



# NEWSLETTER

**SEPT  
2025**

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[www.alaska-trails.org](http://www.alaska-trails.org)

## ALASKA TRAILS NEWS AND NOTICES

### SAVE THE DATE: FALL FUNDRAISER SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 9

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

What's in store:

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



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

**Mark your calendar for October 9**, bring a friend, and join us for an evening of community, stories, and inspiration on the trails we love. **You can buy fundraiser tickets here:**

[www.alaska-trails.org/fall-fundraiser](http://www.alaska-trails.org/fall-fundraiser)

### TRAIL TALES IS BACK: MORE GREAT STORIES FROM THE TRAIL

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



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

Alaska Trails runs the Trail Tales storytelling series as a fundraiser for itself while also partnering with a different community organization for each event. In the spirit of Arctic Entries, storytellers share seven-minute stories about their trail experiences, adventures, and life in general. Our 2025 Trail Tales events will all be held at the Anchorage Museum and tickets cost \$20. Put the upcoming Trail Tales events on your calendar: events will be held on November 18 and December 9.

## IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO VOLUNTEER WITH ALASKA TRAIL STEWARDS

**VOLUNTEER** Have you been having fun getting out on the trails this summer? Would you like to help take care of those trails? Alaska Trail Stewards has four more upcoming volunteer events. We'd love for you to join us! The mission of the Alaska Trail Stewards Program is to provide volunteer-based trail maintenance services to public land managers and others who are responsible for safely and sustainably maintaining trails throughout Alaska. New to trail work? Not a problem. No experience is necessary, just sturdy boots, a good attitude, and a willingness to learn what it takes to keep our trails great. We can't wait to get out there with you! **Learn more and sign up on our website:** [www.alaska-trails.org/alaska-trail-stewards](http://www.alaska-trails.org/alaska-trail-stewards)



## WE'RE HAVING A PARTY TO CELEBRATE OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS

We've said it before, and we'll say it again: Alaska Trail Stewards would be nothing without its incredible volunteers! As a thank you to all the program's amazing volunteer leaders and participants, we welcome everyone who volunteered during the 2025 season to an evening of great food, drinks, friends, and some surprise awards. The event will be held on Oct 16 from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM. Come celebrate your efforts alongside other trail stewards. **PLEASE RSVP here:** [www.alaska-trails.org/event-details/ats-volunteer-appreciation-party-5](http://www.alaska-trails.org/event-details/ats-volunteer-appreciation-party-5)



## WELCOME WILLIE DALTON TO THE AK TRAILS TEAM!

Please join us in welcoming Willie Dalton to the Alaska Trails Team. Willie was born in Alaska and, except for a short time living in Juneau and college in New York, has proudly called Anchorage home for his whole life. He joins the Alaska Trails team with excitement for supporting the trails he grew up recreating on. Willie joined us in August as our Communications and Community Engagement Manager. This newly created position will oversee organization-wide communications for Alaska Trails. This includes participating in the development, refinement and implementation of the Communications and Marketing Plan for the Alaska Long Trail project. With Willie on the team, we are excited to better tell the story of Alaska Trails and how our programs and initiatives are building trails for Alaska's people, communities, and economy.



To learn more about Willie and the rest of our amazing staff, visit: [www.alaska-trails.org/board-staff](http://www.alaska-trails.org/board-staff)

## ALASKA LONG TRAIL NEWS

Thanks to public and private contributions to the Alaska Long Trail, portions of the trail route have been recently constructed or improved. These projects help advance completion of the Alaska Long Trail between Seward and Fairbanks, and they also improve the trail experience for people using shorter sections of the route. See below for details on these and other Alaska Long Trail news stories

## **NEARLY 5 MILES OF NEW AND UPDATED TRAILS IN CHUGACH NATIONAL FOREST**

A big piece of the Alaska Long Trail (AKLT) and the Iditarod National Historic Trail (INHT) was just completed by the Chugach National Forest and is open for public use!

This segment is in the Victor Creek area, south of Moose Pass, and includes 2.5 miles of new trail, 2 miles of repairs to an existing trail, and a new 105-foot bridge over Victor Creek. The newly built trail travels through a spruce/hemlock forest with intermittent views over Kenai Lake and the surrounding peaks.

The trail is best accessed from Victor Creek Trail: <https://tinyurl.com/w2fh3nft>. About 1 mile from the trailhead, Victor Creek Trail crosses the newly built segment of the INHT, roughly at the halfway point. Head south on about 2 miles of reconstructed trail towards Snow River, or head north on about 2.5 miles of new trail towards Ptarmigan Campground.



The section of the new trail north of Victor Creek Trail currently dead ends at a small waterfall, but work is underway to extend it further. A separate trail construction contract is ongoing – as that work is complete, it will extend the newly opened trail another 3 miles or so to Ptarmigan Campground, which will create 11.5 miles of continuous completed trail along the Moose Pass Trail segment of the INHT. These additional miles are on schedule to be open by the beginning of the 2026 summer season.

A big thanks to Lisa Murkowski who secured Congressionally Directed Spending funds (aka federal appropriations) for this work!

See more about the USFS progress to complete the INHT-Southern Trek (Seward to Girdwood) here: <https://tinyurl.com/ycy7864f>

*Photo of new Victor Creek bridge courtesy of Sen. Murkowski's office*

## **DENALI STATE PARK TRAILS GOT SOME NEEDED HEAVY-DUTY BRUSHING**

In late July, Alaska Trails' crew spent eight days clearing brush on portions of the Cascade (2.5 mi) and Little Coal Creek (1.2 mi to beaver pond) connectors to Kesugi Ridge as part of our effort to keep up with maintenance of key existing Alaska Long Trail segments. Both trails were extremely brushy, having received no repair or maintenance in the last 10 years. A large portion of the trails required a chainsaw team to work ahead of the weed eater crew to keep pace.



Along the Cascade trail, thick birch and alder nearly overgrew the trail completely as the trail climbs. Some parts of the switchbacks saw significant delays because the weed eater crew could not cut through the birch without first sending the chainsaw team to make the route passable. In the future, the trail may need another substantial clearing by chainsaw to allow

for weed eater maintenance to take place on a yearly basis.

Along Little Coal Creek, the trail winds through a largely blue spruce forest that suffered an infestation of beetles around 5 years ago, leaving the trail to snake its way through thousands of dead standing trees. The situation is steadily getting worse as the number of downed trees that need to be logged out will soon be in the low triple digits as more and more of the dead standing spruce fall down.

Kesugi Ridge and its connectors are key parts of the Alaska Long Trail, and the funding to do this maintenance came from the Alaska Long Trail pool of money to plan the trail through the Mat-Su. Alaska Trails is grateful to the Rasmuson Foundation and the Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundations for these funds.

