



NEWSLETTER

**OCT
2025**

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www.alaska-trails.org

ALASKA TRAILS NEWS AND NOTICES

SAVE THE DATE: FALL FUNDRAISER SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 9

ATTEND: You are invited to join us for Alaska Trails' annual fall fundraiser to celebrate a great season of building and improving trails! This year, the fundraiser will be at Hilltop Ski Area on October 9 from 6-9 pm. Tickets are \$50, and proceeds go to support Alaska Trails' mission of building trails for Alaska's people, communities, and economy.

What's in store:

- Enjoy delicious appetizers and drinks
- Bid on unique items from local businesses in our silent auction
- Meet Alaska Trails' Board Members and staff
- Swap trail stories with great company
- Learn more about our programs, including the Alaska Long Trail and the Alaska Trail Stewards Volunteer Program
- See stunning images and videos from our most exciting 2025 trail projects
- Get the inside scoop on upcoming initiatives



We appreciate your support of Alaska Trails and can't wait to celebrate a successful trail season with you.

Hope to see you on October 9. Bring a friend, and join us for an evening of community, stories, and inspiration on the trails we love. **You can buy fundraiser tickets here:**

www.alaska-trails.org/fall-fundraiser

TRAIL TALES IS BACK: MORE GREAT STORIES FROM THE TRAIL

ATTEND Trail Tales is back! Mark your calendars for our first event of the season on Tuesday, October 7.



Our fall storytelling series is sure to bring you lots of laughs, moments of contemplation, and a great time with good company. The October 7 Trail Tales is in partnership with the Anchorage Museum and has a canine companions theme. Trail Tales will start at 7 p.m. with doors opening at 6:30 p.m. **For more information and to purchase tickets visit:** www.alaska-trails.org/trail-tales

Alaska Trails runs the Trail Tales storytelling series as a fundraiser for itself while also partnering with a different community organization for each event. In the spirit of Arctic Entries, storytellers share seven-minute stories about their trail experiences, adventures, and life in general. Our 2025 Trail Tales events will all be held at the Anchorage Museum and tickets cost \$20. Put the upcoming Trail Tales events on your calendar: events will be held on November 18 and December 7.

ALASKA TRAILS BENEFITS FROM RACE ACROSS ALASKA CHALLENGE

PARTICIPATE The Virtual Race Across Alaska Winter Challenge registration is now OPEN, and Alaska Trails is grateful to once again be a non-profit beneficiary!

This race begins December 21, and lasts for the three months of winter, challenging you to exercise through the dark winter months and run, bike, hike, cross-country ski or any other mode of exercise you'd like that collects miles.

This year, there are two other challenges you can enter. Together they are called the Trifecta Fitness Challenge events. All Trifecta participants will get a special medal for finishing all 3 challenges plus if you sign up by November 15, you'll get a significant discount. The Fall BRR-BER Challenge beginning October 1 is a time-based challenge, so activities like hiking, yoga, pickle ball, and in-home workouts are good to go! Check out all the challenges and sign up here:

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



WE'RE HAVING A PARTY TO CELEBRATE OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS



We've said it before, and we'll say it again: Alaska Trail Stewards would be nothing without its incredible volunteers! As a thank you to all the program's amazing volunteer leaders and participants, we welcome everyone who volunteered during the 2025 season to an evening of great food, drinks, friends, and some surprise awards. The event will be held on Oct 16 from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM. Come celebrate your efforts alongside other trail stewards. **PLEASE RSVP here:**

www.alaska-trails.org/event-details/ats-volunteer-appreciation-party-5

SPONSORS OFFER VITAL HELP FOR A SUCCESSFUL TRAIL SEASON

We would like to extend a big thank you to our 2025 Alaska Trail Stewards sponsors! Their support has kept our volunteer program running, helping make sure we have all the tools and supplies needed to not only build and maintain trails at volunteer events, but also increase the number of skilled and safe volunteers doing trail work on public lands in Alaska. Our 2025 sponsors include:

- Chugach Park Fund
- Trek Bicycle Store of Anchorage
- Tall Trees
- Fuse & Traverse
- Alpine Fit
- Matson in Alaska
- CRW Engineering
- Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation



SEEN RECENTLY ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

September 28



Have you ever wanted to try your hand at pottery? This next silent auction item might be perfect for you! It's a Clay in a Day pottery class for two at Turnagain Ceramics! Learn to make a mug, ornament, planter, or other fun items in this two hour class. No experience necessary!

We hope you can join us at our Fall Fundraiser on October 9th at Hilltop Chalet at 6 pm. Purchase tickets here: <https://www.alaska-trails.org/fall-fundraiser>

September 28

The BRR-BER Challenge kicks off October 1st, and Alaska Trails is thrilled to once again be a non-profit beneficiary! 🍁🌈🚶🏃🚴🏊

For 2 months, it's all about stacking up exercise minutes through December 1st. Who's ready to join the fun? Every participant will receive the exclusive 2025 BRR-BER quarter-zip top (in that cool blue synthetic fabric you'll love 💙), shipped straight to your door and included with your entry. Also, every registration donates \$10 to one of three non-profits, including Alaska Trails!

Registration is OPEN! Plus you can join the Trifecta 3 Challenge bundle to participate in the Race Across Alaska and Forget-Me-Not Challenge as well!

<https://runsignup.com/Race/AK/USA/BRRBERChallenge>



September 27

Trail Tales: Canine Companions will be here before you know it! **Get your tickets for October 7:**

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



Our next storyteller to introduce is Robyn Langlie. Robyn has lived in Alaska for over 25 years and recently decided to go back to school at the age of 51 because it's never too late to reinvent yourself. She loves hiking and biking long distance any chance she gets. Married for 23 years with 3 kids and 4 dogs keeps her busy. But she'd rather her house was dirty than miss a good day outside!

Robyn will tell a story about her Chesapeake Bear Retriever, Brownie, who is dearly missed.

September 26

Elevate your backpacking game with this Bridger 65L women's backpack, size medium, from Mystery Ranch. It will be available to bid on during our Fall Fundraiser's silent auction. This pack is comfortable, durable, and lightweight, perfect for your next overnight adventure! Generously donated by Alaska Mountaineering and Hiking (AMH).

To try it on in person, join us at our Fall Fundraiser on October 9th from 6-9 pm at Hilltop! **Tickets can be purchased on our website:** <https://www.alaska-trails.org/fall-fundraiser>



September 26

Thanks to a Two for the Trails grant from Athletic Brewing Company, hardworking volunteers, and one of our paid trail crews, the Middle Fork Trail on the Prospect Heights side in Chugach State Park is in much better shape! Earlier this summer, Alaska Trail Stewards held two volunteer events and volunteers brushed

over a mile of trail starting from the Prospect Heights trailhead. They enjoyed Athletic Brewing non-alcoholic beverages after each event.

