



NEWSLETTER

**NOV
2025**

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www.alaska-trails.org

ALASKA TRAILS NEWS AND NOTICES

TRAIL TALES BRINGS YOU MORE GREAT STORIES FROM THE TRAIL

ATTEND Mark your calendars for the next Trail Tales on Tuesday, November 18. Our storytelling series is sure to bring you lots of laughs, moments of contemplation, and a great time with good company. The upcoming event is in partnership with Alaska Mountain Runners. Trail Tales will start at 7 p.m. with doors opening at 6:30 p.m. **For more information and to purchase tickets visit:** www.alaska-trails.org/trail-tales



Alaska Trails runs the Trail Tales storytelling series as a fundraiser for itself while also partnering with a different community organization for each event. In the spirit of Arctic Entries, storytellers share seven-minute stories about their trail experiences, adventures, and life in general. Our 2025-26 Trail Tales events will be held at the Anchorage Museum and tickets cost \$20. Put the upcoming Trail Tales events on your calendar: December 9, January 13, February 10, and March 17. Find out more at: www.alaska-trails.org/trail-tales

YOU MADE OUR FALL FUNDRAISER A HUGE SUCCESS: THANK YOU!

Thanks so much to the many Alaska Trails supporters who showed up to our annual Fall Fundraiser on Thursday, October 9, at Hilltop Ski Area! It was a great evening of celebrating recent trail successes and building momentum for continued work in 2026 and beyond! We also owe a huge thanks to the musicians who donated their time to keep us entertained, the staff at Finn's Kitchen who fed us tasty food, Girdwood Brewing and Petrotechnical Resources for the donated beer and wine, the many local businesses, artists and individuals who donated items to our silent auction and those who bid on items at the event and from home.

The event was a financial success - we raised over \$23,000, exceeding our goal! But more importantly it was a great opportunity to share images and



stories about the work we've done in the past year. We highlighted the work of our Pro Crews - who made meaningful improvements to trails in Denali State Park, the Moose Run Trail in Anchorage, the Williwaw Lakes Trail in Chugach State Park, the Middle Iditarod Trail in Girdwood, the Horsetail Falls Trail in Whittier and the Ptarmigan Lake Trail in Chugach National Forest among others. We celebrated our volunteer program, which completed 26 events, improving 52,425 feet of trail and donated \$56,395 in labor to our public trails. And we

cheered the recent advancements along the Alaska Long Trail corridor, including the new trails built and re-built near Moose Pass, the Victor Creek Bridge, the work continuing the Iditarod National Historic Trail in Turnagain Pass, the improvements to Crow Pass and the construction of the Nenana River Trail.

The Fall Fundraiser was a fitting conclusion to a busy and successful season for Alaska Trails. During the coming months we'll be reflecting on the season, planning for a revamped Spring Trails Conference (dates coming soon), hosting our monthly Trail Tales storytelling events at the Anchorage Museum, and coordinating our work for summer 2026. We're looking forward to doing more trail work in Denali State Park, Chugach State Park, Anchorage, Whittier, and Chugach National Forest.

Hope you're still getting out on our trails - be it on foot, snowshoes, skis, bike or snowmachine - as we transition to the winter season!



ALASKA TRAILS BENEFITS FROM RACE ACROSS ALASKA CHALLENGE

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

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



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

SEEN RECENTLY ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

October 18

Another Trail Transformation Alert! 🛠️ ⚡

This summer, an Alaska Trails paid crew spent 13 weeks giving the Williwaw Lakes Trail in Chugach State Park a major upgrade — and the results are incredible!

📸 What we did:

- ◆ Rerouted 2,490 ft of trail to higher, drier ground
- ◆ Installed 160 ft of step-and-run boardwalk across soggy sections
- ◆ Dug 28 drains to keep water off the trail
- ◆ Built 6 rock steps + armored roots for safer footing
- ◆ Covered and re-seeded retired trail to help nature bounce back 🌱



Why? To make the trail more sustainable, easier to hike, and better for the environment. ❤️

This work was proudly made possible by the Chugach Park Fund — and YOU can help keep the momentum going!

👉 Learn more or donate here: <https://tinyurl.com/36czbwaa>

October 23

Today's episode of Outdoor Explorer features Trail Tales talks from this past spring! It airs at 10AM and again at 8PM on KSKA 91.1, then available as an Outdoor Explorer podcast or streamed on the Outdoor Explorer web page: <https://alaskapublic.org/programs/outdoor-explorer/>

If you'd like to attend one of our upcoming Trail Tales events, tickets are on sale here: <https://www.alaska-trails.org/trail-tales>

October 17

Last night, we wrapped up the season with our Alaska Trail Stewards Volunteer Appreciation Party! 🥳



We had a record-breaking NINE volunteers earn their black hard hats — a special honor for those who showed up to five or more trail events this season. 💪❤️ These folks crushed it on the trails, and we're so grateful for their dedication and passion!

Huge shoutout to our amazing community partners:

- 🍷 Double Shovel Cider Company for hosting us
- 🍕 Moose's Tooth for the delicious food
- 🍪 Fire Island Rustic Bakeshop for the sweet treats

To every volunteer who lent a hand this year — THANK

YOU. You help keep Alaska's trails beautiful, safe, and open for all. 🙌 See you next year!

October 16

🛖💪 Major trail glow-up in Girdwood! This summer, the Middle Iditarod Trail got a serious upgrade thanks to a hardworking Alaska Trails paid trail crew who spent 10 weeks transforming this route from wet, muddy, and slippery to dry, safe, and fun!