*Photos: These show before and after views of a switchback just past the 2-mile mark on Cascade*



## **OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP A LODGE BUSINESS NEAR HATCHER PASS**

The historic Motherlode site at Milepost 14 on Palmer-Fishhook Road is now accepting proposals for developing and operating a new full-service lodge.



This site is located directly across from the Gold Mint Trailhead and was once home to the Little Su Roadhouse. It is in a prime location to service the many users of Hatcher Pass. And as Alaska's Long Trail continues to expand, this location offers a strategic opportunity to support hikers with rest, nourishment, and trail resources at a key junction.

The property owner is seeking experienced lodge operators, restaurateurs, and investors to create a welcoming, locally inspired hub that enhances the trail experience and strengthens Alaska's outdoor infrastructure. Learn more at [www.motherlodehatcherpass.com](http://www.motherlodehatcherpass.com)

## **SEEN RECENTLY ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE**

*August 18*

Excellent news for Chugach State Park users! There's a new access point, thanks to Great Land Trust, who secured land to connect the missing link between the Stewart Trail and the Park. The 147-acre addition safeguards one of the last large, undeveloped private tracts of land in the Anchorage Bowl which contains robust, intact wetlands, critical headwaters, and boreal and subalpine habitats. We're looking forward to hiking the Stewart Trail soon to explore the new access point into Chugach State Park!



*See Southcentral news for more.*

*August 14*

We want to send a sincere THANK YOU to every Alaskan who shared part of their Permanent Fund Dividend with us through Pick.Click.Give this year. You brought a smile to our faces because we are able to continue our work of building and improving trails for all Alaskans!

*August 13*

Thank you to our wonderful volunteers who made our volunteer event on Devil's Pass a success this past Saturday! We were joined by nine volunteers who worked hard to improve this trail. They brushed 2,000 feet of trail, dug and replaced a culvert, cleaned out and repaired drainage on five more culverts, installed one sign, cleaned out 58 drains, and packed out six pounds of trash!



A huge thank you to our volunteers for showing up, to the U.S. Forest Service - Chugach National Forest for leading the event, and to Tall Trees Alaska for sponsoring the event! For more information on upcoming volunteer events, visit our website:

[www.alaska-trails.org/current-volunteer-opportunities](http://www.alaska-trails.org/current-volunteer-opportunities)

*August 4*

It was a wet day in Whittier on Saturday, as it so often is, but that didn't stop our volunteers! Fifteen folks came out to volunteer on the Horsetail Falls Connector Trail to build tread, grub the trail, improve the trail's backslope, and clean out hinges. Thank you for your dedication and hard work!

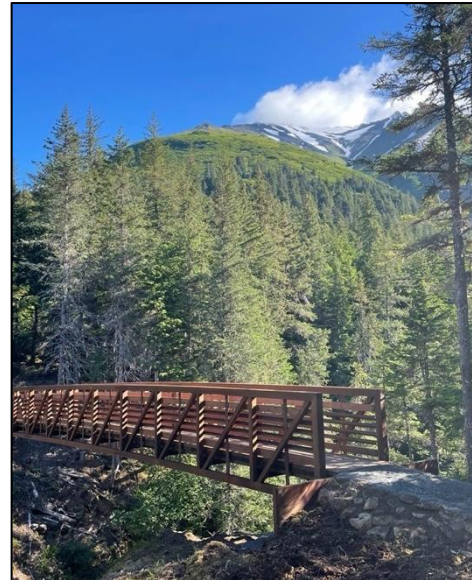
## We Love Improving Trails, But Only if You Get Out to Enjoy Them



What a summer! Southcentral Alaska has been treated to a truly spectacular summer of sunshine and warm temperatures. While the landscape might be begging for rain, I have certainly enjoyed the dry trails during this extended stretch of mild weather. Now that the Alaska State Fair has kicked off, fireweed has gone to cotton, and the kids have returned to school, the end of summer is here, but it is certainly not the end of our trail season! With fall colors right around the corner, it is one of my favorite times to get out and enjoy our incredible trails and trail systems.

If you're trying to decide what trail to tackle next, perhaps get out and enjoy one of the trails that Alaska Trails and partners have improved this summer.

- In Chugach State Park, the Williwaw Lakes Trail got a major facelift thanks to one of our hardworking crews and funding from the Chugach Park Fund. We keep hearing from delighted community members who just can't believe that they don't have to wallow through the mud on their way back toward Williwaw Lakes.
- If you're on your way to Seward, stop in the Moose Pass area and check out the newly maintained section of the Iditarod National Historic Trail from Snow River to Victor Creek, the epic bridge across Victor Creek, and the new section of trail north of the bridge that will soon connect to Ptarmigan Creek. The improvements to the Southern Trek of the Iditarod National Historic Trail like these are an exciting collaboration of the U.S. Forest Service, nonprofits, and trail builders, largely due to federal funding secured through Senator Murkowski's office and trail advocates.
- If you're visiting Denali State Park (DSP), check out the long overdue improvements to the Cascade and Little Coal Creek trails. One of our crews spent two weeks clearing brush, vegetation, and downed trees from these trails, paid for with Alaska Long Trail fundraising efforts since the state has failed to sufficiently fund trail maintenance in DSP in recent years.
- Or if you find yourself in Girdwood, check out the rehabilitated Middle Iditarod Trail. Our crew and community volunteers have turned a formerly wet, muddy, flooded, and slippery trail into a delightful (and dry!) experience for residents and visitors.



*New Victor Creek bridge*

While we are absolutely psyched about these and other trail improvements we've seen this summer, there is still lots of work to do! Our professional trail crews will be working hard until late September,

and you still have the chance to volunteer to improve the trails you love! We have several upcoming volunteer events in Chugach State Park, Hatcher Pass, and Whittier that need helping hands!

As fall approaches, our Trail Tales event series will make its return on Tuesday, October 7, and our Fall Fundraiser is happening on Thursday, October 9, at Hilltop Ski Area. I hope to see you at these events, but most of all, I hope to run into you out on the trails!

Happy Trails,  
Haley Johnston



## STATEWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

### APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE FOR RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM

**APPLY** The Alaska Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (DPOR) is accepting grant applications for the Recreational Trails Program. The Recreational Trails grant program provides up to 90% matching for the cost of a project.

Funding for the program comes from the Federal Highway Administration, which has awarded Alaska more than \$22 million for more than 570 projects since 1993.

**Recreational Trails Program applications are due by Oct. 31, 2025.** Mandatory public notices must be posted by September 30.

Eligible applicants include non-profit organizations, educational institutions, State of Alaska, local and federal government entities, native corporations and tribal governments. Interested parties can register on IRIS. The grants will be awarded between February and May of 2026.

**More information is available here:** <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/grants/trails.htm>.

*From Alaska Department of Natural Resources. Photo courtesy of the Valley Mountain Bikes and Hikers*



### K'ESUGI RIDGE TRAIL IN DENALI STATE PARK IS COMPLETE

Often called the crown jewel of hikes within the Alaska State Park system, the K'esugi Ridge Trail offers sweeping ridge line views, alpine tundra, and a front-row seat to Denali—without the need for permits or crowds. Traversing through Denali State Park, this trail system invites you to choose your own adventure, from a scenic day hike to a multi-day backcountry journey.



