



NEWSLETTER

**MAY
2025**

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www.alaska-trails.org

ALASKA TRAILS NEWS AND NOTICES

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 with parent or guardian present! What a great opportunity!

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

A MESSAGE FROM HALEY, OUR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NOTE: Haley Johnston is our new executive director. For the past fifteen years, Haley has worked in Alaska's outdoor recreation industry as a wilderness guide, outdoor educator, program manager and nonprofit professional. When she's not working, Haley spends as much time as possible skiing and hiking on local trails and in Alaska's remote backcountry.

Looking Forward to A Great Season of Trail Work

Hello Trail Community!

First and foremost, thanks so much for the warm wishes as I've stepped into my new role as Executive Director at Alaska Trails. Folks from the trails and nonprofit communities have been incredibly kind and encouraging.

I've been with Alaska Trails since 2021 when I joined the team to work on the Tongass Sustainable Trails Strategy. When that project concluded, I began managing the Trails Initiative program and then became our Deputy Director. I really enjoy and believe in our work at Alaska Trails and I'm excited to support our amazing staff. I'm also excited to explore new opportunities to fulfill our mission of building trails for Alaska's people, communities, and economy.



Speaking of building trails, this upcoming summer is going to be our busiest trail building season ever. Alaska Trails will host over 20 volunteer events on some of Southcentral Alaska's most popular and beloved trails. Volunteers are critically important to enhancing the capacity of our local land managers. As folks may know, most of our land manager partners are unable to maintain their trail systems with their current resources without the help of partners like Alaska Trails. If you're able, I highly encourage you to check out the current volunteer opportunities on our website to sign up for one of our upcoming events (see story above).

In addition to volunteer events, Alaska Trails will employ three trail crews working on projects from Chugach National Forest to Denali State Park. These talented and hardworking folks will be working on popular trails like the Iditarod National Historic Trail in Girdwood, the Williwaw Lakes Trail in Chugach State Park and the Little Coal Creek Trail in Denali State Park, amongst others. Give our crews a wave (and maybe a thank you) if you pass them on a trail this summer!

Finally, all this trail work wouldn't be possible without the funders and the donors who support us. Every donation from individuals, businesses and foundations makes a difference and we're so grateful for your support.

We'll see you on the trails this summer!

-Haley

TRAILS CONFERENCE KICKED OFF THE TRAIL SEASON IN APRIL

Alaska Trails was excited to bring participants back together for the 2025 Alaska Statewide Trails Conference, April 24-25, at the BP Energy Center in Anchorage, with all sessions also presented virtually via Zoom. Presentations and videos are available at: www.alaska-trails.org/conference-archive-links



Thursday began with a presentation on a \$30 million general obligation bond that passed to support trails in Maine. Pete Didishiem of the Natural Resources Council of Maine shared the process of successfully securing that funding for their state's trails. Other Thursday sessions included a discussion on how to improve trail crew trainings as well as presentations on how to better connect with local businesses for sponsorship, how to navigate multi-jurisdictional partnerships, an update on the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), and a round table of trail groups from around Alaska sharing challenges, progress, and success.

On Friday, the sessions began with an informative presentation by Jon Underwood, president of Happy Trails, Inc., on successful trail layout. He was followed by Mariyam Medovaya, Alaska Long Trail Coordinator for Alaska Trails, who gave an overview of the current AKLT National Scenic Trail feasibility study. John Cannella, National Program Manager, National Trails System & National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, presented next on the National Scenic Trail System. After lunch, we learned about the exciting economic impact of trails, the new Anchorage to MatSu Strategic Mountain Bike Trail Plan, and South America style chainsaw milling. The day closed with a session on Tread Lightly!, a non-profit promoting responsible outdoor offroad recreation.

Alaska Trails would like to extend a special thank you to all the presenters who took the time to share their knowledge and expertise. In addition, Alaska Trails is grateful to the Conference Sponsors who have been consistent supporters of the event throughout the years: Alaska Recreation and Park Association, Alyeska Pipeline Services, Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation, and BLM Alaska.

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

April 23



We had a great time at Thunderbird Falls yesterday, celebrating Earth Day with Alaska State Parks and volunteers! We picked up trash at the trailhead and along the trail to maintain the natural beauty of the trail and area, protect wildlife, and promote responsible outdoor recreation.

