



NEWSLETTER

AUG
2023

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www.alaska-trails.org

ALASKA TRAILS NEWS AND NOTICES

TRAIL TALES COMING BACK FOR MORE OF YOUR TRAIL STORIES

ATTEND Alaska Trails is excited to be bringing back the Trail Tales storytelling series, partnered with a different community organization for each event. In the spirit of Arctic Entries, storytellers will share seven-minute stories about their trail experiences, adventures, and life in general. Our upcoming 2023 Trail Tales events will be held at the Anchorage Museum and tickets cost \$20.

Our next event will be on **Tuesday, September 18, at 7 p.m.** Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets will go on sale soon. Put the other Trail Tales events on your calendar:

- Tuesday, October 17th
- Wednesday, November 15th
- Tuesday, December 5th



For more information and to purchase tickets when they become available, visit: <https://www.alaska-trails.org/trail-tales>

PARTICIPATE IN THE GREAT ALASKA DUCK RACE!



BUY TICKETS Alaska Trails is lucky enough to once again be a part of the Great Alaska Duck Race! We benefit from each ticket you buy, and you will have a chance to win up to \$10,000! Ducks will race on September 9th at 5 pm from the Ship Creek Overlook Park Bridge to the Bait Shack just below the Bridge Restaurant on lower Ship Creek in Anchorage. Winners need not be present to win. If you buy \$100 worth, you get an extra ticket and a Muck

(moose/duck combo)! Buy your tickets today, and we hope you get the lucky duck!

<https://tickets.greatalaskaduckrace.org/akexcel/t/alaskatrails/Team/Details>

ALASKA TRAIL STEWARDS RELIES ON VOLUNTEERS LIKE YOU

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 several 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 have responsibility 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: <https://www.alaska-trails.org/volunteer-opportunities>

ALASKA TRAILS HAS TOOL TRAILERS READY FOR TRAIL PROJECTS



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

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

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE LAND MANAGER FORUM IN NOVEMBER

ATTEND The annual Alaska Trails Land Manager Forum will happen on Wednesday, November 15, at the BP Energy Center in Anchorage.

More details including agenda, speakers and more will be forthcoming. We hope you can join us to wrap up the trail season and begin planning for next year. You can find out more and view previous years' presentations here: <https://www.alaska-trails.org/land-manager-forum>

We are excited to bring land managers, trails groups, pro trail builders and trail enthusiasts together to highlight the many successes we have had and share what's worked and what hasn't.

SEEN RECENTLY ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

July 28: Did you know that volunteering with Alaska Trails at five events in one season earns you **your own black hard hat with your name on it**? These stylish black hats are coveted amongst volunteers and could be yours if you volunteer with us at just five events! We still have plenty of volunteer opportunities remaining this summer, so find the event that works for you and sign up at:

<https://www.alaska-trails.org/current-volunteer-opportunities>





July 27: The Bird Valley Falls Trail, aka Bird Creek Falls, leads to beautiful views in every season. This multi-use trail is a treasure, but it needs our help. Currently, trees and vegetation are overgrown, which means you might get an unexpected branch to the face instead of a beautiful view. Sign up to help us brush this trail on August 19th and make it more safe and enjoyable for all:

<https://www.alaska-trails.org/event-details/bird-valley-falls-brushing>

July 26: Big thanks to our volunteers who spent this past Saturday improving the Eklutna Lakeside Access Trail, and thanks to Go Hike Alaska for sponsoring this event! This trail gets lots of use from hikers, bikers, and ATV riders, and it was in need of some brushing and drainage work. Our volunteers brushed the entire trail and constructed 14 drainage features to improve the trail for everyone.



We couldn't do this work without the help of dedicated volunteers, and we appreciate the time and energy they devote to make a difference on our trails. To join us at a future volunteer event, please visit:

<https://www.alaska-trails.org/current-volunteer-opportunities>

July 24: Thank you to our mighty volunteers who made great progress brushing the Hope Point Trail earlier this month! And thanks to Heather's Choice for their donation of delicious Packaroons to keep our volunteers well-fed and ready to tackle trail projects like this one!



This volunteer project was made possible by a Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm National Heritage Area grant, and we can't thank them enough for their support in improving trails for all. If you are interested in volunteering at our future trail work events, please visit:

<https://www.alaska-trails.org/current-volunteer-opportunities>

July 15: BIG thanks to Revelate Designs for sponsoring our volunteer event today - and to Revelate's CEO Eric Parsons. He and a hearty group of volunteers faced the wind and rain to brush a significant swath of the alder tunnel on Powerline Pass past the German bridge. And they tackled some drainage as well so when all this rain turns off, it should be awesome. Thanks again!



