal authority to provide park and recreation services on public lands. Applications will be accepted by DPOR from August 1 through noon on October 31. For more information, contact the Grants Section Manager Danette Berkovitz ([Danette.Berkovitz@alaska.gov](mailto:Danette.Berkovitz@alaska.gov); 907-269-8706).



## CONFLUENCE CONFERENCE TO BE IN FAIRBANKS IN SEPTEMBER

The 8th Annual Confluence: Summit on the Outdoors heads to Fairbanks, Sept. 26 – 28, where the focus will be on co-creating a vision for a regenerative future and the action steps to make it happen.



Confluence attracts innovative thinkers and doers from public and tribal for-profits, governmental organizations, and non-profit allies involved in outdoor businesses, tourism, culture & heritage, economic development, public health, transportation, and land relationship planning.



This year's conversations will be focused on the intersection of outdoor recreation and regenerative tourism. Confluence helps you get connected, informed, and inspired to co-create a regenerative and equitable outdoor recreation economy.

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

## HELP CLEAN UP TRAILS, MORE DURING NATIONAL CLEAN UP MONTH

**VOLUNTEER** Want to help clean trails with a nationwide effort?

September is CleanUp Month, an effort hosted by the group Clean Trails. The group encourages cleanups to occur on the third Saturday in September, there are many cleanups occurring during the rest of



CleanUp Month. Religious celebrations, desire to schedule on a weekday, tides, weather, pandemics, or events like Public Lands Day create the opportunity to hold your cleanup at a day/time that is convenient.

For 2023, National Clean Up Day is scheduled for September 16. The effort also includes parks, beaches, mountains, and open spaces.

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: [www.nationalcleanupday.org/](http://www.nationalcleanupday.org/)

## ALASKA MOUNTAIN BIKE SUMMIT TO BE HELD IN OCTOBER

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

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

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

Also, listen to this Outdoor Explorer podcast, which has information on the summit and more: <https://tinyurl.com/4y7ushps>



## TAKE CARE ON TRAILS DURING HUNTING SEASON

During hunting season, please take care while using trails and while hunting and target practicing. 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, such a target practicing without a proper backstop or along a trail.

The chances of something happening are low. However, 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)  
[https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5330495.pdf](https://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/>

To find out more about when and where hunting seasons are happening in Alaska see this AK Dept of Fish and Game page:  
<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=hunting.whenwhere>

For specifics you'll need to refer to the Alaska Hunting Regulations:  
<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=wildliferegulations.main>



## SEEN RECENTLY ON STATEWIDE FACEBOOK PAGES

### BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT - ALASKA

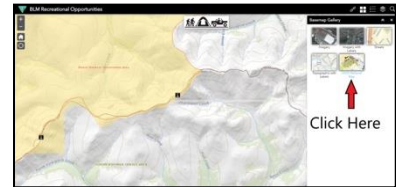


Aug 23: Downloads maps for free to your phone before heading out! These maps will work with your phone's satellite feature, so you know where you are.

Download them here: <https://www.blm.gov/maps/georeferenced-PDFs>

Aug 1: Print small-scale USGS-enriched maps at home!

- 1) Go to: [https://webmaps.blm.gov/program\\_apps/BLM\\_Natl\\_Recreation\\_Opportunities/](https://webmaps.blm.gov/program_apps/BLM_Natl_Recreation_Opportunities/)
- 2) Find your area.
- 3) Click the four squares on the top right of your screen.
- 3) Select "USGS National Map" as a layer from the options.
- 4) Center your area
- 5) Print!



## STATEWIDE LINKS

### SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Anchorage's Heather's Choice considers relocating to grow business: <https://tinyurl.com/2uhc5wx7>
- Statewide General Permit for ROV Use on General State Lands: <http://notice.alaska.gov/211920>
- Annual visitor spending near Alaska's national parks: \$1.2B: <https://tinyurl.com/3u2swvry>

## SOUTHCENTRAL NEWS AND NOTICES

## EVENTS TO CELEBRATE NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY IN SEPTEMBER



**VOLUNTEER** Two events will be held in September in the Anchorage area in celebration of National Public Lands Day. Both involve trail maintenance.

National Public Lands Day is the nation's largest, single-day volunteer events for public lands, held annually on the fourth Saturday in September. NPLD brings together hundreds of thousands of individuals and organizational volunteers to help restore America's public lands.

