



NEWSLETTER

**JUNE
2025**

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www.alaska-trails.org

ALASKA TRAILS NEWS AND NOTICES

GIVE BACK TO TRAILS ON NATIONAL TRAILS DAY – SATURDAY, JUNE 7

VOLUNTEER Come celebrate trails by volunteering with Alaska Trails at one of two locations. Volunteers will be doing a variety of tasks – all with the goal of making our trails safer and more fun to use. Join us in Whittier as we build new trail to connect a future city park to the existing Horsetail Falls Trail. Or join us near Portage as we do light trail work along parts of the Trail of Blue Ice.

- Trail of Blue Ice event: <https://tinyurl.com/5n779ke6>
- Horsetail Falls Trail event: <https://tinyurl.com/4f3ftefe>



For other ways to help, check out our other volunteer opportunities for later in the summer (<https://tinyurl.com/yc7ac53y>) or for other National Trails Day events in Alaska, see the Statewide section.

ALASKA TRAIL STEWARDS OPEN FOR A NEW SEASON, YOUTH INVITED!

VOLUNTEER Are you getting excited for summer hiking and trail work? We sure are! We've got a couple of volunteer Alaska Trail Stewards events lined up for National Trails Day on June 7. We also have other events already set up for the rest of the summer.



And new this year, Alaska Trail Stewards will be open to volunteers as young as 12 years old! What a great opportunity for a family outing!

Our volunteers make a huge difference. During one volunteer event alone, Alaska Trail Stewards volunteers and Alaska Geographic youth constructed 300 feet of tread, making the trail safer, more sustainable, and more enjoyable for all! We will be

having other events this coming summer, and we hope you'll consider joining us!

Find out more on our Alaska Trail Stewards Program page: www.alaska-trails.org/alaska-trail-stewards. And check the "Current Volunteer Opportunities" for our planned events: www.alaska-trails.org/current-volunteer-opportunities

ALASKA TRAILS IS HIRING FOR COMMUNICATIONS POSITION

APPLY Alaska Trails is now accepting applications for a Communications and Community Engagement Manager position. This position will oversee organization-wide communications for Alaska Trails, including participating in the development, refinement and implementation of the Communications and Marketing Plan for the Alaska Long Trail. This position is open until filled.

More information at: <https://www.alaska-trails.org/jobs>



SEEN RECENTLY ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

May 30



Alaska Trails to the rescue!

350 feet of trail was destroyed by fire mitigation crews in Far North Bicentennial Park so two of Alaska Trail's paid trail crews spent their last day of crew training putting in a new route this week! This is on the Moose Ridge/2.5k loop.

May 30

Did you know that our Alaska Trail Stewards volunteer program is open to youth age 12 and up with a parent or guardian present? Become a trail steward and help us build and maintain trails in Chugach State Park, Chugach National Forest, the Municipality of Anchorage, Hatcher Pass State Park, and Denali State Park this summer! No experience is necessary and all tools and training are provided. **Find an event and register here:** www.alaska-trails.org/current-volunteer-opportunities

Our Alaska Trail Stewards program is supported by a generous grant from Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's Outdoor Fund.



May 28

Jun 7th is #NationalTrailsDay, put on by the American Hiking Society! Activate your local community and join the nationwide movement to give back to trails! Whether you're cleaning up public lands, volunteering for trail maintenance, or simply enjoying the great outdoors responsibly, your efforts make a lasting impact.



National Trails Day® is a time to connect with people near you who share your love of being outside!

Alaska Trails has two volunteer events scheduled. You can learn more and sign up here: <https://bit.ly/ATvolunteerevents>

All volunteers at our events will receive a free Hydroflask water bottle and Athletic Brewing Company non-alcoholic beverages at the end of the event.

Find all National Trails Day events and take the National Trails Day® pledge here: bit.ly/trails-day

May 24

Our third and final Crew Leader to introduce is Isaac Rutt! Isaac grew up in New England and headed west as soon as he was out of high school. He shortly found his love for trails working a season with Montana Conservation Corps and hasn't looked back since. He has spent the last 3 summers working trails and cabins with the US Forest Service in Moose Pass and the winters skiing his heart out in Girdwood or traveling. He is looking forward to putting some good work in on the trails in Girdwood and Seward this season.



To learn more about our paid trail crews, visit: <https://www.alaska-trails.org/trail-crews>

May 23



Our next Crew Leader to highlight is Delano (Del) Horner! Del joined the Alaska Trails South Fork Eagle River crew in the summer of 2023 after a few years on the Mat-Su Borough trail crew. He was born in Palmer and lives in Fairbanks during the winters while attending UAF for a mechanical engineering degree. He loves working outside and building trails. Del is a blacksmith and a mechanic in his free time with far more projects than he can reasonably handle.

Del will lead a crew that will work on a couple projects in Anchorage and a couple in the Mat-Su. This crew will spend seven weeks in Far North Bicentennial Park, three weeks in Russian Jack Springs Park, two weeks on Pioneer Peak Trail and two weeks in Denali State Park!