Want to join us at our next volunteer event? Visit our website to see our calendar of upcoming events and sign up:

www.alaska-trails.org/current-volunteer-opportunities

April 23

Do you enjoy thrift shopping or have clothing or household items to donate? FashionPact is a great option to give back to the community! Alaska Trails is so grateful to FashionPact for raising essential funds for non-profits like us. **Watch this short video to learn more:** www.youtube.com/watch?v=nP_ei5XaxM

April 11

Want to hear about the trail projects we are excited about this year? Listen to this episode of Outdoor Explorer to hear Alaska Trails staff discuss various trail projects, including upgrades to the Crow Pass Trail out of Eagle River: <https://tinyurl.com/u9dnv4ut>



April 10

It's that time of year: 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 also contribute to erosion by keeping water on the trails.

Alaska Trails asks that you please keep in mind how your trail activities might affect other trail users and consider the following suggestions:

- 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.



April 8



The Forget-Me-Not Challenge begins on April 15th! This is a walk-run-bike-swim-or whatever collects miles challenge put on by Turnagain Training. The challenge is a fundraiser for three non-profits this year, including Alaska Trails! For every racer that participates, \$10 is donated. The race distance totals are 75 miles, 150 miles, 300 miles, 500 miles, or 1000 miles. The goal is to log as many miles as you can over the two months of spring to support a more physically active lifestyle.

Learn more and sign up at: <https://www.forgetmenotchallenge.com/>

April 8

Alaska Trails is thrilled to be a Republic Services grant recipient this year. Thanks to their support, an Alaska Trails pro crew will be funded for 7 weeks of work on trails in Far North Bicentennial Park! The north side of the park, aka North Bivy, is in serious need of trail revitalization, and this project will create a safe access point into the north side trail system for Anchorage's eastside neighborhood trail users.

Shared from Republic Services

April 8

The Republic Services Charitable Foundation is awarding 2025 National Neighborhood Promise® grants to 14 nonprofit partners to positively impact more than 2 million people in our local communities. The National Neighborhood Promise Program works to revitalize communities and enhance the quality of life of residents through volunteer projects, monetary donations and in-kind services.



April 7



Much conversation is happening about the potential national scenic trail designation for the Alaska Long Trail. Read Alaska Trails' Op-Ed published in today's issue of the Anchorage Daily News: What National Scenic Trail status would mean for the Alaska Long Trail: <https://tinyurl.com/3xyh6u33>

April 2

After more than 12 years, Alaska Trails bids farewell to Steve Cleary. Steve has been at the helm since 2012 and has helped to steward Alaska Trails from a one-person organization to the multi-faceted operation that it is today! Steve guided the organization through the launch of our Trails Conference, developed our Alaska Trail Stewards volunteer program, began our Trail Tales event series and hired our first paid trail crews. We're deeply grateful for his vision and leadership over the years and wish him well with his new job at the Renewable Energy Alaska Project. Visit our Board + Staff page to read Steve's goodbye letter and join us in thanking him for his service to Alaska Trails and wishing him well in his future endeavors!



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).

SEVERAL EASY WAYS TO HELP FUND ALASKA TRAILS

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

FASHIONPACT: FashionPACT, an Anchorage resale boutique, seeks to strengthen the Anchorage community by raising funds for local non-profits. You can help by donating gently used clothing, shoes, jewelry, etc. at FashionPACT and choose Alaska Trails. FashionPACT sells the items in their boutique and gives us payment for the things that sell. Learn more at www.FashionPact.com.



FRED MEYER REWARDS: Sign up for the Community Rewards program by linking your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to Alaska Trails at www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards. You can search for Alaska Trails or by our nonprofit number – KU871. Then, every time you shop and use your rewards card, you are helping Alaska Trails earn a donation! You still earn your rewards points, fuel points, and rebates, just as you do today.



GOODSEARCH: GoodSearch.com is a search engine that donates half its revenue, about a penny per search, to charities designated by the user. You use it just as you would any search engine, and, it's powered by Yahoo!. Just go to www.goodsearch.org and be sure to enter Alaska Trails as the charity you want to support.



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



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

WATCH FOR BEARS, MOOSE CALVES WHEN OUT ON THE TRAILS

It's calving season for the moose and things can get dangerous really 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



Also, check out this Alaska Science Forum column on early rising bears: <https://tinyurl.com/3sz8nybt>

Photo Lisa Hupp/USFWS/Alaska region

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: FIX YOUR GEAR, PATAGONIA ACTION

Climate change 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.