Here's just a glimpse of the incredible work they accomplished:

- ✅ 400 feet of new drainage ditches dug
- ✅ 33 drains installed
- ✅ 8 turnpikes built
- ✅ 5 new bridges constructed
- ✅ 930 feet of trail filled
- ✅ 6 fallen trees cleared + 2 hazard trees safely removed
- ✅ 8 bridge/boardwalk crossings improved with better creek

drainage

- ✅ 11 boardwalk sills leveled or replaced
- ✅ 50 feet of rotting boardwalk removed



With all this fall rain, there's never been a better time to explore this trail — and keep your boots dry while doing it! Next time you're in Girdwood, check out the Middle Iditarod Trail and see the improvements for yourself!

🙌 Huge thanks to our partners at the Girdwood Trails Committee for making this project possible. We are excited to continue the momentum of building and maintaining sections of the Alaska Long Trail, including this section of the Iditarod National Historic Trail!



October 15

Our Alaska Trail Stewards volunteer program had an amazing season — and it wouldn't have been possible without the incredible dedication of our volunteers and the generous support of ConocoPhillips Alaska.

🔧 This season's impact?

- ◆ 26 volunteer events and 290 individual volunteer efforts
- ◆ 1,621 volunteer hours — that's \$56,395 worth of donated

labor!

- ◆ 52,425 feet of trail built and maintained by hand!

From hauling tools and digging drains to clearing brush and improving trail structures like stairs and boardwalks, our volunteers poured their time, energy, and heart into making Alaska's trails better for everyone.

♥ Thanks to ConocoPhillips Alaska, our volunteer crews were well-equipped, supported, and celebrated — including at our upcoming Volunteer Appreciation Party!

Let's give a big shoutout to:

- 👏 Our volunteers, who show up rain or shine
- 👏 ConocoPhillips Alaska, for fueling this work

Together, we're building more sustainable, accessible, and beautiful trails across Alaska. THANK YOU!



October 14

This fall, an Alaska Trails paid trail crew spent three weeks putting in serious work on the Horsetail Falls Trail in Whittier — and the results speak for themselves.

Here's a peek at what they accomplished:

- 🔧 Removed outdated structures and re-benched 30' of tread
- ⚡ Dug drainage and rerouted 150' of trail
- 🪵 Built sturdy step & runs and naturalized old trail sections
- 🪨 Created a 100' lateral drain + French drains, reinforced with a rock

causeway

These improvements are making the Horsetail Falls Trail safer, more sustainable, and more enjoyable for everyone.

👏 A huge shoutout to our partner, the City of Whittier, for helping make this project possible year after year — and an extra special thanks to Victor, one of our incredible volunteers, for going above and beyond! Not only does he lead four volunteer events in Whittier each year, he also helped coordinate this paid crew work. You rock, Victor!



September 29

What a way to celebrate National Public Lands Day! 🙌 A stellar crew of 19 volunteers joined us on the Middle Fork Trail this Saturday, hauling gravel to fill causeways and clearing drains to keep the trail in great shape. Thanks to their hard work, this community-loved trail is ready for more adventures!



As we wrap up our volunteer trail season, we're filled with gratitude for every single person who showed up, lent a hand, and gave back to Alaska's trails this year. ♥

A huge shoutout to the Chugach Park Fund for sponsoring this event and helping make it possible. Together, we're keeping our trails open, accessible, and enjoyable for all Alaskans!

STATEWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

COMMENTS SOUGHT ON RTP CHANGE TO DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION

COMMENT An order to change the Recreational Trails Program to the Department of Transportation has some trail advocates wary, though the move does have some justification.

The public can comment on this change. The deadline to comment is 4 p.m. Alaska Time, Wednesday, November 12. Also, a new advisory committee is being formed to advise the department on how Recreational Trails Program (RTP) funds will be spent. **Find out more, including how to comment and how to apply to be on the advisory committee here:** <http://notice.alaska.gov/221333>

In an October 9 letter, Ryan Anderson, director of the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (AKDOT), explained the change, which was made through an administrative order by Governor Dunleavy. You can see the letter here: <https://tinyurl.com/3fmnwhjx>

See the new Department of Transportation RTP page here: <https://dot.alaska.gov/wrap/rtp/>

Historically, the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (AK DNR) has overseen the RTP, though the money comes through the AK DOT because it originates with the U.S. Department of Transportation.

The RTP is the single biggest and most consistent funder of trails in Alaska. It brings to the state well over \$1 million a year for trails. It is distributed to a variety of nonprofit organizations, municipalities, and tribes across the state, along with state agencies, especially state parks. Distribution of the money is largely based on the merits of the submitted project applications. An advisory board of citizens helps decide which projects are funded.

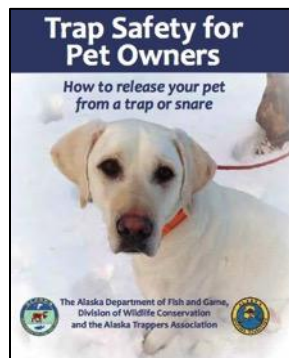
To read more about this issue, see this post: <https://tinyurl.com/yd2rxvds>

Eric Troyer photo: The Ester Dome Singletrack Trail upgrade project was funded mostly by the RTP program.



RESOURCES HELP REDUCE PET/TRAPPING CONFLICTS

Trapping season opens November 1, so trail users who let their dogs run loose should make sure they know some basic information about traps and trap lines. A pamphlet and videos are available.