In addition, our paid trail crew worked in conjunction with a group of 11 volunteers from Overland Adventures to get the new Middle Fork Trail alignment finally open and operational. They completed a lot in one week: 1750 ft. of brushing ($\frac{1}{3}$ mile), 175 ft. of new tread construction, 6 new drains dug, 10 drains re-imagined and cleared out, and two large trees bucked and cleared off the trail.

We are so grateful for our volunteers who give their time and efforts to improving our trail systems and to Athletic Brewing for their support!

Athletic Brewing Company, LLC. Milford, CT and San Diego, CA. Near beer. <0.5% alc/vol.



September 25

Meet our next October 7th Trail Tales: Canine Companions storyteller! Daisy Nicolas is the founder of Drool



Central: A Mum & Pup Barkery. Her journey began with a yellow labrador named Dallas, who was born in Kodiak and became her trail partner, kitchen companion, and best friend for nearly 15 years. After losing Dallas in 2021, she knew she needed another dog in her life, so she searched everywhere until she met a yellow lab mama and her puppies in Palmer—and the tiniest pup, who wouldn't leave her side, became Callas, because she wasn't ready to let go of Dallas's name and also named after Maria Callas, the Greek opera singer. With Callas, now four and thriving, a new chapter of adventures began, and through Drool Central, Daisy honors the

bond we share with our dogs by providing healthy food, celebrating old memories and inspiring new ones on every trail we walk together.

Daisy's story will be about how our four-legged companions shape our journeys—on the trail, at home, and in our hearts. **Tickets for Trail Tales are on sale now. Don't miss it! Visit:** <https://www.alaska-trails.org/trail-tales>

September 24

Check out these beautiful prints donated by Adrift Prints that will be available to bid on during our Fall Fundraiser silent auction! They feature scenes from trails we all know and love: Lost Lake, Johnson Pass, and Williwaw Peak.

To see these beauties in person, join us at our Fall Fundraiser on October 9th! **Get your tickets here:** <https://www.alaska-trails.org/fall-fundraiser>



September 23

Our first Trail Tales of the season is just two weeks away, on October 7th! This event has a theme: Canine Companions. Get ready to hear some tales of adventure with our furry friends!



Tickets are available here: <https://www.alaska-trails.org/trail-tales>

Our first storyteller to introduce is David Jensen. A lifelong Alaskan, David was born in Fairbanks before statehood. A photographer and writer, he established his photography business in Anchorage in 1989 with a focus on dogs and their people. A good portion of his work includes photographing rescued dogs for Friends of Pets. He is also the founder of 907Chip, an effort to build and place free dog and cat microchip scanning stations throughout

SouthCentral Alaska. David, and his 3-year-old Golden Retriever Iris, travel the state together for adventures in their 1931 Ford Model A pickup truck. When not on the trails, he and Iris are either working in his studio or volunteering as a Pet Partner's-certified therapy dog team at Pioneer Home of Anchorage.

David will share some of his adventures with his dog Iris along with other dogs on the trails and mountainsides of the Chugach mountains. In seven minutes, he'll scramble through at least two short chapters titled: The Subaru and The Light on the Hill.

September 22

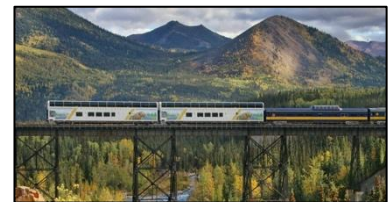
Have you wanted to try packrafting, or need a new boat? At our Fall Fundraiser, we'll have an Alpaca Raft Expedition packraft with a cargo fly zipper + whitewater deck, size medium! The Expedition packraft is the most versatile raft in the Alpaca Raft lineup. It's fully adaptable to a multi-week Alaskan traverse, van life in New Zealand, or lapping the local whitewater run.



Join us October 9th at Hilltop for food, drinks, great company, and potentially some sweet deals on new gear like this packraft through our silent auction. **Get your tickets here:** <https://www.alaska-trails.org/fall-fundraiser>

September 20

Are you getting excited about our Fall Fundraiser? We sure are! Our next silent auction item to highlight is two round-trip deluxe dome railcar seats from Anchorage to Denali and back on the Wilderness Express Railcar, donated by Premier Alaska Tours. These dome cars were custom built with Alaska's big, wild scenery in mind. Enjoy the bar in the dome car, an outdoor viewing platform, and a superb dining experience.



Our Fall Fundraiser is October 7th from 6-9 pm at Hilltop. Silent auction bidding will begin October 2nd! **To attend in-person, get your tickets here:** <https://www.alaska-trails.org/fall-fundraiser>

September 18



Our Fall Fundraiser is just three weeks away! We'd like to highlight one of our silent auction items: A full day Seward fishing charter for two, donated by Alaska Northern Outfitters. What a catch! 🐟

We hope you'll join us October 9th at Hilltop to support the trails you love. **Buy your tickets here:** <https://www.alaska-trails.org/fall-fundraiser>

September 10

This summer, an Alaska Trails paid trail crew, Youth Employment in Parks, and volunteers improved the Moose Ridge Loop Trail in Far North Bicentennial Park over the course of five weeks! The crew constructed a reroute to maneuver around a growing stream and moved the trail up onto the top of a hill. They repaired a connector trail to the Moose Ridge Loop and added a boardwalk where the loop abutted a swamp. They also constructed a bridge. Here are some of the crew and volunteers' accomplishments on the trail:

- 300 ft new switchback
- 50 ft crushed rock causeway
- 20 ft long high-capacity milled stringer bridge
- 300 ft boardwalk



- 2.5 miles of trail brushed
- 17 major hazard trees removed
- Several hundred roots cut
- Several hundred feet of tread hardened with gravel

This project was made possible by many partners and funders. Partnerships with the Municipality of Anchorage and Anchorage Park Foundation were essential. A Republic Services grant funded the project for the season, sponsorships from Matson in Alaska and CRW Engineering Group, Inc. funded the volunteer events, a grant from the The Home Depot provided the wood for construction and two Home Depot volunteer work days, and a grant from the Alaska Community Foundation Anchorage Trail Care Fund supported the project. We are grateful for the community's support of this project, and we're excited to have revitalized a section of this incredible park that needed a little love. We hope you'll go check out the new trail improvements!