July 12: Youth Employment in Parks rocks! Alaska Trails is excited to be teaming up with YEP this week thanks to a Community Challenge Grant from the Anchorage Park Foundation!

We are working to keep as many trees as possible - so instead of removing roots, we are arming them with rocks. This makes for a great trail and happy trees. Check out the photo.

July 10: Big thanks to the volunteers who came out to Whittier on a rare sunny day to work on the Horsetail Falls Connector Trail this past Saturday! If you would like to join in on the fun and make a difference for our trails, you can sign up to volunteer at our upcoming events at:



<https://www.alaska-trails.org/current-volunteer-opportunities>

STATEWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

LWCF GRANT APPLICATIONS DUE BY END OF OCTOBER

APPLY Application packets for Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) 2024 grants were available starting August 1.



The Alaska Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (DPOR) administers this competitive reimbursable grant program in partnership with the National Park Service. LWCF can provide up to 50% of costs for eligible outdoor recreation projects. An estimated \$1 million in LWCF federal funding will be available in this grant round. Eligible applicants include state, regional, local and tribal governments with the legal authority to provide park and recreation services on public lands. Applications will be accepted by DPOR from August 1 through noon on October 31. For more information, contact the Grants Section Manager Danette Berkovitz (Danette.Berkovitz@alaska.gov; 907-269-8706).

CONFLUENCE CONFERENCE TO BE IN FAIRBANKS IN SEPTEMBER

The 8th Annual Confluence: Summit on the Outdoors heads to Fairbanks, Sept. 26 – 28, where the focus will be on co-creating a vision for a regenerative future and the action steps to make it happen.

Confluence attracts innovative thinkers and doers from public and tribal for-profits, governmental organizations, and non-profit allies involved in outdoor businesses, tourism, culture & heritage, economic development, public health, transportation, and land relationship planning.

Read more here: <https://tinyurl.com/yck4wr3a>

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 as those that target practice 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:



Hunting Safety: Information for Hunters and Non-Hunters (US Forest Service)
https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5330495.pdf

Hike Safely During Hunting Season (American Hiking Society)
<https://americanhiking.org/families-on-foot/hike-safely-hunting-season/>

To find out more about when and where hunting seasons are happening in Alaska see this AK Dept of Fish and Game page: <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=hunting.whenwhere>

For specifics you'll need to refer to the Alaska Hunting Regulations:
<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=wildliferegulations.main>

ALASKA MOUNTAIN BIKE SUMMIT TO BE HELD IN OCTOBER

REGISTER Please save the date and join Chugach Mountain Bike Riders, Alaska Trails, Arctic Bicycle Club, and Valley Mountain Bikers and Hikers on Saturday and Sunday October 14 and 15 at the scenic Government Peak Chalet, for the second Alaska Mountain Bike Summit.

The Alaska Mountain Bike Summit seeks to bring together nonprofits, clubs, and mountain biking advocates from across the state to share information and plan a way to maximize the knowledge and expertise in the state to build, maintain, and ride more mountain biking trails.

More information including registration, agenda and other pertinent news will be coming soon. For questions contact: Will Taygan will@ChugachMTB.org



SOME TRAILS INCLUDED IN STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

Want to find out more about the state's plan for non-motorized recreation projects? Want to be able to comment?

The projects are included in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The STIP can be kind of a daunting document and process, so the state has set up a brief presentation and open house regarding the DRAFT 2024-2027 version of the STIP. It will be held in Fairbanks on Wednesday, August 9, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Find out more here: <http://notice.alaska.gov/211964>

SEEN RECENTLY ON STATEWIDE FACEBOOK PAGES

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT - ALASKA

July 28: **?** #DidYouKnow that BLM-administered lands in Alaska welcome about 1 million visitors each year?

Making sure your time on BLM-managed trails is fun and safe is important to us! **👍** That way, you can keep coming back and making memories for years to come.

Learn how our staff plan for multiple generations of trail users on #YourPublicLands **➡️ ➡️** <http://ow.ly/g4vH50JxENv>

📷 Bureau of Land Management Recreation staff conduct winter trail grooming near McKay Creek Trail junction in the White Mountains National Recreation Area (WMNRA). About 250 miles of winter trails in the WMNRA are used by snow machiners, fat tire bikers, cross country skiers, sled dog teams and mushers, and others. This maintenance keeps trails safe, accessible, and enjoyable for recreational visitors. Photo by Craig McCaa, BLM.



July 5: ⚠️ Caution! This might change how you look at and use your favorite trail. Some trails are inherited, and recreation users create some. 🏞️ 🛠️ 🛒 All trails can last for generations if they're built right.