PAMPHLET: A pocket-sized pamphlet titled "Trap Safety for Pet Owners" describes the types of traps and snares that may be encountered and provides illustrated instructions on how to free pets swiftly and safely. It is produced by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and the Alaska Trappers Association (ATA). Copies are available free of charge at department offices or may be viewed on the website at: <http://tinyurl.com/m6oulhk>. More information, including video footage featuring trap removal instructions, is found on the

department's website at www.adfg.alaska.gov (see "Sharing the Trails" under the "Hunting > Trapping" dropdown menu).

VIDEO: The ATA also has a 30-minute video, "Sharing Alaska's Trails," that includes information such as how to know if you are on a trap line, trap line safety, the physics of handling and opening traps and snares, and tips for first-aid for pets accidentally caught in traps. The video doesn't promote trapping but deals with the practicalities of sharing the trails. A three-minute excerpt of the DVD can be found on YouTube (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H_LcQ_Ug1lw).

Most trapping seasons run from November 1 to the end of February, but the season for a few species lasts longer. Wolf traps could be active well into April.

WINTER TRAIL GROOMING PROGRAMS NEED YOUR HELP

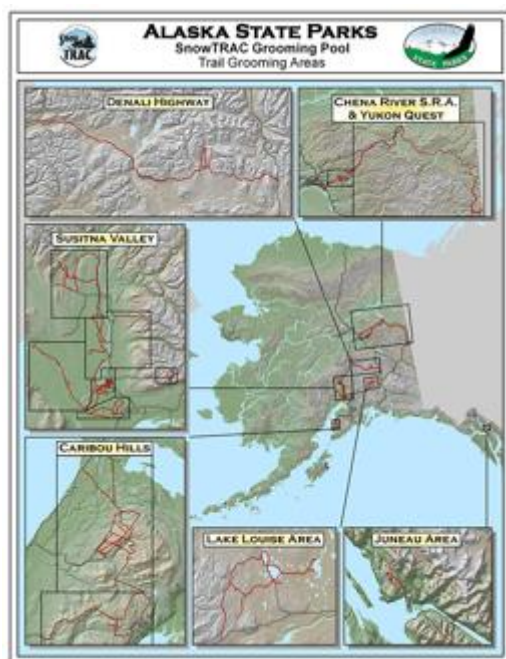
DONATE/SERVE Winter is upon us and if there is no snow on the ground in your area, there soon will be.

Many winter trails activities require (or at least are much improved by) grooming, such as snowmachining, skiing, mushing, and fatbiking. If you engage in an activity that is improved by grooming, please remember to support those efforts. There are several ways you can help.

If you use an area that is clearly groomed and has a grooming fund, make sure to donate. Not all trails that are groomed have a specific grooming fund, but you can also join or donate to the group that is doing the grooming. Look for signs that tell you how you can help.

You can also support the Alaska Snowtrail Grant Program, which provides funds for grooming in several areas of the state. The grooming this program provides benefits more than snowmachiners. Anyone who uses the groomed trails benefits, including fatbikers, skiers, mushers, and hikers. You can't donate to the Snowmachine Trails Program, but you can help it by making sure to register your snowmachine, which is what funds the program. You can also serve on the SnowTRAC board, which advises the state administration on how the funds are spent. Finally, you can advocate for the program. In years past, administrations have tried to cut the program as part of budget cutting measures. However, strong advocacy has kept the program alive.

To find out more about the program see: <https://dot.alaska.gov/snowtrails/program.shtml>
Most importantly, get out there and enjoy all the great winter trails we have in Alaska!



SEEN RECENTLY ON STATEWIDE FACEBOOK PAGES

ALASKA OUTDOOR COUNCIL

October 9

Ladies and Gentlemen, Please join us in taking this opportunity to raise your concerns with the Generally Allowed Uses (GAU) for off-road vehicles. Alaska Outdoor Council will be looking to address the process that originally created the weight limitations and restrictions on Motorized access and how they can be approved to today's standards.

Shared from Alaska Division of Mining, Land and Water

October 7

Public comment opportunity: On August 4, 2025, Governor Mike Dunleavy issued Administrative Order 360 addressing regulatory reform in Alaska: <https://gov.alaska.gov/admin-orders/administrative-order-no-360/>

The Division of Mining, Land and Water is soliciting input from the public, affected industries, and community organizations regarding which regulations are the most burdensome and should be prioritized for reform, and how our regulatory system could be reorganized or simplified.

We are collecting input on the following regulatory topics:

- Land
- Land Conveyances
- Water
- Mining
- Appraisals and Surveys
- Resource Assessment and Development
- Statewide Abatement of Impaired Lands

Comments are due by October 31, 2025. For more information on DMLW's implementation of AO 360, upcoming public meetings, and how to submit comments, please visit our website at: <https://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/news/>



STATEWIDE LINKS

- State park trail conditions reports: <https://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/asp/curevnts.htm>
- Community Winter Trails Program (for rural communities): <https://dot.alaska.gov/nreg/wintertrails/>
- RTP Grant Application - City Sub-YK Trail (Bethel): <http://notice.alaska.gov/221456>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Call to Defend Alaska's Seward Peninsula (includes Björn Olson video): <https://tinyurl.com/n5u5at7b>

SOUTHCENTRAL NEWS AND NOTICES

NEWS ABOUT GOVERNMENT PEAK TRAILS, GLENN HIGHWAY TRAIL

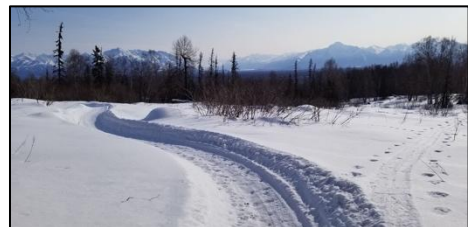
The Valley Mountain Bikers & Hikers October Trail Post newsletter had a couple of items of interest to a variety of trail users.