The event began in 1979. For more info see: <https://www.neefusa.org/npld>

- **Campbell Tract; Saturday, September 23:** <https://tinyurl.com/5n7yub9n>
- **Mt. Baldy Trail Brushing and Tread Work, Sept 23:** <https://tinyurl.com/47c5ntyj>

## MOOSE LOOP CHALLENGE SUPPORTS PARK FOUNDATION

**PARTICIPATE** Come out in September to join in the Moose Loop Challenge and support the Anchorage Park Foundation.

This family-friendly challenge, which runs from **September 23 to 30**, is a great way to stay active outdoors in the fall by running, walking, or biking on the Moose Loop trails (or anywhere). Choose your distance and complete it on your own time at your own pace. **Registration is \$35 for adults and kids under 18 are free.**

**Sign up here:**

<https://runsignup.com/Race/AK/Anchorage/TheMooseLoopRace>

This weeklong challenge is an annual fundraiser for the Anchorage Park Foundation. Everyone who registers will receive an awesome Westchester Lagoon (Chanshtnu) sticker as their sticky badge of honor. All participants have a chance of winning an Apple Watch donated by GCI and other cool swag from Skinny Raven, Bear Tooth Theatrepub, and The Alaska Club.



## HELP NEEDED ON TWO KODIAK ISLAND TRAIL PROJECTS

**VOLUNTEER** Kodiak's Island Trails Network is looking for a few volunteers for a couple of trail projects. These notices were in a recent email.

### Connecting Community Path

Join the Connecting Community Path volunteers for a work day on **Sept 5, 2023, at 10:00am**. Meet the work crew at Burma Road parking lot, right across the road from the airport. Bring your gloves, bug spray, water, food, PPE and hand tools if you have them (rakes and shovels). Email us if you have any questions:

<https://www.islandtrails.org/contact.html>

### Saltery Cove Trail

Still looking for a few more volunteers that would like to help haul materials for the Saltery Cove Trail project, specifically the trail from Saltery Lake to Lake Miam. You can use your own machine or use one of ours. If you can help send an email: <https://www.islandtrails.org/contact.html>



### Also: Join a Board

- The Kodiak Island Borough has two vacant seats on its Parks and Recreation Committee. Contact KIB Community Development for information: (907) 486-9363
- Kodiak Area State Parks Advisory Board has two vacant seats. Find out more at: <https://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/misc/kodiakadviseboard.htm>

## LONG-RANGE ANCHORAGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN INCLUDES TRAILS

**COMMENT** The Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) is the primary tool used by the Anchorage Metropolitan Area Transportation Solutions (AMATS) to plan for long-range transportation needs and recommend solutions based on anticipated funding availability over a minimum 20-year horizon. The MTP includes the whole transportation system in the Anchorage Bowl and Chugiak-Eagle River: streets,

sidewalks and pathways, trails, public transit, freeways, highways, and freight mobility. **The DRAFT 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan has been released for a 60-day public comment period through October 9.** Please visit [https://publicinput.com/2050\\_mtp](https://publicinput.com/2050_mtp) to review the plan, related planning documents, and an interactive map of recommended projects.

## KENAI -TURNAGAIN GROUP PUTS ON TRAIL CHALLENGE

**PARTICIPATE** The KMTA Trail Challenge is finally here, running from June 28th to September 30th, and it promises to be an incredible experience! Today is the perfect day to register and secure your spot.

So, what do you get when you join? A LOT! You'll receive:

- a custom-designed @bocogear hat, water bottle and sticker
- opportunities to win awesome prizes (some valued at \$500+) by tagging us and sponsors in photos on social media
- the chance to win top mileage and elevation prizes at the end of the challenge, and a whole lot more.
- PLUS, your \$50 registration fee helps support our efforts to expand access to inclusive, trail-based education through the purchase of a passenger van.



This is a critical fundraiser for us, as transportation remains a huge barrier in our ability to provide local kids with the experiences they deserve but don't currently have. KMTA has invested over \$410,000 to preserve the integrity of our trails, and now we need your help to make them more accessible.

Trails and the outdoors should be for everyone. By joining the trail challenge, you'll not only get to explore the beauty of our National Heritage Area through a unique event, but you'll also be making a difference in the lives of Alaskan youth.

Learn more and register now by visiting our website: <https://kmtacorridor.org/trail-challenge/>

## SEEN RECENTLY ON SOUTHCENTRAL FACEBOOK PAGES

### ANCHORAGE PARKS AND RECREATION

August 2: TRAIL DETOUR 📌

Heads up, Anchorage! Russian Jack Springs Park trail system is getting a facelift, and portions will be closed starting tomorrow (8/3) to do some much-needed trail and bridge improvements including removing tree roots, paving, and replacing an aging bridge! Please avoid construction areas, and utilize marked trail detours (see map).



If you want to learn more about this project, check out: <https://tinyurl.com/jdt3rs36>

### ANCHORAGE PARK FOUNDATION

Aug 15: The ribbon has been cut on Anchorage's newest outdoor learning lab at Forsythe Park! Many thanks to teacher Mandy Anderson and her 5th grade students, and all the volunteers and partners, including Rasmuson Foundation, Anchorage Parks and Recreation, O'Malley Elementary PTA, Hillside Community Council members, Treeline Construction, Fibergrate, Spenard Builders Supply, Conoco Phillips and more.



Plan your visit to walk the trails and see the new learning platform, accessibility features on the bridge, English and French tree info, Schools on Trails maps and poetry in the park. Thank you to all!