September 12

Check out this op-ed in the Anchorage Daily News written by our Executive Director, Haley Johnston, to learn about the trail work we've completed so far this season and more exciting events to come this year! <https://tinyurl.com/3xzpww>

September 6

The Crow Pass Reroute is Open!

Good news for Crow Pass hikers: Alaska State Parks and Interior Trails LLC just finished a 1-mile reroute on the north end of the trail, and it's now officially open! The new section starts about a half-mile past Echo Bend from the Eagle River Nature Center, avoiding the stretch that's eroding into the river.



The reroute climbs onto solid bedrock, offering wide-open views of the Eagle River valley and alpine ridges. A hike out to The Perch and back is about 9 miles round-trip — and right now the aspens are beginning to glow gold.

Big thanks to the trail crews for all their hard work! Alaska Trails helped secure this funding for the Chugach State Park as part of our advocacy for Alaska Long Trail projects in the FY23 state capital budget.

The old route is still passable, but it won't be maintained going forward. Watch for new signs at the junctions.

September 3

Alaska Trail Stewards volunteers brushed the Curry Ridge Trail in Denali State Park this past weekend. Let's thank them for their hard work and dedication! And get out and enjoy the trail now that it's in great shape!

EXECUTIVE BOARD HAS OPENINGS FOR INTERESTED PEOPLE

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

STATEWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

RTP FUNDS WILL NOT GO SOLELY TO ALASKA STATE PARKS

Due to quick lobbying by advocates and intervention by Gov. Mike Dunleavy, a move to divert all Recreational Trails Program funds to Alaska State Parks has been stopped.

Lobbying efforts were made especially by Michele Stevens, president of the Alaska Snowmachine Alliance, Lee Hart, founder of the Alaska Outdoor Alliance, and Rep. Kevin McCabe (Mat-Su).

The current system for the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) will stay in place. It allows nonprofit organizations, municipalities, and tribes to apply for grants along with state agencies, including state parks.

"This program is so important to Alaska trail users, both motorized and non-motorized. Having RTP funding restored for the public ensures that communities across the state have the opportunity to apply for projects that truly benefit their users," Stevens said in an email.

Earlier in September, Rep. McCabe reported that the state of Alaska was changing the rules for the RTP, so that grants from it would be eligible only for "projects on state park lands and their access routes." If true, that would have been a big blow to nonprofits and municipalities across the state.

Read more in this blog post: <https://tinyurl.com/mrxmw2zf>

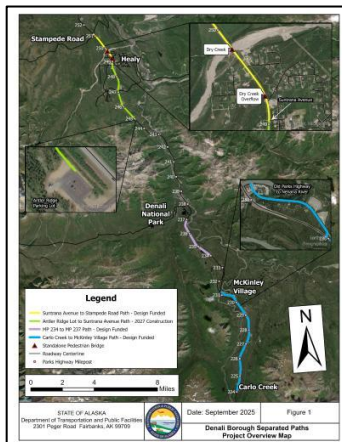
Photo by Geoffrey Orth: Recent work on the Ester Dome Singletrack Trails in the Fairbanks area is from an RTP grant.



OPEN HOUSES HELD FOR DENALI, HEALY PATH PROJECTS

ATTEND/COMMENT Open House public meetings will be held on the Denali Borough Separated Paths and Healy Area and School Pedestrian Path on the **following dates**:

- October 7 – HEALY from 3:30 to 6:30 pm in the Tri-Valley Community Library
- October 9 – DENALI NATIONAL PARK from 4 to 7pm at the McKinley Park Community Center
- October 1 – 31 - Online Open House: Accessed from the project's websites: Denali Borough Separated Paths (<https://arcg.is/C8bi>) and Healy Area and School Pedestrian Path (<https://arcg.is/1W8Tff1>).



(DOT&PF), in partnership with Denali Borough, proposes to design separated paths at the following proposed locations in the Denali Borough: Parks Highway Antler Ridge Parking Lot to Suntrana Avenue, Parks Highway Suntrana Avenue to Stampede Road, and Parks Highway Carlo Creek to Crabbies Crossing.

They also propose to design shared-use pedestrian paths at the following locations within the community of Healy: School Road between Healy Spur Road and Tri-Valley School, Suntrana Avenue from Tri-Valley

School to the Parks Highway, and Coal Street between Healy Spur Road and the Post Office.

These projects are currently in the preliminary design and environmental reconnaissance stage, and we would appreciate your comments. Comments can be made through the Online Open House, at Public Meetings, or by contacting Jennifer Wright, Engineering Manager, at (907) 371-8949 or email jennifer.wright@alaska.gov. **Comments are due October 31.**

From What's Up? by Peg Tileston

OUTDOOR REC TRAILS ADVISORY BOARD RECRUITING NEW MEMBER!

APPLY The Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation is seeking a candidate to fill a volunteer position, representing diversified trail users, for the Outdoor Recreational Trails Advisory Board (ORTAB).

Applicants should have knowledge, experience, and interest in outdoor recreational activities and grant-funded programs. This is a commissioner-appointed position with a three-year term, and the board meets a minimum of twice per year. **The application deadline is October 10.**

Find out more, including how to apply, here <http://notice.alaska.gov/220982>

APPLICATIONS FOR LWCF DUE BY END OF OCTOBER



APPLY Applications for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) are available.

This joint federal/state program is not specifically a trails program, but many trail projects have been funded by this program. It provides grants for projects that feature "close-to-home" outdoor recreational opportunities for the public.

Applicants are limited to state, regional or local governments, and federally recognized tribal governments, with the legal authority to provide park and recreation services on public lands are eligible to apply for LWCF assistance. However, nonprofit can also partner with eligible applicants to get projects funded.

The application period runs from August 14 to October 31 (5pm). For more information see: <https://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/grants/lwcf.htm>

SLOW CLIMATE CHANGE: ELECTRIC, HYBRID; STOP MONEY PIPELINE

Climate changes affect everyone, including trail lovers.

For summer trail lovers, climate change can bring more droughts, wildfires, flooding, and permafrost thawing. For winter trail lovers, a warming climate can mean shorter snow seasons, and more extreme events like snow droughts and rain-on-snow events. These impacts will get worse unless we slow climate change by reducing our greenhouse gas emissions.

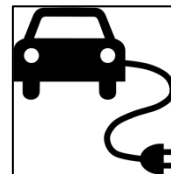
Here are some things you can do right now to help make a difference.

Take a personal action

When buying a car, consider a hybrid or electric vehicle. Many come in AWD versions.

Alaska organizations are working hard to install fast-charging stations for electric vehicles in high-use areas. Consumer Reports has an excellent guide

(www.consumerreports.org/cars/hybrids-evs/buying-guide/), but there are many others. Just let your Google fingers do the walking.