GPRA TRAIL GROOMING GRANT APPROVED

VMBaH volunteers will once again be grooming the bike trails at Government Peak Rec Area (GPRA) this winter thanks to a grant from the Matanuska-Susitna Borough.

The trail crew has asked walkers and runners to avoid certain groomed bike trails, including Fireweed, Jacobs Ladder, Larkspur, Monkshood, Amanita, and Pushki. These trails are open to fat tire bikes, snowshoers and xc skiers.

The groomed bike trails that are available for walkers and runners are the Connector and Fiddlehead trails.



It takes time, effort and money to groom the trails and unfortunately walkers and runners damage the surface. We appreciate your cooperation and help in keeping the trails and trail crew happy.

NEW TRAIL PROVIDES A GREAT CONNECTION

The recent upgrades to the Glenn Highway south of Palmer include a pedestrian trail. The new paved pedestrian trail lets you walk or ride from downtown Palmer to Matanuska Lakes State Recreation Area, and a link to all 33-miles of Matanuska Greenbelt trails.

SEEN RECENTLY ON SOUTHCENTRAL FACEBOOK PAGES

ANCHORAGE PARK FOUNDATION

October 24

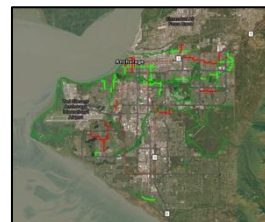
Share your neighborhood connector ideas!

We launched the Moose Loop to help residents learn our existing trails (shown in dark green) so that we could eventually have every neighborhood in Anchorage connected to a safe route to walk, bike and roll. The MOA Traffic Department launched the Neighborhood Greenways program to do it!

The light green lines show existing neighborhood greenways

The red lines are the top scoring routes proposed for 2026.

Share your ideas at: www.muni.org/Departments/traffic/Pages/Greenways.aspx



October 16

The Alaska House Majority Coalition Transportation co-chairs - Representative Ted Eischeid and Rep.



Ashley Carrick - led a tour of two of Anchorage's key trail projects yesterday - to connect the Fish Creek Trail to the Tony Knowles Coastal Trail and connect the Ship Creek Trail to the Tony Knowles Coastal Trail. We can't wait for 2026 and 2027 to see them built!

Both trails are within the public right of way of the Alaska Railroad. What a great partnership! Thank you to all.

October 8

It's not too late for a fall bike ride at Eklutna Lake! The Lakeside Trail is in great shape, and the foliage is beautiful. Along the way, look out for the 7 new Indigenous Place Names signs that were installed this summer. Take a moment to read each place names sign, which convey a sense of history and oral traditions that inform people about Anchorage's diverse geography through the Dena'ina perspective. If you visit all 7 signs, send us an email at info@anchorageparkfoundation.org and we will send you a free Indigenous Place Name Movement sticker!



ANCHORAGE MUSEUM

October 24



Join us for an evening with Roman Dial and a group of adventurers who have traversed the rugged Alaska Range end to end. This program is presented as part of a series celebrating Alaska incubators and trailblazers in the outdoor world, supporting the exhibition Roman Dial: Crossings, on view now through February 15, 2026. Guests include Livin Adkins, Kevin Armstrong, Dusty Eroh, Sam Hooper, Jennifer Johnston, Todd Tumolo and Doug Woody.

6-8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 4, in the Auditorium and online via Crowdcast. Free, registration recommended. Livestream available on the museum calendar. <https://loom.ly/lkRK9Ys>
Image: Bill Hatcher

EAGLE RIVER/CHUGIAK PARKS AND RECREATION

October 7

Baldy Trailhead is now OPEN! 🌤️

Paving is complete, the lines are fresh, and the mountain is calling! Drainage improvements will prevent the winter glaciation and runoff that previously eroded the parking lot.

A friendly reminder: parking is still towards the mountain — same as it's always been, just a little fancier now. Signs are coming soon to help, but in the meantime, please be kind to your fellow hikers and park neatly so others can get in and out of the lot. 🌤️



MAT-SU BOROUGH RECREATION AND LIBRARY SERVICES

October 23

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

In the Parks, the crew has been out in the Crevasse Moraine Trail system trimming and cutting back branches, trees and brush to improve the corridor for winter grooming. This is done every few years to ensure that when we receive heavy snowfalls, the trees and branches don't bend down into the trail causing a cold snowy tunnel. This is also helpful for the grooming crew out grooming as they trigger the snow loads and which causes a cold day on the trails constantly being covered in snow. The other benefit of this process is that it widens the trails making for more room for



others to share the space.

October 22

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

It's time to dust off the skis, fat tire bikes, dog sleds, and snowshoes and get ready for snow!

As the season transitions from fall to winter, the MSB Parks and Trails staff are working hard to prepare. Tracks were installed on all of the ATVs that we use for winter work like grooming, trail maintenance, clearing trees, and performing inspections. One of these pieces of equipment is a Kubota RTV-X1100C, which is shown in the pictures. It's diesel engine, low speeds, and minimal ground pressure make it a great tool in our toolbox.

In preparation for the winter season, the Mat Su Ski Club identified a light that was not working on the Pioneer loop in the Government Peak Recreation Area. The MSB Operations and Maintenance Department repaired the light, and their help is greatly appreciated.