### SINGLETRACK ADVOCATES



Aug 23: Construction has started on the Service Singletrack Project! Happy Trails has started working. Please respect the signage to stay off the construction area. We really need your help raising money to build out the whole project! You can donate and check out project details through our website. Thanks for your support! We are pumped to bring you new trails!

### BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT - ALASKA

Aug 29: Wind storms and dead spruce trees are a recipe for disaster. Last Saturday, wind storms in Anchorage toppled many beetle-killed spruce trees onto Campbell Tract trails. The BLM has cleared most of the trails.

Removing dead, hazardous trees is planned for future winters (to minimize surface disturbance and vegetation damage).

Photo by BLM.



### CHUGACH MOUNTAIN BIKE RIDERS



Aug 16: What works better than “STAY OFF MUDDY TRAILS” signs? Building a sweet 3/4 mile four-season loop at Mirror Lake!

This gravel trail will be open year-round to hikers and riders, and provides a shortcut from the trailhead to the new jump lines.

(And yes, we’re also capping the big chunky gravel from last year with a nice smooth tread.)

### MAT-SU BOROUGH RECREATION AND LIBRARY SERVICES

August 22: The MSB Trail Crew is still hard at work. They recently packed up all the pieces of a new picnic table to replace the picnic table on Mat Peak. They then assembled the new table on site. This should make for a very nice rest spot for years to come. We hope you can get up there and enjoy it!



August 7: Believe it or not, our summer Trail Crew season is winding down. We have already had two depart the team so that they can go back to school, with five more leaving in the next few weeks. It has been a very productive summer, filled with fun and challenging projects. It was amazing to see how hard this group of young people were willing to work, in all weather conditions, and tough environments. Thank you to our Crew and best of luck with your future endeavors. A few of the Crew will continue to work into early October and there is still plenty of work out there to keep us busy until the snow flies.



### FRIENDS OF KACHEMAK BAY STATE PARKS

August 7: Volunteers Charlie and Andy cleared ALL the downed trees on Sadie Knob trail today! It was a very LONG day for them, making trails hikeable for others. KBSP Trails depend on volunteers. These 2 also took time out of their lives for the



free FK BSP 2 day chainsaw safety class in order to be approved to use Friends chainsaws. 🙌 Be a volunteer, thank a volunteer, or donate if you can. Every bit helps. 🙌  
<https://www.friendsofkachemakbay.org/>

#### August 4: **SEEKING A VOLUNTEER TO TAKE OVER MAKING SIGNS FOR FK BSP**. SOME DETAILS:



It is a delicate machine, needs to be in a warm dry room probably 10' x 10'. It needs tender loving care. The machine is 4' wide by 2' deep by 17" tall. It is on a table you are welcome to have. It is in my basement work room; it is noisy when it is making a sign and takes about an hour. Google Shapeoko for details, it is a 3D Shapeoko carbide CNC. Computer knowledge and a shop vac are needed. There are three phases to it working: entering the sign details on the computer, moving those details to the Shapeoko software and 3 making the sign. Joseph (grandson) is willing to provide 1 hr of training on each of those 3 phases to help one get started.

Dave Brann and others have been providing the boards to make signs and once the sign boards are routed out, the letters/numbers are painted in. If interested, please contact: [kbspstrails@gmail.com](mailto:kbspstrails@gmail.com)

#### HOMER TRAILS ALLIANCE

Aug 12: The Sterling Highway MP 157-169 Rehabilitation Project is barreling down the highway through Homer's Gateway. The design includes a north bound turn lane at the Diamond Ridge/Alaska State Parks, (ASP) Diamond Creek State Recreation Site, (DCSRS) intersection and a south bound passing lane beginning near MP 167.5 (Diamond Creek crossing). The existing multi-plate tunnel over Diamond Creek will be replaced.

**We encourage everyone with concerns regarding this project's effect on the nearly 1000 acres of public recreation lands within the Diamond Creek watershed to please direct comments in support of a pedestrian underpass to be added to the design at this location.**

An underpass will provide safe, pedestrian connectivity between the 300-acre ASP DCSRS on the west side of the highway to the 273-acre City of Homer, (COH) owned Diamond Creek Recreation Area, (DCRA) and the 360 acre DNR owned Homer Demonstration Forest, (HDF) on the east side. The underpass is called for in the DCRA Multi Resource Management Plan prepared by Homer Soil and Water Conservation District and adopted by COH in May of 2013.

This is our one and only chance to implement this portion of the management plan which will provide the only safe pedestrian highway crossing over this two-mile stretch of highway.

Comments are due on the STIP by Sept. 3.

STIP #2670 should be referenced.

<https://publicinput.com/r6552>



August 3: If you are in Homer Saw and Cycle, please thank them for their donations to support local trails!



August 3: Out with the Old and in with the New. Many thanks to the Homer Foundation's Youth Advisory Committee for a grant to improve the Homestead Trail. Come walk the trail and see what a difference these funds have made! Not only will your feet stay drier, but the improvements will also help make future maintenance easier.

