



NEWSLETTER

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2024

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www.alaska-trails.org

ALASKA TRAILS NEWS AND NOTICES

YOUR INPUT IS NEEDED FOR AN ALASKA LONG TRAIL STUDY

PARTICIPATE Exciting news: the Bureau of Land Management - Alaska is hosting five public meetings as part of the feasibility study to evaluate the characteristics of the work-in-progress Alaska Long Trail (AKLT) to make a recommendation about its eligibility as an addition to the National Trails System as a National Scenic Trail (NST).



Your help is needed - please consider attending one of the public meetings and share your thoughts on the project. The project needs people who support it to show up! Please share this news with your colleagues and friends who might be interested.

See Statewide news for more information about the meetings, which will be held in different towns and cities along the route between April 8 and 12.

RACE ACROSS ALASKA DELIVERS FOR AK LONG TRAIL – AGAIN!

We are grateful, once again, for the overwhelming support for our Alaska Long Trail Project from the Race Across Alaska Winter Challenge!

Race Director Heather Helzer took this photo of Steve Cleary when they met recently for a meeting on the trails and got to skate ski in the Anchorage slush. The BIG check for \$26,165 is amazing and Alaska Trails was honored to share the race proceeds this year with Challenge Alaska and the Nordic Skiing Association of Anchorage (NSAA).

When we add up all the support over the previous three races, the total amounts to an astounding \$143,918! Alaska Trails is truly grateful for all the support. You can really see the difference that support has made with all the progress we are making on the Alaska Long Trail:

www.alaska-trails.org/alaska-long-trail

And it has been a great way for people to get outside and embrace winter. We are already looking forward to next year!



REDOX CROSSFIT SUPPORT BOOSTS ALASKA LONG TRAIL



We are honored and grateful to be the recipient of Redox CrossFit's Community Giving Week. Through their Redox Intramural Open, team members and supporters donated almost \$4,000 to Alaska Trails to support the Alaska Long Trail project and help their team win! We truly appreciate their support in helping us raise funds to keep our important Alaska Long Trail work going.

TRAIL TALES BRINGS YOU MORE STORIES FROM THE TRAIL

ATTEND The next edition of Trail Tales will be on April 16 and will benefit both Alaska Trails and Girls Riding into Tomorrow.



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 2024 Trail Tales events will be held at the Anchorage Museum and tickets cost \$20.

Trail Tales will start at 7 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are on sale now. To purchase tickets, visit: www.alaska-trails.org/trail-tales

TRAILS CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN APRIL IN HYBRID FORMAT

ATTEND Please mark your calendar for our annual Statewide Trails Conference coming up soon!

The conference will be held April 11-12. We will have both in-person and virtual options this year, allowing us to bring in presenters from the east coast, Canada and across the state. The in-person version will be held at the BP Energy Center in Anchorage. More information on the conference, including the agenda and link to register, is posted on our Trails Conference page: www.alaska-trails.org/trails-conference



Trails and outdoor recreation are a public health asset and an economic engine for the state and the trails conference seeks to raise the profile of trails and their importance to Alaska. We hope you can join us.

To view recorded sessions and presentation slides from past conferences see our archives at: www.alaska-trails.org/conference-archive-links.

ALASKA TRAIL STEWARDS NEED YOU FOR A NEW SEASON

VOLUNTEER Are you getting excited for summer hiking and trail work? We sure are! We've got a couple of events lined up for National Trails Day on June 1. Many more events will be added to the calendar soon, continuing on through September.



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 have events from Hatcher Pass to Seward this summer, and we hope you'll consider joining us!

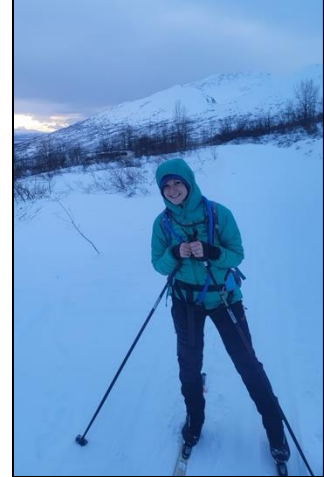
Find out more on our Alaska Trail Stewards Program page: www.alaska-trails.org/alaska-trail-stewards. And check the dropdown menu for our planned events: www.alaska-trails.org/current-volunteer-opportunities

WELCOME TO OUR TWO NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBERS

Alaska Trails is excited to welcome two new members to its Board of Directors!