We're all hoping for a better snow season than last year, so keep those fingers crossed!!



October 7

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

If you're looking for a short but fun hike, try the Matanuska River Trail. This gravel trail is about 2.2 miles one way and can be accessed from the Mat River bridge east of Palmer or the intersections of N. Gulkana St. and E. Eagle Ave. near Sherrod Elementary school. There's also a connection to the Mat River Park's lower campground. It's a wonderful time to get out and explore as the seasons change!



VALLEY MOUNTAIN BIKERS AND HIKERS

October 23

As Government Peak Recreation Area trails enter the freeze/thaw cycle of fall, please assess trail conditions. If trails are gooey after you start up (you will realize soon enough), please turn back; choose to ride elsewhere or another time.

ALASKA STATE PARKS

October 1

🚧 Attention Hatcher Pass Users 🚧

Winter has arrived in Hatcher Pass! 🤖 🧤 🧤

The road over the summit is now closed for the season between MP 17.5 on the East side and MP20.6 on the West.

Happy October!

September 30

🍂 Seasonal Trailhead & Campground Closures Begin October 6th 🍂

As we transition into fall, please be aware of the seasonal closures going into effect on October 6th at the following locations:

🚫 Closed Trailheads:

Bird Ridge
Bird Point
Indian Ballfield
Potter Upper
McHugh Upper

🚫 Closed Campground:

Bird Creek Overflow Campground

These closures are part of our annual seasonal shutdown for maintenance and safety as we prepare for winter conditions.



🗂️ Advance notice signs will be posted at all affected locations starting October 4th–5th, including the campground. We appreciate your help in spreading the word and respecting these closures for your safety and the protection of the area.

Thank you for supporting responsible recreation!

HOMER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

October 14

Big things are happening for outdoor recreation in Homer 🚴 🌲

Cameale Johnson, who serves on the boards of both the Homer Cycling Club and Friends of Kachemak Bay State Park, is the driving force behind the Eastland Trails Project — an exciting new hiking and biking trail system on the north side of Kachemak Bay.

Cameale recently led a tour for Chamber staff and board members to share the progress and vision behind this community-powered project.

✅ Trailhead and parking area development underway

✅ RTP grant secured 🎉

✅ Phase 1 construction begins late summer 2025

💚 Your support can help bring this trail system to life. Donations are tax-deductible, and community involvement is key to making this vision a reality.

📧 To get involved or donate: cetrailsak@gmail.com | Homer Cycling Club, 4658 Tamara Street, Homer, AK 99603 (memo: "Eastland")



FRIENDS OF KACHEMAK BAY STATE PARKS

October 29

🌲 Coalition Loop Trail Update from Troop 555! 🌲



This past weekend (October 24–26) these scouts completed their annual maintenance on the Coalition Loop Trail. Their focus this year was the section between China Poot Bay and China Poot Lake, brushing back the trail one meter on both sides and clearing all downed trees. With just 4 scouts and 3 adults, this small but mighty crew wrapped up their work and the hike after dark—well prepared with extra food, water, and headlamps, of course.

The loop is now passable and well-marked from the Ranger Station → China Poot Bay → China Poot Lake →

back to the Ranger Station.

⚠️ The section above China Poot Lake still needs some tread work and is sloped in places, so hikers should use caution. Deadfalls were all cut out to make it passable but were not all cut back significantly due to running low on bar oil. The spur trail to the falls is marked, and the first 10 yards are clear.

Thank you, Troop 555! And thank you to Eric Clark for giving up his day off to shuttle the crew across!

October 7

All are invited to join the Friends 2025 Annual Meeting, where we'll elect new board members, present the Golden Pulaski award, share stories, and plan for future adventures. Plus, it's the only place to get our limited-edition collab shirt with Adrift Prints!

Attendance is free. Supporters are encouraged to become a member to participate (vote) in the annual meeting.

<https://shorturl.at/V8wYI>



You can decide to become a member that night too. Or just have a brew and watch the meeting and entertainment.

All beer & wine sales will support the Friends & light snacks will be sold by The Porcupine. Everyone is welcome! **Membership is required to vote; become a member or renew here:** <https://shorturl.at/V8wYI>

Event is November 19 starting at 5:30 p.m.

October 2

Back on September 18th, eleven U.S. Coast Guard volunteers and Park staff went up the south end of Grace Ridge trail and did tread maintenance, taking out alders that were encroaching into the corridor. Approximately ½ mile was completed about 1 mile from the trailhead. Volunteers also were able to pick and eat blueberries that were at their peak! 🫐

The berries may be gone but the hiking is still excellent. 🥾 Get out there while you can and enjoy the hard work of this summer's crew!

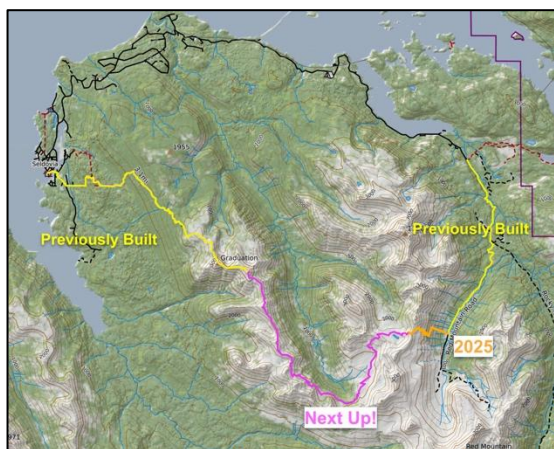


TUTKA BACKDOOR

October 6

An update on trail work 2025, and a pitch for trail work 2026! Most of our work was on the Red Mountain to Seldovia section, connecting to the Jakolof end of Tutka Backdoor.