For more information and maps, go to <https://homertrailsalliance.org>

## SOUTHCENTRAL LINKS

- Public Access Easement amendment - Twentymile River area: <http://notice.alaska.gov/212069>
- Risk of human-bear conflict closes Eagle River Albert Loop Trail: <https://tinyurl.com/vpz3v47>
- Exploring the Grewingk Glacier Trails and Hand Tram: <https://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/asp/parksblog.htm>
- (Kodiak) Island Trails Network Summer Newsletter: <https://tinyurl.com/ycxavurk>
- Homer Trails Alliance Seeks Public Help To Alter STIP Plan: <https://tinyurl.com/2s4b7xbt>
- Seeking to block Fish Creek Trail Connection, family applies to lease land: <https://tinyurl.com/uchypvv>

## SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Climbing Devil's Mistress & Sunlight Mountain, Chugach State Park: <https://tinyurl.com/mr29pn2u>
- Alaska Cabins Project, USDA Forest Service, NFF partnership: <https://tinyurl.com/29c89fry>
- Outdoor Explorer: Mountain biking Eagle River and the Mat-Su: <https://tinyurl.com/4y7ushps>

## INTERIORWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

### JACOBS TAKES OVER AS FAIRBANKS BORO TRAILS COORDINATOR

The Fairbanks North Star Borough has a new Trails Coordinator.

Andrea Jacobs was hired to replace Bryant Wright, who left earlier this year to take a job as a planner with a consulting firm. Fortunately for Jacobs, the contentious Fairbanks Comprehensive Trails Plan update was passed in June. (See a story about that here: <https://tinyurl.com/24kzv6r>.) Jacobs sent this photo and short biography. You can send her an email welcome at: [andrea.jacobs@fnbs.gov](mailto:andrea.jacobs@fnbs.gov)

My current professional path began with a broad interest in exploring connections between people and landscapes and has since evolved into a desire to advocate for quality outdoor recreation experiences at the community level.



I've held a variety of positions related to outdoor recreation from guiding to researching backpacker's perceptions of wilderness during a summer in Yosemite National Park. In 2021, I received my undergraduate degree from Oregon State University studying Natural Resources with a Public Lands Management and Adventure Leadership focus. I then entered Utah State University's Master of Science in Recreation Resource Management program and studied how visitation patterns shift when changes are introduced in the recreation and tourism system of Moab, Utah.

I also volunteer as an Event Coordinator with SheJumps, a non-profit which aims to increase the participation of women and girls in

outdoor activities.

Aside from the professional parts of my life, my favorite way to recreate is by spending long days running trails or climbing mountains with my dog, Jovie – and skiing with my two kids who are 11 and 8. I also enjoy reading, creating art, playing board games, and keeping a collection of over 40 and counting houseplants alive. I believe trails are one of the most valuable aspects of a healthy community, and I look forward to serving the trail users of Fairbanks North Star Borough through this position.

## BOROUGH CAPITAL PROJECTS LIST COULD INCLUDE TRAILS

**NOMINATE** Consider adding a trails project to the borough’s project list.

The Fairbanks North Star Borough is accepting nominations for its Capital Improvement Project list. Several projects already on the list are trail-focused or have trail components, including the Public Community Trails Improvement Program (aka Trail-a-Year), Chena Lake Area Revitalization, Peede Road Recreation Development, Isberg Recreation Area Master Plan Implementation, Tanana Lakes Master Plan Implementation, Equinox Trail Extension and Completion, and Skyline Ridge Park Trail System Development.



While the trails improvement program is funded for each year, most of the rest are scheduled far out in the funding cycles.

Still, having trail projects on the plan is important. Sometimes state or federal funds become available for specific projects, such as trail projects, and so a project can get bumped up the list.

Find out more about the borough’s Capital Improvement Project process, **including how to nominate a project**, here: <https://www.fnsb.gov/CIP>

See a Fairbanks Daily News-Miner story about the process opening to nominations here: <https://tinyurl.com/4pyh5pcp>

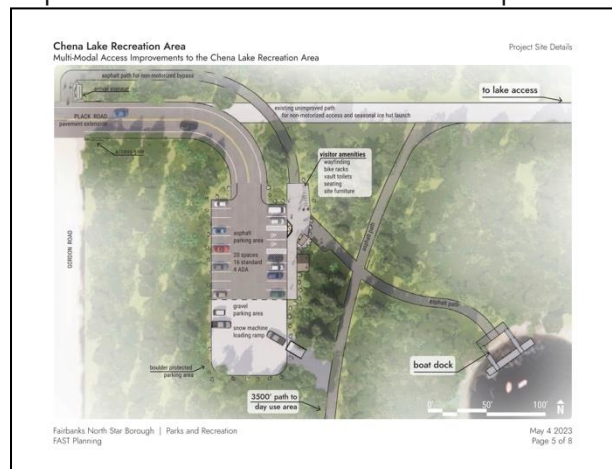
## NEW ENTRANCE FOR CHENA LAKE RECREATION AREA PLANNED

The Chena Lake Recreation Area (CLRA) will have a new public entrance thanks to an ordinance passed on August 10 by the Fairbanks Borough Assembly.