Molly Redilla – Fairbanks

Molly Redilla moved to Fairbanks to lead environmental sampling across the taiga and tundra and has been here since. Currently, Molly serves as the Vice President of Lands for Doyon, Limited, which is the largest private landowner in the state. She is responsible for the management of Doyon's Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act lands. Molly earned her Bachelor of Science in Fisheries and Wildlife with a concentration in Wildlife Biology and Management and a Doctor of Philosophy in Forestry and Spatial Ecology from Michigan State University. Molly was a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at North Carolina State University where she researched ways to help stop the spread of the most invasive forest insect in North America to date. She has spent years studying and researching forest health and ecology and modeling landscape changes across space and time. She has devoted her career to understanding the land we live on and determining ways we can help manage it. Outside of this, she is an avid trail user and spends as much time as possible in Alaska's wilderness.



Susan Lagrande - Anchorage



Susan LaGrande is a long time Alaskan, an artist, an educator, and a retired psychologist. She arrived in Alaska as an east coast city person who cared little for the outdoors. The turning point for her was a hike North of Livengood, when looking out over the vastness, realized the sheer beauty and power of nature. She views access to trails as an opportunity to connect community and inspire protection of the environment. She spends as much time as possible hiking, biking, snowshoeing, and paddling a kayak. Summers are spent exploring coastal Alaska on a boat.

LEARNING FROM THE PROFESSIONAL TRAIL BUILDERS CONFERENCE

Ben Ervin, our Trails Program Officer, recently attended the Professional Trail Builders Association Sustainable Trails Conference in Lanier Islands, Georgia. We sent Ben down to get a picture of where the professional trail building industry is at currently and where it is headed in the future.



Ben joined more than 300 trail professionals at the conference, which had more than 40 concurrent sessions, roundtable discussions, and hands-on learning opportunities. Ben attended as many as he could and learned about a variety of subjects, including trail math, efficient use of helicopters, mechanized equipment, renovation of extremely eroded trails, strategies and challenges in finding/training/retaining crew, flow trail, and trail counters.

You can read more about Ben's trip and what he learned in his report: <https://tinyurl.com/3dva77t3>

SPRING TRAILS ARE VULNERABLE, PLEASE USE WITH CARE

TREAD LIGHTLY Alaska Trails asks that you please keep in mind how your trail activities might affect other trail users, especially in the spring.

As snow melts and the ground thaws, the trails become extremely muddy. Using muddy trails at this time can result in ruts that stay all summer when the trails dry out. Those ruts can make the trails difficult to use all summer and into the next winter. They help create erosion by keeping water on the trails.

But with a little thought this problem can be greatly reduced.

- **Try to be patient.** Stay off the trails if you can. If you are unsure if a trail is ready to be used, check it out with the commitment to turn back if you are doing too much damage.
- **Choose low impact.** If you use the trails in several different ways, choose the method of travel that will cause the least amount of damage if you do run into some muddy sections.
- **Pick your trails carefully.** Use well-drained trails with lots of southern exposure. They typically dry out the quickest. If you just have to get muddy, please limit your activities to trails that are already thrashed.



An alternative to using trails in the spring is to get out on foot or by bike and go explore quiet subdivision roads new to you. You get to be outside, be active, and probably find out new things about your community.

Photo: Erosion on a popular trail in the Chugach State Park as seen on September 9, 2020 (Lex Treinen/Alaska Public Media)

SEEN RECENTLY ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

March 27

Alaska Trails is grateful to be a National Forest Foundation grantee in the Chugach National Forest! These funds have been used to restore and improve sections of the Iditarod National Historic Trail and the Johnson Pass Trail. An Alaska Trails crew brushed the trail corridor, reworked approximately 1,200' of natural surface tread, removed 100' of berm that was causing the trail to be concave and hold water, and cut roots intruding into the tread on one mile of trail for better ATV and machine access. In addition to these improvements, this crew fell over 20 hazard trees, installed a culvert for improved drainage, and installed a turnpike to give trail users a dry and sustainable walking surface.