Learn how BLM Alaska's outdoor recreation planners improve access to and the quality of trails on #YourPublicLands so you can make memories for decades to come 👁️ 🔗 <http://ow.ly/UTz050JxENw>

📷 A volunteer hauls a wheelbarrow full of shovels and tools for trail maintenance during a volunteer event at the BLM-administered Campbell Tract in Anchorage. Photo by BLM Alaska.

STATEWIDE LINKS

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Work to begin on Pretty Rocks bridge: <https://tinyurl.com/ecdew4rb>
- Wilderness adventures gone wrong, mental mistakes can be to blame: <https://tinyurl.com/3wnxdca>
- Alaska natural resources agency OKs bigger off-road vehicles on state land: <https://tinyurl.com/39bztrt7>
- The Alaska Wilderness Classic 2023 – Little Tok River to McCarthy: <https://tinyurl.com/yz3uspma>

SOUTHCENTRAL NEWS AND NOTICES

EAGLE RIVER SOUTH FORK TRAIL REHABILITATION CONTINUES



The South Fork of Eagle River trail rehabilitation is underway amid a summer of rain, wind, and mud. The Alaska Trails crew is rerouting short sections of the trail, putting boardwalk in the wettest sections, and brushing some tight areas. Work will continue into late summer. Funding by the Chugach Park Fund came from scores of small donors and major grants from the Rasmuson Foundation, ConocoPhillips Alaska, and Subaru. The trail, which runs about five miles from the parking lot to a pair of alpine lakes, remains open for hiking.

Story and photo by John Quinley

GROUP WORKS ON GOVERNMENT PEAK RECREATION AREA TRAILS

In its July newsletter, the Valley Mat-Su Bikers and Hikers described some of the work done by the group, including a lot of awesome volunteers, to improve trails at Government Peak Recreation Area.

GPRA Trail Maintenance, Part I

On June 14, VMBaH hired a helicopter to drop bags of gravel at various places on the singletrack trails at Government Peak Recreation Area. Each bag weighed about 800 pounds. Volunteers had filled them the previous day at a local gravel pit, and volunteers also helped shovel and spread the gravel on wet, muddy sections of trail. A small compactor was used where needed. Thank you to our awesome volunteers! The trails are riding great!



GPRA Trail Maintenance, Part II

On a recent "Trail Maintenance Tuesday," held weekly all summer, volunteers dragged the empty gravel bags that had been stashed beside the trails back to the parking lot, removed signs we'd put up for the gravel project, and continued to fine-tune the new singletrack.

New Trails at GPRA are Open

Gnarski n' Hucks is open for business! Watch for intermittent closures as jump and line adjustments continue over the next few weeks. If the caution sign blocks the trail, that means crews are working to dial the flow of this black diamond beauty. We will try our best to leave the trail in a rideable condition and take down the sign after each work session. Be aware that this trail has large features such as gap jumps and drops, with a largely loose, rocky surface. However, the access to Gnarski n' Hucks via the new Field of Dreams trail is a glorious two-way trail which allows access to the top of the trail system with a flowy, fun descent that is wide enough for two bikes to pass in most spots.

MAT-SU FOUNDATION LOOKING FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS

APPLY The Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation wants to fund your next trail, park, or outdoor recreation project. The Mat-Su Trails & Parks Foundation partners with organizations and local governments on projects and efforts that expand and enhance the valley's network of trails and parks. Submit your grant applications by August 2, for the next review of grant applications.

Contact us at info@matsutrails.org for any questions or to discuss your next project!

- Info on grant program: <https://matsutrails.org/ourgrants/>
- Grant guidelines: <https://tinyurl.com/bdh7j692>

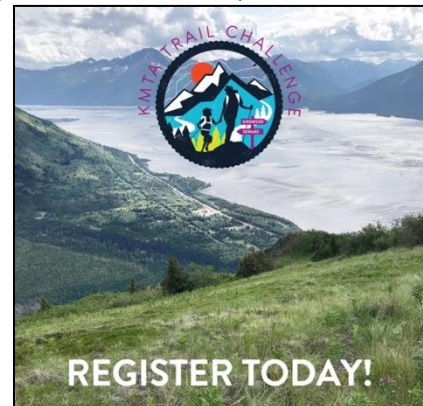
From Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation newsletter

KENAI -TURNAGAIN GROUP PUTS ON TRAIL CHALLENGE

The KMTA Trail Challenge is finally here, running from June 28th to September 30th, and it promises to be an incredible experience! Today is the perfect day to register and secure your spot.

So, what do you get when you join? A LOT! You'll receive:

- a custom-designed @bocogear hat, water bottle and sticker
- opportunities to win awesome prizes (some valued at \$500+) by tagging us and sponsors in photos on social media
- the chance to win top mileage and elevation prizes at the end of the challenge, and a whole lot more.
- PLUS, your \$50 registration fee helps support our efforts to expand access to inclusive, trail-based education through the purchase of a passenger van.