The new entrance will include a boat dock, a parking area – including snowmachine loading ramp – and a path that connects to the park’s existing infrastructure.

The ordinance appropriates \$366,984 from the general fund to be used as a required match for the Chena Lake Bike/Ped Path Project. That amount is about 10 percent of the total cost of the project.

This project will create a second entrance into CLRA via Plack Road providing improved and direct access to the rec area for locals and non-local visitors. This project should encourage people to do a variety of activities, non-motorized in summer, multi-use motorized in winter. It should also help residents drive less to access the recreation area.



The planning and design phase for this project will take a couple of years, according to Trisha Levasseur, Fairbanks borough parks project coordinator.

“There will be some public meetings along the way for that surrounding neighborhood and I’m sure



anyone that would like to join,” she said.

To see more graphics showing plans for this project see: <https://tinyurl.com/yp953kbd>

Read more about the project in this Fairbanks Daily News-Miner story: <https://tinyurl.com/tzb3rdnv>

## TWO TRAIL-RELATED ITEMS COMING BEFORE FAIRBANKS ASSEMBLY

**TESTIFY/COMMENT** The public should have a chance to comment on two trail-related items coming before the Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly in September. Both are expected to come before the Assembly at its regular meeting on Sept. 14.

- Ordinance 2023-50: This will codify all the recommendations from the borough Platting Board. You can read about those here: <https://tinyurl.com/37r693td>. You can see the ordinance here: <https://tinyurl.com/2ja8fkc7>
- A resolution (not given a number yet): This would allow funds from the Public Community Trails Improvement Program (aka Trail-a-Year) to be used for acquiring trail easements.

These are reasonable changes that would benefit from support by the public. **You can attend the meeting (virtually or in-person) and testify or contact Assembly members via email and/or phone before the meeting.**

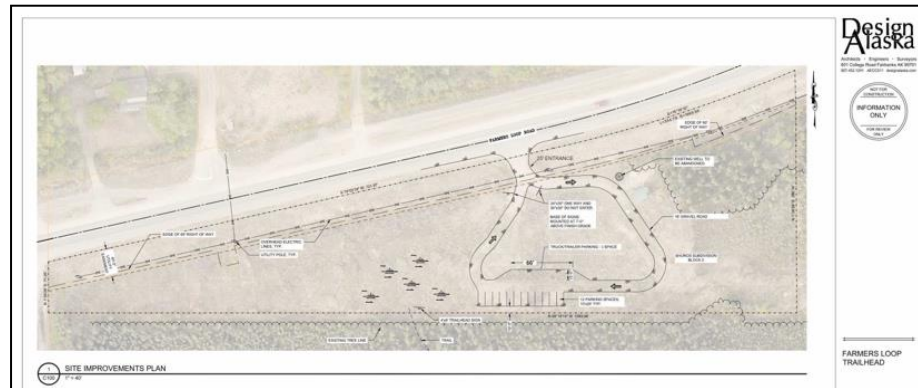
- Attend and/or testify: <https://fnsb.gov/415/Stay-Connected-with-the-Assembly>
- Contact Assembly Members: <https://fnsb.gov/Directory.aspx?DID=64>

## TRAILHEAD WOULD ALLOW NEW ACCESS TO CREAMER’S REFUGE

A project to create a new trailhead for the Creamer’s Field Migratory Wildlife Refuge has been given approval by the Fairbanks borough.

The Fairbanks borough Planning Commission approved a Conditional Use Permit to the Interior

Alaska Land Trust. The trust plans to build the trailhead, with parking, just off Farmer’s Loop Road on the south side, just to the east of Shuros Drive. The commission has required that the trust install a gate and bollards to prevent motorized access. (Another



trailhead, with poorer access and parking, exists just to the west on the south side across from Shuros Drive. Snowmachine access is permitted from there.)

The new parking lot would hold about cars 10-12 cars. Users will have direct and better access to the trailhead than the existing trailhead.

The trust plans to get as much work done as possible before winter sets in. For more information, see this story that was written before the Planning Commission meeting: <https://tinyurl.com/mrx7zbnv>

## CHALLENGE OFFERS OPPORTUNITIES TO FIND TRAILS IN INTERIOR

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

The challenge started June 20 and lasts until September 30. There are again three award categories: Trailblazer, Junior Trailblazer, and Sourdough Trailblazer. Trailblazers are 10 years old and up

and must find at least 10 signs. Junior Trailblazers are up to 9 years old and must find five signs. Sourdough Trailblazers are at least 60 years old and must find five signs.