May 22

Our paid trail crews started this week, and we couldn't be more excited about it! We have three crews this season, and we'd like to highlight the hardworking Crew Leaders.

First up, meet Sarris Harris! This is the third season that Sarris has worked for Alaska Trails, and the second season they have served as crew lead. Sarris grew up in Anchorage and left the state to get a B.S. in Environmental Science, before moving back home. Sarris has always loved being outside and fell in love with trail work by stumbling into the Conservation Corps in Washington. Aside from their passion for trails, they love to knit, climb, listen to music, and bake.



Want to learn more about our trail crews this season? Visit: <https://www.alaska-trails.org/trail-crews>

May 20

If trails don't get maintained, they get used less, and they can very quickly disappear due to overgrowth, erosion, and fallen trees. It takes all of us in the hiking, biking, skiing, trail running, equestrian, and motorized trail user communities to do our part to help the trails, either by volunteering to do trail work or by donating to ensure that there is enough money to do trail work. This is especially critical now with federal funding for trail work in many areas frozen or just plain cut.

Let's help maintain our beautiful trails here in Alaska! **We have over 20 volunteer events planned in Southcentral Alaska. Check them out and sign up here:** <https://www.alaska-trails.org/current-volunteer-opportunities>



May 6



Thanks to the generosity of many donors, the future of Alaska's trails is looking brighter! Alaska Trails raised an incredible \$10,686 during our Spring Appeal in April and those funds will be put to work right away this summer to enhance and maintain our state's outstanding multi-use trail systems.

Learn more about our paid trail crews here: www.alaska-trails.org/trail-crews

Learn more about our volunteer opportunities here: www.alaska-trails.org/current-volunteer-opportunities

May 1



We would like to highlight one of our partners, Alaska Mountain Runners. Since 1999, Alaska Mountain Runners has been dedicated to the promotion and development of mountain running in Alaska. AMR hosts the Bird Ridge Hill Climb and the AMR Grand Prix series. AMR is a 501(c)(4) non-profit organization located in Anchorage.

Registration for their Bird Ridge Hill Climb is open now! Race Day is June 15th. Learn more and sign up here: <https://alaskamountainrunners.org/bird-ridge/>

Photo credit: Brikru Photography

ALASKA TRAILS HAS TOOL TRAILERS READY FOR TRAIL PROJECTS



As you start planning trail building and maintenance projects, remember that Alaska Trails has mobile tool caches available to loan to organized trail groups in Southcentral and Interior Alaska. One cache is in the Fairbanks area and the other is in Anchorage/Mat-Su Valley area.

The trailers have a bunch of trail tools including McLeods, Pulaskis, rakes, gloves, and much, much more. If you would like to borrow one of the caches, please contact us (info on masthead).

STATEWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

ALASKANS TO CELEBRATE NATIONAL TRAILS DAY IN JUNE



VOLUNTEER, JOIN IN Several events will be held across Alaska in celebration of National Trails Day, Saturday, June 7. See the list below. Or you can check out the National Trails Day website: <https://americanhiking.org/national-trails-day/find-an-event/>

National Trails Day is the American Hiking Society's signature trail awareness program. It inspires the public and trail enthusiasts nationwide to seek out their favorite trails to discover, learn about, and celebrate trails while participating in educational exhibits, trail dedications, gear demonstrations, instructional workshops and trail work projects. For more info see: www.americanhiking.org/national-trails-day/

KENAI PENINSULA

- Discover the Boreal Forest in Your Backyard: <https://tinyurl.com/4vr9tavd>
- National Trails Day - Trail of Blue Ice: <https://tinyurl.com/2xf8bmtf>
- Horsetail Falls Connector Trail: <https://tinyurl.com/57e78yhh>

MAT-SU VALLEY

- Little Susitna Classic River Cleanup: <https://tinyurl.com/29pda64z>

KODIAK

- Trail Work Party at Fort Abercrombie and Spruce Cape: <https://tinyurl.com/4x337hf2>

DENALI

- Nenana River Trail Construction at Denali: <https://tinyurl.com/3hs2fw9y>

FAIRBANKS

- National Trails Day at Ester Dome Singletrack: <https://tinyurl.com/3skjcnfa>

DELTA JUNCTION

- Hike Donnelly Dome with DJTA: www.facebook.com/events/1382790619702364/

JUNEAU

- National Trails Day, Horse Tram Trail: <https://tinyurl.com/3up2nyh9>

SITKA

- National Trails Day Volunteer Event, Mosquito Cove Trailhead: <https://tinyurl.com/4u4rm6w5>

KETCHIKAN

- Perseverance Trail Maintenance: <https://tinyurl.com/yp28tw4x>

ORGANIZATION AIMS TO HELP CLEAN UP TRAILS WITH YOUR HELP

VOLUNTEER Clean Trails is an international 501(c)3 nonprofit organization with a world-wide community of people dedicated to keeping our wild places and the trails that access those spaces free of litter.