The completed Curry Ridge Connector Trail is a welcome addition to the Denali State Park trail system. It connects the Lower Curry Trail to the K'esugi Ridge Trail from K'esugi Ken Campground to Little Coal Creek, over 50 miles. Trailheads starting from the Parks Highway (North to South):

- Little Coal Creek – Mile 163.9
- Ermine Hill – Mile 156.5
- Byers Lake Campground – Mile 147
- Troublesome Creek – Mile 137.2
- Kesugi Ken Campground (Curry Ridge access) – Mile 135.4



See Alaska State Parks maps (not fully updated) here: <https://tinyurl.com/43bfd4s>

*From Valley Mountain Bikers & Hikers e-newsletter; Photo by Paxson Woelber from Wikipedia*

## EVENTS TO CELEBRATE NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY IN SEPTEMBER

**VOLUNTEER** Several events will be held in September across Alaska in celebration of National Public Lands Day.



As of late August, four events were listed on the NPLD website including in the Interior and Southcentral. Three include trail work. **See the Interior and Southcentral sections for more information.**

National Public Lands Day is the nation's largest, single-day volunteer events for public lands, held annually on the fourth Saturday in September. NPLD brings together hundreds of thousands of individuals and organizational volunteers to help restore America's public lands. The event began in 1979. For more info see: <https://www.neefusa.org/npld>

## APPLICATIONS FOR LWCF DUE BY END OF OCTOBER



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

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

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

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

## TAKE CARE ON TRAILS AS HUNTING SEASON APPROACHES

As we get into hunting season, please take care while using trails and while hunting and target practicing. This is not just a hunting season issue, but there is typically more gun activity this time of year.

The vast majority of gun owners are responsible with shooting. Unfortunately, some are less responsible, such a target practicing without a proper backstop or along a trail.

The chances of something happening are low. However, the consequences could be very high: death or wounding. Don't worry unnecessarily but do take care. Here are some resources:



- Tips for Hunters and Non-Hunters (USFWS): <https://tinyurl.com/29s5ea8d>
- Hike Safely During Hunting Season (American Hiking Society): <https://tinyurl.com/yr6cd8f3>
- Info about hunting seasons in Alaska: <https://tinyurl.com/2ux3jkvp>
  - For specifics see the Alaska Hunting Regulations: <https://tinyurl.com/mjbrn9j3>

## SEEN RECENTLY ON STATEWIDE FACEBOOK PAGES

### ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC FACILITIES

*August 25*

Alaskans! You are invited to share your experiences & ideas to help shape our state's transportation future. The Alaska Long-Range Transportation Plan 2055 is a 30-year plan that will guide how people & goods move across Alaska by road, air, water, rail, bike, and foot—setting priorities that will influence generations to come! **Tell us your stories! Learn more in this press release:** <https://tinyurl.com/49dassau>



*August 18*

Good news! Local governments, tribes, transit agencies, non-profits and school districts will have a streamlined way to apply for funding smaller-scale transportation projects with a new draft guidebook. **The Draft Transportation Alternative Program Guidebook is available for Public Comment until Oct. 17, 2025.** Details in press release: <https://tinyurl.com/mwap3mt2>

### ALASKA STATE PARKS

*August 21*

We Need to Talk About Poop... Literally. 🐞

Yeah, it's awkward, but it's also super important. In Alaska State Parks, "Leave No Trace" applies to all your traces. Whether you're hiking in the backcountry or trail running within your favorite state park, here's how to do it right:

👉 Dig a Cat Hole, Not a Catastrophe

6–8 inches deep, 200 feet (about 70 steps) from water, trails, and campsites. Do your business, cover it, disguise it. TP gets burned or packed out—never left behind.

👉 Know Your WAG Bags

In fragile spots (alpine, riverbanks, canyons), burying isn't enough. WAG bags turn waste into safe gel you carry out. Bag it, don't wing it.

You pick up your dog poop, right? Right? 🐕 🐞

👉 Why Bother?

Unlike wildlife scat, human waste carries pathogens that can pollute water, spread disease, and linger for years. Yikes.

👉 Pack a Poop Kit

Trowel, TP, sanitizer, and a WAG bag or trash bag. Better prepped than panicked.


👉 Do the (Toilet) Right Thing

- 1) Find the right spot.
- 2) Dig.
- 3) Do your business.
- 4) Cover & disguise (no TP left behind!).
- 5) Wash those hands.







When nature calls, answer responsibly no excuses, no mess, no regrets. The photo taken is right off of the trail. Let's be respectful to nature and the rest of the park users. Leave no trace... except maybe your footprints.

 Learn more from Leave No Trace: <https://lnt.org/how-to-poop-outside/>

## BLM-WHITE MOUNTAINS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

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August 9

 Save the Date 


 Volunteer Workday at Marion Creek Campground



Join the BLM for National Public Lands Day as we cut brush in the campground and build boardwalk on the Marion Creek Falls Trail.

 September 9, 2025

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

 Marion Creek Campground; Dalton Highway, Milepost 180, just north of Coldfoot, Alaska

We have jobs for all skill levels!

 Check out the event website for more information:

<https://tinyurl.com/4v24uv86>

Contact us to RSVP by September 5 or get more information: Kerri Hamos at [khamos@blm.gov](mailto:khamos@blm.gov) or (907) 474-2204

We hope to see you there!

## STATEWIDE LINKS

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

### SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- 10th Annual Confluence Summit (Sept 23-25): [www.alaskaoutdooralliance.org/confluence-ak](http://www.alaskaoutdooralliance.org/confluence-ak)
- Western Brooks Range to Point Lay, Alaska (Luc Mehl): <https://tinyurl.com/2s4cvtac>

## SOUTHCENTRAL NEWS AND NOTICES

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### EVENTS TO CELEBRATE NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY IN SEPTEMBER

**VOLUNTEER** At least two events will be held in September in Southcentral Alaska in celebration of National Public Lands Day. See below for more details.



National Public Lands Day is the nation's largest, single-day volunteer events for public lands, held annually on the fourth Saturday in September. NPLD brings together hundreds of thousands of individuals and organizational volunteers to help restore America's public lands. The event began in 1979. For more info see:

<https://www.neefusa.org/npld>

- Middle Fork Trail: Volunteers will hike down Powerline to the Middle Fork junction. There will be some structure repair and gravelling in a turnpike. Hiking will be easy to moderate and no more than 2-3 miles for the day. Details here: <https://tinyurl.com/5ympsyfc>
- Campbell Tract: Projects include planting native plants for trail restoration, trail maintenance, repainting trail posts, and winterizing the BLM Campbell Creek Science Center gardens. Details here: <https://tinyurl.com/3wc7z447>

## SEEN RECENTLY ON SOUTHCENTRAL FACEBOOK PAGES

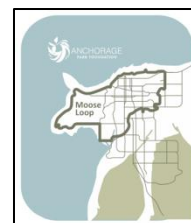
### ANCHORAGE PARK FOUNDATION

*August 27*

Thank you Bettisworth North Architects and Planners for being a part of the Moose Loop Trail Challenge and for being amazing trail advocates in Anchorage!