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

Anyone is allowed to participate in the search. When you find a sign, mark it off on your checklist, which you get when you register. You no longer need to prove you nabbed a sign by taking a selfie, but participants are still encouraged to take the photos and post them on social media with the hashtag "#FNSBTrails". Putting it on the Trails Challenge Facebook page is a great way to share. And of course, leave the sign to be found by the next trail challenge participant.

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

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

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

Get your Trails Challenge Guide here:

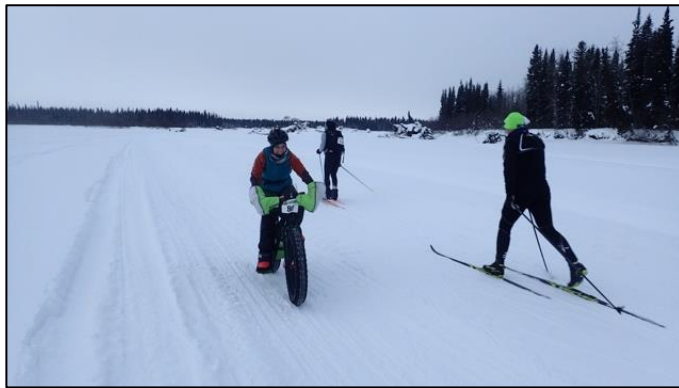
[https://issuu.com/fnsbparksandrec/docs/summer\\_trails\\_guide\\_23](https://issuu.com/fnsbparksandrec/docs/summer_trails_guide_23)

*Photo from Trails Challenge Facebook Event page.*



## ENDURANCE RACE ORGANIZATION SEEKS NEW LEADERSHIP

Endurance North — which oversees the White Mountains 100, Chena River to Ridge, and Tanana River Challenge — is looking for someone with the time and dedication to take over as president. At minimum,



the board, paperwork, and finances just need to be kept up. Through Endurance North the races share things like a trailer, gear, insurance, etc.

But if you're interested, this organization has a lot more potential to help further endurance racing in Interior Alaska. It could organize winter trail grooming so that racers have a place to practice and race. It could help anyone else who wants to start another winter race. Heck, it could help

someone start a summer endurance race.

Are you interested in helping make any of that happen? Are you interested but a bit daunted by the task? You could always bring on more interested folks to help the team!

Endurance North has a ton of potential, but if someone doesn't step up, the organization could dissolve.

Are you interested in helping? If so, contact Nikki Potter at [nikki.m.phillips@gmail.com](mailto:nikki.m.phillips@gmail.com)

*Photo of Tanana River Challenge by Eric Troyer*

## SEEN RECENTLY ON INTERIOR FACEBOOK PAGES

### BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT - ALASKA

Bureau of Land Management - Alaska



Aug 30: #TrailUpdate.

The Bureau of Land Management collaborated with Tread Lightly! to restore the first six miles of the Wickersham Creek Trail. Seventy-three drainage features were modified or rebuilt to improve water flow, allowing the trail to drain.

Find a good trail for you in the White Mountains here:

<https://ow.ly/goCk50PG5mi>

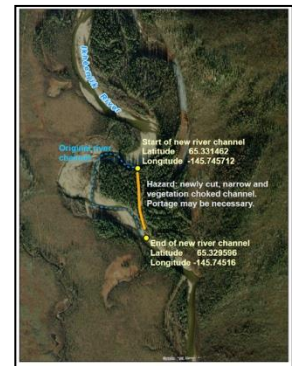
Photo courtesy of Tread Lightly!

Aug 9: ⚠️ New river hazard on upper Birch Creek Wild and Scenic River! We received a report that the river has cut a new channel just a few miles downriver from the put-in at the Upper Birch Creek Wayside.

🛶 At the current, low flow river levels, the entire river flows into the new, debris-choked channel. A ¼ mile portage around the bend may be necessary, starting at Latitude N 65.331462, Longitude W -145.745712.

👁️ New river channels can take years to clear debris and become safe to float through. Boaters should plan to scout the hazard and be prepared to portage gear around it.

? If you have questions, contact the BLM Public Room in Fairbanks at (907) 474-2200 or toll-free at 1 (800) 437-7021.



Aug 9: Unit 25C hunters should be aware of significant changes to motor vehicle limitations in the



White Mountains National Recreation Area's Nome Creek Valley and throughout much of the Steese National Conservation Area to protect sensitive resources during the summer, May 1 – October 14.

Motor vehicles must remain on BLM routes designated for their use unless traveling in an area designated open to cross-country motorized travel. Many of the BLM's georeferenced PDF maps include information about motor vehicle limitations.

#KnowBeforeYouGo - OHVs are permitted in some places and not in others as you cross between federal and state lands. Many of the BLM's georeferenced PDF maps for the area include information about the motor vehicle limitations, including the new summer recreation map:

<https://tinyurl.com/y9rwzaky>

Browse the entire collection here: <https://www.blm.gov/maps/georeferenced-PDFs>

Photo by Jim Herriges, BLM.