According to the group, “study after study shows the highest indicator that someone will pick up litter is if they witness someone else picking up litter. That’s because peer group norms are more powerful than incentives, and when worked in concert with each other, they can provide impressive behavioral change impacts.”

If you'd like to help with this effort, check out the group's website: <https://www.cleantrails.org/>

WATCH FOR BEARS, MOOSE CALVES WHEN OUT ON THE TRAILS

It's calving season for the moose and things can get dangerous fast when you surprise a moose or get too close, and the mama decides it's time to protect her young. And, of course, bears are out of hibernation and active. To learn how to avoid surprising animals and deal with uncomfortable or dangerous situations, check out these resources:

- www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=livewith.moose
- www.muni.org/Departments/parks/Pages/Wildlife.aspx



Photo from Denali National Park by Ken Conger, National Park Service

WATCH FOR BIRD NESTS WHEN WORKING ON TRAILS

Trail work sometimes requires downing trees or clearing shrubs. When doing so make sure not to violate



the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which makes it illegal for anyone to “take” migratory birds, their eggs, feathers, or nests. “Take” includes destroying or damaging active bird nests or eggs. Different areas of the state have different sensitive periods generally occurring between April 15 and July 25. However, if you encounter an active nest at any time leave it in place and protected until young hatch and depart. “Active” is indicated by intact eggs, live chicks, or the presence of an adult on the nest.

For more information and recommended time periods for avoiding vegetation clearing see:
www.fws.gov/alaska-bird-nesting-season

Photo from Denali 101: www.denali101.com/denalinationalpark/birds_of_denali.html

ALASKA STATE PARKS POSITIONS CAN INCLUDE TRAIL WORK



Alaska State Parks has a variety of seasonal positions through its the Alaska Conservation Corps (ACC), which are paid jobs, and its volunteer program. Tasks will vary and may include trail work, maintenance, fee station, or office work. Most positions begin in late May or early June. Some offices will start recruitment as early as March. You may wish to call the office in the area you wish to work in, to find out what positions they are offering this year and when applications are being accepted. For more information see:

- ACC: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/misc/accinstr.htm>
- Volunteer Program: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/vip/index.htm>

HELP SLOW CLIMATE CHANGE: 1% FOR THE PLANET, CLIMATE RIDE

Climate change affects everyone, including trail lovers.

Climate change and other environmental problems may seem like an overwhelming problem, but we humans created them one step at a time, and we can solve them that way, too. Let's do what we can now for our children, grandchildren, and beyond.

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

Join or Donate to 1% for the Planet

The goal of this group is to "connect our members with high-impact environmental partners that align with their values and add to their brand story."



The group was started in 2002 by Yvon Chouinard, founder of Patagonia, and Craig Mathews, founder of Blue Ribbon Flies. It now has more than 5,000 members. If you are a business, you can join the group. But even if you are not a business owner, you can still donate to the group.

1% for the Planet does not focus solely on climate change, but that is a big part of it. If you become member, you get to choose your own cause.

Find out more at: <https://onepercentfortheplanet.org/>

Take a personal action

Join or organize a fundraiser through Climate Ride: <https://www.climate ride.org/>

Climate Ride helps mobilizes people to protect our planet through life-changing adventures. The group organizes charitable biking, running, and hiking events to raise awareness and support sustainability, active transportation, and environmental causes.

You can join one of the many already scheduled events, many are in-person but some allow for virtual participation. Or you can organize your own event or adventure. The page has a Design Your Own Event under its Events dropdown menu.

Find out more at: <https://www.climate ride.org/>



STATEWIDE LINKS

- State park trail conditions reports: <https://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/asp/curevnts.htm>
- Kotzebue to Kobuk – Fun on the Kobuk 440 trail!: <https://tinyurl.com/4vffb6bj>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Backpacking Denali National Park, without trails or a plan: <https://tinyurl.com/3p48zr24>
- Alaska Outdoor Alliance newsletter: <https://tinyurl.com/55s7wn6r>
- The Essentials for Traveling in Alaska's Bear Country: <https://tinyurl.com/yj2aaftc>
- Taking care of our Alaska state parks | Outdoor Explorer: <https://tinyurl.com/476ha4s9>
- 10th Annual Confluence Summit (September): www.alaskaoutdooralliance.org/confluence-ak

SOUTHCENTRAL NEWS AND NOTICES

MAT-SU TRAILS & PARKS FOUNDATION SEEKS GRANT APPLICANTS



APPLY Deadlines for the upcoming Mat-Su Trails & Parks Foundation (MSTPF) grant cycles are coming up July 30. Got a trail or park improvement project idea? Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation wants to help make it happen! Eligible applicants can apply for grants through Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation to help fund projects that expand or enhance the valley's trail network and parks! **Please review our Grant Guidelines before applying:** <https://matsutrails.org/ourgrants/>

From What's Up? by Peg Tileston

Here are a couple of success stories thanks to MSTPR grants:

Jonesville shooting park, campground inch closer to reality: <https://tinyurl.com/4bnby2ax>

And from Facebook:

Cheryl Fuglestad Willow Trail Committee
May 11

Thanks to Mat Su Trails and Parks foundation grant, the Willow Trail Committee was able to obtain this set up of a CanAm ATV with Rammy brush cutter. This equipment will assist the laborious process of cutting back the overgrowth along Willow trails.