This work greatly improved the trail user experience by helping clear a wider corridor for improved sightlines; by improving the drainage, preventing the tread from getting overly mucky, even during the rainy season; and by eliminating many overhead hazard trees that had the potential to block off the trail or injure hikers and bikers. We are excited to continue this work this coming season!

March 20

Do you like plants? **Mark your calendars for April 20th** for Green Connection's Earth Day Plant Swap and support Alaska Trails in the process! Bring your pest and disease free cuttings, or potted plants to share and trade with others. Tickets are \$5 and all proceeds go to Alaska Trails.



March 20



We had a wonderful time at Trail Tales with Nordic Skiing Association of Anchorage last night at the Anchorage Museum! Huge thanks to all our brave storytellers and to everyone who attended! We have one more Trail Tale event coming your way with Girls Riding Into Tomorrow on April 16th! Get your tickets here: <https://www.alaska-trails.org/trail-tales>

March 7

On this Thankful Thursday, we are grateful to Moose's Tooth and Bear Tooth Theatrepub & Grill for putting on a fundraiser for Alaska Trails in February! They raised \$3,625.00 that will be put to immediate use to improve our trails for all. Thank you so much!

STATEWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

BLM TO HOLD MEETINGS REGARDING ALASKA LONG TRAIL STUDY

PARTICIPATE The Bureau of Land Management Alaska (BLM-A) is hosting five public meetings in April to help determine whether to recommend naming the Alaska Long Trail (AKLT) as a National Scenic Trail (NST).



BLM-A is conducting a feasibility study to evaluate the characteristics of the work-in-progress Alaska Long Trail (AKLT) to determine its eligibility as an addition to the National Trails System. Results of the trail study will be shared with Congress, which has the sole authority to enact legislation to

designate new NSTs. Following that, rights-of-way, authorizations, and easements must be secured for the entirety of the route. Only after completion of that process could construction begin on the project. This feasibility study does not authorize any activities. You can read more about the study here:

<https://www.alaska-trails.org/national-scenic-trail-study>

Please consider attending one of these public meetings and share your thoughts on the project.

The project needs people who support it to show up! Please share this news with your colleagues and friends who might be interested.

Public Meetings:

- Anchorage: April 8th 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM | Z.J. Loussac Library Learning Commons Room, 3600 Denali St
- Seward: April 9th 5 PM – 7 PM | Gateway Hotel, 1115 4th Ave
- Wasilla: April 10th 3:30 PM – 5:30 PM | Wasilla Public Library, 500 North Crusey St
- Cantwell: April 11th 5 PM – 7 PM | Cantwell School Gym, 299 Hawk Lane
- Fairbanks: April 12th 5 PM – 7 PM | Birch Hill Recreation Area, 101 Wilderness Drive

See the BLM AKLT NST Feasibility Study webpage here: <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2030342/510>

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 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: JOIN OUTDOOR ALLIANCE, COMPOST

Climate changes affects everyone, including trail lovers.

For winter trail lovers, a warming climate can mean shorter snow seasons and more extreme events like snow droughts and rain-on-snow events. For summer trail lovers, climate change can bring more droughts, wildfires, flooding, and permafrost thawing, all of which can hurt trails and the lands through which they run. These impacts will just get worse unless we slow climate change, which means we need to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.

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

Join Outdoor Alliance

Outdoor Alliance is a nonprofit coalition that mobilizes outdoor enthusiasts to protect public lands and waters. This includes, but is not limited to, climate change.

The coalition is made up of several national advocacy organizations, including Winter Wildlands Alliance, the Mountaineers, the American Alpine Club, American Canoe Association, and the International Mountain Bicycling Association. The group also relies on individuals.

According to Outdoor Alliance, “Public land and conservation policy is complex, and we know how to effect meaningful change. We do the hard work, ensuring that we’re not just talking but making a measurable impact on all public lands and waters. That means building relationships with decision makers, enthusiasts, and activists to preserve



trails, create new legislation, share maps, and empower others to protect the places in their backyards and beyond.”