*August 22*

Don't forget that when you complete the Moose Loop, you can send us an email and photo at [info@anchorageparkfoundation.org](mailto:info@anchorageparkfoundation.org) and get a free sticker!



*August 12*

We couldn't make the Moose Loop Trail Challenge happen without our sponsors! Shout out to Alaska Emergency Medicine Associates for supporting this event.

### GREAT LAND TRUST

*August 18*

Big News for Chugach State Park Access!



A missing link is now connected! Great Land Trust led a major land acquisition in partnership with the Alaska Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation (Alaska State Parks) to permanently protect 147 acres in Potter Valley that will now be managed as part of Chugach State Park.

This project secures a new public access connection via the Stewart Trail, fulfilling a decades-long community vision. The land was previously owned by The Alaska Zoo and Alaska Botanical Garden and is rich in wildlife habitat, wetlands, and trail potential.

It's a win for conservation, public access, two beloved local nonprofits, and future generations of Alaskans and visitors! Trail access is now protected, but parking remains limited, so please plan accordingly and respect neighborhood signage.

Read the press release at the link below.

<https://tinyurl.com/yv8zjf8e>

### ANCHORAGE PARKS AND RECREATION

*August 6*

🚧 ALERT: Temporary Trail Closures Due to Increased Bear Activity 🚧

Several trails in Far North Bicentennial Park and the BLM Campbell Tract are temporarily closed due to increased bear activity. Trail closures include Rover's Run, a section of Viewpoint Trail, and Salmon Run Trail. While bears can be encountered on any Anchorage-area trail, the current level of activity around these specific trails presents a higher safety concern.



This is a proactive step, made in coordination with our partners at Alaska Department of Fish and Game - Official and Bureau of Land Management - Alaska, to help keep both people and wildlife safe.

Thank you for respecting the closures and staying bear aware while you're out on the trails! 🌲

Want more info on how to stay safe in bear country? Visit ADF&G's Living with Bears page: <https://www.alaskabears.alaska.gov/>

## SINGLETRACK ADVOCATES

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*August 30*

Phase 2 of the Service Singletrack trails are OPEN!!! Sponsor signs and maps will be coming soon. Go check out the new rad trails!

Huge shout out to STA Project Manager Martin Miller for leading this project from start to finish over the last 4 years. Great job to our trail builder Happy Trails for creating an amazing masterpiece. And thank you to all our members and sponsors that helped us raise \$587K to build the full SST trail system.

Renew your annual membership to support these trails on our website.

<https://singletrackadvocates.org>



*August 29*

STA is committed to maintaining our world class singletrack trail network, and this includes managing brush throughout the summer. STA has partnered with the Chugach Park Fund to hire crews to clear brush from Prospect Heights trailhead up South Fork Rim, across White Spruce, and down Hemlock Burn for your riding and hiking enjoyment!

Steer clear of crews for the next two weekends!

Trail maintenance may not be as exciting as new trails, but it's an important part of keeping our trail networks fun and safe. **Please consider making a donation today to support maintenance efforts this year and into the future!**



Singletrack Advocates: <https://singletrackadvocates.org/join-us/>

Chugach Park Fund: [https://alaskacf.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/create/fund?funit\\_id=1216](https://alaskacf.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/create/fund?funit_id=1216)

Thank you! Enjoy the trails!

## EAGLE RIVER/CHUGIAK PARKS AND RECREATION

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*August 20*

Heads Up Hikers: Baldy Trailhead Construction

Construction at the Mt. Baldy Trailhead will begin in about two weeks. During this time, trail access will be limited and may be intermittent, so please plan your visits accordingly.

The Baldy Trailhead is located on Eagle River/Chugach Parks & Recreation land, while the trail itself is managed by Chugach State Park.

We'll continue to post updates here as the project moves forward — be sure to follow our page for the latest information. If you have questions, please call our office at 907-343-1500.



We appreciate your patience during this project as we work to improve access and enhance our community parks and trails.



## CHUGACH MOUNTAIN BIKE RIDERS

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August 7

Chugiak

This past week ProTrails has been building the alternate line on the new EL JEFE jump line at Mirror Lake, Alaska.



The intent is to make this alternate route a black-diamond adaptive MTB line, but also to allow ride-arounds for the larger jumps on the main trail. Once the machine work is done and the trails dry out we'll host a work day and pre-ride of the new trails.

Thank you so much to the Anchorage Park Foundation for a \$10k challenge grant to make this MTB line possible!

## MAT-SU BOROUGH RECREATION AND LIBRARY SERVICES

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August 13

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

The MSB Trail Crew recently installed new split rail fencing on the West Butte Trail. This is an effort to encourage people to use the designated trail and not create unofficial "social" trails. Damage is often caused by social trail users where they intersect official trails. This can increase the time and cost to maintain the official trails and do more damage to the environment. We encourage people to either stay on the designated trails or explore off trail in areas away from designated trails. Wherever you go, we hope that you get out and enjoy this unusually nice fall weather!



August 8

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



The 2025 summer trail season is coming to a close and the MSB Trail Crew is starting their annual exodus back to their schools and winter jobs. It was a very successful summer filled with lots of trail maintenance and new trail construction. This is a very special group of people who work incredibly hard, in sometimes challenging conditions, and yet still maintain positive attitudes. A BIG thank you to the Crew!!

July 30

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

The summer trail season is starting to wind down. This week part of the Trail Crew camped out in Talkeetna to finish a connector on the Ridge Trail that was started last summer. If you haven't explored this trail system, we encourage you to check it out!



## ALASKA TRAILS

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August 15

Denali State Park Trails Got Some Much-Needed Love! 🌱🔪

In late July, our Alaska Trails crew spent 8 days tackling major brush clearing on portions of the Cascade (2.5 mi) and Little Coal Creek (1.2 mi) connectors to Kesugi Ridge—key segments of the Alaska Long Trail.

These trails hadn't seen maintenance in over 10 years, and it showed!

✓ Cascade: Thick birch and alder nearly swallowed the trail as it climbed. Some switchbacks were so overgrown that our weed-eater crew had to wait for the chainsaw team to cut through before they could even start.

✓ Little Coal Creek: Winding through a beetle-killed spruce forest, the trail now faces hundreds of downed trees as dead standing spruce continue to fall.

Keeping these trails open is a big job—and Kesugi Ridge is a major piece of the Alaska Long Trail, so this work matters! Huge thanks to the Rasmuson Foundation and the Mat-Su Trails & Parks Foundation for funding this effort.