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.

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

Use Patagonia Action Works



For almost 40 years, Patagonia has supported grassroots activists working to find solutions to the environmental crisis. But in this time of unprecedented threats, it's often hard to know the best way to get involved. Patagonia Action Works connects individuals with environmental organizations to take action on the most pressing issues facing the world today.

www.patagonia.com/actionworks/home/choose-location/

Take a personal action

Fix or patch your outdoor (and other) gear rather than buying new. Eventually, gear must be replaced, but see how long you can make what you have last. If treated properly, good gear can last a long time. Or consider buying used. Fewer things being manufactured, means less energy being used to make them. It also means fewer things ending up in the garbage. Here are some resources:

- To fix your gear: <https://www.ifixit.com/>
- 8 Tips for Fixing Your Gear: <https://www.gearaid.com/blogs/learn/8-tips-for-fixing-your-gear-on-the-go>
- Repair Your Camping Gear: <https://backpackers.com/outdoor-guides/how-to-repair-camping-gear/>
- Buy Used Gear: 5 Best Sites to Shop: <https://gearjunkie.com/news/where-to-buy-used-outdoor-gear>
- Where To Buy Used Outdoor Gear: <https://www.theplanetedit.com/used-outdoor-gear/>
- Used Outdoor Gear: <https://www.thecoolist.com/used-outdoor-gear-stores/>



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


BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT - ALASKA

April 11

Is your furry family member invited on the hike? When recreating in Steese National Conservation Area (NCA), the answer is yes!

Pet people love to incorporate their fur friends into their plans, and we have plenty of options to do so! One option is the Pinnell Mountain National Recreation Trail in Steese NCA. Consider the following when recreating with your pet:

Conditions can change rapidly in Alaska. Prepare you and your pooch for all types of weather. Additional gear, such as booties, might be necessary for intense winter weather.

: Check the local leash laws and trail regulations. Leash policies vary.



🐾: To prevent accidents, keep your dog on a leash where wildlife sightings are common. Give wildlife plenty of space and don't allow dogs to chase or harass wildlife.

🐾: Practice Leave No Trace Principles and pick up dog poop.

🚑: Learn First Aid for Pets at a local class. Campbell Creek Science Center is hosting a class on May 17th. Learn more and purchase tickets at: Backcountry First Aid for Your Dog, Campbell Creek Science Center Public Programs - <https://www.recreation.gov/ticket/10089159/ticket/10091302>.

🏞️: Group of hikers in the summer at the North Fork Trail Shelter along the Pinnell Mountain National Recreation Trail. BLM photo.

STATEWIDE LINKS

- State park trail conditions reports: <https://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/asp/curevnts.htm>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Act Now: Navigating Federal Turbulence: <https://tinyurl.com/mzjxxnwj>
- Outdoor Gear Care and Repair | Outdoor Explorer: <https://tinyurl.com/yeykhi4t>
- Public Use Cabin in Coldfoot: www.recreation.gov/camping/campgrounds/10344823
- Alaska Outdoor Alliance newsletter (RTP poll, Confluence, more) : <https://tinyurl.com/ymfyby3b>
- Northern Migration (an off-trail fatbike trip in northern Alaska): <https://tinyurl.com/mr34p76t>

SOUTHCENTRAL NEWS AND NOTICES

PARKS+TRAILS FILM FESTIVAL HAPPENING MAY 22 IN ANCHORAGE

ATTEND Kick off your summer of adventure at the Parks+Trails Film Festival on May 22 at the Bear Tooth Theatrepub! Be inspired by locally made films that will spark your wanderlust and guide your next great hiking, biking, or paddling journey. Come for the stories, stay for the stoke—this is your ultimate launch into Alaska's summer season.

Part of the proceeds will benefit Anchorage Park Foundation and Chugach Park Fund non-profit organizations. **Tickets are \$15.**

<https://beartooththeatre.filmbot.com/movies/anchorage-parks-trails-film-festival/>



From Anchorage Park Foundation email

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

SEEN RECENTLY ON SOUTHCENTRAL FACEBOOK PAGES

ANCHORAGE PARK FOUNDATION

April 6

We are filled with gratitude for everyone who voted YES to keep Anchorage a "parks and trails town" and solidify our identity as URBAN and WILD! Props 3 and 9 passed!