Join "Stop the Money Pipeline"

<https://stopthemoneypipeline.com/>



Stop the Money Pipeline is a network of over 200 organizations and tens of thousands of everyday people who are working to hold the financial sector accountable for its role in the climate crisis.

STATEWIDE LINKS

- State park trail conditions reports: <https://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/asp/curevnts.htm>
- Community Winter Trails Program (for rural communities): <https://dot.alaska.gov/nreg/wintertrails/>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Trump administration to close some U.S. Forest Service offices in Alaska: <https://tinyurl.com/mrvj8rz9>
- A loop in the Arctic with Molly (Jay Cable blog post): <https://tinyurl.com/mtkj74db>

SOUTHCENTRAL NEWS AND NOTICES

SEEN RECENTLY ON SOUTHCENTRAL FACEBOOK PAGES

ANCHORAGE PARKS AND RECREATION

September 19

🦌 Trail Users, don't MOOSE around! 🦌

The crew at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game - Official has received reports of aggressive, rutting bull moose along Anchorage's trails.

It is moose rutting season, and that means bull moose are more moody, territorial, and unpredictable than usual. Anything seen as a threat can elicit aggressive behavior, and they can charge at any moment.

If a moose charges or is about to charge, run and get behind something solid, and keep it between you and the moose.

Signs you are too close for comfort:

1. Are its ears pinned against its head?
2. Are its hackles (hair on the back of the neck) up?
3. Is it licking its lips?

If you encounter any aggressive/injured/or moose with objects in their antlers, please notify your local ADF&G office at 907-267-2811 or report online at

<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=reportwildlifeencounter.main>



ANCHORAGE PARK FOUNDATION

September 2



Thank you to everyone who participated in the Moose Loop Trail Challenge, we are so grateful for your support. We've received so many emails of your tales from the trails and are feeling inspired by all the ways in which our community chose to show up and take on this challenge.

Alaina's family had never been on any of these trails before and were amazed by the beautiful parks and how many miles of trail Anchorage has. Plus, they saw nine moose and a black bear. What a day!

Quinn (photo) hit the whole loop over the weekend with his toddler in tow, who managed to sleep most of the ride away. So impressive!

Carolyn biked 23 miles of the Moose Loop for her challenge - amazing work!

We also had several people RUN the whole Moose Loop as their challenge. Truly incredible. We are so grateful for all of the trail users that take advantage of our trails and support the Anchorage Park Foundation's mission. Do you have a fun story to share about your time on the Moose Loop? Tell us about your adventures in the comments below!

And one more shout out to our sponsors! THANK YOU! Huddle AK 49th State Brewing - Anchorage Alaska Emergency Medical Associates Bettisworth North Architects and Planners Bike Anchorage Alaska Trails Anchorage Parks and Recreation ExerPlay, Inc. ConocoPhillips Alaska Alaska Department of Health Alaska Heart & Vascular Institute Alyeska Pipeline Service Company Northrim Bank, Member FDIC Alaska Mill and Feed Inc. Stoel Rives LLP Turnagain Training Point North Physical Therapy Skinny Raven Sports Professional Tech Services ASC Building Products

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT - ALASKA

September 13

Exploring is always lots of fun with a buddy! We see people walk, bike, run, and even horseback ride on Campbell Tract. Some people prefer to do their activity alone, while some bring a friend instead.



If your friend is a dog, we thank you in advance for keeping them on a leash or electronic collar. Wild animals can behave differently around dogs, sometimes even aggressively. Leashes make sure that everyone stays safe and comfortable.

We thank you for using the trails responsibly so that everyone can visit and explore in their own way!

For more information about regulations on Campbell Tract, visit

<https://www.blm.gov/visit/campbell-tract>

📷 : BLM photo.

ALASKA STATE PARKS

September 23

A huge thank you to Alaska Trails and their volunteers. 10 volunteers showed up this weekend to help with improvements to widen a trail corridor within Gold Mint trail and rebuild a failing boardwalk.

Alaska State Parks appreciates all the volunteer's commitment, hours of hard work, and dedication to maintaining and improving our trails.



September 4

🚧 New Trail Alert – Crow Pass Reroute! 🚧



Alaska State Parks and trail contractor Interior Trails LLC has completed a 1-mile reroute on the northern end of the Crow Pass Trail, officially open this weekend!

📍 Starting from the Eagle River Nature Center, the reroute begins just under a half-mile past Echo Bend. It bypasses a badly degraded section vulnerable to erosion, beaver activity, and high water.

💡 The new route climbs gently onto bedrock ridges with incredible views of Eagle River and surrounding alpine terrain. A

round trip hike out to The Perch via the reroute is about 9 miles—perfect for enjoying the golden fall aspens.

⚠️ The old trail remains open but will not receive future maintenance. Watch for signage at the new junctions.

SINGLETRACK ADVOCATES

September 22

Thank you to @conocophillips Alaska for the 15 volunteers who helped fix up the STA trails during their Community Outreach Day last week! These trail crews make a big difference to maintain and improve the trails we all love! We appreciate all the support from the community!

MAT-SU BOROUGH RECREATION AND LIBRARY SERVICES

September 23

🌲 ✨ Thank You, Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation! ✨ 🌲

Thanks to your generous support and help from the Borough Public Works and Community Development Department teams the Segelhorst Trail at Fingerlake Elementary has been beautifully rehabilitated. These improvements ensure that the trail will remain a safe, accessible, and enjoyable place for the neighborhood and school community.

We are so grateful for your partnership in supporting our outdoor spaces for everyone to enjoy.

September 9

Today's REAL RIT (Recreation & Library Really Interesting Tidbit)



The MSB Trails Staff just removed a tree that was blocking the Swamp Loop at Crevasse Moraine. If you encounter a downed or hazardous tree on any of the MSB trails, please report it to us and we will take care of as soon as we can. This goes for any issues that you might see on our trails. Due to the many miles of trails spread out over a large area, we rely on trail users to help keep us informed of issue. Thank you in advance for helping to provide this information so that we can keep the MSB trails maintained.

September 23

🌲 ✨ Thank You, Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation! ✨ 🌲

Thanks to your generous support and help from the Borough Public Works and Community Development Department teams the Segelhorst Trail at Finger Lake Elementary has been beautifully rehabilitated. These improvements ensure that the trail will remain a safe, accessible, and enjoyable place for the neighborhood and school community.

We are so grateful for your partnership in supporting our outdoor spaces for everyone to enjoy.

