



NEWSLETTER

OCT
2023

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907/334-8049

www.alaska-trails.org

ALASKA TRAILS NEWS AND NOTICES

ALASKA TRAILS' FALL FUNDRAISER SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 12

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>

And here are some of the items included in the silent auction:

- A 3 Day, 2 night stay at the Alaska Wildland Adventures Kenai Riverside Lodge
- A Breezer Radar Expert Gravel/Road Bike, from Downtown Bicycle Rental, Sales & Repair
- Resurrection Bay Flightseeing for Two, provided by Marathon Helicopters
- A Glacier Blue Kayak & Grandview Train Tour, provided by Chugach Adventures
- A 2 night stay at Jeremy's Mountain Chalet in Girdwood for up to 16 guests
- And much more!

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, October 17, at 7 p.m.

Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets will go on sale soon. This event will also benefit Great Land Trust. Put the other Trail Tales event on your calendar:

- Wednesday, November 15 – Challenge Alaska
- Tuesday, December 5 – Healthy Futures

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit:

<https://www.alaska-trails.org/trail-tales>



GENEROUS DONOR GIVES PICKUP TRUCK TO ALASKA TRAILS

Alaska Trails is grateful to Anchorage resident Thomas Pease who recently donated his GMC truck to Alaska Trails. We plan to use the truck for our Youth Employment in Parks (YEP) collaboration. This dependable truck is ready to carry a heavy load and pull a big trailer. The donation will save Alaska Trails \$1200 a month next season as we will not have to lease a truck for the YEP program. Thanks Thomas!



BACK TO ALASKA LONG TRAIL NAME, ALASKA TRAVERSE ON HOLD

In August 2023, the Alaska Long Trail Coalition switched the name of the Alaska Long Trail project to the Alaska Traverse. However, the Coalition has since learned that the project would benefit from keeping its old name, which has been used over the past three years. The trail has an opportunity to be designated as a National Scenic Trail, and keeping the old name will greatly increase chances of success of this designation.

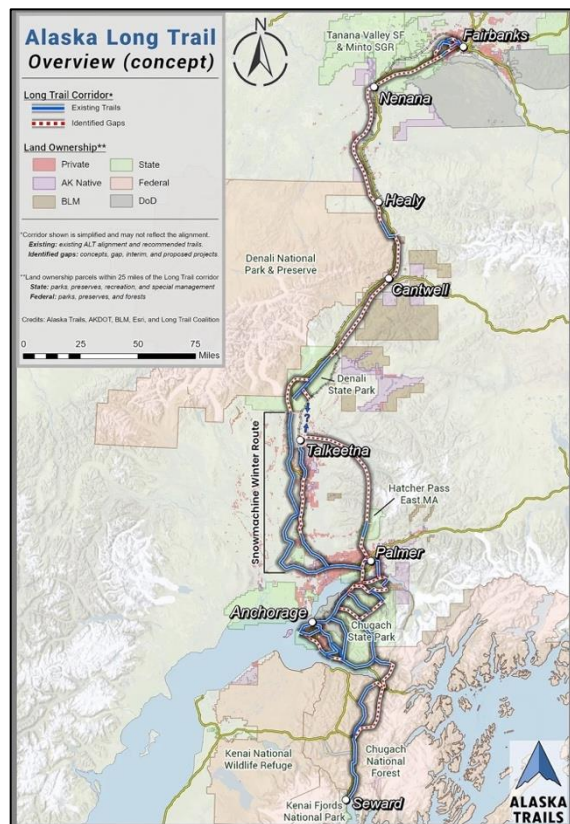
With the help of Senator Murkowski (THANK YOU!), the Congress recently directed the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to conduct the National Scenic Trail feasibility study for the “Alaska Long Trail,” and this language is now part of the National Scenic Trails Act. This means that the BLM will have to refer to the project under that name for the duration of the study, which can take three or more years (average is seven).

After considering the implications of keeping two names for the same project over the next three or more years, it has become clear that this situation would create confusion and possibly pushback, jeopardizing not only the success of the National Scenic Trail feasibility study but also other funding opportunities (state capital budget, federal appropriations, etc). Alaska Trails and partners want to maximize the success of the feasibility study and minimize the confusion about the name of the project, and that’s why the project name is going back to the Alaska Long Trail. At the end of the feasibility study, there will be an opportunity to work with the BLM on a different name for the project, and that

would be the time to suggest the change to the Alaska Traverse or another option.