As an individual, you can donate or sign up for action alerts. Find out more here:

www.outdooralliance.org/get-involved

Take a personal action



Find ways to not waste food. If thrown into the trash and to the landfill, rotting food creates methane, a potent greenhouse gas. Be more cognizant of how you make and use your meals. Consider composting, even if you don't garden.

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

SEEN RECENTLY ON STATEWIDE FACEBOOK PAGES

ALASKA STATE PARKS

March 27

We want to hear your opinion on our Commercial Use Permitting! 🤖 ⚡ DPOR has posted the public notice for scoping for CUPs until 4/12/2024.

The link to the PN is located here: <http://notice.alaska.gov/214259>

See entire notice here: <https://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/misc/regs/dporscopingsuspregs24.02.13.pdf>

ALASKA SAFE RIDERS

March 10

This dramatic video footage demonstrates the dangers of traveling on river ice. While this video shows the particular danger of having a heavy machine fall on top of you, collapsing river ice can be a danger to anyone, including dogs. Be extremely careful out there.

Don't ride alone. Ride with a strong team of riders that can provide you with help when needed.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mH8-BwMGlrA>



STATEWIDE LINKS

- Nikolai to McGrath: Helping A Friend Finish the Iditarod Trail Invitational: <https://tinyurl.com/y25zsyuz>
- Winter's Gifts: Bikepacking 1,000 Miles on The Iditarod Trail: <https://tinyurl.com/vkjpvnzu>
- Alone Time: Ana Jager's Solo Ride on The Iditarod Trail: <https://tinyurl.com/32k3466d>
- ITI 350 – 2024 (Peter Delamere, third place): <https://tinyurl.com/mmbdzfur>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Volunteering at Rohn for the ITI and Iditarod: <https://yak.spruceboy.net/2024/03/rohn.html>
- Several trail-related episodes on Outdoor Explorer podcast recently: <https://tinyurl.com/mr2mkbbf>
- Federal Highway Administration approves Alaska DOT&PF STIP: <https://tinyurl.com/48mdkf9j>

REMEMBER TO VOTE IN THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ELECTION

VOTE Voting has already started for the Anchorage Municipal election. The last day to vote is April 2. If you have not voted already, make sure your voice is heard. The following is from an Anchorage Park Foundation email.

Vote Yes on Prop 4 Parks Bond

The Municipality of Anchorage manages 11,000 acres of parkland, 226 parks, more than 250 miles of trails, and recreation facilities across the city. All parks and most park



facilities are free for the public to use. Costs for renovations of existing facilities and development of new facilities are funded primarily through bonds that require voter approval.

Proposition 4, the 2024 Parks Bond, would provide \$4.35 million for improvements to our parks, trail, and recreation facilities and leverage another \$16 million in federal match. The Parks Bond provides an affordable way to invest back into our community through the parks and trails that make Anchorage a great place to live, learn, play, and work.

You can learn more about how Prop 4 will improve a park or trail in your neighborhood on our website.

Last Day to Vote: Tuesday, April 2, 7am-8pm

<https://anchorageparkfoundation.org/2024/02/2024-bonds-for-parks-trails/>

Other bond measures with projects that benefit trails:

Proposition 3: Anchorage Roads and Drainage Bond

The Anchorage Roads and Drainage Service Area Roads and Storm Drainage bond includes a proposed project to add wayfinding signage that would point to the two major trailheads in downtown Anchorage, the Ship Creek Trail and the Tony Knowles Coastal Trail.