FRIENDS OF KACHEMAK BAY STATE PARKS

September 16

Sadie Knob Trail is in absolute wonderful shape for hiking and berry picking! The entire Trail is cleared. Volunteers helped Eric and Andy finish up the last bit of brush before alpine on Monday, in the rain. The hired ACC workers spent most of the summer clearing the trail "and cleaning it up" so it will be easier to keep clear in the future.



In 2018 Sadie Knob was almost lost to the wilds, as it had grown in so much it was hard or impossible to find the trail. State Parks did not have the resources to clear it and was going to "let it go". Volunteers stepped in and began to hack away at the 12' tall devils club growing IN the trail. We accidentally cleared several bear trails too- it was hard to tell the difference! (Otter Cove lodge offer free lodging for volunteers back then!)

Since then, Friends has had many volunteers working on it and held the Kachemak Bay Mountain Classic event on Sadie knob in 2022 and 2023. This 8-ish mile hike is less steep and about 1000' shorter than Grace Ridge so a more family friendly hike, plus you have the option to just go from North Eldred trailhead to South Eldred trailhead and not even go up to the peak. It is a beautiful place to camp at the top, with small ponds up there that only dry up when it's a really hot dry summer. Berry Picking is great both down low and up high.

Go & enjoy this beautiful less known trail that has been given a new chance because of volunteers!

September 15

We're raising funds for five more miles of beautiful hiking and biking trails that will expand year-round access for families, cyclists, hikers, and visitors on the Homer side of the Bay in Kachemak Bay State Park. <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-build-the-new-eastland-trails-on-homer-side-of-the-bay>

September 7

Friends Volunteers have cleared the 2.5 mi steep trail up to the tundra from Humpy Creek Flats. Thanks to Bay Excursions and Across the Bay (Forrest) and Jim Herbert for Boat Transport! And thanks to your donations so we have working tools, safety gear, and gas to get the work done!

September 7

Recently Friends Volunteers Kathy & Nathalia hiked to Emerald Lake (from Humpy Creek and back) to check out the condition of the trail. It is hike-able to Portlock Plateau from the bottom (thanks to recent trail clearing efforts by volunteers) NOTE: The trail to the Plateau is VERY steep and a difficult hike to the Plateau, approx 2.8 miles up and 1800'+ elevation gain.

After the Plateau heading to Emerald Lake, the 2.5 mi trail is more of a route than a trail. Though the trail is mostly "findable", it is still very brushy and not for the faint of heart. Thanks to Volunteers in the fall of 2024, the worst of the alders were removed from the trail between Emerald Lake and Plateau so at least you are not climbing over those, but there are still sections of heavy brush and some route finding required to stay on the trail to the Lake.



At the Lake they inspected the old trail towards Blue Ice and after about .3 miles had to turn around. That section of trail has 100s of trees that have fallen in it and the trail has disappeared, it is truly not passable and is not safe to attempt to hike. The name "Emerald Lake Loop is a misnomer for now until we get some volunteer sawyers to clear that section to Blue Ice. So, in summary Emerald Lake Loop is NOT a LOOP, but is a difficult & beautiful hike "out and back" from Humpy Creek side with the only cleared trail being to Portlock Plateau (about halfway to Emerald Lake).

ISLAND TRAILS NETWORK (Kodiak)

September 18

We've been working hard with our friends at @akstateparks to improve the Lake Gertrude Trail in Ft Abercrombie, can't wait for you to enjoy this improvement with us!

SOUTHCENTRAL LINKS

- Resurrection Pass Trail Backpacking Route in Alaska: <https://tinyurl.com/mryxkbcn>
- How to Visit Spencer Glacier Whistle Stop in Alaska: <https://tinyurl.com/frxffhnc>
- RTP Grant Applications
 - Nancy Lake SRA Winter Trailhead: <http://notice.alaska.gov/220677>
 - Chugach State Park Trailhead Improvements: <http://notice.alaska.gov/220755>
 - Eagle River Nature Center Trail Improvements: <http://notice.alaska.gov/220762>
 - Kodiak Area State Parks Trailhead Improvements: <http://notice.alaska.gov/220764>
 - MP 16 Kiosk Hatcher Pass: <http://notice.alaska.gov/220765>
 - Parkway Loop - Redshirt Lake Rehab: <http://notice.alaska.gov/220769>
 - Silver King SRA Groundwater Education Project: <http://notice.alaska.gov/220767>
 - Tonsina Point Trail Improvements: <http://notice.alaska.gov/220770>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Frost Fest: A Mat-Su Winter Resource Expo (October 4): <https://tinyurl.com/3nfh3jha>
- Anchorage police enforcing new law to clear out homeless campers: <https://tinyurl.com/25vvbw22>
- AK Supreme Court allows personal watercraft in Kachemak Bay: <https://tinyurl.com/5n752xz3>

INTERIORWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

HOW LOCAL FAIRBANKS-AREA ELECTIONS CAN AFFECT TRAILS

Local voting in the Fairbanks area is underway.

Early voting has started for the elections, which happen October 7. Local elections matter. Please remember to vote. Our local representatives decide local laws and how local government funds are spent. This came up with the borough in a big way in recent years with the Fairbanks Comprehensive Trails Plan. It comes up regularly when our representatives must decide whether to provide matching funds for grants or for funding the Parks and Recreation Department.

See this blog post on how trails have come up recently with the Fairbanks Borough Assembly and on how Assembly candidates have answered a question about the Alaska Long Trail.

<https://tinyurl.com/n5vvekvb>



HOLMES ROAD PROJECT MAY INCLUDE BIKE/PED PATHS

ATTEND/COMMENT An Open House **will be held October 7 from 5 to 7pm with a presentation at 5:30pm** in the North Pole Branch Library Multipurpose Room to discuss the proposed Holmes Road Rehabilitation.



This project aims to rehabilitate Holmes Road from the Badger/Montgomery intersection to the Badger/Peede intersection. Proposed improvements include enhancements to non-motorized facilities with consideration of widened shoulders, separated paths, sidewalks, or bike lanes.

Join us to: View design concepts and alternatives; Give feedback on preliminary screening analyses; Receive the latest project updates; and Ask questions and share your

feedback directly with the project team.

For more information on the project, go to www.HolmesRd.com. Comments will be accepted through November 11. For more information, contact John Netardus, Engineering Manager, at john.netardus@alaska.gov or call (907) 451-5448.

From What's Up? by Peg Tileston

WORK FINISHED ON ESTER DOME TRAILS UPGRADE PROJECT

Work has finished on the Ester Dome Singletrack Improvement Project.