A successful test run was done at Shem Pete trail. The remaining trails can be attended to after the trails are dry enough to not rut our wonderful trails.

Again, thank you MSTPF this is greatly appreciated!



WANT TO HIKE SEWARD TO GIRDWOOD? PEOPLE ARE WORKING ON IT.

Getting excited about summer on the Chugach National Forest trails? You should be! The forest is working hard on filling in key gaps and putting essential bridges along the Iditarod National Historic Trail - Southern Trek between Seward and Girdwood. This segment is also part of the Alaska Long Trail system. Check out this nifty GIS resource created by the awesome staff at the CNF that showcases the existing trail segments, as well as the work-in-progress and the history of the Iditarod trail. See the link below.



<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/1f8c131acd904885a00d0dde22d2c9a5>

SEEN RECENTLY ON SOUTHCENTRAL FACEBOOK PAGES

ANCHORAGE PARK FOUNDATION

May 28

Save the date for the Moose Loop Trail Challenge August 23 - 30, 2025.

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

Whether you run, walk, bike, or roll, this un-timed, all-ages, all-abilities adventure is your chance to enjoy the great outdoors at your own pace—on the Moose Loop in Anchorage or wherever you are. It's not just a celebration of trails, it's a feel-good fundraiser for the Anchorage Park Foundation, and the perfect way to stay active and connected all summer long.

Thanks to our Title Sponsor @exerplayinc and our partners at @anchorageparksandrec for making this event possible.

ALASKA STATE PARKS

MAY 30

🚧 Prospect Heights Public Service Announcement 🚧



In the coming weeks, there will be shorter interim closures at Prospect Heights Trailhead. Please refrain from entering with vehicles if the barricades are up. Exciting new entrance signs, gates, asphalt shouldering, and topsoil and seed distribution are among all the amazing finishing touches we're making to the updated trailhead.

We appreciate everyone's patience and are excited to share the beautiful new trailhead with you!

May 27

🔥 Trailhead Advisory from the Division of Forestry & Fire Protection 🔥

Yes, Prospect Heights was just repaved and reopened to the public—but just a heads-up: fire crews are still on site wrapping up fuels reduction work. So, while the lot is smooth and shiny, you might see firefighters, hear chainsaws, or catch the scent of controlled burn piles.

🔥 Fire safety doesn't take a day off, so a huge thanks to our park users for your patience, and to the Division of Forestry for their work on the East-West fuels reduction project.

While most trails remain open, please note that some trail segments leading into the project area are temporarily closed. These are clearly signed and flagged, please respect the closures for your safety and theirs.



May 27

🚦 Prospect Heights Parking Lot is Officially Open! ⭐

We're excited to announce that the Prospect Heights trailhead parking lot is now open and freshly paved! A big thank you goes out to the Design and Construction team at Alaska State Parks for their work on this much-anticipated improvement.

We also want to extend our sincere appreciation to the public for your patience during construction. We know it wasn't ideal timing over Memorial Day weekend, but it was the best window for our contractors to complete the work efficiently and safely.

Thanks for bearing 🐻 with us—see you out on the trails! 🥾 🌲

May 23

🚧 Crow Pass Trail Maintenance – Summer 2025 🛠️

Heads up, hikers! Trail crews will be hard at work improving sections of the Crow Pass Trail this summer. Crews will be mobilizing from the North Fork Eagle River Trailhead and working in 8-day stretches from June through mid-September, focusing on areas near Echo Bend and Chutes & Ladders.

📅 Planned Work Dates:

- June 4–11
- June 18–25
- July 2–9
- July 16–23
- July 30–August 6
- August 13–20
- August 27–September 3
- September 10–17



Expect increased activity near the North Fork Eagle River Trailhead on those dates. Trailhead access may be temporarily affected—stay tuned for updates.

Thanks for your patience as we work to keep your trails safe and sustainable! 🌲

📷 Photo Credit: Christina Roe & Alaska State Parks Archive

MAT-SU TRAILS AND PARKS FOUNDATION

May 20

How much do you know about Meadow Lakes Community Park?



With covered pavilions, walking trails, interpretative signage, multiple ball fields and courts, AND a playground - Meadow Lakes Community Park has so much to offer!

Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation has helped support several of the improvements to this park over the years, including the building of trails, signs, bridges and benches, as well as the access stairs near the Senior Center.

Even more exciting is Meadow Lakes Community Park has more improvements planned, with support from a 2025 grant from Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation. A bike pump track is in the early stages of development! This bike pump track will provide a dedicated space for bicycle riders of all ages and abilities to hone their skills and will make a great addition to the park's multi-purpose offerings!