This is a critical fundraiser for us, as transportation remains a huge barrier in our ability to provide local kids with the experiences they deserve but don't currently have. KMTA has invested over \$410,000 to preserve the integrity of our trails, and now we need your help to make them more accessible.

Trails and the outdoors should be for everyone. By joining the trail challenge, you'll not only get to explore the beauty of our National Heritage Area through a unique event, but you'll also be making a difference in the lives of Alaskan youth.

Learn more and register now by visiting our website: <https://kmtacorridor.org/trail-challenge/>

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY ON IDITAROD TRAIL IN SEWARD

VOLUNTEER Join the Seward Nordic Ski Club on August 19th from 10 am to 4:30 pm for a trail maintenance party on the Iditarod National Historic Trail! Volunteers will be cutting alders and limbing trees along this trail to help decrease tree wells in the winter so the trail can be easily groomed for skiing, biking, and snowshoeing.

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. Meet at the Nash Road Trailhead in Seward.



KODIAK'S ISLAND TRAILS NETWORK BUILDS, IMPROVES TRAILS

The following items were in the most recent newsletter for Kodiak's Island Trails Network. To get on the newsletter distribution list, fill out the form here: <https://www.islandtrails.org/newsletters.html>

Southend Trail on Near Island



Marcus Dunbar, his crew, and ITN volunteer board members have been hard at work on the South End Trail on Near Island. They have focused on hardening trail tread to make it a more sustainable surface to walk on and prevent trail braiding. Marcus and his crew are funded through a donation from the Kouremetis Family Foundation and supported by the City of Kodiak Parks and Recreation Department.

Connecting Community Path

Be on the lookout for activity happening near the Coast Guard Base. This summer Connecting Community Path volunteers will continue its efforts to connect Peterson Elementary School to Base housing off of Old Tom Stiles Road with an off-highway pedestrian path. The overall vision of this group is to create an off-highway path from the city of Kodiak to Womens Bay. To find out more about this project, volunteer, and/or donate, connect with them at kodiakconnectingcommunity@gmail.com.



Saltery Cove Trails System

Island Trails Network should have authorization to begin work at the beginning of August for our project on the Saltery Cove Trails System. This project will be focusing on work between Saltery Lake and Lake Miam. After the trail improvement work, the trail will be surveyed so the Borough can apply for an easement on the trail. Without an easement on the trail, the scope of work allowed is very limited and couldn't be funded through state or federal funds.



We are currently looking for volunteers to help us stage materials for work at a later time. Several 4'x8' pieces of GeoDecking need to be hauled out. ITN has two ATVs and trailers, we just need drivers and helpers. You are welcome to use your own equipment as well. This is a great way to see the trail and help us meet our match. Please contact Travis if you are interested in helping out or have questions about the project.

SEEN RECENTLY ON SOUTHCENTRAL FACEBOOK PAGES

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT - ALASKA

July 8: "Can you grab my bag for me?" 🐾

With over 500,000 visitors a year and about as many dogs, the greater Campbell Tract's ecosystem needs you to #ScoopThePoop.

If you are on the BLM Campbell Tract, your dog must be on a leash!

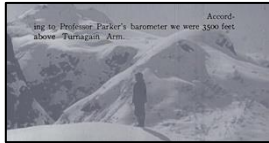
Learn more here: <https://ow.ly/2prp50P6M8Q>

Photo by Kim Mincer, BLM.



ALASKA STATE PARKS

Aug 1: The Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance presents Across Crow Pass – a short history of the Crow Pass trail segment of the Iditarod Historic Trail.



For those interested in traversing Crow Pass, also check out our Video Trail Guide on our YouTube channel before you make your plans!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kRPMKMaHmNU>

July 21: Headed to the Mat-Su or Chugach to enjoy possibly the nicest full weekend we've had this summer? 🌻 Be ready to pay for parking electronically rather than with cash. 👍

Many of our locations in the Mat-Su and the Chugach will no longer be patrolled by our good ol' friend, the Iron Ranger, better known as the place to put your cash fee envelopes. They have recently been rendered inefficient at protecting your user fees, and as they are destroyed, we are pulling them. Fear not! The Iron Ranger has backup in the form of LUKE, an electronic payment system that is available at all of the affected recreational areas.

We get it! The nostalgia of licking an envelope with cash in it and putting it into the brown metal box is a beloved part of the Alaska State Parks experience. 😬 It's always an added bonus if someone hasn't run off with the pen. This fact is not lost on us. The show must go on and the latrines must be pumped so please be gracious to our field staff who are working this beautiful weekend to keep your parks clean, safe and your user fees out of sticky fingers.