FRIENDS OF KACHEMAK BAY STATE PARKS

April 17

Want to join the list of "on call when available" volunteers to search for missing hikers in the state park? Join us for 3 Zoom sessions with MATSAR trainer Mark Stigar where we will cover rescue basics in the event you can help out!

3 Zoom Calls: April 28, May 1, May 5 from 6-7:30pm

For more info and to get Zoom info please contact Alison at 907-299-6275, kaybaysar@gmail.com



April 16

Don't miss out on all the fun this summer! Just a reminder that ALL volunteers for Kachemak Bay State Park and the Kachemak Bay Water Trail must have current year volunteer waivers on file in order to participate in trail projects. Once filled out for 2025, please drop by paper copies at CYCLE LOGICAL or email scanned PDFs to kbspstrails@gmail.com. Thank you!

Waiver packets are available online here: <https://shorturl.at/NF4wj>

April 2

Cottonwood Eastland trail project has made the news thanks to Homer Cycling Club and Friend's board member extraordinaire Cameale Johnson! Please tell our local rep Sarah Vance to support this new trail system for the Homer Community! (kindly remind her these new professionally built trails are for non-motorized recreation - which Homer side of Bay is in dire need of) here is the recent article in Single Tracks! to contact Sarah:



<https://www.akleg.gov/basis/Member/Detail/31?code=VAN>

Article: <https://tinyurl.com/3nd6wftu>

CHUGACH MOUNTAIN BIKE RIDERS

April 24

The Anchorage and Mat-Su Strategic Trails Plan represents a bold, community-driven effort to reimagine Southcentral Alaska's trail systems.

Spearheaded by Chugach Mountain Bike Riders (CMBR) in collaboration with local trail groups, public agencies, and regional advocates, the plan reflects more than a year of outreach, data collection, and shared visioning.



Recognizing the region's unique combination of urban access, wild backcountry, and diverse terrain, this initiative aims to create a world-class network of sustainable, accessible, and purpose-built mountain bike trails that support both local recreation and destination tourism.

Check out the report under Alaska Bike News at <https://orca.bike/news/>

SINGLETRACK ADVOCATES

April 15

It takes all kinds of support to keep STA trail maintenance up and running! STA is grateful to Ski-Doo for the loaner machine to help with winter trail grooming. Even though snow was scarce this winter, grooming keeps the trails rideable when the big snow storms arrive!

MAT-SU TRAILS AND PARKS FOUNDATION

April 24

Important information regarding a closure along the Seven Mile Canoe Trail. Cottonwood Creek is closed to all water traffic due to construction of a new bridge. The closure is expected to last until fall 2025.

- See “How Will This Impact Me?”: <https://dot.alaska.gov/creg/seward-meridian/>
- Expect delays as Seward Meridian Parkway roadwork enters final months: <https://tinyurl.com/385vm8vj>

FRIENDS OF STATE PARKS, MAT-SU

April 10

 **LOVE THE TRAILS? LET'S KEEP THEM OPEN.**

Join Friends of State Parks, Mat-Su




Our Mat Su Parks are in trouble.

Spruce bark beetle kill has left hundreds of fallen trees across your favorite trails—and heavy rains are eroding them faster than they can be repaired. Meanwhile, state funding just isn't enough to keep up. We're a small nonprofit of local volunteers, partnering with Alaska State Parks to:

- ✓ Clear blocked trails
- ✓ Fund trail repairs
- ✓ Preserve historic park sites
- ✓ Keep outdoor recreation safe and accessible


 **BECOME A FRIEND OF THE PARKS!**

Whether you hike, ski, camp, or fish—your membership supports real, local trail maintenance and park improvements.

-  \$25 = Tools for volunteer crews
-  \$50 = Safety signage & trail markers
-  \$100 = Matching funds for major projects

<https://fospmatsu.org/donate>

Or join for free to stay connected and volunteer!

-  Join anytime at: <https://fospmatsu.org>
-  Or email us: info@fospmatsu.org

CRUST SKI ALASKA

Tim Kelley · March 28

The rangers of the Denali State Park have been working on a 15-mile winter multi-use (ski, bike, snowmobile) trail between the K'esugi Campground and the Byers Lake Campground for the past few years. They got to the point that they were able to run a Pisten Bully over the trail for the first time a few days ago.