### FAIRBANKS TRAIL AND WATERWAY USERS

Aug 29: Ester Dome trail users: Remember that the Equinox Marathon will be held on September 16. People should avoid using the top of Ester Dome Road because of the marathon. Driving to the top of Ester Dome will be difficult until late afternoon due all the activity.

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

Aug 26: Even though the Aurora Bridge Project has been delayed and will not be finished until next summer, Noyes Slough will be open for travel when frozen this winter. The state Department of Transportation does not intend to block it off, except for the time when it is placing the girders in October.



Aug 17: DOT is out fixing the bike/ped path along Ballaine Road out in Goldstream. Filling the flooded parts of the path with gravel. Probably calls from the public brought it to their attention. Thanks to everyone who called or emailed. And thanks to DOT for getting it done.

Aug 17: From Ruth Henry of the Copper Country Alliance:

The University of Alaska has selected 7,000 acres of public land near Tangle Lakes as part of its land grant entitlement. If transferred to UA, those lands would be used to raise funds and would no longer be public.

Yes, the University is vital for higher education, the arts, and northern research, but it can find other lands that are less scenic, less important to wildlife, and less treasured by Alaskans. Right now, is the time to tell the University, DNR, and BLM how much the Denali Highway means to you...just the way it is.



Please contact: University of Alaska Land Management: Adrienne K. Stolpe, Director, 907-7866, [akstolpe@alaska.edu](mailto:akstolpe@alaska.edu) and cc: [lacy.hamner@alaska.gov](mailto:lacy.hamner@alaska.gov) For more information:

<https://tinyurl.com/2mj92yew>

Photo of Upper Tangle Lake by Eric Troyer

## NORDIC SKI CLUB OF FAIRBANKS

August 1: As Birch Hill Rec Area summer trails users know, the grass can get a bit on the long side on some of the trails before the FNSB Parks & Rec Department does the fall mowing before ski season starts.



Last winter the Nordic Ski Club of Fairbanks got a 2010 Kubota mower from the Borough that was going to be surplus. Thank you to Mayor Ward and the Borough Assembly for making it happen! The NSCF groomers have been putting it to good use mowing the trails at Birch Hill. Since the first of July most trails have been mowed. The groomers are currently working their way out the White Bear.

If you are enjoying the club's mowing efforts, please **consider making a donation** to the Birch Hill Trail fund to help cover the cost of fuel, maintenance of the mower, and wages for the groomers. Thank you! <https://nordicskicluboffairbanks.wildapricot.org/Donate/>

## FAIRBANKS CYCLE CLUB

Aug 15: If you like to use the Chinook and Blackhawk singletrack trails on Birch Hill, **consider a donation** to the Nordic Ski Club of Fairbanks trails fund. The ski club recently brushed the trails and smoothed out the ruts that have been in those trails for years. If you don't know these dirt trails, they are fun rolling trails off the Sonot Connector. You can find them on Trail Forks.

<https://www.trailforks.com/trails/chinook-303344/>

<https://www.trailforks.com/trails/blackhawk-loop-303343/>

<https://nordicskicluboffairbanks.wildapricot.org/Donate/>



## DELTA JUNCTION TRAILS ASSOCIATION



Aug 24: Come brush off at the newly installed "Clean Play Go" Boot Brush Stations at the Liewer and River Walk Park trails. Thank you, Summer Nay, Invasive Plants Program Coordinator, Salcha-Delta Delta Soil and Water Conservation District, for helping us manage our trails! Plus a big thanks to Mrs. Kovalenko's Delta Junction High School class for their help with the install.

## INTERIOR LINKS

- Escaping the Smoke (biking, hiking along Richardson Highway): <https://tinyurl.com/3dy2ztv4>
- White Mountains Nat Rec Area reopens due to reduced wildfire activity: <https://tinyurl.com/486vnxb5>

## SOUTHEAST NEWS AND NOTICES

### EVENT CELEBRATES NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY IN SEPTEMBER



**VOLUNTEER** One event will be held in September in the Sitka area in celebration of National Public Lands Day.

National Public Lands Day is the nation's largest, single-day volunteer events for public lands. NPLD brings together hundreds of thousands of individuals and organizational volunteers to help restore America's public lands. The event began in 1979. For more info see:

<https://www.neefusa.org/npld>

- Harbor Mountain Trail Improvement Party, September 16: <https://tinyurl.com/zkzh7ju9>

### SEEN RECENTLY ON SOUTHEAST FACEBOOK PAGES

#### SITKA TRAIL WORKS, INC.

Aug 25: Sitka Trail Works is all about partnerships that get more done with less! When the FAA reached out to ask if we could salvage any lumber they were scrapping, we reached out to our partners. We were able to share a large portion with State Parks, who will be putting this lumber to use on the Mosquito Cove Trail. Thanks Team!



Aug 17: While we did many more small projects during our two weeks trail crew experience, our third and final large project was on the trail to Medvejie Lake from the Hatchery. There were many points where the brush was too overgrown to easily find the trail. We were able to clear up a significant amount of the growth to make this trail more accessible for all. We were also able to pack a chainsaw in and clear multiple blowdown sites from recent storms that were making this hike more difficult. It was so fun taking to the field with our small crew, if this work sounds interesting to you, stay tuned for future volunteer opportunities with Sitka Trail Works!