THANKS ASP RANGERS! 😎 #akstateparks #alaskastateparks



July 18: Have you tried the Nancy Lake Canoe Trail? You can packraft or kayak the loop as well! 🎧 🍷 🌻 <https://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/aspunits/matsu/canoetrail.htm>

July 5: Muktuk Marston – Hunter Pass Trails access alpine meadows, spectacular Alaska Range



views, Cold War-era Nike missile booster remnants, and blueberries galore. 🍷 🍷

They connect Arctic Valley Trailhead over Hunter Pass to the South Fork Eagle River Trailhead for an amazing day hike! 🍷 🍷 🍷

Check it out!

📷 Joe Yelverton

Both are on Trail Forks: <https://www.trailforks.com/trails/muktuk-marston-memorial-trail/>

Here's Hunter Pass Trail: <https://www.trailforks.com/trails/hunter-pass-trail/>

ANCHORAGE PARKS AND RECREATION

July 27: 🎉 Thank you to all the folks who came out for the ribbon cutting for the NEW Chugach Foothills Connector trail! This fabulous asset, which connects Regal Mountain Dr. to Campbell Airstrip Rd, is a demonstration of how our community can work together to make incredible things happen!

Learn more about this project online at:

www.muni.org/Departments/parks/Pages/NortheastConnectorTrailPhase2.aspx

And be sure to take a moment to hit the trails and check out this scenic connection.



ANCHORAGE PARK FOUNDATION

July 15: The Moose Loop Trail Challenge is great for families! We are so grateful to have the support of 49th State Brewing - Anchorage as a 10k sponsor. The brewery is also a great destination along the Moose Loop downtown. Thank you, David, Alyssa, and little Conrad for getting outside and investing in our trail system.



SINGLETRACK ADVOCATES

July 11: Great job brushing our trails, Dusty!!! Thank you to Dusty and his team at Northern Trail Maintenance for brushing all our Kincaid and Hillside trails! And thank you to all our annual donors. Here is your \$\$\$ at work. Enjoy!

June 30: Thank you Trailside Discovery Camp for your hard work on fixing the berms on Evolution. We had some solid dirt (thank you rain) to get rid of those brake bumps. This is our second time working with this crew and they rock! 📷 take by Adam Robinson

VALLEY MOUNTAIN BIKERS AND HIKERS

July 3: For those of you curious about the new "Gnarski 'n' Hucks" trail at Government Peak Recreation Area, click the link for a trail preview! 👉 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wPd4EOG2eG8>

GREAT LAND TRUST

July 24: We had the best time on Saturday out at Settlers Bay Coastal Park! Thank you to everyone who came out and stopped by to say hi. We cut the ribbon to celebrate the new addition to the park, ate Alaskan animal cookies, learned from the Knik Tribal Council about the cultural history of the area, hiked and biked the trails, and enjoyed the sunshine!

And a special thank you to all of the funders and partners who helped make the Settlers Bay Coastal Park expansion project a reality: Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Mat-Su Health Foundation, Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation, Matanuska Electric Association, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Rasmuson Foundation, Settlers Bay Golf Course.



MAT-SU TRAILS AND PARKS FOUNDATION

July 31: It's Monday and a good day to share a project we have funded. We have a long partnership with Willow Area Community Organization and in 2022, with a \$13,400 grant, they installed interpretative panels along the Shem Pete Trail at Newman Park in Willow. If you haven't been to Newman Park, it's a lovely place for a walk. See the information here: <https://tinyurl.com/32p6mubv>

July 12: They say we have sun coming! Looking for things to do, check out our Summer Trails and Parks Guide on the Outerspatial app for some ideas! <https://www.outerspatial.com/articles/674>

MAT-SU BOROUGH RECREATION AND LIBRARY SERVICES

July 6: It's July, that means that the brushing season has started on MSB maintained trails! We have started on the lower elevation trails and will be working our way up to the taller mountains by the end of the month. If you see any of our Crews using brushers out there, please don't sneak up on them and let them know that you are there before passing. This is especially critical for people with dogs and children on the trails. Thank you and we hope you enjoy the brushed trails.



FRIENDS OF KACHEMAK BAY STATE PARKS

July 27: FK BSP rockstar volunteers Jane, Cindy, and Nicky spent 2 full days clearing brush on China pool lake trail. They cleared about a mile of heavy thorny woody brush. If you see these amazing women please thank them!