The National Scenic Trail (NST) system comprises 11 long trails around the country, including the Appalachian Trail and Pacific Crest Trail. The NST designation opens doors to more federal funding in the future and will be critical to the development of the Alaskan long trail. The designation would also bring more nationwide recognition, leading to increased visitation and business to communities along the route. The NST designation does not set restrictions to specific trail use (motorized can be included), and decisions on the trail use are left with land managers such as municipalities, boroughs, and state and federal agencies.

Learn more about the Alaska Long Trail at: <https://www.alaska-trails.org/alaska-long-trail>



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.



More 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

Sept 27: We have some great news to start off your Wednesday! The Little O'Malley trail has new stairs at the top thanks to two of our super volunteers, Blaine and Jean Pierre. This improvement makes the trail even more accessible and safe, since previously it was a slick and steep muddy section. Thanks Blaine and Jean Pierre!

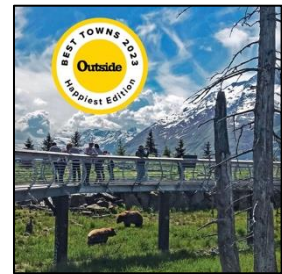


Sept 25: It was a beautiful fall day for trail work on Saturday to celebrate National Public Lands Day! 17 dedicated volunteers brushed a mile of the Mt. Baldy trail! Thanks to Chugach Park Fund for sponsoring this event and to REI for donating giveaway items for after the event!

Sept 19: Outside Magazine has named Anchorage one of the 15 Happiest Towns in America and trails are a big reason!

"When Galen Hecht moved from Santa Fe, New Mexico, to Anchorage, locals teased that he hadn't really moved to Alaska; he'd moved to a city adjacent to the "real" Alaska. But he quickly realized that Anchorage is largely made up of outdoor space. Three-quarters of residents live within minutes of one of its 200-plus parks, and those green spaces are linked by a 500-plus-mile trail network. According to the Anchorage Park Foundation, 95 percent of residents say the trail system—which includes 120 miles of multi-use paths, 105 miles of maintained cross-country ski trails, 87 miles of hiking trails, and 36 miles dedicated to dog mushing—helps make this a great place."

www.outsideonline.com/adventure-travel/destinations/north-america/happiest-places-to-live-us/



Sept 17: Our Alaska Trail Stewards spent some time on the McHugh Lake Trail yesterday, clearing brush and a few fallen trees from the trail. Thank you for your hard work! And a big thanks goes out to CRW Engineering Group, Inc. for sponsoring this event!

Sept 12: Earlier this month, 12 volunteers brushed 2700 feet of the Hidden Lake Trail, just past the German Bridge. We are so grateful for our dedicated volunteers who show up to improve our great trails! And a big thanks to Chugach Park Fund for sponsoring this event!

Sept 11: A small but mighty crew came out to Whittier on Saturday to work on the Horsetail Falls Connector Trail one last time this season. They constructed tread, brushed the trail, built turnpike, and removed alder and salmonberry rhizomes from the trail corridor to help with long-term brush mitigation. Our trails don't build and maintain themselves, so THANK YOU volunteers for all you do!



ALASKA TRAILS LINKS

- Rain Doesn't Stop Anchorage Trail Construction: <https://tinyurl.com/d77kht9f>

SEVERAL EASY WAYS TO HELP FUND ALASKA TRAILS

With the help of other organizations, you can help Alaska Trails continue advocating for trails.

FASHIONPACT: FashionPACT, an Anchorage resale boutique, seeks to strengthen the Anchorage



community by raising funds for local non-profits. You can help by donating gently used clothing, shoes, jewelry, etc. at FashionPACT and choose Alaska Trails. FashionPACT sells the items in their boutique and gives us payment for the things that sell. Learn more

at www.FashionPact.com.

FRED MEYER REWARDS: Sign up for the Community Rewards program by linking your Fred Meyer



Rewards Card to Alaska Trails at www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards. You can search for Alaska Trails or by our nonprofit number – KU871. Then, every time you shop and use your rewards card, you are helping Alaska Trails earn a donation! You still earn your

rewards points, fuel points, and rebates, just as you do today.

GOODSEARCH: GoodSearch.com is a search engine that donates half its revenue, about a penny per



search, to charities designated by the user. You use it just as you would any search engine, and, it's powered by Yahoo!. Just go to www.goodsearch.org and

be sure to enter Alaska Trails as the charity you want to support.