Aug 16: Our second trail maintenance project last week was working on the Ice Trail in the Russian Orthodox Cemetery. All the cemeteries in Sitka are maintained by Bob Sam, an elder who volunteers his time to care for these important sites. We worked with Bob throughout the summer and when we said we had a crew ready to work, this was the trail he wanted us to focus on. It is a neighborhood connector right in town that is



utilized by many. The trail was previously very narrow and had a large root system that created a high step, making the trail inaccessible to many. Our team dug out the trail to expand the tread and cut out the root system so the terrain is now even. All in a day's work! Thank you to Bob Sam for his hard work, keeping these places beautiful for all to enjoy.

Aug 14: Last week, STW staff took to the field with our @tlingithaida interns to work on trail maintenance.



Today, we are highlighting the work we did on the Cross Trail Connector from Charteris Street. When we arrived, the trail was washed out due to ineffective water drainage. As a solution, the team dug out the trail and used rocks found around the area, to install a drainage system where water flows through larger rocks beneath the trail. We distributed smaller gravel above as the trail, and the water successfully flows underneath, preventing future washing out of the trail. If you haven't hiked it recently, be sure to check out this neighborhood connector to enjoy its new upgrades!

Aug 8: Sitka Trail Works sends a huge thank you to all of the incredible volunteers that helped improve the Salmon Lake Trail this past weekend! We got a ton of gravel work done that will make this trail and the cabin more accessible for everyone who uses it. We look forward to hosting more volunteer trips in the future!

🇺🇸 : @alexlkelsey



## TRAIL MIX, INC.



August 15: Here's to another Transformation Tuesday: Watching the Auk Nu Trail evolve last season was pure magic ✨

Hats off to the trail crew for all their sweat and dedication. Here's to every step taken and memory made. 🌲 👣

## SOUTHEAST LINK

- Climbing Bear Mountain in Sitka (video): [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KJU82Z\\_SnAc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KJU82Z_SnAc)

## NATIONWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

### BREWING COMPANY OFFERS GRANTS FOR TRAILS

**APPLY** The deadline for the Athletic Brewing Company's "Two For The Trails" program is September 10.



Athletic Brewing, a leading producer of non-alcoholic craft beer, has committed to giving back up to \$2 million annually to protect and restore outdoor spaces across the globe through this program. Since 2018, Athletic Brewing has donated over \$2.6 million to more than 150 outdoor organizations.

"Our Two For The Trails program has blossomed into one of the most impactful of its kind over the last five years," said Athletic Brewing Co-Founder and CEO Bill Shufelt.

"In 2018, we donated \$6,000 to one partner. As we've grown, we've been able to support hundreds of organizations and projects across the globe."

Each year, Athletic Brewing accepts applications to fund projects related to trail construction and maintenance, waterway protection, environmental education, and stewardship.

To find out more see a longer version of this press release: <https://tinyurl.com/mt8j3ern>

To apply for a grant, see: <https://athleticbrewing.com/pages/two-for-the-trails>

## HIKING SOCIETY VOLUNTEER HOST APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

**APPLY** 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 and hosted by BLM, NPS, USDA-FS, USFWS, state parks, trail organizations and other nonprofit partner groups across the country.

Most projects are one-week or shorter in length, consist of 6-15 crew members, and involve trail maintenance and building tasks on hiking trails on public lands. Alternative Breaks are volunteer trail stewardship projects designed specifically for college student groups and young professionals to complete during their spring breaks. **Find out more about hosting a Volunteer Vacation or Alternative Break and submit your host application now!** <https://americanhiking.org/volunteer-vacations/>

## 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](http://www.americantrails.org/training/calendar)

*TRAILS-RELATED NEWSLETTERS*

- American Trails "Trail Tracks": [www.americantrails.org/newsletter](http://www.americantrails.org/newsletter)

### **VOLUNTEER**

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

### **FUNDING**

- FOX Factory Trail Trust (**applications reviewed quarterly**): <https://trailtrust.com/>
- Yamaha Outdoor Access Initiative (OHVs, **quarterly deadlines**): <https://yamahaoai.com/>
- Federal Highway Admin funding chart (has trails-related categories): <https://tinyurl.com/yb7m356u>
- Clif Family Foundation grants (for groups; ddline Feb 1, June 1, **Oct 1**): <https://tinyurl.com/5bku286n>

*OTHER LINKS:*

- Why Trails Matter: Resilience to Wildfire: <https://tinyurl.com/e427vw6h>
- Report of National Trails Agenda Project By American Trails: <https://tinyurl.com/yc6jvh2z>
- Non-Motorized Trail Cost Estimator: <https://tinyurl.com/59vedhe6>

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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](mailto:fbxtrails@gmail.com)