I think I'm finally putting the trail to bed for the year (unless it's too nice and I can't help myself). We



had an amazing group of volunteers out in early summer, helping push the trail up from the old Red Mountain Road through some of the most ridiculously gnarly alders-and-cliffs zone to break out into the tundra. Hig and I and a couple other folks pushed it forward in scattered outings and day trips through the rest of the summer and fall to the end of the orange line, near what I call 'Mars Lake' in the first photo. Last week I scouted the connection from there, around the head of Barabara Valley through a series of bowls, then up to Graduation Ridge.

Come help us in 2026! We'll be starting in the Red Mountain soil zone near the lake, all above treeline, working our way around the head of the valley, with some

parts in bowls, and some where we'll need to cut in a traverse. Much easier than alders-and-cliffs, but there's still a lot of work to be done! While the trail won't technically be complete until it gets back to around the top of PhD, it'll be a vastly better route as soon as it makes it around the valley and back to the ridge (saving everyone the straight down and straight up bushwhack piece in the current off-trail version).

We'll probably be out there starting in mid-July 2026. It's all a beautiful place to work. Get in touch if you're interested and spread the word!

VALDEZ ADVENTURE ALLIANCE

October 13

Big thank you to all who came out on October 9 to support the application for a boardwalk across the meadow on Gold Beach Trail (Shoup Bay Trail). You make a difference. We hope to see you at volunteer days next summer. We are so grateful for all the community support from businesses and individuals.

SOUTHCENTRAL LINKS

- Notice of Decision ADL 234426 Friends of West Susitna Winter Trail: <http://notice.alaska.gov/221098>
- RTP Grant Applications
 - Chugach National Forest Trail Brushing: <http://notice.alaska.gov/221121>
 - Wolverine Trail Bridge - Iditarod National Historic Trail: <http://notice.alaska.gov/221119>
 - Winter Trails UTV Groomer - Chugach Backcountry Freeriders <http://notice.alaska.gov/221242>
 - Youth Trail Maintenance Initiative - Kachemak Bay State Park: <http://notice.alaska.gov/221244>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Chugach Park Fund; October 2025-Season ending newsletter: <https://tinyurl.com/y4bwjvby>
- Mat Su Trails and Parks Foundation October newsletter: <https://tinyurl.com/462mx22m>
- Friends of Kachemak Bay State Parks end-of-season newsletter: <https://tinyurl.com/y3m3seat>
- Island Trails Network (Kodiak): Summer 2025 Recap: <https://tinyurl.com/mrx8tv98>

INTERIORWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

LOCAL TRAIL NON-PROFIT IS RECRUITING BOARD MEMBERS.

APPLY Interior Alaska Trails and Park Foundation (IATPF) is seeking board members to help advance the group's mission.

Do you love trails in Interior Alaska? Do you love our parks? Do you want to help support them with projects that keep them in good shape? If that sounds like you, then you are an excellent candidate to



serve on the IATPF board of directors. The group's mission is to develop, maintain and promote a year-round trails and parks system for the greater Fairbanks area and beyond.

The IATPF, established in 2018, has recently helped support a volunteer day of brushing on the Mastodon Trail in the Chena River State Recreation Area, mowing of the Jeff Studdert Sled Dog Trails, and the refurbishment of the Ester Dome Singletrack. The foundation's projects support

all types of trail users, motorized and non-motorized.

Board members participate in a monthly Zoom meeting, providing oversight to the foundation's mission. To find out more about the group, see its website, www.iatpfoundation.org or visit its Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/iatpfoundation>.

If you are interested in serving, please send an email to iatpfoundation@gmail.com

Photo by Brian Accola: Geoffrey Orth guides volunteers during a Mastodon Trail volunteer work party in June 2025.

SEEN RECENTLY ON INTERIOR FACEBOOK PAGES

FAIRBANKS TRAIL AND WATERWAY USERS

October 29

The Fairbanks Borough Community Planning Department is updating its Comprehensive Plan, a big-picture guide for the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) for the next 20 years, covering all sorts of things, including land use and trails.

Take a look online and/or attend one of the public meetings being held in early November.

Find out more here: www.fnsb.gov/1169/Comprehensive-Plan-Update

October 24

The Fairbanks Daily News-Miner had a story on FAST Planning's Long-Range Transportation Plan Open House. The plan includes motorized AND non-motorized infrastructure.

From the story:

--Some "big dream" topics included a better commuter trail to connect the entire borough, realistic funding for road maintenance crews and support staff, sidewalks on Marika Street, and overall pedestrian-friendly infrastructure. Other suggestions or concerns included a bus driver shortage, changes to routes or times, and a gap on Miller Hill Road.--



Find out more about the plan, including a survey and other ways to comment here:

<https://fastplanning.us/mtp/>

See the News-Miner story here: <https://tinyurl.com/v6c4ataf>

October 18

Update on antimony mining and area trails:

While U.S. Antimony has said it will suspend its operations on Ester Dome over winter, Felix Gold plans to continue its operation.

According to "North of 60 Mining News":

--With the goal of quickly advancing a simple, low-cost antimony mining operation at Treasure Creek, Felix plans to continue its work at NW Array into the winter.—

<https://tinyurl.com/nj4azjve>



Felix Gold's operations affect trails in the Old Murphy Dome Road area, especially the Treasure Creek Trail.