BAGOY'S: Anchorage-based Bagoy's Florist and Home helps through its Helping Hands web fundraising



program (<https://www.bagoys.com/programs/charitable-giving/>). When you order online from Bagoy's (www.bagoys.com) there is a check box at the bottom of the payment page that says "This is a Helping Hands order." When you check that box, the list of enrolled organizations are shown and you can choose Alaska Trails from the list.

ALASKA TRAILS NEEDS YOUR HELP TO PRESERVE, PROMOTE TRAILS

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

All year long we strive to:

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

STATEWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM APPLICATIONS DUE IN OCTOBER

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

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.

- 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>

SNOWMACHINE GROOMING PROGRAM CHANGES DEPARTMENTS

The SnowTrac Program, which provides funding for snowmachine trail grooming, has been moved within the state government. For details, see the following email.

As of July 1, 2023, the administration of the SnowTrac Program has been transferred from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to the State of Alaska Department of Transportation (DOT&PF). The transfer of this program will allow the DOT&PF to explore options to enhance the program funding and eligibility projects for the grantees through leveraging other potential funding sources and partnerships.

The DOT&PF will administer the grant program with a focus on continuing to provide reimbursable grant funds for development and maintenance of trails and trail-related facilities for Snowmachine use.



Snowmachine trail grooming activities are only provided through the program's Grooming Pool. The Grooming Pool is a program that distributes grant funds for grooming, marking, and signing snowmachine trail systems. The program offers the flexibility to use funds where trail grooming is needed around the state.

The Snowmachine Trail Grant Program uses Snowmachine registration fees to support a system of groomed Snowmachine trails in several regions of the state. Funds are used by Snowmachine clubs, non-profits, and businesses to groom and mark trails.

Trails must be legal and approved by the Snowmachine Trail Advisory Council (SnowTRAC). More on this soon!

We are close to stabilizing the program (internal administration details on the transfer and program set up) and preparing an announcement for FY24 funding. I believe I captured all recipients from last

year on this email chain, if I missed anyone, please forward this information on and provide my contact details.

I will let everyone know when the new program website is published and grant application is ready. Our plan is to follow the same timeline as last year when the program was administered via DNR.

We are excited about this opportunity, and look forward to working with all of you. Please contact myself (or Andy Mills) andy.mills@alaska.gov.

Adison Spafford, Community Resiliency Coordinator (adison.spafford@alaska.gov)

Office of the Commissioner, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

Direct: 907.717.8401 • Cell: 907.382.4354

Photo of Denali Highway Trails Club groomer from DHTC Facebook page

CENTRAL HUBS OFFER TRANSPORTATION FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities has two information hubs of interest to trail users and managers.

Transportation Funding Opportunity Hub

The Alaska Transportation Funding Opportunity Hub provides public access to state programs and federal grants that are available to Alaska communities to support transportation improvement across the state. The clearinghouse additionally provides a dashboard of projects that have been submitted for various funding programs. These opportunities include state regulated funding programs such as Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) and Community Transportation Program (CTP), as well as federal Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs). The goal is to corral all the opportunities into one place and help you identify those that are a best fit for your projects.



<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/02a40551dbc64236b5ff6d6c4c43451a/page/Home/>

Photo from the website

The Last Funtier

This site, from the AK Department of Transportation, is a map of known (to DOT) waysides and trails across the state. It includes a survey so that you can let DOT know how it can make improvements to accessing your favorite locations. But note that the survey is set up to get specific information for a single activity.

<https://the-last-funtier-akdot.hub.arcgis.com/>

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; 907-269-8706).

ALASKA MOUNTAIN BIKE SUMMIT TO BE HELD IN OCTOBER

REGISTER 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.

For more information including registration and agenda, visit: <https://mtbsummit.com/>. For questions contact: Will Taygan will@ChugachMTB.org

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



ACTION NEEDED TO HELP SLOW CLIMATE CHANGE

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

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

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

Join Citizen's Climate Lobby

<https://citizensclimatelobby.org/>

Citizen's Climate Lobby is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots advocacy climate change organization focused on national policies to address the climate movement. Go to the website and hover over "Take Action." You can write or call the Alaska delegation in Washington. Sign up for the Monthly Calling Campaign and join with many other people in urging Congress to take steps to help solve climate change.