In the meantime, come check out all that Meadow Lakes Community Park provides for Mat-Su residents thanks to countless hours put in by Meadow Lakes Community Development volunteers! THANK YOU, volunteers!

MAT-SU BOROUGH RECREATION AND LIBRARY SERVICES

May 21

The MSB Summer Trail Crew is back and already working hard. Their first project was repairing damage to the West Butte Trail that happened during the winter. Broken posts were replaced, cables were spliced, steps were reinforced, and split rail fencing was repaired. Additional work will be completed throughout the season. Please remember to stay on the official trail and don't cut through between trail legs. This is very important to keep the trail open and in good shape. Thank you for assisting in protecting this wonderful community resource!



ALASKA HUTS ASSOCIATION

May 28

Speaking of the Lars Spurkland Memorial Hut...we have an update for you!

Like many others across Alaska, we've felt the impact of this year's unusually low snowpack.



Unfortunately, with snowmachine access closed in the Chugach, we simply weren't able to transport materials or make progress on construction at the Lars Spurkland Memorial Hut this winter. It's not the timeline we had hoped for — but with conditions beyond our control, there was nothing we could do.

The good news? We're still on track to open the hut later this summer, and we're incredibly excited to welcome you to this special new space near the Spencer Glacier Whistle Stop.

We'll continue to share updates as we get closer to opening, and we appreciate your patience, support, and shared excitement for this multi-decade-long project that means so much to the Alaska Huts community.

This backcountry hut will sleep up to 13 and was made possible by the Spurkland Family and individual donations, alongside grant donors Rasmuson Foundation, Murdock Charitable Trust, Atwood Foundation, and ConocoPhillips in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and The Alaska Railroad alongside the time and talents of our staff and board.

May 16

This...is a volunteer event?!

Join us for Spring Woodstock on June 21 — a day of trail work, woodstocking, and community connection at Manitoba Hut.

Spend the day with us getting Manitoba ready for another season of adventure — then unwind with shared meals, good company, and maybe some music under the stars. Volunteers are invited to stay overnight in the yurt, with our thanks. 🌙 🛠️



It's more than a day of work — it's a chance to be part of the Alaska Huts story. Together, we're building a community rooted in outdoor connection, stewardship, and the joy of wild places.

Interested? Email us at mailbox@alaskahuts.com to sign up.

FRIENDS OF KACHEMAK BAY STATE PARKS

May 23

Can you spot the difference between these photos? 👁️👁️

A big hearty "THANK YOU" to Friends volunteers Cameale Johnson and Kaleb Harvey who spent last Thursday clearing all the trees (12 in total) that had fallen this winter over the trail from Glacier Spit Trailhead to Saddle Trailhead. The path is clear and accessible now for hikers and amblers of all strides.

Want to join in on the fun? Fill out a volunteer waiver and we will send you information on future opportunities for trail work, training provided: <https://form.jotform.com/250971472524055>



ISLAND TRAILS NETWORK

May 16

Hey there users of Spruce Cape trail! You'll notice some bags of gravel and other minor disruptions to the area. Island Trails Network is doing improvements to the trail

Save the date June 7th! National Trails Day! We invite you to join for a day of fun, community, and helping improve the places we love.

SOUTHCENTRAL LINKS

- Friends of Kachemak Bay Trails Day Event: www.facebook.com/events/1016676386546743/
- Anchorage Mat-Su Strategic MTB Trails Plan: <https://tinyurl.com/md67cef3>
- Mat-Su trail users must restrain four-legged friends -- or risk citation: <https://tinyurl.com/46fb8szz>
- New multi-use, Nordic trails at GPRA (Mat-Su) this summer! If you donate! <https://tinyurl.com/23r2ebbd>

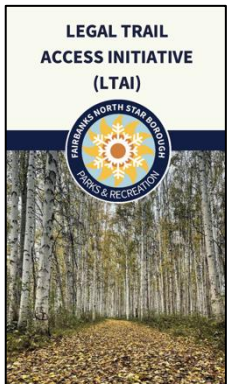
SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Island Trails Network (Kodiak) May newsletter: <https://tinyurl.com/dmk38hdx>
- What's new with cabins, huts in Southcentral Alaska? | Outdoor Explorer: <https://tinyurl.com/5c77akrz>
- Chugach Park Fund, May Update: <https://tinyurl.com/trkksd4w>
- Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation May newsletter: <https://mailchi.mp/matsutrails.org/may2025>
- Anchorage Parks+Trails Film Festival (links to films): <https://tinyurl.com/hnjhcwvy>

INTERIORWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

FAIRBANKS BORO LOOKING TO BUY EASEMENTS FROM LANDOWNERS

SELL AN EASEMENT The Fairbanks Borough is looking for landowners who have a trail on their property that is in the borough trails plan but does not already have a public access easement. The borough would like to purchase trail easements from willing landowners. If you know have such a trail, please read the announcement below and/or see this brochure: <https://tinyurl.com/mt4st9wj>. **If you have a trail that runs across your property and are uncertain of the status, call Trails Coordinator Andrea Jacobs** (contact information below).