I recently skied the trail both ways. Fun checking out a new trail. It follows the Parks Highway, but is set off from the road in most places so you don't hear much/any road noise. It's not a flat trail. A few big climbs. Snowbridges are in place over the creeks. They of course will give out as it gets warmer. I would guess there is 2 plus weeks of life left in this winter trail. This is a worthy trail to put on your list. Park rangers say this winter trail should hopefully be a yearly feature of Denali State Park going forward.

SOUTHCENTRAL LINKS

- Arctic to Indian: Alaska's Next Backcountry Ride: <https://tinyurl.com/jn2c95xt>
- Crevasse Moraine Trail Clean Up, May 3: www.facebook.com/events/1388637985625223/
- Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation March Newsletter: <https://tinyurl.com/ykd9crcb>
- Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation April Newsletter: <https://tinyurl.com/4c8c5xzc>
- Alan McClain Receives Pathfinder Award: <https://tinyurl.com/2p9a5uy5>
- Homer taking bids on new MTB trail system in Kachemak Bay State Park: <https://tinyurl.com/3nd6wftu>
- Friends of Kachemak Bay Trails Day Event: www.facebook.com/events/1016676386546743/
- Mirror Lake Spring Trail Work #1 (Chugach MTB Riders): <https://tinyurl.com/rjt8futp>
- Mirror Lake Spring Trail Work #2 (Chugach MTB Riders): <https://tinyurl.com/2w77n84b>
- Trails & Tales of Kachemak Bay State Park (May 17): www.facebook.com/events/703997812018195/

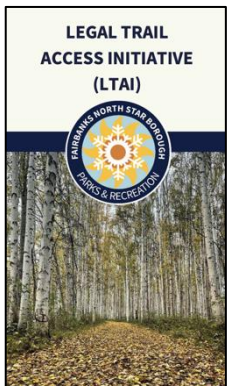
SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Jim Creek Clean Up May 10: <https://www.facebook.com/events/619388797302218/>

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 you 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.

SEEN RECENTLY ON INTERIOR FACEBOOK PAGES

FAIRBANKS TRAILS INC

April 30

The Fairbanks Borough Trails Advisory Commission voted on Monday to recommend adoption of an ordinance designed to streamline the permitting process for trailheads. The Fairbanks Daily News-Miner has a story about the vote and discussion surrounding it. <https://tinyurl.com/4xjsxsh2>

From the story: "The trails commission voted unanimously to recommend adoption by the borough Assembly. The ordinance will go to the Planning Commission for recommendations on May 27 and back to the Assembly by June 13."



The ordinance is not yet on the Planning Commission agenda for that date. You can see Planning Commission agendas on this page. <https://fnsb.gov/475/Planning-Commission>

You can read more about this ordinance here. <https://tinyurl.com/3asmdk8b>

April 19

The University of Alaska Land Management Office (UALM) is seeking public comment on a plan to issue a land use permit impacting University of Alaska land. The permit would allow motorized vehicle access across existing trails in the Twin Buttes area northeast of Fairbanks, Alaska. Twin Buttes is along the Circle-Fairbanks Historic Trail.

Parties interested in commenting on this disposal plan must submit written comments to UALM by fax at (907)786-7733, by email at ua-land@alaska.edu, or at the address listed below by no later than 5:00 P.M. on Monday, May 19, 2025, to be considered.

Find out more here: <https://tinyurl.com/muzmydd4>

April 12

The Fairbanks North Star Borough is currently looking for a board member for the Platting Board. This board occasionally makes decisions that affect trails in the borough. If you think you might be interested in serving, you can find out more about the Platting Board here:

<https://www.fnsb.gov/481/Platting-Board>

If you want to apply to serve, check under "Apply to be a Commissioner" on this page:
<https://fnsb.gov/406/Boards-Commissions>

ALASKA DNR - DIVISION OF FORESTRY & FIRE PROTECTION - DOF

April 11

🚫 Spring Breakup Advisory for Fairbanks Forestry Roads 🚚

Fairbanks Area Forestry urges the public to avoid driving on Tanana Valley State Forest roads from April 11 to May 19 to prevent costly damage to roads during spring breakup.

🚧 Roads like Cache Creek, Rosie Creek, Bonanza Creek, and others become muddy, rutted, and dangerous — risking both your vehicle and future road access for other Alaskans.

Getting stuck or damaging a road this time of year isn't worth a load of firewood. Let's work together to protect Alaska's forests and roads.