Take a personal action

Instead of driving a car, commute to work or do an errand by riding a bike, walking, running, using public transportation, or skiing, if you can work that. For every trip you take, you will be reducing your carbon footprint and be making yourself a little healthier.



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

STATEWIDE LINKS

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- They logged on to watch the fat brown bears. They saved a hiker instead: <https://tinyurl.com/428fmm4b>
- Skolai to McCarthy via Doubtful Creek (Luc Mehl): <https://tinyurl.com/2jkr4jiv>
- Teller to Wales (Bjørn Olson): <http://www.mjolnirfbjorn.com/journal/2023/9/15/teller-to-wales>
- Alaska Bear Spray Exchange Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/538082843854862/>

SOUTHCENTRAL NEWS AND NOTICES

VALLEY TRAILS NEWSLETTER INCLUDES BRUSHING NEWS, MORE

The Valley Mountain Bikers and Hikers had some important trail news in recent newsletters:

Trail Brushing

VMBaH was able to pay professionals to brush the trails at GPRA this summer, allowing us to step it up



in other areas of the MatSu. Our trail crew and other volunteers brushed out the Morgan Horse Trail from the Lazy Mountain trailhead to Smith Road in August. We also brushed the connector from Morgan Horse to Lazy Moose and the lowest part of Lazy Moose. We offer a big thank you to the MatSu Trails and Parks Foundation for providing the funding that purchased our brush mower years ago. It's still going strong and clearing the way for these multi-use trails.

Let's Party!

Our annual VMBaH member party will be on Friday, Oct. 27, at the Palmer Depot. Tentative start time is 7pm (check our Facebook page for updates). Join us for food, drinks, live music, and all-around fun! Enter the costume contest. We'll be teaming up with Backcountry Bike and Ski for their annual Alley Cat bicycle-mounted scavenger hunt that will end at the party. Stay tuned as details are finalized.

Seeking Comments: Moose Range Management Plan

Comment on the MatSu Borough's draft Moose Range and Jonesville Public Use Area Management Plan. The Moose Range is a popular fatbiking area in winter, so check out the info and add your thoughts. There are also three public meetings in October (Sutton, Palmer, and Chickaloon).

Comments must be received by DNR by November 9.

<https://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/planning/mgtplans/jonesville-mooserange/>

Bike & Pedestrian Plan Update

On Sept. 26, the Mat-Su Borough Assembly adopted the Bike and Pedestrian Plan. Look for updates on their website and see what is planned and prioritized.

<https://matsugov.us/43-projects/22287-bike-pedestrian-plan>

MAT-SU FOUNDATION GRANT APPLICATION DEADLINE IN JANUARY

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

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

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

- Learn More About MSF Grants: <https://matsutrails.org/ourgrants/>
- MSF Grant Guidelines: <https://tinyurl.com/bdh7j692>

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 to review the plan, related planning documents, and an interactive map of recommended projects.

SEEN RECENTLY ON SOUTHCENTRAL FACEBOOK PAGES

ALASKA STATE PARKS

Sept 26: HEY! Have we mentioned lately how much we LOVE our partners?

They all have their own niche and ★ Chugach Park Fund ★ is the BEST at fundraising to get the big projects done in the Chugach. Then they partner with our other partners like Alaska Trails and we



ALL benefit. 🙌 😊

That said, CHUGACH PARK FUND provided the funding for the South Fork Valley Trail work that was done this summer. They contracted Alaska Trails to do the work, but all of the funds came from efforts from the Chugach Park fund. No state or federal monies were used for the project. It was a huge undertaking, and they tapped into local park supporters: the Rasmuson Foundation, ConocoPhillips, Alaska and Continental Subaru. Thanks to all! ★

We look forward to working with the Chugach Park Fund on future projects and if you would like to learn more about them, check it here:

<https://alaskacf.org/funds/chugach-park-fund/>

📷 Judy Caminer, South Fork Trail

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT - ALASKA

Sept 14: A 30-day public comment period for E-bike use on the Campbell Tract is open. We have drafted a preliminary environmental assessment for the Tract's resource management plan and want to hear from you. Comments will be accepted through October 13, 2023. Read the proposed amendment and comment here: <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2022130/510>

TURNAGAIN NEWS

Sept 3: Suspension Bridge May Replace Hand Tram

Rather than looking into an abyss with a raging Crow Creek below, hikers may soon be able to cross a yawning gap along the Winner Creek trail via a suspension bridge. Read more about the story at:

<https://www.turnagainnews.org/articles/suspension-bridge-may-replace-hand-tram>



ANCHORAGE PARKS AND RECREATION

Sept 29: THE TOUR TRAIL IS REOPENING 🎉

If you are a fan of the Tour Trail in Far North Bicentennial Park, you may have experienced damp feet in the past. Luckily, this summer, three bridges prone to flooding and erosion were replaced between the Campbell Creek Science Center and MLK Jr. Blvd! Now, wet feet are a thing of the past, like water under a bridge—see what we did there? 😊

If you have been waiting for this well-loved trail to reopen, you are in luck! As of today (9/29), it is reopened and ready for trail-users to explore! Not only can you enjoy it during our last days of fall, but the trail improvements will also allow for better winter grooming for year-round fun!



ALASKA STATE PARKS

Sept 17: ****Chugach Alert****



Indian Valley Trail is in rough shape: there is mud and wet brush, and Indian Creek has changed its course in several sections. Two of our primary bridges were washed out or gone completely, and there are landslides.

✅ Professional opinion: The trail should be considered impassable in its current state.

The good news is that Alaska Trails recently received CAPSIS funding to make improvements to this trail, which should be implemented in the next year.

CHUGACH MOUNTAIN BIKE RIDERS

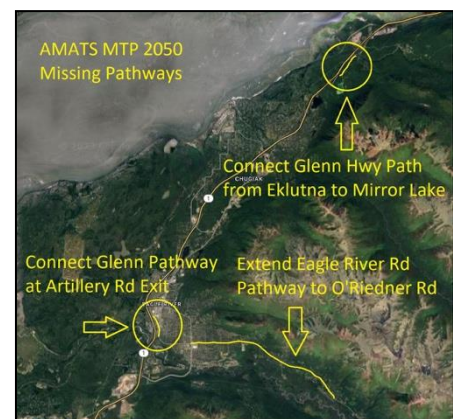
Sept 30: SAVE THE GLENN HWY PATHWAY (again!)

Send comments by Oct 9th to 2050_mtp@PublicInput.com

All Chugiak-Eagle River bike paths have been cut from the AMATS 2050 MTP (transportation plan). This is ridiculous. Please email asking that the Glenn Hwy and Eagle River Rd pathways be added to the plan. Specifically:

1. Connect Glenn Hwy pathway from Eklutna to Mirror Lake.
2. Connect the Glenn Hwy pathway at the Artillery Rd exit.
3. Extend the Eagle River Rd pathway from Eagle River Loop Rd to O'Riedner Rd.

Remember to say why this is important to you!



MAT-SU TRAILS AND PARKS FOUNDATION

September 19: Today I'm sharing one of our many collaborations with Alaska State Parks for the Curry Ridge Connector Trail. With Interior Trail's hard work in rainy conditions this summer, the route connecting K'esugi Ken Campground to the K'esugi Ridge Trail is done!

There will be some finishing work in 2024 and we hope to plan an event to celebrate. What an accomplishment! A big thank you to all of our partners, including the Mat-Su Health Foundation, Interior Trails, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Alaska State Parks, and The Federal Aid in

Wildlife Restoration Program (Pittman Robertson Act). This project and so many other projects funded in the Mat-Su are only possible due to the generosity of community donors.

See this video that was done in 2021 about the project.

<https://www.facebook.com/MatSuTrailsandParksFoundation/videos/937688147094927/>

MAT-SU BOROUGH RECREATION AND LIBRARY SERVICES

September 7: The Denali View River Trail has been closed. Most of the trail in Talkeetna has been taken by the river.

HOMER TRAILS ALLIANCE

August 30: *****ATTENTION***IMPORTANT TRAIL ADVISORY***CANYON RIM TRAIL**

A section line vacation has been granted at the north end of the Canyon Rim Trail as of August 25, 2023! This means that you will no longer be able to walk along the section line that took you to Dorothy Drive. The Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) reversed their denial of this vacation (7/1/2020) on appeal by the petitioners (EV 3-299).

Please respect private property, do not trespass. We are disappointed in this action by DNR but hope you will join us next summer as we brush out the new pedestrian easement granted by John Fowler. The Rim trail will cut to the east from the old trail into some delightful meadows.