Of course there's always more to be cleared. Friends of Kachemak Bay State Parks is seeking volunteers who can help with gas powered brushing. kbsptrails@gmail.com

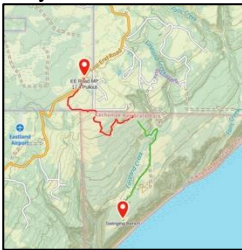


July 13: Fundraiser for Friends of Kachemak Bay State Parks & motivator for volunteers to get KBSP trails cleared!

Sadie Knob Race, Saturday, August 12

<https://www.facebook.com/events/835040178148995/>

July 2: The Cottonwood Eastland parking lot is located at East End Rd MP 17.4. It is preferable for hikers to access the park by hiking west & then south from this parking area on East End Road instead of walking through the Ratone/Elmer's Way neighborhood. There is an obvious trail, although it could be overgrown depending on the season.



Update: the Parking sign & post were stolen since these photos were taken 2 days ago. Would sure be nice if whoever removed the parking sign & post would please put them back! 🙏 🙏

HOMER TRAILS ALLIANCE

July 29: The Homer Trails Alliance would like to thank The Homer Foundation's Martha H. Briscoe Environmental Science and Conservation Fund and the Opportunity Fund for their support towards getting the community out of the mud and onto the new Homestead Trail boardwalks and bridge! We hope you can get out on a hike soon! The Homer Foundation: <https://www.homerfoundation.org/>



July 23: Today 18 volunteers and Lupe worked on the Homestead Trail. They spread wood chips over 200 feet of trail, ditched a long section to divert the water, and weed whacked the new section. They really hope that you get out and enjoy the trail.

July 8: The Canyon Rim Trail is a legal trail. Hikers just make sure that they stay on the trail and are not on private property. This new sign should help you find your way!

Access: The trailhead is at the end of Bear Creek Court off the west end of Bear Creek Drive. There are a few parking spots NE of the building at the end of this road.

There is a second way to connect to this trail by walking up the road in the Canyon Trails subdivision. There is no parking for this access, though it is possible to park at the Kachemak City Park/Community building. There is no parking on Dorothy Drive.



SOUTHCENTRAL LINKS

- Fairy houses turn a normal Anchorage walking trail into something magical: <https://tinyurl.com/yckhkbfv>
- How e-bikes are becoming the norm on Anchorage trails: <https://tinyurl.com/5kxw2z2y>
- Notice of Decision: Public Access Easement Request by The Mat-Su Borough for Trail Development in Hatcher Pass: <http://notice.alaska.gov/211706>
- How to Visit Spencer Glacier This Summer: <https://tinyurl.com/bduy6sjy>
- Biking the Trail of Blue Ice in Portage: <https://andreakuipoabroad.com/trail-of-blue-ice-portage-alaska/>
- Arrest made in connection to assaults near Basher Drive Trailhead: <https://tinyurl.com/ytphv3tp>
- From planting trees to fixing trails, Anchorage teens improve city parks: <https://tinyurl.com/3r69wd3n>
- Anchorage Youth Say "No" to Screens, But "YEP!" to Trails: <https://tinyurl.com/553wj57s>
- Teens build new bike trails at Russian Jack Springs Park: <https://tinyurl.com/47nt98fv>
- Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation June newsletter: <https://tinyurl.com/2v6smkrn>
- Bike Bird to Gird Trail Along Turnagain Arm: <https://andreakuipoabroad.com/bird-to-gird-trail/>

INTERIORWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

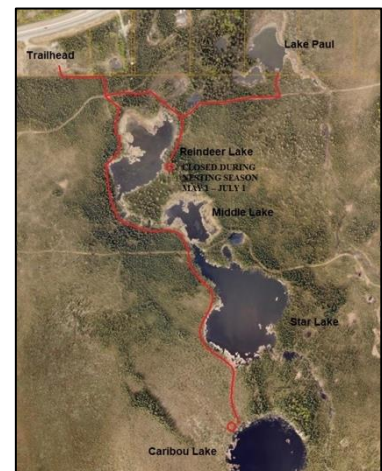
PROPOSALS WOULD ALLOW NEW ACCESS TO CREAMER'S REFUGE

If two projects are successful, people will have a new way to access Caribou Lakes in the Creamer's Field Migratory Wildlife Refuge.

The Interior Alaska Land Trust (IALT) plans to build a trailhead, with parking, just off Farmer's Loop Road. The Interior Trails and Preservation Coalition (ITPC) has submitted a plan for a project to improve trails from that trailhead to the lakes.

The IALT has submitted a conditional use permit to the Fairbanks North Star Borough for the parking lot. As part of the process for the permit, there will be a public comment period and a meeting. Neither has yet been scheduled.

"Our goals for the trailhead are to improve access and to support existing usage patterns (primarily winter access) and to support any improvements to access that the Refuge decides to make to its trail



system,” IALT President Owen Guthrie wrote in an email.