INTERIORWIDE LINKS

- Avoid Driving on Fairbanks Forestry Roads During Breakup: <https://tinyurl.com/23r94vfv>

SOUTHEAST NEWS AND NOTICES

COMMENTS DUE ON CABIN PROPOSAL OFF HERBERT GLACIER TRAIL

COMMENT Comments are due May 12 on the proposed Herbert Glacier Cabin Project to construct a new recreation cabin accessible to the public by helicopter or by foot via a 4.4-mile hike on the Herbert Glacier Trail north of Juneau. Other infrastructure includes a vault-style outhouse, a gathering area, a helicopter landing site and access trails. The cabin site is 13 miles north of the Juneau International Airport approximately 1 mile from the terminus of the Herbert Glacier. Documents can be accessed at [View Documents on Pinyon Public](https://usfs-public.app.box.com/v/PinyonPublic/folder/314998942812). <https://usfs-public.app.box.com/v/PinyonPublic/folder/314998942812>

From "What's Up?" by Peg Tileston

SEEN RECENTLY ON SOUTHEAST FACEBOOK PAGES

SITKA TRAIL WORKS, INC.

April 23



Thank you to Jim & Darcy Michner of @alaskapureseasalt and Mary & Terry Suminski of @sweetsisterscaramels ! They teamed up to make a Spruce Tip salt and caramel pairing, with revenues going to support the trail crew! We appreciate these folks for being such community-minded businesses, it means so much to a small non-profit like us. Be sure to head in and check out their incredible selection of sea salts if you live in or get to visit

Sitka. Thank you again folks!

April 17

Our Lake Eva Trip with Alaskan Dream Cruises is just around the corner!

This year's trip will be from May 12-14 with one full day of trail work at Lake Eva on the 13th. This is an incredibly fun and unique opportunity to explore a new part of Baranof Island while in community with amazing volunteers. Priority for this year's trip will be determined based on how many hours one has volunteered since last year's trip, but we encourage anyone who is interested to apply! [Learn more about the all-inclusive experience and apply to attend here: https://forms.gle/zZt3e77jMA3yEfgR7](https://forms.gle/zZt3e77jMA3yEfgR7)



April 15

We're excited to share some great news for Sitka's trails!



Thanks to a new commitment from Sitka Dock Company, Sitka Trail Works will receive 2 cents for every cruise ship passenger that arrives at the dock starting in 2025. This support will directly help fund trail crews for the 2025 summer season and contribute to trail improvements in the years ahead.

"Sitka's trails are a big reason visitors fall in love with this place—and they take hard work to maintain. A healthy cruise industry helps local businesses thrive, and that success creates opportunities to give back to

the community. We're proud to support the trail crews and future projects that keep Sitka wild, walkable, and welcoming—for everyone."

— Chris McGraw, Sitka Dock Company

We're incredibly grateful to Sitka Dock Company for recognizing the importance of our trail system—not only for locals, but for the thousands of visitors who explore Sitka each year. Support like this makes it possible for us to keep our trails open, safe, and beautiful. Happy hiking!

April 10

Sitka Trail Works extends a HUGE thank you to WildFlour Cafe & Bakery for their support through a fundraiser for the Save a Crew Campaign. And thank you to all those who bought a pie as well. This support means the world as we head into a busy summer season keeping Sitka's trails clean and accessible. Thank you WildFlour!

TRAIL MIX, INC.

April 29

We'd like to extend a huge thank you to Jack Kreinheder for his dedicated service on our board for over a decade!



"I have had the pleasure to serve with Jack on the Trail Mix Board for the last 10 years, Jack's humility, strength, and sense of Trail Mix duty have inspired all of us who work alongside Jack on the Trail Mix Board to maintain and preserve our local trails for the community of Juneau while fulfilling our mission as the Stewards of Juneau's Trails. Jack, thanks for all you have done these past 14 years on the Trail Mix Board.....see you on the Trails!" -Mark Pusich, Trail Mix Board President

Jack joined the Trail Mix board in 2010. He has lived in Juneau for over 35 years and enjoys hiking, mountain biking, trail running, and cross country skiing on Juneau's trails. The Treadwell Ditch trail is Jack's favorite trail. He retired in 2011 from a career with the State of Alaska and now keeps himself busy with volunteering for several nonprofit organizations and doing volunteer trail work.

Thank you, Jack!!