SOUTHCENTRAL LINKS

- Rain Doesn't Stop Anchorage Trail Construction: <https://tinyurl.com/d77kht9f>
- New Mat-Su plan envisions 130 miles of new walking and cycling paths: <https://tinyurl.com/dkv5ddtn>

INTERIORWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

SEEN RECENTLY ON INTERIOR FACEBOOK PAGES

FAIRBANKS TRAIL AND WATERWAY USERS

Sept 19: An ordinance and a resolution were passed by the Fairbanks Borough Assembly at its September 14 meeting. These are good changes that came from a spirit of compromise after a long, often contentious, process to get the update to the Fairbanks Comprehensive Trails Plan accepted.

www.interioralaskatrails.org/2023/09/19/two-trail-related-items-passed-by-fairbanks-assembly/

DELTA JUNCTION TRAILS ASSOCIATION

August 29: Delta had some really powerful winds earlier. All of Delta was without power for several hours as GVEA dealt with many downed trees on the power lines. The community trails also had downed trees across the trails. Thanks to volunteers those trees were cleared off of the River Walk Park and the Liewer Community Trail.

INTERIOR LINK

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Master planner Steve Cook and creation of Chena River Recreation Area: <https://tinyurl.com/5n8v2x8p>

SOUTHEAST NEWS AND NOTICES

FOREST SERVICE ISSUES POINT LOUISA TRAIL DECISION

The Juneau District Ranger has signed the Decision Memo for the Point Louisa Picnic Site and Trail Project, which authorizes the construction of a 225 square-foot gravel pad and 670 feet of trail improvements at Point Louisa in the Auke Village Recreation Area in Juneau, Alaska.

The trail begins at the Auke Village Campground and travels south for approximately 0.2 miles. Prior to Forest Service stewardship, the Auke Village Recreation Area was occupied by the Aak'w Kwáan people and is culturally significant. Construction activities for the gravel pad include importing gravel, a metal fire ring, and a picnic table.

For the trail, imported gravel will be used to harden an already existing social trail. A small excavator may be used to place large boulders for seating around a fire ring.

These improvements are needed to help ensure the protection, and sustainable use of a popular recreation location. To read the Decision Memo, see maps or learn more about the project, go to the project webpage linked above. For additional information about the decision, contact Pete Schneider, Juneau Ranger District Recreation Staff Officer, at peter.schneider@usda.gov.

From What's Up? by Peg Tileston

SEEN RECENTLY ON SOUTHEAST FACEBOOK PAGES

TRAIL MIX, INC.

Sept 15: Talk about a major transformation! 🤖 This section of the trail was coined "The Battlefield" by our Volunteer Trail Maintenance Team--and for good reason! For this tough section of trail, the VTMT and our trail crew teamed up to wage war against unstable slopes, erosion, and bulky boulders.

Thanks to their hard work, you can now enjoy a peaceful passage through this stretch of trail. Thank you VTMT and Treadwell Crew! 🙌



Sept 14: Yeehaw for YEP! 🤖

These hardworking teens put in over 1,400 hours improving Juneau's trails through the Youth Employment in Parks Program!



This season, the YEP crew made amazing improvements to:

- 🌲 The Eagle Valley Center
- 🌞 SAIL Ropes Course
- 🌲 Kingfisher Loop Trail
- 🌞 JDHS XC Course at Treadwell Mine Ruins
- 🌲 Cope Park Pump Track
- 🌞 The Christopher Trail

Sept 13: Trail Mix: peelin' bark since 1993. 🙌 🌲

When we can, we like to use materials local to the trails we work on for improvements. Here, Sage peels the bark off a log that turned into a retaining ramp at Lena Point. Peeling the bark helps prevent rot and nesting by bugs, which increases the longevity of the structure.





Sept 12: Perseverance isn't the only trail to get new bridges this season! Our crews have spent many days on the Treadwell Ditch Trail improving tread and carving out abutment sites for 5 new bridges on the Ditch. 🙌

Soon the bridges will be flown up and installed, making us one step closer to our goal of improving the Treadwell Ditch trail from end to end. 🙌

SITKA TRAIL WORKS, INC.

Sept 28: With fall hiking upon us, we wanted to share a resource we have on our website to remind people of some "Know Before You Go" tips. Whenever you go outside for a long period of time, it is important to bring some essential items. These are primarily for multi day trips, but some of the items are also great to include on day hikes, like sun protection, water, and a first aid kit! These days, bear spray is always a good idea to not just have in your pack, but readily accessible while hiking. To learn more about the 10 essentials, you can head to our website at:

<https://sitkatrailworks.org/know-before-you-go/>



Sept 26: Alaska Department of Transportation wants to know how they can support outdoor access!