Together, we can keep Alaska's trails open and amazing for everyone!



## ALASKA HUTS ASSOCIATION

*August 7*

Hiking at Manitoba: For the Adventurer



Fresno Peak | Grade 5 | 6 miles RT | 3,100 ft gain

Ready to earn your summit? Fresno Peak offers sweeping ridge views, a touch of bushwhacking, and a serious leg workout. Starting just across the highway from the Manitoba Cabin parking lot, this hike is not for the faint of heart—but the old wooden platform at the top (4,236 ft) makes it all worth it.

🏔️ Challenging? Yes.

🌿 Worth it? Absolutely.

📌 Pro tip: Bring layers—alpine ridges can surprise you.

Check out the full hiking guide here: <https://www.alaskahuts.org/manitoba#manitobacabin>

## FRIENDS OF KACHEMAK BAY STATE PARKS

*August 25*

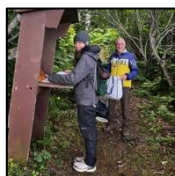
Looking fresh! Volunteers Judy and Jane made sure the Humpy Creek outhouse was nice and clean for future visitors while servicing this trailhead. They also scouted the trails in the area, which are in a range of states from cleared to overgrown. See trail status here: <https://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/asp/curevnts.htm>

There may still be time for more trail clearing trips this season, join the volunteer list by signing up here: <https://www.jotform.com/250971472524055>

Thank you Ashore Water Taxi & Freight for the round trip transportation!



*August 24*



Last weekend the Dolma family took a day trip to Sadie Knob for servicing the North and South Eldred trailheads. There was plenty of time for berry picking, reaching the summit, and even helping the ACC crew with their trail clearing.

Thank you for volunteering! And thank you Alaska State Parks for the round trip transportation!

*August 9*

A round of applause to superstar volunteer Jane Wiebe and her assembled brushing team of six for leading an overnight trip to Humpy Creek last weekend. This crew brushed and cleared a whopping 1.92 miles of woody overgrowth from Humpy Flats up towards Portlock (see attached map). Camping out on the flats meant some extra time for enjoying the alpine flowers and foraging berries for breakfast toppings.





Thank you to Across the Bay Water Taxi (907-299-2373) and Captain Jim for transportation of our volunteers!

## ALASKA STATE PARKS

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*August 12*

 Paddle Your Way Through Resurrection Bay 



Sea kayaking the Resurrection Bay Marine Trail is pure Alaska magic! Launch from Lowell Point and follow the shoreline past hidden coves, WWII relics, roaring waterfalls, and jaw-dropping cliffs.

Camp along the way at spots like Tonsina Point, Derby Cove, or the wild beaches of Caines Head—each with its own epic views and backcountry vibe.

Keep your eyes peeled for sea otters, seals, bald eagles—and maybe even whales!  Pro tip: start early, check the tides, and pack for a true Alaska paddling adventure.

 More info: <https://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/aspunits/kenai/kenaiindex.htm>

## VALDEZ ADVENTURE ALLIANCE

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*August 19*

Thanks to a Valdez Gold Rush Days grant received late 2024, a new bench was added along Gold Beach Trail yesterday.

## ISLAND TRAILS NETWORK

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*August 25*

It takes a village y'all! Island Trails Network, Kodiak Middle School, and Kodiak High School all helping to make Near Island trails tip top! Check out the new work on Dog Bay connector and Rotary Park trails.

*August 15*

Kodiak Middle School Cross Country Team- cross training with some gravel loads. Thank you for partnering with Island Trails Network to improve the Near Island Trails!



*August 5*

ITN trail crew has been hard after it to keep your feet dry. Last week they showed off their carpentry skills. Shout out the Williams brothers for building 3 bridges on the Selief Loop. Monaska is also sporting 3 new bridges. Woo woop!

*July 31*

Island Trails Network high school trail crew installed new bridge on Monashka Mountain trail. We love dry feet.

## SOUTHCENTRAL LINKS

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- Risk of human-bear conflict closes Eagle River's Albert Loop Trail: <https://tinyurl.com/54h3vee2>
- GLT acquires Potter Valley parcels, securing Chugach State Park public access via the embattled Stewart Trail: <https://tinyurl.com/srczavpb>



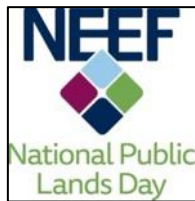
### SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Chugach Park Fund newsletter (July Update): <https://tinyurl.com/55uu3bwk>
- Chugach Park Fund newsletter (August): <https://tinyurl.com/bdfra8ch>
- Chugach Mountain Bike News (August): <https://tinyurl.com/2vhs47v3>
- Frost Fest: A Mat-Su Winter Resource Expo (October 4): <https://tinyurl.com/3nfh3jha>

## INTERIORWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

### EVENTS TO CELEBRATE NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY IN SEPTEMBER

**VOLUNTEER** At least two events will be held in September in Interior/Northern Alaska in celebration of National Public Lands Day. See below for more details.



National Public Lands Day is the nation's largest, single-day volunteer events for public lands, held annually on the fourth Saturday in September. NPLD brings together hundreds of thousands of individuals and organizational volunteers to help restore America's public lands. The event began in 1979. For more info see:

<https://www.neefusa.org/npld>

- Volunteer Workday at Marion Creek Campground and Trail: Join the BLM Central Yukon Field Office recreation staff as we build boardwalk on the Marion Creek Falls Trail and trim back the brush in the campground. Details here: <https://tinyurl.com/4v24uv86>
  - Note: This volunteer work day comes with a bonus: A chance to get a Summer Trails Challenge sign!
- A Community Floodplain Revegetation Effort: Participants will divide into work groups to stake willow trees and plant seeds. Details here: <https://tinyurl.com/y2rvjrxn>

### WORK CONTINUES ON ESTER DOME TRAILS UPGRADE PROJECT

**DONATE** Work started in August and will continue into mid- or late-September on the Ester Dome Singletrack Improvement Project.

The project is a joint effort by the Fairbanks Cycle Club (FCC) and Goldstream Sports. The work is being done by Fairbanks-based trail contractor Happy Trails, Inc.

Work includes refurbishing the tread of the approximately 10 miles of the trail system and adding mountain bike features, such as drops, rollers, and tabletop jumps. All difficult features will have bypasses for those who don't want to attempt them.



The FCC obtained a \$143,000 Recreational Trails Program grant for the work and has done additional fundraising along with Goldstream Sports. The FCC is still collecting donations for the work.

To find out more about the project, including how to donate, see this page: <https://www.fairbankscycleclub.org/ester-dome-singletrack-improvements-2025/>

*Photo by Geoffrey Orth*

## GOLDEN HEART FOUNDATION GRANT APPLICATIONS OPEN

**APPLY** The Golden Heart Community Foundation 2025 Grant Cycle is now open for applications! It opened August 11 and will close on September 15 at 5pm.