The mining website also has a story about plans to build an antimony refining plant near Port Mackenzie in the Mat-Su Borough:

<https://tinyurl.com/3z4f8hcu>

For more information on the U.S. Antimony operations on Ester Dome, see this post:

<https://tinyurl.com/yc3y4kft>

For more information on the Felix Gold operations north of Old Murphy Dome Road, see this

post: <https://tinyurl.com/mr3fpnww>

October 6

Steve McCombs, one of the founders of the Delta Junction Trails Association, was remembered at an outdoor memorial recently in Delta Junction. KUAC has a story about it here.

<https://tinyurl.com/mu7728w9>

FAIRBANKS CYCLE CLUB

October 1

The Fairbanks Daily News-Miner has a story on three bike-bed path projects being added to FAST Planning's project list due to a surplus of federal funds coming to the state.

From the story:

--DOT's pre-construction engineers proposed new projects, including:

- \$3.45 million on widening and resurfacing Ballaine Road non-motorized pathway between Yankovich Road and Goldstream Road
- \$900,000 to construct a new shared-used path along Sheep Creek Extension Road to connect an existing path along Goldhill Road and the Parks Highway
- \$900,000 for a gravel parking lot on Gaffney Road to be used as a summer park-and-ride for the new dedicated bicycle path that runs from the main gate of Fort Wainwright to Badger Road--



Of note:

- The Ballaine path would be resurfaced with "impacted aggregate" rather than asphalt, due to the underlying geology (i.e. permafrost).
- The Sheep Creek Extension project would be done in conjunction with the project to signalize the Sheep Creek Ext/Parks Highway intersection.
- The Gaffney Road project would be for the Matt Glover Bike Path but could also be used to access the Chena Riverwalk path.

See the News-Miner story, with many more details, here: <https://tinyurl.com/mw56veba>

DELTA JUNCTION TRAILS ASSOCIATION

October 7

Winter is coming and fortunately the interior of the Dome located at the Liewer Community Trail has its insulation kit installed, thanks to Silverline LLC. and DJTA!

October 6

The River Walk Park event was a hit with the Delta Community Library Story Walk, bonfire, scavenger hunt, and the Steve McCombs memorial bench dedication. Enjoy some highlights of this special day here: <https://tinyurl.com/mu7728w9>



INTERIORWIDE LINKS

- Fairbanks Borough park trail maps (and others): <https://www.fnsb.gov/1220/Trail-Maps>
- RTP Grant Application - Chena Lake Recreation Area River Park Trails Reroute Phase II: <http://notice.alaska.gov/221120>

SOUTHEAST NEWS AND NOTICES

SEEN RECENTLY ON SOUTHEAST FACEBOOK PAGES

TRAIL MIX, INC.

October 23

Volunteers are the heart of our trails. VTMT member Jeff Hoover says he volunteers because both the work and his teammates often inspire him.

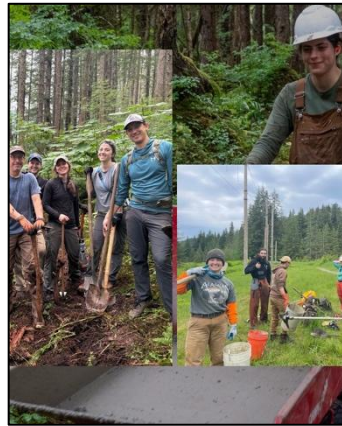
This year, VTMT contributed nearly 3,000 hours to Jumbo Reroute and Treadwell Ditch. Over the past five years, they've dedicated 18,000+ hours to Treadwell alone.

Without the dedication of community volunteers, many of our beloved trails wouldn't exist. Support their work by donating, attending our auction, becoming a trail steward, or volunteering next season. 🛠️



October 21

Aaand just like that, another season's in the books! We can't thank each of you enough for being part of the best trail community around. 🛠️



This year, we improved over 18 trails with help from 17 amazing crew members and well over 100 volunteers, logging over 5,000 volunteer hours (holy moly! 🤖)

Some of our proudest accomplishments include hosting 25+ community volunteer days, continuing construction on Jumbo Reroute, completing two bridges to close out the season, laying the foundation for the new Horse Tram cabin, building new mountain bike routes, progressing Amalga (Eagle Glacier) Trail, rebuilding Fish Creek Trail, and adding an accessible ramp to the picnic area at Fish Creek Park!

To stay involved this winter, consider supporting Trail Mix or letting us know where you spot trail damage. We can't wait to celebrate with you at our auction, and we're already in planning mode for the trail season ahead!

October 20

VTMT flew up 40 gravel bags to Treadwell earlier this month. Last week, they shoveled and spread gravel on the former Rock Garden #2 section. It was pouring rain, and to say we appreciate their work is an understatement. #rockon 🙌 🪨

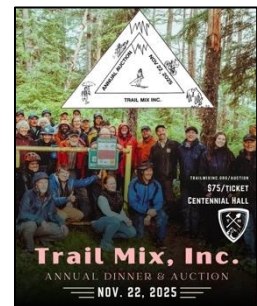
October 14

We don't know about you, but we're sure excited for our annual auction on Saturday, November 22nd!

Tickets are going fast, and it's hard to believe we're almost sold out. **Only 70 tickets are left:** <https://tinyurl.com/4ju7twe7> 🎟️

This year, we're raising funds to support our year-round operations and expand our volunteer program capacity. Volunteers have been vital in reconnecting Treadwell Ditch and maintaining countless local trails, and so many of you are part of that crew! With more support, we can equip volunteers with a dedicated tool cache and trailer, making it easier to host community-led trail projects.