Proposition 9: Chugach State Park Access Service Area Bonds

The proposed Chugach Access Service Area (CASA) bond, if approved by voters, would provide \$4 million to upgrade Canyon Road and parking for popular trailheads leading to southside Flattop and Rabbit Lake. CASA Fact Sheet

For information on voting: www.muni.org/Departments/Assembly/Clerk/Elections/pages/ballotinfo.aspx

SEEN RECENTLY ON SOUTHCENTRAL FACEBOOK PAGES

ANCHORAGE PARK FOUNDATION

March 25

Outdoor Explorer on KSKA covered the economic benefits of props 4 and 9. Listen to host Paul Twardock chat with Chris Beck, Haley Johnston, and Joe Connolly about the amazing outdoor resources we have in or near Anchorage: <https://alaskapublic.org/2024/03/25/the-benefits-of-outdoor-recreation-outdoor-explorer/>

March 22

Glimpse what it is like to take an early spring sunrise bike commute along the Coastal Trail at Fish Creek. Can you spot the moose? How many do you see? https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ONWj_g4sXPQ

March 13



A great article about a community asset we can all enjoy, Campbell Creek Trail. Prop 4, on the ballot reaching mailboxes this week, includes funding to continue the trail resurfacing, bridge replacement, and implementation of new wayfinding signage for this popular multi-use trail.

www.railstotrails.org/trailblog/2024/march/12/alaskas-campbell-creek-trail

SINGLETRACK ADVOCATES

March 22

Hey friends, we are so stoked to party with y'all at our 20th anniversary party on May 3rd. Leading up to the event we would like to share some good trail memories over the past 2 decades! Dang, that's a long time! There have been so many of you that have helped make these trails come alive. We are forever grateful for y'all. Here is a memory back in May of 2020 when board members, @leetronbolling, @andypetroni and @akgreeff cruised through Kincaid Park to see how we could revamp Northwest Passage, Good Greef and Hanging Chad as seen in the pics! A total of 11 trails in this trail network had work done to them with reworked jumps, addressed those flow busters, rerouted a couple trails and fixed drainages. That is seriously how Lee rides his bike too btw. Ha!



<https://www.facebook.com/events/965648708651334/>

EAGLE RIVER/CHUGIAK PARKS AND RECREATION

March 11

Here is some more information about the Mirror Lake/Edmonds Lake Park Master Plan Public Workshop. We have also created a public survey and would love to get your input!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MirrorLake>

CHUGACH MOUNTAIN BIKE RIDERS

March 4

In January 2024, non-motorized advocates successfully championed extending the separated bike path on Eagle River Road from Eagle River Loop Rd to Mile 5.3 (O'Riedner) as a part of a larger road rehabilitation project.



Construction was slated to begin in 2025.

In February 2024, AMATS (Transportation) staff proposed cutting the entire \$60M road/path project (paid for 90% with Federal dollars) and shift funds from Chugiak-Eagle River to Anchorage Bowl road projects.

Over the past decade approximately \$60M has been invested in Anchorage Bowl pathways, and zero funds have been spent in Chugiak-Eagle River.

Our vision is to connect the Moose Loop in Anchorage to outlying communities, including a path along the Glenn Hwy to Eklutna, and a path to the Nature Center along Eagle River Rd.

Please email AMATS and let them know your thoughts about the PROPOSED funding cuts to the Eagle River Rd pathway, and about prioritizing bike path projects along the Glenn Hwy and Eagle River Rd. Should AMATS cut funding to the Eagle River Rd Pathway? Let them know, send an email! Click link for contact info.

<https://cmbralaska.org/2024/03/04/eagle-river-rd-bike-path-cancelled/>

SOUTHCENTRAL LINKS

- Anchorage Winter Ice & Trail Status: www.muni.org/Departments/parks/Pages/IceTrailStatus.aspx
- Celebrate Trails Day (April 27 – NOT same as National Trails Day): <https://tinyurl.com/yc3turkc>
- 10 Best Hikes in Hatcher Pass: <https://andreakuipoabroad.com/7-ultimate-hikes-in-hatcher-pass/>
- 7 Best Hikes in Seward: <https://andreakuipoabroad.com/best-hikes-in-seward/>

SLIGHTLY OFF TRAIL

- The Chugach Crowberry Traverse: <https://tinyurl.com/bn4aen78>
- Mirror Lake/Edmonds Lake Park Master Plan Visioning Workshop (Apr 9): <https://tinyurl.com/yp4hhmtk>
- Singletrack Advocates (STA) Membership Party and Fundraiser (May 3): <https://tinyurl.com/mryhber2>
- BLM seeks public input on future permitting of heliskiing in famous Alaska mountain area (**comment deadline April 12**): <https://tinyurl.com/37dkvnpm>

INTERIORWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

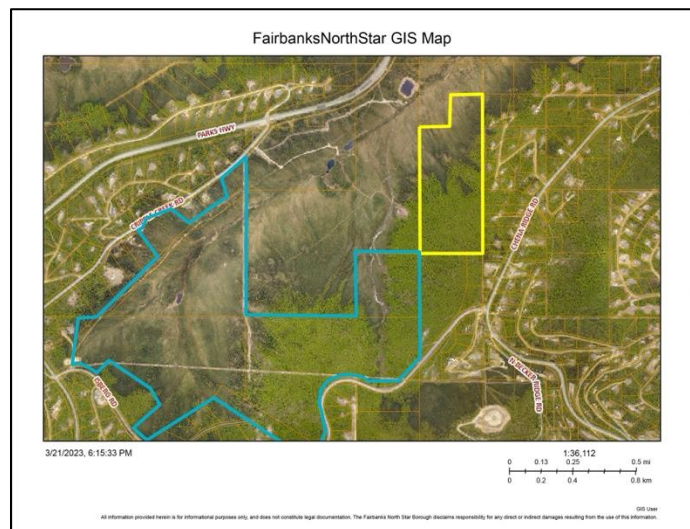
TRUST NEEDS DONATIONS FOR LAND, TRAILS IN CHENA RIDGE AREA

Great news! There is the chance to expand the upland trails in the Isberg Recreation Area, off Cripple Creek Road! And the Interior Alaska Land Trust (IALT) needs your help!

The Isberg Recreation Area (blue outline in graphic) has been growing in popularity in recent years, largely because it has some of the best winter trails in Fairbanks. But it also offers some rare upland trails on Chena Ridge for both summer use and the chance to get above the inversion in the winter. Now we have a chance to expand those trails and connect some loops.

The IALT has come to a purchase agreement to buy 90-acres of (mostly) upland forest (yellow outline in graphic) on the edge of the Isberg Rec Area, which will expand the trails and make an existing loop trail much better. The trail currently follows a section line on a powerline that goes straight down the hill. I'm a good skier, and it's a terrible trail. With this parcel acquisition, the trail can be moved to a more reasonable alignment, making a much better experience. On the included map, the parcel, known as Graceland Estates, is outlined in yellow, and the Isberg Rec Area is outlined in blue.

Land acquisition, and building out greenspaces in general, is a somewhat messy patchwork. Graceland will be a piece of a puzzle. But the IALT has been working for years on this and other places in



the Fairbanks area. (While the land trust is not a trails-specific group, it does recognize the importance of trails so that people can use and connect with land preserved for greenspace.)

To see more about this effort and how you can donate read the rest of this post here:

<https://tinyurl.com/esymcjjh>

You can also just donate directly to this effort at this GoFundMe page: <https://tinyurl.com/y8ky22w4>

Graphic courtesy of the IALT; blue outline shows the Isberg Recreation Area, yellow outline shows Graceland Estates.

Story by Seth Adams, IALT board member

SEEN RECENTLY ON INTERIOR FACEBOOK PAGES

FAIRBANKS TRAIL AND WATERWAY USERS

March 27

If you missed Tom Moran's "Nights in the Whites" talk earlier this winter, you can catch it here.

<https://fb.watch/r3Z2pAoEYs/>

March 7

Good KTVF story on efforts to complete the Fairbanks end of the Alaska Long Trail. Includes interviews with FNSB Mayor Bryce Ward, Explore Fairbanks CEO Scott McCrea, and Mariyam Medovaya of Alaska Trails. www.webcenterfairbanks.com/video/2024/03/06/alaska-long-trail-upgrades/

UAF NORTH CAMPUS

March 12

Farewell Jason Garron, Welcome Todor Yakimov

Hello, Campus Trails community. Today, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to an individual who has devoted the past 16 years to the development, growth, and maintenance of our campus trails system: Jason Garron. Having spent more than a decade caring for our North Campus Trails, Jason has decided that it's time to embark on a new chapter in life, and is ready to pass the maintenance torch to another committed individual.