Grants support a broad range of community needs, including health and wellness, education, the great outdoors, arts and culture, and community development. The group seeks projects that have the potential to impact a broad range of residents and show collaboration with other organizations.

You can find more information, instructions about how to apply, eligibility, and the application link on the organization's website here: <https://goldenheartcf.org/grants/>

## ESTER DOME TRAVEL RESTRICTED FOR EQUINOX MARATHON

Ester Dome trail users: The Equinox Marathon will be held on Saturday, September 20. Don't plan on heading to the top of the dome until late afternoon. Ester Dome Road will be restricted above the Henderson Road intersection during the marathon due to marathon activity. Only residents and marathon volunteers will be allowed beyond Henderson Road: <https://www.equinoxmarathon.org>

The road to and the parking lot of the Ester Dome Singletrack Trails will remain open but watch for runners on the road and the lower part of the trails.

## CHALLENGE OFFERS OPPORTUNITIES TO FIND TRAILS IN INTERIOR

The 2025 Fairbanks Summer Trails Challenge is live!

The challenge, sponsored by Design Alaska, started June 23 and lasts until September 30. This event, put on by the Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks and Recreation Department, is an all-ages, all-abilities, outdoor scavenger hunt. The challenge is designed to get you out with your friends and family to explore our wonderful local trails, both new and familiar.

Anyone is allowed to participate in the search. When you find a sign, mark it off on your checklist. On September 1, those registered will receive a Checklist Survey in their email. There is also a checklist in the Trails Challenge Guide (see link below).



Participants are encouraged to take the photos and post them on social media with the hashtag "#FNSBTrails". Putting it on the Trails Challenge Facebook Event (under the Discussion tab) is a great way to share. And of course, leave the sign to be found by the next trail challenge participant.

Participants who find the minimum number of signs for their category get their official award and can win prizes. Whether you find one or find them all, challenge yourself to get outside and enjoy nature!

Register online under the purple "Events" tab at: <https://tinyurl.com/hctevh79>

Check out the Trails Challenge Facebook Event here: <https://tinyurl.com/494zd59y>

Get your Trails Challenge Guide here: <https://tinyurl.com/bdxwd5f>

*Note: The bike path sign for the Chena Lake Recreation Area has been moved due to the construction happening out at Chena Lake Recreation Area. Check with the park office to make sure you know where the new location is.*

## SEEN RECENTLY ON INTERIOR FACEBOOK PAGES

### FAIRBANKS TRAIL AND WATERWAY USERS

August 31

The Fairbanks Borough Assembly approved the Ridge View Heights Subdivision at its meeting last week by a narrow 5-4 margin. The Alaska Long Trail and the Alder Creek Hillside Trail, which are a part of the development, did not appear to be part of the discussion. The Fairbanks Daily News-Miner has a story on the discussion and vote. You can read it here:



<https://tinyurl.com/2w53ewu8>

August 26

Temporary Chena Lake Rec Area bike path closure. According to the borough, they are currently being paved as well with hopeful completion mid-September! Roads are also restricted.

Shared from Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks & Rec  
August 25

⚠ Heads up for Chena Lake Recreation Area construction! Flaggers are at the entry to Chena Lake Rec Area, at the Lake Park, and down at the River Park. Expect delays up to 30 minutes as the Army Corps of Engineers, Moose Creek Dam Modification Project works to improve the road! Thanks for your patience!



August 24

Glenn J Gambrell

Upper Skyline Ridge park is surrounded by private property. Please see the below post, and please keep dogs leashed on the upper portion of the trail. Yes it could have been a neighborhood dog, this is just a friendly reminder.

Summit Drive Residents - Info Site

Heather McFarland

A skyline trail user's dog got into my chicken coop and killed at least one of my chickens. Three others are still missing. Hoping they're alive. If you happen to see a wandering chicken please let me know. And please keep unruly dogs away from private property when you're using the skyline trail. \*my cute chicken pre dog attack



August 13

The Fairbanks Borough Assembly added support of the Alaska Long Trail to its list of legislative priorities. The Fairbanks Daily News-Miner has a story on it here: <https://tinyurl.com/3tafbjup>

From the story

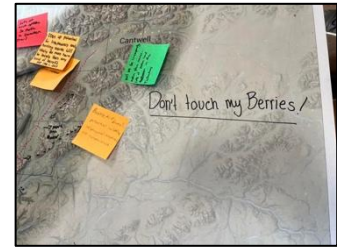
--The Alaska Long Trail is a proposed 500-mile national scenic trail that extends from Fairbanks to Seward. It would consist of existing and proposed routes and include multiple management and use profiles. It would be similar to the Appalachian Trail on the East Coast or the Pacific Crest Trail on the West Coast.--



--Guttenberg said establishing the trail would help economic development and tourism in the borough, including a potential boost in hotel/motel bed tax revenue.

"The amendment doesn't require us to do anything, it just says we support it ... it's low impact, high return," Guttenberg said. "We've had resolutions in the past supporting trails, including the Long Trail."

Kelly, a strong trails advocate, added that "long trails do bring to communities economic development." She noted it vitalize the state's outdoor recreation industry and add new jobs.--



Find out more about the Alaska Long Trail here [www.alaska-trails.org/alaska-long-trail](http://www.alaska-trails.org/alaska-long-trail)

*August 22*

The Fairbanks Daily News-Miner has a story on efforts to expand the paved Chena Riverwalk path along the Chena River.

From the story:

--The project would expand the existing riverwalk by building a new walkway from the Pioneer Park pedestrian bridge northeast along the river to the Peger Road bridge, then up to Phillips Field Road. It also includes resurfacing an existing segment at Chena Landing. FAST Planning, the city of Fairbanks and the Fairbanks North Star Borough have long sought to complete the extension.--



See the story here: <https://tinyurl.com/3dpsmw9m>

*August 9*

From the Goldstream Community FB page:

Good morning Goldstream Community. We have some minor vandalism occurring on our beautiful commuter trail (the dirt trail that parallels Sheep Creek). Motorcycles are peeling out and leaving six-inch holes. They are easily enough fixed, if you have the right tools. Unfortunately, most of us don't carry shovels when we bike, walk, run, horseback ride and ride atvs. It took five minutes for me to return to Line Drive in my car with a shovel and make these safe this morning. There is no doubt if you hit these with a bike or a motorcycle you would endo and could get seriously injured. I'm guessing it's just some bored teenagers.



## INTERIOR ALASKA LAND TRUST

*August 3*

Thanks so much to our friends at GOOD Cannabis who volunteered to help us plant trees at our Muskrat Trailhead along Farmers Loop! These new saplings will help revegetate the property. The gate has been closed this summer but will reopen this winter for access to the ADMA-groomed trails within Creamer's Field Refuge.