This season alone, over 150 volunteers contributed more than 5,000 hours to stewarding Juneau's trails. Along the way, they gained critical trail-building skills



and helped strengthen our community. With your help, we can grow this program even further, making our trails and community stronger. (Check out our Youth Employment in Parks (YEP) crew walking along the new stretch of trail they restored!)

We're also accepting auction donations. Have an item or experience you'd like to contribute?

Donate: <https://tinyurl.com/58cuuj77>

October 10

To mark the end of our crew season, we just finished building a new bridge on Horse Tram Trail! It's located just past the first bridge starting from the Eagle Valley Center. Enjoy! 😊

October 9

Our annual auction is coming up November 22, and we'd like to thank, and invite, our local business sponsors. We couldn't do our work without community support. So far this year, Holland America Line has joined us as a Trail Builder Sponsor!

If your business believes in the power of trails, we hope you'll consider sponsoring our auction.

Learn more about our corporate sponsor program and donate via the links below. 🛠️

Learn more: <https://tinyurl.com/339d7t6e>

Become a corporate donor: <https://tinyurl.com/4d99x45w>

October 6

Big news from Jumbo Reroute! We built a brand-new 40-foot bridge over Paris Creek last week, with help from awesome folks at @timberlabinc @cbjpark & @coastal.helicopters 🙌 It's not every week you get to build a bridge, and we couldn't have asked for a better team. Go check it out next time you're on the trail!



October 2



Check out the new stairs, trees planted, and pathways reinforced at Mt. Roberts! We planted trees along the edge of the trail just north of the tram, revegetated the side corridor, and built new steps.

We're down to our final days of field season, but we're still moving and grooving! Stay tuned for bridge updates on Jumbo Reroute and Horse Tram and happy trails!!

SITKA TRAIL WORKS, INC.

October 13

Today, on Indigenous Peoples' Day, Sitka Trail Works pauses to reflect on a deeper responsibility to this land.

As a historically non-native organization whose work is focused on the environment, we humbly acknowledge that every trail we build, maintain, and promote is on Lingít Aaní. Aaní is the Lingít word for land and Lingít people have been stewarding these lands for over 10,000 years. It is very important to recognize this historical fact and to appreciate that the Lingít people have lived out the traditional tribal values around balance, respect, and caring for the Earth that sustains us all.

Our commitment to connecting people to the outdoors requires us to honor this history and the original stewards of this land. May we strive to walk



with awareness and respect today and every day. For taking wonderful care of this special place for time immemorial, we say thank you and gunalchéesh.

October 9

Members get local discounts! Unlock 10% off local businesses when you support Sitka Trail Works! We've made supporting local trails better than ever. Donate annually and immediately get 10% off at LFS, Orion's, Russell's, & AK Pure Sea Salt!

Plus, our new platform makes it easy:

👉 Automatic Renewals keep your benefits active 24/7.

👉 Just show your Zeffy receipt to redeem and shop!

DON'T WAIT—**Follow the link to donate and unlock your savings today!**

<https://sitkatrailworks.org/donate/>

CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

October 29

The City and Borough of Sitka Public Works Grounds Maintenance has begun annual brushing along the Sitka Cross Trail this week, with work expected to continue through Friday, November 7. Crews will be using power tools and small equipment, including a Bobcat machine, to clear vegetation and maintain safe trail conditions.



The trail remains open during this work period, but users are encouraged to use caution and be aware of equipment and workers along the trail.

We appreciate your patience during this work period, and users are encouraged to use caution and be aware of equipment and workers along the trail.

For questions, please contact the Public Works Department at 907.747.1804.

October 24

Granite Creek Bridge Reopened!

Thanks to some creative problem solving by Troy's Excavation, the Granite Creek Bridge on the Sitka Cross Trail is now back open! Trail users once again have full access to the entire Cross Trail system.

A big thank-you to everyone for your patience while the bridge was repaired after sustaining storm damage earlier this fall — and to Troy's team for their quick and innovative work getting this key connection reopened.

Enjoy the trail, Sitka!



SOUTHEAST LINKS

- RTP Grant Applications
 - Yellow Hill Recreational Area Phase 1 (Metlakatla): <http://notice.alaska.gov/221247>
 - Kake Community Nature Trail and Viewing Area: <http://notice.alaska.gov/221476>

NATIONWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

NATIONAL REC TRAIL APPLICATION DEADLINE NOW DECEMBER 1

APPLY The deadline to apply for a trail to be recognized as a National Recreation Trail **has been extended from November 1 to December 1.**



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

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

From American Trails email

THE 2025 NATIONAL RECREATION TRAILS PHOTO CONTEST IS OPEN

ENTER American Trails sponsors the annual contest for photographs of designated National Recreation



Trails across the country. The annual contest provides awards in several categories and shows off entries (and previous winners) on the NRT website.

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

Deadline is December 15.

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

From American Trails website; photo from 2024 contest winners

NATIONWIDE / INTERNATIONAL LINKS

WEBINARS, MEETINGS, CONFERENCES, TRAINING, ETC.

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

TRAILS-RELATED NEWSLETTERS

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

VOLUNTEER

- Am. Hiking Society's 2025 Volunteer Vacations: <https://americanhiking.org/volunteer-vacation-trips/>
- Conservation Volunteers International Program October newsletter: <https://tinyurl.com/3ynn4r95>

FUNDING

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

OTHER LINKS

- Trails Magazine (quarterly, print only): <https://trailsmag.net>
- Google Maps Street View Adds 5,900 Miles of Off-Road Trails: <https://tinyurl.com/mrxbi9fa>

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