The project has been a joint effort by the Fairbanks Cycle Club (FCC), Goldstream Sports, and Stray Dogs, LLC. The work was done by Fairbanks-based trail contractor Happy Trails, Inc.

Work included refurbishing portions of the trail tread, increasing the height and depth of banked turns, and adding mountain bike features, such as drops, rollers, and tabletop jumps. All difficult features have bypasses for those who don't want to attempt them.



The FCC obtained a \$143,000 Recreational Trails Program grant for the project and worked with Goldstream Sports to raise funds for the required 10 percent match funding. The work was popular with local cyclists, so when the original planned work was nearly done, the FCC and Goldstream Sports held a last-minute match challenge fundraiser, raising more than \$15,000. The additional funds kept the trail crew on the job for several more days adding more features.

To find out more about the project see this page:

<https://www.fairbankscycleclub.org/ester-dome-singletrack-improvements-2025/>

Photo by Geoffrey Orth

ISBERG REC AREA TO NEARLY DOUBLE WITH LAND DONATION

The Fairbanks Borough Assembly voted unanimously in September to accept a donation of land that will nearly double the size of the Isberg Recreation Area.

The Fairbanks Daily News-Miner had a story on it.

From the story: "Daniel Welch, the borough's natural resources development manager, said the area will continue to be managed as a passive park with no additional staffing, resources or capital costs. Management will be shared with the land trust."

The move had a lot of support, though the story does quote a nearby resident who is concerned that it will bring more use, especially motorized use, to the area. From the story: "She recommended more robust education and signage going forward, especially for those users who are new to the borough."



The land donation is from the Interior Alaska Land Trust, which has helped preserve land and trails for recreation and green space in several areas across the borough. If you like the work they are doing, please become a member and/or donate to the group. Find out more about the group here:

<https://interioraklandtrust.org>

You can read more about this issue on the Interior Alaska Trails website blog post here:

<https://tinyurl.com/55zywpru>

Read the News-Miner story here: <https://tinyurl.com/4z24s65k>

SEEN RECENTLY ON INTERIOR FACEBOOK PAGES

FAIRBANKS TRAIL AND WATERWAY USERS

September 25

Most people have probably heard that a mining company – U.S. Antimony – has started doing mining work on Ester Dome. I recently sat down with Rebecca Gower, a company geologist, to find out how the work might affect trails: <https://tinyurl.com/yc3y4kft>

September 21

If you haven't heard, the Whisenhant family sold Beaver Sports recently. The new owners are long-time locals!

Shared from Beaver Sports

September 20

We're excited to announce that Beaver Sports is now under new ownership! Nick and Kristen Janssen are honored to carry on the family-owned legacy that has made Beaver Sports such a special part of Fairbanks.



Nick is an active participant in the Fairbanks and Alaska-wide endurance scene, both as an athlete and a race director.

You're likely to see him on foot or ski at the White Mountains 100, Equinox Marathon, Iditarod Trail Invitational, and countless local races. Kristen is a passionate triathlete, spending time at the pool and on her bike. Together, they bring a deep love of sport, the outdoors, and the Fairbanks community to the store. Nick and Kristen's beginning at Beaver Sports also comes at a special time for them- during the Equinox- which is when they first met years ago!

Family will continue to be at the heart of Beaver Sports — Kristen's mom will be working in the shop, and you'll likely see her dad, sisters, and niece lending a hand too.

Nick and Kristen are excited to connect with all of you, support the community, and keep Beaver Sports thriving.

September 20

University of Alaska Land Management Office is seeking public comment on a plan to lease some land off Spinach Creek Road as a storage and staging area for "local recreational guided tours."

The notice doesn't mention the type of tours or the business name, but the name appears to be in the notice URL: Fairbanks Snow Sleighers.



The notice also doesn't say where the tours will be taking place, but considering the area the land is in and the trails in the area, the tours will presumably along the western Old Murphy Dome trails. The UA land is a gravel pit off upper Spinach Creek Road. Here is a Google Maps link to it:

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/eLdXV2q1dZfSdgTf7>

Deadline to submit comments: Thursday, October 16 at 5:00 PM

Find out more about Fairbanks Snow Sleighers here: <https://www.snowsleighters.com>

See the UA public notice, which tells you where to submit comments, here:

<https://tinyurl.com/4h35a346>

September 18

Long-time trails advocate Phil Marshall reports that the Treasure Creek Trail, extending from Old Murphy Dome Road north to the Alaska Pipeline, has seen some big changes this summer due to mining activity by Felix Gold.

This trail has been popular for a variety of trail users in summer and winter. In summer, it has been used by ATvers and mountain bikers. In winter it has been used by snowmachiners, dog mushers, skiers, and fatbikers. It is unknown at this time how the mining activity will affect the trail in winter.

See a Trail Forks track of the trail here:

<https://www.trailforks.com/trails/treasure-creek-trail/>

A screenshot of the Trail Forks page is also attached.

The area has seen a history of mining, but it has been mostly dormant for several years. The recent interest in domestic sources of antimony have driven this recent activity. A recent "North of 60 Mining News" article has more about that here: <https://tinyurl.com/34hjfm4p>

Felix Gold is also starting antimony mining on Ester Dome. Felix Gold can be contacted here: <https://www.felixgold.com.au/contact>

Attached are photos taken by Marshall on September 13 where the Treasure Creek Trail takes off from Old Murphy Dome Road.



September 9

The Fairbanks Daily News-Miner has a story about Explore Fairbanks' new Golden Heart Giving



Sponsorship Program. The program recently awarded nearly \$100,000 to several local organizations, including for a couple of trail-related projects.

From the story:

--Chena Hot Springs Resort, \$10,000 for signage and trail enhancements on the Monument Creek Trail.

--Eastern Alaska Range Avalanche Center, \$10,000 for a Fairbanks-based Pro-Observer to provide backcountry snow and avalanche reports.

--Nordic Ski Club of Fairbanks, \$8,100 for five new map kiosk stations at Birch Hill Recreation Area.

Find out more about the program here: <https://tinyurl.com/4urr5f4z>

Read the News-Miner story here: <https://tinyurl.com/mvr8dppm>

NORDIC SKI CLUB OF FAIRBANKS

September 25

Want to help the NSCF trail crew keep the Birch Hill trails in good shape?



If you are out on the trails at Birch Hill Recreation Area and come across a problem, like a tree across the trail, note the location and take a photo and send the pic and info to trails@nscfairbanks.org. Or you can just reply to this. We'll get the message to the trail crew.

If there are any details about what you see, you can include those too, but a photo is particularly helpful as it lets the crew know what sort of equipment they will need.