A trailhead already exists in the area, but it is small, poorly marked, and awkwardly located. It holds 5-6 cars and is across Farmer’s Loop from Shuros Drive. People using that parking lot must cross a driveway to access the trailhead.

The new parking lot would hold more cars (10-12) and users would have direct and better access to the trailhead.

The ITPC plan would construct a non-motorized trail, with several branches, that would lead from the new trailhead to five lakes in the area. The group has submitted its proposal to the refuge arguing that it would improve access and protect habitat.

For a longer version of this story with more details and a design drawing of the proposed parking lot, see: <https://tinyurl.com/mrx7zbnv>

PORTION OF MOOSE CREEK DAM TRAIL CLOSED TEMPORARILY

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Alaska District is prohibiting public access of about three miles of the Moose Creek Dam Trail, located on the dam crest at the Chena River Lakes Flood Control Project near North Pole.

Recreators are unable to use a portion of the Moose Creek Dam Trail on the top of the dam, known as the crest, starting at the access ramp near the closed entrance station on Laurance Road stretching to the control works ramp at the Chena River. Due to ongoing construction activities to complete the Moose Creek Dam Modification Project, a closure is necessary to increase public safety. Restricted access will begin in July and is anticipated to reopen in October.

“Public safety is our bottom line and there will be a lot of heavy machinery operating in that area,” said Col. Damon Delarosa, commander of the Alaska District. “This project is critical for the greater Fairbanks community and we are committed to addressing risks associated with aging infrastructure. At the same time, we empathize that this is a temporary inconvenience.”

Laurance Road that runs parallel and below the levee will remain open to vehicle traffic. Drivers should adhere to all construction signage and traffic signals. Meanwhile, the public can utilize the Moose Creek Dam Trail running South along the dam crest between the closed entrance station and the entrance of the project. This area can be accessed via the parking lot at the project entrance and the parking lot located up and over the dam near the closed entrance station.

Read more here: <https://tinyurl.com/bd9j5veu>

Moose Creek Dam Barrier Wall Modification Project

Moose Creek Dam Trail Closures


Ongoing construction activities will be taking place between the Access Ramp near the closed Entrance Station and the Dam Control Works at the end of Laurance Road.

Between May and October, construction vehicles will be using the dam crest as an access road between those locations.

To increase Public Safety, portions of the Moose Creek Dam Crest are closed to Public Access.

We apologize for the inconvenience and invite you to explore other sections of Chena Lake Recreation Area:

- River Park: Nature Trails
- River Park: Boat Launch/Day Use
- Lake Park: Swim Beach/Day Use
- Lake Park: Boat Rental
- Lake Park: East Lake Day Use/Bike Trails
- Moose Creek Dam Trail: Silt Blanket Parking Lot
- Moose Creek Dam Trail: Alyeska Parking Lot



US Army Corp of Engineers Alaska District

BAUER FOUNDATION CORP.

From U.S. Army Corps of Engineers press release

BLM ISSUES FIRE PREVENTION ORDER FOR AREA AROUND FOX

To protect properties and residences, the BLM issued a Fire Prevention Order prohibiting campfires, explosives and fireworks on federal lands in a fire-prone area of black spruce near Fox, Alaska and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) facility site on the Steese Highway.

The fire prevention order went into effect at midnight to ensure public safety and to protect the

nearby NOAA facility and residences north of Fairbanks, Alaska, in the Gilmore Trail and Brier Road areas.

To further reduce the threat of wildfire, homeowners can take measures to protect their homes and property. Check out the Firewise Alaska pocket guide to learn more:

This fire prevention order will end Oct. 31 unless it is rescinded due to weather conditions or other factors. For information on fire restrictions in Interior Alaska and statewide, contact the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center at (907) 356-5511 or visit <https://akfireinfo.com>

The BLM Alaska Fire Service website also includes a list of current fire restrictions for BLM-managed public lands in Alaska: <http://ow.ly/N4F050JsWNE>

From BLM-Alaska Facebook page

CHALLENGE OFFERS OPPORTUNITIES TO FIND TRAILS IN INTERIOR

The Fairbanks Summer Trails Challenge is live with 20 signs up and ready to find all over the borough.

The challenge started June 20 and lasts until September 30. There are again three award categories: Trailblazer, Junior Trailblazer, and Sourdough Trailblazer. Trailblazers are 10 years old and up and must find at least 10 signs. Junior Trailblazers are up to 9 years old and must find five signs. Sourdough Trailblazers are at least 60 years old and must find five signs.