LEGAL TRAIL
ACCESS INITIATIVE
(LTAI)

The Fairbanks North Star Borough's Parks and Recreation Department has been developing a new program, Legal Trail Access Initiative, which uses Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) funds to purchase trail easements from willing landowners to secure legal public recreational access as suggested in the Comprehensive Recreational Trails Plan. The primary goal is to reduce liability for landowners and instances of trespassing while also making it possible for the Borough to build and maintain trails which could not have funds invested in them previously due to their lack of a public easement. The Borough is currently in the process of testing the process with interested landowners who have a CRTP trail crossing their property which does not have a public access easement associated with it. If you are interested, please contact the Trails Coordinator, Andrea Jacobs, at andrea.jacobs@fnsb.gov.

COMMENTS DUE ON SKARLAND SKI TRAIL PROTECTION

COMMENT Comments are due by June 7 on the Notice of Intent and Public Comment - FAST Area Surface Upgrades that will involve the upgrade of multiple surfaces in Fairbanks and North Pole. Included in the list is a project to place jersey barriers to protect the Skarland Winter Trail from snow berms plowed from Ballaine Road. Construction is currently planned for summer 2026. **For more information or to submit comments**, contact John Nectarous at (907) 451-5448 or email john.netardus@alaska.gov.



SEEN RECENTLY ON INTERIOR FACEBOOK PAGES

FAIRBANKS TRAIL AND WATERWAY USERS

May 15

Really great news for greenspace AND trail advocates! This helps preserve some great trails connected to the Isberg Recreation Area. Please donate if you care about this area. Thank you IALT!

Shared from Interior Alaska Land Trust

May 15

🌲 New Parcel Update! 🌲

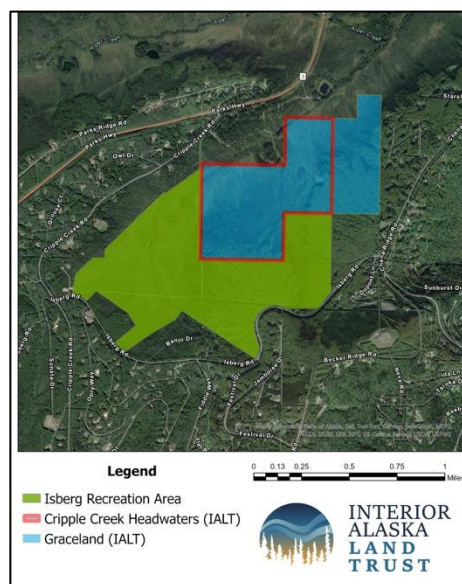
We're excited to share that the Interior Alaska Land Trust has secured the Cripple Creek Headwaters parcel (Highlighted with red outline) — over 300 acres of wetlands, upland habitat, and public trails adjacent to the Isberg Recreation Area! This project nearly doubles the protected greenspace in an area and helps safeguard the headwaters of Cripple Creek, providing vital habitat for salmon.

Thanks to the incredible work of our supporters, we've already raised two-thirds of the funds needed — but we still need your help to finish strong! Every donation brings us closer to fully conserving this special place for wildlife and recreation. If you live in the Cripple Creek Community, enjoy the Isberg Recreation Area, or support our efforts to restore Cripple Creek consider making a donation!

🔗 **Donate here:** <https://www.gofundme.com/f/up-on-cripple-creek>

Thank you for being part of this effort to protect and connect our trails, wetlands, and community spaces. Stay tuned for updates and ways to get involved!

Together, we're making a difference. 💙



May 14

Here's a new map of trails on private property north of Herreid Road: <https://tinyurl.com/2jbifte5>
You can find even more resources on the Interior Alaska Trails website: www.interioralaskatrails.org/

May 11

The Fairbanks Daily News-Miner has a story on the Senior Recognition Day and the Healthy Living Summit. It listed several seniors who were honored at the event, including Stan Justice, who was named 2025 Outstanding Senior Volunteer.

Here's a snippet from the story.

--Stan Justice is well known for his tireless dedication to trail maintenance, construction and preservation. He has spent decades maintaining and grooming the Skarland and Pearl Creek Trail systems. He created and maintains ski trails on the Fairbanks Golf Course and he pioneered the Rat ponds loop off the Alaska Dog Mushing Association trails.—

Congratulations, Stan!

ALASKA STATE PARKS

April 30

🌲 Northern Region Volunteer Opportunity: Trail Workday at Mastodon Trail! 🌲

Join us for a rewarding day of trail maintenance at the beautiful Mastodon Trail in Chena River State Recreation Area, just outside Fairbanks, Alaska. Help preserve our cherished hiking paths and enjoy the great outdoors!