Read more and see photo examples on this post: <https://tinyurl.com/249frw22>

ALASKA DOG MUSHERS ASSOCIATION

September 18

The Alaska Trappers Association will be hosting their monthly meeting October 7 and will have a **guest speaker Marty Meierotto on Trail Clearing and Maintenance**. This is geared towards trapping trails vs mushing trails, but a lot of the basics will still be the same if anyone is interested in attending and learning more! The meeting will be at the Mushers Hall at 7pm.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/803600028789733/>

INTERIOR ALASKA LAND TRUST

September 22

The Muskrat Trailhead on Farmers Loop will remain closed until there is adequate snowfall. In the meantime, we're excited to share that our new trailhead signs are in place! Keep an eye out for them when the trails open this winter ❄️

Learn more about the Muskrat Trailhead here:

<https://interioraklandtrust.org/muskrat-lakes-trailhead/>



ALASKA STATE PARKS

September 18

🌟 🏡 New Cabins Alert! 🏡 🌟



We want YOU to help us name them! 😊 😊

The Northern Area State Parks Citizen's Advisory Board is working on names for TWO new cabins in the Northern Region and would like your help! (see photos for reference)

One cabin is at Mile 41.6 (Stiles Creek Extension) and the other is at 48-Mile Pond. While we are still finalizing some interior details on the cabins, we still want to have their names ready for the unveiling in our reservation system when they are ready to go. (TBD on that detail) ✅

Please email our Community Engagement team your ideas for each cabin -please be specific which is which and title the email "Northern Region Cabin Naming".

The emails will be forwarded to our Citizen's Advisory Board naming committee for consideration.

email: dnr.pks.community@alaska.gov

Please email your name ideas by October 17, 2025 by 5 pm. THANK YOU!

INTERIORWIDE LINKS

- Fairbanks Borough park trail maps (and others): <https://www.fnsb.gov/1220/Trail-Maps>

SOUTHEAST NEWS AND NOTICES

SEEN RECENTLY ON SOUTHEAST FACEBOOK PAGES

TRAIL MIX, INC.

September 15

Dog Days Are Over · Florence + The Machine

We had an amazing volunteer day out at Boy Scout Beach and Horse Tram Trail this past Saturday responding to trail damage!

At Boy Scout Beach, about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile in, a tree that had been stabilizing the trail bank fell over, taking part of the trail with it and exposing an AEL&P power line. We plugged the holes with logs and boulders, then capped it all off with gravel. The trail is now free of ditches and exposed lines!

On Horse Tram Trail, we hauled gravel about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from the Boy Scout Beach intersection to cover protruding geocell, adding an extra inch of gravel to protect both the trail and users. We also widened and re-graveled the start of the trail intersection to prevent weeds from taking over. 🌱

Huge thanks to the 10 wonderful volunteers who joined us, some of whom just moved to town with Alaska Fellows Program- Welcome to Juneau! Tula was maybe most excited about the trail repairs, wagging her tail eagerly behind and cheering everyone on! 🐶 😊

Next up: we're teaming up with SEAGLA for a Fall Equinox Lop & Talk at Lena Point next Monday, September 22 at 6pm. We'll clear brush from a well-loved trail, then head to the beach to catch the sunset and reflect on the changing of the seasons. RSVP at the link below- we hope to see you there! 🍁 🇺🇸 ✨
RSVP: <https://wkf.ms/44G4cLQ>



September 11



Check out the awesome trail transformation on Horse Tram Trail at the new CBJ cabin site! The crew just finished building the cabin platform ahead of cabin construction next season.

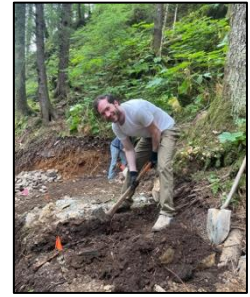
To get there, they cleared trees from the site (prepping the logs for firewood and turnpikes on the access trail), roped out, measured, and flagged the cabin footprint, grubbed out organics and leveled the ground, then stabilized the edges by hand-carrying rocks up from the beach. Finally, they excavated and spread beach gravel to fill the platform and added an additional layer of gravel to cap the surface before tamping everything down. Get stoked, Juneau, cabin building is on the horizon! 🍷

September 8

We had another awesome volunteer day on Jumbo Reroute this Saturday! It was sweet to see so many folks already using the new trail! 🤖

We tackled the first corner of the switchback by widening the turn with pickaxes, then used fallen rock to cobble it and harden the tread above. We also trenched out the upper section, carried logs into place for a retaining wall, and finished strong by sledging in rebar and green stakes. Talk about sweat equity!

🔧🪵 VTMT also finished spreading all the gravel we flew in last month.



September 3

We had another fun volunteer day out at Horse Tram on Saturday! We repaired and extended a section of turnpike and added a small culvert below to help drain water from a low spot on trail.

Big shoutout to Lou for showing us why it's always smart to carry a handsaw and for sharing his vast knowledge with us! Trail engineering is fun!! 🪚

JUNEAU MOUNTAIN BIKE ALLIANCE PUBLIC FORUM

September 26

Craig Good, Admin

Use caution if you're planning on riding today at the Under Thunder Bike Park. Some vandal(s) have dragged dozens of logs and dead trees across the trails. I went out at dusk last night to clear the tree that had fallen across BTV and found piles of debris on a couple corners of the beginner's trail. It looked like the work of kids until I got onto BTV and found dozens of logs drug across the lower 1/4 of the trail. They were not windfall. These were old logs, dead trees and branches from the surrounding area and long enough to stretch all the way across the trail.



I cleared all of BTV but discovered the same handiwork when I got to the jump line exits. I cleared some of the wood but by then it was too dark and late to continue. I am planning on going back out this Saturday to take pictures and finish. If you decide to ride today, know that you'll likely need to do a lot of log removal. Please take a picture of the vandalism before removing it. Everyone, keep your eyes open for whoever might be behind this. This is of particular concern for beginner and young riders who may not be able to stop in time as the obstructions begin in blind areas.

Update: went out this morning and got these pictures for the police report.

SITKA TRAIL WORKS, INC.

September 23

A huge thank you to the Sitka community for bringing this amazing project to life!