With Jason's departure, we were tasked with finding someone who could match his level of care and dedication to our trails. It is with great pleasure that we introduce Todor Yakimov to our team. Todor brings with him a profound love for the outdoors and a wealth of experience in outdoor recreation.

Excerpted from a longer UAF North Campus FB post. See the entire text here: <https://tinyurl.com/36utv8v6>



FAIRBANKS CYCLE CLUB


March 23

Who is interested in sponsoring the Fairbanks/North Pole Bikeways Map? The map is a great way to help people navigate Fairbanks and North Pole via bike.

>Shared from

Fairbanks Area Surface Transportation Planning

March 23

 Sponsor the 2024 Bikeways Map! - <https://mailchi.mp/fastplanning/bffbx24>

INTERIORWIDE LINKS

- FNSB Winter Trails Challenge: <http://tinyurl.com/4en7rc5>
- A Bike Day Adventure on the Yukon Quest Trail: <https://tinyurl.com/5by4k673>
- Chena River to Ridge Run - Another Step Closer to an Overall Goal: <https://tinyurl.com/4pwnz47c>
- Struggling to the Finish – A Well-Earned Sonot Slog: <https://tinyurl.com/5c4mvm5>
- PCT Thru-hike Presentation, Beaver Sports (April 9): www.facebook.com/events/7406213882802989/

SLIGHTLY OFF TRAIL

- Arctic Traverse Presentation & Book Launch at Silver Gulch – April 9: <https://tinyurl.com/4fufk7j>
- Paddling Film Festival – April 25: <https://tinyurl.com/4c9brwr5>

SOUTHEAST NEWS AND NOTICES

SEEN RECENTLY ON SOUTHEAST FACEBOOK PAGES

TRAIL MIX, INC.

March 1

Cutting away your concerns! 🪓 In December, Trail Mix received a report through our Damage Report Form that there was a downed tree on Peterson Lake Trail about a half mile from the trailhead that was making hiking through difficult. 🚶

So, Nick, Meghan, and Mark headed out to the site to clear the way! The three of them removed branches from the fallen tree, chainsawed it into moveable pieces, and then cleared it off the trail. We love getting out in the field and responding the community needs, even in the winter! 🌲 **If you spot damage on the trail, make sure to snap a pic and report it at <https://trailmixinc.org/damage/>.**



SITKA TRAIL WORKS, INC.

March 22

We are hiring a seasonal Trail Crew Lead! **If you love being outside and working on local trails, this is the job for you.** As the lead, you will be directly involved in the decision-making processes in the field as well as overseeing a crew of high school interns, additional staff, and volunteers. Read through the post for more details or head to our website to learn more. Email ben@sitkatrailworks.org a resume and short statement of interest by April 8th to apply. <https://sitkatrailworks.org/we-are-hiring-a-trail-crew-lead/>

March 18



This weekend we had 15 volunteers plus staff take to the Mosquito Cove Trail and try to solve some of the issues remaining from the February storm. This section of the trail was completely covered by a blowdown tree that we removed in February, and with the many helping hands this weekend, we were able to start working on rebuilding a sustainable path.

Four hours of muddy trail work is no easy task, so thank you to our incredible volunteers who show up ready to work and make the day so much better with their positivity. We often get compliments on the quality of Sitka's trails, and the maintenance wouldn't be possible without the folks who show up on their

off days willing to help the community. Thank you all! Stay tuned for future volunteer opportunities or head to our website to learn more.

March 13

If you missed the meeting for public comment on the next phase of the Seawalk expansion, or you just have more to add, **you can contribute your thoughts and comments in a public survey here:** www.surveymonkey.com/r/G2HG7MS

Comments are due April 7th. The website with the slideshow from the meeting is available here: www.cityofsitka.com/departments/PublicWorks/SitkaSeawalkPhaseII



March 5

On the 24th, Trail Works volunteers and staff chipped away at the extensive damage to the Mosquito Cove Trail. We cleared a couple recent blowdown trees that were blocking passage, then excavated back a root wad that had slumped into the trail and widened tread where it had been narrowed by erosion.