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

Do you own or work for a business and want to support IALT? Send us an email to learn how to host a work party or become a sponsor: [InteriorAKLandTrust@gmail.com](mailto:InteriorAKLandTrust@gmail.com)

July 29

Thank you to everyone who helped out this weekend!

A huge thanks to all the volunteers who showed up to help remove the last of the trash from the Miller Hill parcel. While some remnants of past use will likely remain, the transformation is undeniable (before and after below). Together, we've taken a big step toward restoring this property to a more natural state, and with it, renewed public access to the historic Tanana Valley Railroad Trail.

We're deeply grateful to the community members and donors who made this possible



## FAIRBANKS TRAILS INC

Stan Justice

August 24

**DONATE** Good weather for ducks and working on trail drainage. Drained the Skarland from the school to Heavenly Drive. And thank your for all the birthday wishes. I would love to see donations to Fairbanks Trails Inc. We are planning to have SCA interns again next summer. I love spending my "required minimum distribution" on trails but we run the risk of not meeting the 1/3 rule. At least a third of our income needs to come from donors that are not board members. If we don't meet the 1/3 rule we might get converted to a private foundation (lose our 501c3 status!) . So please donate. And a big thank you to the people that have donated!



(Donations can be made via the group's Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/FairbanksTrailsInc/](https://www.facebook.com/FairbanksTrailsInc/) or mailed to Fairbanks Trails Inc, 1750 Reed Circle, Fairbanks Ak 99709)

## ALASKA STATE PARKS

August 22

💧 Fresh Water Back at Granite Tors Shelter! 💧

Water can be scarce when trekking the 15-mile Granite Tors Loop Trail in the Northern Region, with nearly 2,900 feet of elevation gain. That's why the shelter's rainwater system is so important for hikers.

Earlier this summer, the gutter system at the shelter was broken and unable to collect water. Thanks to the hard work of Jay Cable, his wife Nancy, daughters Lizzy and Molly, friends Laurel Valentine, and Alaska State Parks' very own Nikki Potter, the system is now back up and running!

This incredible volunteer team:

- Hauled gutters, snow stops, hangers, and two sections of a 12' ladder more than 7 miles up the trail.
- Worked through the rain to replace the gutters and restore the water catchment system.
- Turned a problem they discovered while hiking into a full-circle project that now benefits every recreator who passes through Granite Tors.



A special shoutout goes to Lizzy and Molly—their energy and commitment helped make this restoration possible. These dedicated volunteers remind us how vital community involvement is to keeping Alaska State Parks safe, accessible, and welcoming for all. 🌲 💙

Next time you're out on the Granite Tors Trail, take a moment to appreciate this restored rain shelter—it's there because of the passion and commitment of park users who give back.

**Interested in volunteering? Contact your local state park regional office!**

👉 <https://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/aspunits/index.htm>

## BLM-WHITE MOUNTAINS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

August 29

🚫 ⚠️ Trail closed due to flooding and washouts ⚠️ 🚫



The Marion Creek Falls Trail at the Marion Creek Campground at mile 180 of the Dalton Highway is temporarily closed as flooding continues to washout part of the trail.

For the public's safety, the trail is closed to public use effective immediately and will remain closed until a reroute is in place.

Heavy rain in the Brooks Range caused high water and flooding along Marion Creek. Sections of the bank washed out, including part of the Falls Trail. We appreciate your patience as water recedes and a reroute is built.

The closure will not impact the National Public Lands Day volunteer event planned for the Falls Trail on September 9:

<https://tinyurl.com/4v24uv86>

Contact the Arctic Interagency Visitor Center in Coldfoot, Alaska to learn about other hiking opportunities on public lands in the area: <https://tinyurl.com/bbws83ec>

## SOUTHEAST NEWS AND NOTICES

### SEEN RECENTLY ON SOUTHEAST FACEBOOK PAGES

TRAIL MIX, INC.

August 25

We had a fun volunteer day last Saturday at Tee Harbor with @therockdump crew! 🤖 🛠️ We built corduroy foot bridges, cleared a root wad off a boulder, cleaned up boulders, and did some light brushing.

Best part? Laughing, working together, and getting really muddy. What more could you ask for?



August 21



The Horse Tram cabin access trail is taking shape! 🙌 We're cutting new tread, building turnpikes, digging drains, and hauling in gravel and rock to tame the muck. It's amazing to see this trail go from nothing to something real! Go check it out (and grab some berries on the way)!



August 19



Check out the drainage system on Jumbo Reroute built by the Volunteer Trail Maintenance Team (VTMT). What was once one very big mud hole is now a series of drains, trenches, culverts, turnpikes, and pipes. VTMT is even adding a fresh layer of gravel to cap it off. Man, oh man is it satisfying to see the water disappear from trail! 😊

August 18

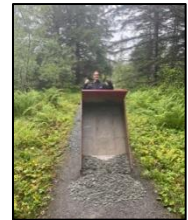
We had a big delivery day at the new Horse Tram cabin site last week! 🚚 We ferried in 77 bags of gravel, 1,800' of drainage fabric, a canycom, an excavator... and Hugo 🐾 all aboard the M/V Lite Weight to keep the cabin access trail moving and grooving!!! 🚧🔨

August 11

We had a rainy but fun volunteer day at Horse Tram last Saturday! Volunteers spread gravel, dug new flowy drains, and cut trenches. Perfect timing to see exactly where the water likes to pool! 😊

We also spotted huckleberries, cloudberry, nagoonberries, blueberries, and salmonberries, with highbush cranberries just starting to ripen. 🍓

Thank you to everyone who came out to make the trail a little better!



August 4

Huge thanks to everyone who came out this weekend to celebrate Treadwell Ditch Trail with us! This trail has been decades in the making, and it's honestly pretty surreal (and awesome) to see so many dreams, ideas, and hardworking hands come together. Thousands and thousands of hours have been poured into rebuilding this trail (18,000+ in the past five years alone). We're beyond grateful to be part of a community that shows up, cares deeply, and puts in the work to make our trails better.



We were stoked to be joined by folks from Juneau Community Foundation, the Forest Service, ADF&G, CBJ, and the Juneau Assembly to mark this historic milestone.

Friday kicked off with a ribbon cutting at Blueberry Hills, and Saturday was packed with good stuff: volunteer trail work at Jumbo Reroute in the morning, then a BBQ + trail tales (speeches) at Sandy Beach in the afternoon. Over 10 volunteers helped progress the switchback, building out another key connection on Treadwell. (You all rock!) 🙌

July 30

Check out the new KTOO feature (<https://tinyurl.com/bdf7jxrb>) on Juneau Off-Road Association (JORA)'s incredible volunteer work at the new 35 Mile Off-Road Vehicle Park, the first of its kind in all of Southeast Alaska!