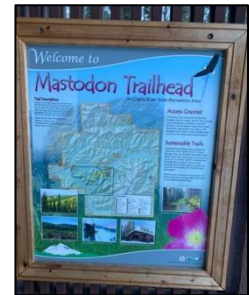
📅 Date: Saturday, June 14th

🕒 Time: 9:30am - 5pm

📍 Location: Mastodon Trailhead, Chena River State Recreation Area

🔑 Register Here: <https://mastodon-trail-workday.eventbrite.com>

Bring your gloves, sturdy boots, and a passion for nature. All tools and guidance will be provided. Let's work together to keep our trails safe and enjoyable for everyone!



ALASKA DOG MUSHERS ASSOCIATION

May 20

⚠️ 🌲 Good morning trail users! 🌲 ⚠️

It has been brought to our attention there is a dangerous section of trail near the peat ponds where melting permafrost has created a sinkhole in the trail. Please use caution in this area as other ground nearby may be unstable as well.

The Board of Directors will be looking into what our options are for this area. More detailed information on location sent in by a trail user:

“There is a sink hole on a section of trail. The sink hole is located on a long stretch of trail overlooking the peat ponds. As one travels the last half mile towards the Henrik Court trail head entry point or the right turn going towards the golf course, the sink hole is on the last section of the raised trail...Also, the further one travels south on the trail, there is another area that is showing evidence of dipping.”

If we have any volunteers willing to take some photos or put up signage / flagging, please contact ADMA or a Board Member. Thank you and be careful out there!

May 29

The Fairbanks Daily News-Miner has a story on upcoming FAST Planning projects. A couple of the projects are trail-related.

--Long-planned improvements to Miller Hill and Yankovich roads west of Fairbanks are set to start next year.--

--According to DOT, Yankovich Road would be widened to 30 feet wide, with 10-foot-wide lanes and five-foot-wide shoulders. Miller Hill Road would be reconstructed and widened to a similar standard, while the bike path on the road's east side will be paved.--

Other projects may be delayed due to staffing shortages and agreement delays. Trail-related projects that may be delayed are:

- Pave the gravel trails in Chena Lake Recreation Area's south lake loop and peninsula
- Repave the Mitchel Expressway Path from Geist Road to Loftus to Steelhead Road.

Read more details in the story: <https://tinyurl.com/yc7ts6jk>

INTERIORWIDE LINKS

- Residents concerned as Felix Gold eyes projects near Fairbanks: <https://tinyurl.com/3xnz3caw>
- Lots of Bikers Attend Matt Glover Bike Path Dedication: <https://tinyurl.com/3y9nmjw>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Adoption of the Tanana Valley State Forest Management Plan: <http://notice.alaska.gov/219740>

SOUTHEAST NEWS AND NOTICES

SEEN RECENTLY ON SOUTHEAST FACEBOOK PAGES

JUNEAU MOUNTAIN BIKE ALLIANCE PUBLIC FORUM

Jack Kreinheder

May 14

Our Volunteer Trail Maintenance Team is flying in a new 20-foot bridge to South Treadwell today to replace the rotting bridge 25 log bridge. About a mile south of Blueberry Hills. The new bridge should be done by next week.

Thanks to Dave Haas, Bill Janes and Marc Scholten, and special thanks to Tom Krehbiel for pre-cutting and treating the bridge decking and railing posts. And the rest of our VTMT crew for removing the old bridge and rebuilding the abutments. Good work Team!



HAINES HUTS AND TRAILS

May 12



Thank you to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee for organizing a trail work day on the recently donated Margaret Piggott property and the Borough land along Front St/Lutak Rd. We finally got a chance to break out some of our new tools that were funded by Chilkat Valley Community Foundation and Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc. grants this past fall! This waterfront access trail is a great addition to the Picture Point area, creating another beautiful spot for locals and visitors to explore the beaches of Haines.

May 1

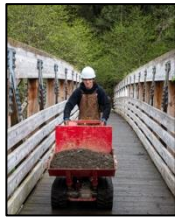
By-the-bunk booking is live for May! Inspired by hut systems around the world, we're excited to try out by-the-bunk booking this summer. By-the-bunk booking has many advantages, such as providing more opportunities for smaller group sizes, last-minute booking, lower costs, and best of all; a chance to meet new friends as you share experiences in the most incredible place in the world. To learn more about by-the-bunk booking and see the private hut booking dates, click the link below!

<https://haineshuts.org/huts/>



TRAIL MIX, INC.

May 27



Check out the progress on Fish Creek Trail! 🏡 Our crew is hard at work using a canycom (a gas-powered wheelbarrow) to haul freshly quarried gravel and rocks. They're widening the tread to meet accessible trail standards, adding a new ground cover and base layer, and revegetating with moss to keep the trail looking natural.