Shared from Daily Sitka Sentinel

September 23

With volunteers standing around him, Mike Jones, chair of the Sitka Trail Works Board, cuts a ribbon Saturday afternoon to officially open the 33-foot-tall staircase at the Halibut Point Recreation Area that connects north and south ends of the park. The old staircase has been blocked off since December of 2023, when a windstorm brought down about 40 trees in the park, taking out portions of the staircase as well as the caretaker cabin. The Rasmuson Foundation donated \$20,000 to purchase materials. Sitka Rep. Rebecca Himschoot, second from right front, spoke at the ceremony noting that September 27 is National Public Lands Day. (Sentinel Photo by James Poulson)



September 17

Our latest volunteer event took us to the Medvejie Lake Trail, where our crew tackled overgrown brush. The weather was a little ominous, but that didn't stop us from showing up and getting the job done. We were especially grateful to have a new face on the trail, Leianna, who joined us for her first time volunteering with Sitka Trail Works. Despite the conditions, she hiked out to the lake with the team and helped clear the path.

CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

September 18



The Granite Creek Bridge on the new section of the Cross Trail near Harbor Mountain Road has sustained significant storm damage and is closed until further notice. The bridge experienced structural damage and pedestrian traffic could cause further damage.

For your safety, please avoid the area and follow all posted signage. We apologize for the inconvenience and appreciate your patience during this timeframe. Please contact the CBS Public Works Department with any questions. 907.747.1804.

HAINES HUTS AND TRAILS

September 17

It's that time of year again! We'll soon be releasing our winter bookings dates for 2026 (November 15th - May 1st). Check out our most recent newsletter, linked here, to learn about the dates and how you can get early booking access by becoming a member and supporting our non-profit!

<https://mailchi.mp/b85018d4b1dd/winter-2026-tukga-hut-booking>

SOUTHEAST LINKS

- The Dirt, Sept 2025, (Trail Mix, Juneau): <https://tinyurl.com/4tm3kfrw>
- RTP Grant Applications
 - Phase 1: Lunch Creek Loop Trail: <http://notice.alaska.gov/220761>
 - Chilkat State Park Trail Repair Program: <http://notice.alaska.gov/220763>

NATIONWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

NATIONAL REC TRAIL APPLICATION DEADLINE NOVEMBER 1

The National Recreation Trail (NRT) program works to preserve and celebrate our nation's pathways. If you are interested in applying, join us for a webinar on October 7 to answer all of your questions on the application process. The webinar will be recorded and available to anyone to watch for free. For more about the webinar see this page: <https://tinyurl.com/325d8359>



Trails that are designated will be announced publicly on National Trails Day in June 2026. For more information see this webpage (www.nrtapplication.org/pages/how-to-apply-for-nrt-designation) or email nrt@americantrails.org with any questions.

From American Trails email

CONGRESS MOVING FORWARD WITH RESTORATION FUND EXTENSION

TAKE ACTION On September 5, the House Natural Resources Committee held a field hearing at Grand Teton National Park to kickoff discussions to extend the Great American Outdoor Act's Legacy Restoration Fund.

This critical program is making strides to address the maintenance backlog across public lands and expires this year! Read American Hiking's statement here (<https://tinyurl.com/u48653zi>) and send your Member of Congress a message asking them to extend this program!

Take action here: <https://americanhiking.org/take-action-2/>

2027 INTERNATIONAL TRAILS SUMMIT COMING TO DURHAM, NC

American Trails and the Professional TrailBuilders Association (PTBA) are excited to announce that the 2027 International Trails Summit will take place April 13-15, 2027, at the Durham Convention Center.



The International Trails Summit is the world's leading gathering of trail professionals, advocates, and land managers bringing together more than 800 attendees from all over the United States and abroad. Attendees will connect through educational sessions, hands-on training, a vibrant exhibit hall, the signature dirt demo, and field trips highlighting the Triangle's natural beauty and trail networks.

For more information go to this page: <https://www.trails-summit.org>

From American Trails email

THE NEED FOR NATIONWIDE TRAIL DATA AND ANALYSIS

Currently, a single authoritative trail dataset does not exist in the United States.

There are now over two million miles of trails spanning the nation, with well over 200,000 miles of trails on Federal lands alone. Access to comprehensive, accurate, and interoperable trail data is essential for effective trail management, informed decision-making, enhanced user experiences, and broader public engagement.

To unlock the full potential of America's trails, we need more than just data—we need coordination, vision, and leadership. American Trails is stepping forward to establish a center for Trail Data and Analysis that will serve as the national



hub for unifying, improving, and mobilizing trail data. This center will provide the infrastructure, expertise, and coalition needed to transform fragmented datasets into actionable insights for trail managers, advocates, and users alike.

By supporting this initiative, funders and collaborators have a unique opportunity to help build a more connected, equitable, and resilient future for trails nationwide.

Find out more here: <https://tinyurl.com/4uetdk4f>

From American Trails newsletter

WHY BECOME A MEMBER OF AMERICAN TRAILS? READ THIS

JOIN American Trails is seeking members. Why become a member of American Trails? See this message from the group.

Because you deserve more than inspiration—you deserve access.

This summer, we're excited to introduce exclusive new member benefits that make your support go even further. Members now enjoy on-demand access to over 280 archived webinars, plus learning credits for both live and recorded sessions.

Whether you're a volunteer, trail planner, or outdoor advocate, these expert-led trainings give you the tools to build smarter, safer, and more inclusive trails. And with our network of trail professionals and organizations, you're never going it alone.

Join here: <https://tinyurl.com/aj2zj4cu>



THE 2025 NATIONAL RECREATION TRAILS PHOTO CONTEST IS OPEN

ENTER American Trails sponsors the annual contest for photographs of designated National Recreation Trails across the country. The annual contest provides awards in several categories and shows off entries (and previous winners) on the NRT website.



The goal is to highlight the diversity of the NRTs and to make more Americans familiar with these great trails. The contest seeks good photos of trail users as well as special facilities, art on the trails, management issues, construction, and volunteers. It also wants to see entries that cover the many types and uses of National Recreation Trails throughout America.

Deadline is December 15.

For more info: www.americantrails.org/national-recreation-trails/photo-contest

From American Trails website; photo from 2024 contest winners

NATIONWIDE / INTERNATIONAL LINKS

WEBINARS, MEETINGS, CONFERENCES, TRAINING, ETC.

- American Trails calendar (trail webinars workshops, etc): www.americantrails.org/training/calendar

TRAILS-RELATED NEWSLETTERS

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

VOLUNTEER

- Am. Hiking Society's 2025 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/>

OTHER LINKS

- Trails Magazine (quarterly, print only): <https://trailsmag.net>
- A Quick Way to Find Trail-Related Businesses: <https://tinyurl.com/axzxp7x3>
- Conducting Visitor & Rec User Research to Tell an Economic Story: <https://tinyurl.com/mu7mr8tb>
- The State of the State of Trail Data in the United States: <https://tinyurl.com/2v2wemd8>

The Alaska Trails board meets via teleconference the first Monday of every other month. 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 website. 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