Since May, JORA has already put in over 600 hours of volunteer labor, clearing and building the first 5 miles of trail. They're absolute crushers!! 🙌

35 ORV is a partnership between CBJ and Trail Mix, and we're proud to be part of this milestone project for the ORV community 🚙



## JUNEAU MOUNTAIN BIKE ALLIANCE PUBLIC FORUM

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Craig Good

August 23



It was a very productive day at Dredge Lake today.

Cahal Morehouse, Inua Blevins, Sheila Good, Jim Papoi, Dave Papoi, Shelby, Augie Stiehr, Riley Moser, Carolyn, Paul DiCarlo, Evan, Matt Callahan, Jordan Moser, Claire, Alix Pierce, Reid Harris and I got the damaged nine bridges back into place on Frito's Forest and Dam Beavers. While we had such a great workday turnout, we went ahead and anchored all nine bridges down so that this, hopefully, won't happen again during future jökulhlaups. Thank you to all who turned out today to help and support JMBA and your local trails!

## SITKA TRAIL WORKS, INC.

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August 22

We're making great progress rebuilding the staircase at Halibut Point Rec, thanks to the hardworking crew and volunteers!

We appreciate everyone who came out to volunteer on August 10th. Our community's dedication to supporting local trails is what makes it possible to have such special places.

We'll be back on the job Monday, August 25th if you want to swing by and lend a hand (anytime 9:00 am - 4:00 pm).

If you can't make it, but still want to support the project, checkout this page:  
<https://tinyurl.com/bdeexhfw>



## HAINES HUTS AND TRAILS

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August 6

If you hiked the Ripinski Trail from the Skyline/Young Road Trailhead any time in the past few years, you'll probably remember all of the boardwalks and staircases throughout the first mile of the trail. Many of these



were installed over 15 years ago, with some sections dating back 50+ years, as was evident by their condition... We saw collapsing infrastructure as a pretty dire safety issue on one of the most popular trails in Haines and decided to address the issues for our first big trails project.

Thanks to a Rasmuson Foundation grant that funded the labor, Chilkat Valley Community Foundation and Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc. grants to buy the tools needed, and Borough support for the materials, we spent the past 3 weeks replacing all the degraded sections

of trail with new "step and run" boardwalks, bridges, and staircases. We started by tearing out all the old structures that needed replacing, then flying in nearly 6,000lbs of pressure-treated lumber to three different sites along the first mile of trail. Then, over the following two weeks, a crew of three worked to build hundreds of feet of new boardwalk sections, re-seat/re-build old wobbly areas, a re-route the worst section

of trail out of a streambed. The project concluded right in time for the Takshanuk Ridge Run, whose runners were treated not only to a recently brushed 7-Mile Saddle trail, but also to a much drier, stabler, and safer final mile of trail.

A huge THANK YOU to Craig Franke at Community Waste Solutions for donating disposal of the thousands of pounds of lumber from the old infrastructure, to Clear Water Plumbing and Heating for hooking us up with rebar for the boardwalks, to Drew Elegante for volunteering many hours to attach shingles so the wood isn't slippery, to Anissa Berry for donating pressure treated wood, and to all of our other supporters for donating to projects like this one!

If you want to help support our trail projects like this one in the future, head over to <https://haineshuts.org> to donate.

Here are a few before/after photos from the project, but to really enjoy it, you'll have to go check everything out for yourself!

## SOUTHEAST LINKS

- Airport Dike Trail reopens, better and safer after temporary closure: <https://tinyurl.com/2t3npxea>
- Treadwell Ditch Trail fully reconnected from Eaglecrest to South Douglas: <https://tinyurl.com/ypuy77cm>
- The Dirt, August 2025, (Trail Mix, Juneau): <https://tinyurl.com/4tpnj2j>

## NATIONWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

### INTRODUCING THE 2025 TRAILS CAPACITY GRANT AWARDEES

American Trails and Bronco Wild Fund have announced the 15 awardees of the 2025 Trails Capacity Grant Program. The Trails Capacity Program funds projects across America that strategically improve the abilities and capacity of the trails community as a whole. This program invests in nationwide trails community capacity with a focus on trail research, stewardship, and maintenance projects that are inclusive, foster improved trail user behavior and connect trail assets to a broader spectrum of users.

This competitive grant program finds the best trail partners from across all nonmotorized and motorized trail user groups, including water trails. It measures success in terms of visible, on-the-ground maintenance of trails and increased capacity of trail stewards to do the job effectively. The groups received \$150,000 to award more projects this year compared to previous years.

Learn More About the 2025 Awardees here: <https://tinyurl.com/mtfwa4tf>

*From American Trails email*

### WHY BECOME A MEMBER OF AMERICAN TRAILS? READ HERE TO FIND OUT

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

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





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

Join here: <https://tinyurl.com/aj2zi4cu>

## THE 2025 NATIONAL RECREATION TRAILS PHOTO CONTEST IS OPEN

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

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

Deadline is December 15.

For more info: [www.americantrails.org/national-recreation-trails/photo-contest](http://www.americantrails.org/national-recreation-trails/photo-contest)

*From American Trails website; photo from 2024 contest winners*



## GROUP OFFERS ONLINE CREW LEADER TRAINING FOR TRAILS, MORE

Are you a tour guide, outdoor educator, or passionate adventurer looking to level up your leadership in the outdoors? American Hiking Society's Crew Leader Training Program is now open to individuals and organizations outside of AHS—and it's your chance to bring our trusted best practices to your next group leadership experience.



For over 50 years, AHS has led Volunteer Vacations across the country—mobilizing thousands of volunteers to improve and maintain trails on public lands. With decades of hands-on experience in group dynamics, and outdoor logistics, we've developed this training to share the same leadership principles we use to run safe, successful trail maintenance trips in diverse environments across the country.

Whether you're managing week-long backcountry trips or leading single day trail maintenance projects, you'll gain tools to improve group safety, organization, and outdoor ethics—backed by AHS's half-century of experience in trail stewardship.

Find out more here: <https://americanhiking.org/crew-leader-training/>

*From American Hiking Society email*

## NATIONWIDE / INTERNATIONAL LINKS

WEBINARS, MEETINGS, CONFERENCES, TRAINING, ETC.

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



### TRAILS-RELATED NEWSLETTERS

- American Trails "Trail Tracks": [www.americantrails.org/newsletter](http://www.americantrails.org/newsletter)

### VOLUNTEER

- Am. Hiking Society's 2025 Volunteer Vacations: <https://americanhiking.org/volunteer-vacation-trips/>

### FUNDING

- FOX Factory Trail Trust (applications reviewed quarterly): <https://trailtrust.com/>
- Yamaha Outdoor Access Initiative (OHVs, quarterly deadlines): <https://yamahaoai.com/>
- Two For The Trails grants (ddline Sept): <https://athleticbrewing.com/pages/two-for-the-trails-grant>

### OTHER LINKS

- Trails Magazine (quarterly, print only): <https://trailsmag.net>

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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](mailto:fbxtrails@gmail.com)