They're also tamping down gravel for a smooth finish and lining the edges with rocks for that freshhh look. 🛠️ 🌿

May 19

Last week, we kicked off crew training on the Peterson Lake and Amalga Trails—made possible by your incredible support for our Support a Crew fundraiser! 🛠️ 🌲

On Peterson, crews focused on trail drainage, digging and repairing drains along the first mile of trail. On Amalga, training centered on revegetation, with the crew gathering moss to cover freshly excavated and widened tread.

These trainings are happening because of the overwhelming community support to keep these trails well maintained. From all of us at Trail Mix, thank you!



May 16



For Chuck Orsborn, member of Volunteer Trail Maintenance Team (VTMT), trail work is about making nice, lasting trails, learning, and having a good time doing it. Any time he walks on a trail now, he thinks about what could be done to improve it.

Since VTMT was started in 2017, volunteers have worked about 18,000 hours on Treadwell Ditch, with some of the founding members logging close to 2,000 hours each.



May 12

We're thrilled to welcome our crew members today—and to share an exciting update on our Support a Crew fundraiser! 🤝

Thanks to your support, we raised \$54,184.44 for our 2025 trail season. Since launching in February, we've been blown away by the generosity and encouragement from Juneau and beyond. Your support lifted our spirits during a difficult time and made this season possible.

Here's how your donations will make a difference:

🛠️ \$21,000 for labor costs for our three Forest Service trail crews—starting with Peterson Lake and Amalga trails



🪵 \$9,000 for essential materials like gravel and lumber
🌲 \$24,184.44 reserved for urgent trail maintenance and the potential rehire of former Forest Service staff impacted by the ongoing Reduction in Force (RIF)
From all of us at Trail Mix—thank you. We're excited to get to work!

May 6



Thank you so much to everyone who came out and worked on Black Bear with us last Saturday! We filled in puddles with gravel, learned why canycons are more fun than wheelbarrows, and talked through drainage. It's pretty cool to see nearly half a mile of freshly repaired puddles on trail!! 😊🚲

We're excited for more volunteer days to come!

SITKA TRAIL WORKS, INC.

May 20

Sitka Trail Works extends a huge thank you to Ernie's Bar for hosting a dart shootout fundraiser for our trail crew last weekend! It has been amazing to see consistent community support for our trails, and this warmed all of our hearts. Thank you as well to all the folks who participated and contributed to nearly \$1000 that will go directly to Sitka's Trails! We are so grateful to be a part of the generous community of Sitka.

Shared from Ernies Bar

May 18

Our first fundraiser darts tourney was a huge success raising nearly \$1000 for Sitka Trail Works and a great time was had by all!

Special thanks to Vince Winters from American Legion Post 13 who went 30 wins and 3 losses in Beat the Beast to Lisa Langenfeld and Pioneer Bar Sitka Alaska for helping support and to Karol Daniels who helped organize, shot in, and helped sponsor the tourney, and to Hannah and Sitka trail works for participating and for building and maintaining the trails that so many of us enjoy year round. If you like to donate, please visit <https://sitkatrailworks.org>



May 16

A couple weeks ago we had our third annual Trail Master Summit! It is humbling to see the interest year after year of the Sitka community in learning how to care for our trails. We want to extend a huge thank you to our partners at the USFS Sitka Ranger District who took the time to help us teach volunteers key trail maintenance skills. And of course, a thank you to all the volunteers who came curious to learn and ready to work! Our next volunteer event is an off-island event at the Causeway. Head to sitkatrailworks.org/events to sign up for that and all future events. Thank you Sitka!



Incredible photos courtesy of @ryankmorse

May 6

A few weeks ago, the students of @outer.coast spent a rainy day contributing to local trail maintenance! As their semester wrapped up, they generously volunteered their time on the Thimbleberry-Heart Lake Trail. They tackled essential brushing and drainage projects, helping ensure the trail is ready for summer

enjoyment. We love partnering with these students making a difference in our community, thank you again for all the hard work!

SOUTHEAST LINKS

- Trail Mix (Juneau) You Made It Happen — Trail Crew Season Begins! <https://tinyurl.com/56tak9hb>
- The Dirt – May issue (Trail Mix newsletter): <https://tinyurl.com/mrt7ay34>
- Sitka Trail Works Summer Hikes Calendar: <https://tinyurl.com/4jc36pkn>
- Sitka Trail Works: May Trailblazer Bulletin: <https://tinyurl.com/esfuznsw>

NATIONWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

TOOL COMPANY TO GIVE TOOLS TO WINNING TRAIL GROUP

Warwood Tool has launched a Trail Builder Grant for nonprofit trail organizations. One organization will be selected to receive a cache of American-made trail tools valued at over \$5,000 to own and use for years to come, shipped free to their location. Who can apply? 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations involved in trail building, maintenance, or stewardship in the continental 49 U.S. states (excludes Hawaii). Deadline to apply is June 6. For more information and to apply go to: <https://warwoodtool.com/pages/2025-trail-grant>



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/>
- Conservation Volunteers VIP (May newsletter): <https://tinyurl.com/mrjp6sxc>

FUNDING

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

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