DOT manages Halibut Point Road - do you wish that it was safer and more enjoyable to walk and bike along that route? You can let them know at the

webpage and survey link below:

<https://the-last-funtier-akdot.hub.arcgis.com/>

Sept 24: Thanks to all the volunteers who came out yesterday! Weather cooperated beautifully for our rescheduled National Public Lands Day and we've restored vegetation in disturbed areas around the new Sitka Sound Viewpoint Trail!

A huge thanks to volunteer Alex Kelsey for the stellar photos!



September 11: If you love Sitka's trails and are interested in improving and maintaining our trail system and programming, Sitka Trail Works invites you to join our Board of Directors! Board members meet once monthly and have opportunities to collaborate on other committees or special projects. To learn more about our work, visit sitkatrailworks.org. If you have any questions or would like an application, please email our Executive Director, Ben Hughey at ben@sitkatrailworks.org. Thank you Sitka!

SOUTHEAST LINK

- Climbing Mount Bassie in Sitka: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=STEkqtWtz3U>
- Ryker Hikes Upper Cross Trail – Sitka: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DkwNoBNqxDs>
- Goose Dog Climbs Middle Sister in Sitka: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bjDyxRxRfbU&t=20s>
- Which Sitka Trail Should You Hike?: <https://visitsitka.org/blog/which-sitka-trail-should-you-hike>

NATIONWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

COALITION FOR REC TRAILS ANNOUNCES RTP ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

The Coalition for Recreational Trails is excited to announce its 2023 achievement awards to recognize outstanding trail projects funded by the Recreational Trails Program (RTP). CRT will host an awards ceremony honoring the winners on January 24, 2024. Special guests, including Members of Congress will be invited to participate.

Award winners will be selected from projects nominated by public agencies, trail administrators or other project sponsors. Projects must be completed in order to receive an award. In addition, projects completed before 2018 are ineligible.

Consider nominating an outstanding project and/or encourage the sponsor(s) of an excellent project in your state to submit a nomination. And encourage those making nominations to solicit support from their members of Congress to grow awareness of excellent RTP-funded projects and the program itself. Deadline for nominations is November 17, 2023.

Find out more here: <https://www.americantrails.org/crt>

LEGACY TRAILS GRANT PROGRAM OPENING SOON

American Trails is pleased to partner with the U.S. Forest Service in continuing the Legacy Trails Grant Program. We will be looking to fund projects that restore fish and aquatic organism passage, improve trail resiliency, preserve trail access, decommission unauthorized trails, and convert unneeded Forest Service roads to trails. The application portal opens on October 2. Find out more here:

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

HIKING SOCIETY CREATES EASY WAY TO ADVOCATE FOR TRAILS

The American Hiking Society has created an easy way for people to advocate for trails. See message below from the AHS.

Due to your advocacy efforts Congress has proposed increases in funding for our nation's trails! It's now up to us to ensure that these funding increases are realized when the House and Senate work to pass a final funding package!

Your voice is needed now to send a message to your Members of Congress telling them to preserve the funding increases for trails included in the House of Representatives Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriation bills and maintain top line funding for the National Park Service, Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and all land management agencies!

<https://americanhiking.org/advocacy/take-action/>

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

TRAILS-RELATED NEWSLETTERS

- American Trails "Trail Tracks": www.americantrails.org/newsletter

VOLUNTEER

- Am. Hiking Society's 2023 Volunteer Vacations: <https://americanhiking.org/volunteer-vacation-trips/>
- Conservation International VIP newsletter (autumn 2023): <https://tinyurl.com/2p8f6ajm>

FUNDING

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

OTHER LINKS:

- Why Trails Matter: Outdoor Learning: <https://tinyurl.com/3haeex2>
- Beyond Greenways: The Next Step for City Trails and Walking Routes: <https://tinyurl.com/3men2h5t>
- Restoring Natural Plant Communities along Trails and Waterways: <https://tinyurl.com/ysuczxt>
- National Recreation Trails Photo Contest (deadline Dec 15): <https://tinyurl.com/58a3xz7v>
- Safe Routes to Parks: <https://www.americantrails.org/resources/safe-routes-to-parks>

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