April 23

Calling all trail dwellers! Come spend your summer working outside, getting muddy, using tools, building bridges (literally!), and hanging with a fun, hardworking crew. We're looking for a crew lead to join our team!

<https://trailmixinc.org>

April 22

Happy Earth Day! Thanks to everyone who braved the weather and joined us for a lunchtime cleanup at Switzer today. The trail was bursting with spring magic—skunk cabbage, baby blueberries, pussy willows, fiddleheads, alder buds... and even a curious doe 🐇🦌

Boy oh boy, do we love it here. ❤️ We hope you get to wander a favorite trail today—and maybe even leave it better than you found it ✨🌿



April 3

Trail season is here! Help us keep trails safe and clear — report damage here:

<https://trailmixinc.org/damage/>

Today, we took down a widow-maker on Auke Lake Trail. Using a grip hoist, we brought down the dead tree and then bucked it into manageable chunks with a chainsaw. The pieces were rolled downhill, clearing the trail for safe passage.

Thanks for looking out and helping us maintain our trails! 🪵 🔧



April 1

We don't know about you, but this stretch of sunny weather means one thing: it's trail season! 😊



VTMT spent this past weekend building the ramps for the bridge we constructed on Black Bear trail (Lower Montana Creek) last season. We're stoked for more open call volunteer days out there to come this season!

Get outside and sign up to volunteer with us and/or report trail damage via the links below. Happy trails!

Sign up for the Gorp Report, our volunteer listserv: <https://wkf.ms/3QKainA>

Report trail damage: <https://trailmixinc.org/damage/>

SOUTHEAST LINKS

- Sitka Trail Works - April Trailblazer Bulletin: <https://tinyurl.com/yjtm37>
- Sitka Trail Works - Upcoming Events: <https://tinyurl.com/mrcydb65>
- The Dirt, April edition, Trail Mix newsletter, Juneau: <https://tinyurl.com/32wwy5y9>

NATIONWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

GROUPS URGE CONGRESS FOR ADEQUATE TRAIL FUNDING

The American Hiking Society and 259 partner organizations – including American Trails, the American Motorcyclist Association, the Back Country Horsemen of America, and the International Mountain Bicycling Association – submitted testimony to Congress urging adequate funding for our nation's trails and public lands. Representing millions of trail users who turn to the outdoors for recreation, wellness, and stewardship, we're calling on lawmakers to prioritize investments that protect and maintain the outdoor spaces we all love. Read the testimony here.

<https://tinyurl.com/43h4kzbn>

SEND LETTER The American Hiking Society has made it easy for everyone to send a letter to Congress asking for full funding of trails. See it here: <https://americanhiking.org/take-action/>

From American Hiking Society newsletter

PLAN TO HOST AN EVENT FOR NATIONAL TRAILS DAY

PLAN AN EVENT Why host a National Trails Day® event? So your community can come together to hug trees, join a trail stewardship project, clean up a trail or waterway, or hit the trails for a hike (maybe even with an adoptable pup!).

National Trails Day® is all about celebrating our love for the outdoors and giving back to the trails that connect us. Whether you've hosted events before or this is something new for your group, we'd love for you to be part of the movement!

The best part? There's no wrong way to celebrate! Host a group hike, organize a clean-up, plan a trail run, lead an educational walk, or get creative with activities like a scavenger hunt, park BBQ, or sunset hike with post-hike stargazing.

Ready to make an impact? **Learn more about hosting and register your event today** <https://buff.ly/4hcZdHI> and bring your community together for National Trails Day® this year on Saturday, June 7th!

National Trails Day® is made possible by our generous partners. Thank you to GORE-TEX Brand, Fjällräven, and our federal partners National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Federal Highway Administration.

From American Hiking Society Facebook post



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 (April newsletter): <https://tinyurl.com/4nnbztxf>

FUNDING

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

OTHER LINKS:

- Tools for Landowners to Have Public Trails on Their Private Lands: <https://tinyurl.com/4439hs86>
- 3D teaching Models of Common Trail Structures: <https://tinyurl.com/mr3t7stu>
- Editorial: Who Will Keep Trails Open? Cuts Threaten Public Lands: <https://tinyurl.com/ve79ezar>
- American Trails Announces 2025 Advancing Trails Awards Winners: <https://tinyurl.com/2kfvjnuw>
- Economic Impact of Mountain Biking in Colorado National Forests: <https://tinyurl.com/mwkzebap>

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