SOUTHEAST LINK

- Boat Company permit for hiking Baranof Lake Trail (**cmnt ddline Apr 3**): <http://notice.alaska.gov/214725>

NATIONWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

2024 NORTH AMERICAN TRAIL SECTOR SURVEY OPEN

COMPLETE SURVEY American Trails is partnering with Trans Canada Trail to launch the inaugural North American Trail Sector Survey. If you manage, build, maintain, or plan trails, please take this important survey. The results of this survey will inform the trail community across North America about the current health of trails, trail systems, and trail organizations, identify pressure points and obstacles for growth, and arm advocates with the data they need to make the case for trails in their region.

Census Details:

- **This survey is for professionals working or volunteering in the trail sector, it is not for trail users.**
- Results of this survey will be tabulated and distributed to all respondents and made available on the American Trails and Trans Canada Trail websites.
- The survey will likely take about a half hour to complete.
- You can view a past report from the 2022 Canada Trail Sector Survey (<https://tinyurl.com/5f9vemf6>) to get an idea of the types of information that we will be gathering for the first time in America as well.

Please Note: There is an open-ended response option at the end along with "not applicable" options on all questions. Your responses matter!

Thank you for participating in this important research. We look forward to sharing the results with the North American trails community.

See survey here: https://tctrail.ca/2024-north-american-trail-sector-survey/?blm_aid=41528

Deadline: April 30

From American Trails email

ADVOCACY SECURES CONSISTENT FUNDING DESPITE CHALLENGES

Because of the efforts of the trails community including organizations, advocates, and user groups, funding for trail-specific line items in the Fiscal Year 2024, Interior and Related Agencies appropriations will largely remain level year over year, when many other programs and overall land management funding is facing steep cuts.

While trails and public lands still don't receive anywhere close to the funding fully needed to fulfill staffing, conservation, or maintenance mandates, the trails community recognizes the position of congressional appropriators and staff to make difficult funding decisions in the current climate. We express our appreciation that the value and importance of trails was recognized in this process to the extent that circumstances allowed.

While the topline cuts to federal land management agencies, insufficient staffing levels, and the zeroing out of funding for the Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program within the Department of Transportation will negatively impact the experience of all trail users, the trails community remains dedicated to supporting robust funding for federal land management agencies going forward and ensuring that conservation and recreation receives the funding it desperately needs and deserves.

From American Hiking Society story; read rest of the story here: <https://tinyurl.com/5dfbswbrm>

NATIONWIDE / INTERNATIONAL LINKS

WEBINARS, MEETINGS, CONFERENCES, TRAINING, ETC.

- For a listing of upcoming trail webinars workshops, conferences, and other meetings, see the American Trails calendar at: www.americantrails.org/training/calendar

TRAILS-RELATED NEWSLETTERS

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

VOLUNTEER

- Am. Hiking Society's 2024 Volunteer Vacations: <https://americanhiking.org/volunteer-vacation-trips/>
 - Alternative (to Spring) Break: <https://americanhiking.org/volunteer-vacations/alternative-break/>
- Conservation International VIP newsletter (Mar 2024): <https://tinyurl.com/2rsxrxs7>

FUNDING

- FOX Factory Trail Trust (**applications reviewed quarterly**): <https://trailtrust.com/>
- Yamaha Outdoor Access Initiative (OHVs, **quarterly deadlines**): <https://yamahaoai.com/>
- Community Change Grants, **deadline to apply is November 21**: <http://tinyurl.com/54mztbsv>
- Apply Now! \$45 Million in ATIP Grants Available (deadline June 17): <https://tinyurl.com/24wryeum>

OTHER LINKS:

- New program helps connect trails across the US: <https://tinyurl.com/2v7y7w9k>

The Alaska Trails board meets via teleconference the first Tuesday of every other month from 5-7pm. If you want to hear more about Alaska trail topics, share trail information, or propose a trail project, join us. Members and the public are welcome. Call for more information and meeting details [907-334-8049](tel:907-334-8049).

A copy of this newsletter will also be posted to our web site. Newsletters come out at the beginning of each month. Deadline for articles is seven days before the first of the month. Send stories to Editor Eric Troyer at fbxtrails@gmail.com