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, which you get when you register. You no longer need to prove you nabbed a sign by taking a selfie, but participants are still encouraged to take the photos and post them on social media with the hashtag “#FNSBTrails”. Putting it on the Trails Challenge Facebook page 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 from local sponsors. Whether you find one or find them all, challenge

yourself to get outside and enjoy nature!

To register, find out more and see a list of signs, see the Fairbanks Borough Trails Office webpage: <https://tinyurl.com/mscu47zu>

And check out the Trails Challenge Facebook Event here: <https://tinyurl.com/3tumm6am>

Get your Trails Challenge Guide here:

https://issuu.com/fnsbparcsandrec/docs/summer_trails_guide_23

Photo from Trails Challenge Facebook Event page.

SEEN RECENTLY ON INTERIOR FACEBOOK PAGES

FAIRBANKS TRAIL AND WATERWAY USERS

July 10: A Goldstream resident is organizing an effort to fix a bike/ped path that parallels Ballaine Road out in the Goldstream Valley. This gravel path has sunk in places and is flooded. Here's the post from the private Goldstream Community Facebook page.

--Hello everyone! My name is Kasey and I have been living in Goldstream for the last 15 years, I've



been running in Goldstream for the last 5. I've always loved the Goldstream community and the effort we always put in to give back to the community ❤️ I come to you today to ask for help. The trail by the Blueberry reserves has a lot of flood damage this year and it's made it very difficult to use. If this was a trail only I used, I wouldn't be coming to you all but I know this is a trail used and loved by many. I've contacted a lot of people and found who/how to fix it, it's just going to cost a lot

more than I had prepared for. Any and every donation is appreciated. If you can't donate, if you could please share the gofundme so that our community can continue to use this trail this summer and many summers to come ❤️ --

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/fix-the-multiuse-trail-on-ballaine>

July 7: Good News-Miner story on the new Steese/Johansen intersection slated to start in 2025.

The project will include a trail tunnel for a planned trail that would connect Birch Hill Rec Area trails to the ADMA-Creamer's Field trails, though funding has yet to be found for that aspect of the project.

For more information on the project go here: <https://dot.alaska.gov/nreg/steese-johansen/>

Lots more information in the story. Read it here: <https://tinyurl.com/yc65nsa9>

July 7: Great News-Miner story on trails work BLM is doing with help from the Student Conservation Association, an AmeriCorps program. Very short summary:

--Built 700 linear feet of boardwalk on the Summit Trail on Wickersham Dome in the White Mountains National Recreation Area. (This is around that low, muddy spot a couple miles in from the trailhead.)

--Replacing boardwalk on the Pinnell Mountain National Recreation Trail (Twelvemile side).



BLM is also working on two public use cabins in the White Mountains:

--Between Eleazer's and Borealis-LeFevre cabins.

--between Lee's and Moose Creek cabins (with help from the Folk School).

Lots more in the story. Read it here: <https://tinyurl.com/2rcsu8hh>

Eric Troyer photo, not from News-Miner story

NORDIC SKI CLUB OF FAIRBANKS



Aug 1: As Birch Hill Rec Area summer trails users know, the grass can get a bit on the long side on some of the trails before the FNSB Parks & Rec Department does the fall mowing before ski season starts.

Last winter the Nordic Ski Club of Fairbanks got a 2010 Kubota mower from the Borough that was going to be surplussed. Thank you to Mayor Ward and the Borough Assembly for making it happen!

The NSCF groomers have been putting it to good use mowing the trails at Birch Hill. Since the first of July most trails have been mowed. The groomers are currently working their way out the White Bear.

If you are enjoying the club's mowing efforts please consider making a donation to the Birch Hill Trail fund to help cover the cost of fuel, maintenance of the mower, and wages for the groomers.

Thank you!

<https://nordicskicluboffairbanks.wildapricot.org/Donate/>

FAIRBANKS AREA HIKING CLUB FAN PAGE

July 16: Karen Chancler

Carol, John & I went to the bench on upper chena dome trail & John fixed the bench! Matt P, Sonia & another lady came also, but unfortunately, I didn't get their photos.

The trails challenge sign is very close to the bench 😊
It was a beautiful hike.



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT - ALASKA

July 27: Workers from Student Conservation Association repaired and replaced 1500 linear feet of boardwalk in the alpine tundra on the Pinnell Mountain National Recreation Trail.



The students hoisted beams, pulled junky boards and fought off mosquitos for the big win.

The current boardwalk was so old and receded into the tundra that it was causing people to make their own trails and causing erosion.

Photo by Sam Rance, BLM.

July 25: Unit 25C hunters should be aware of significant changes to motor vehicle limitations in the White Mountains National Recreation Area's Nome Creek Valley and throughout much of the Steese National Conservation Area to protect sensitive resources during the summer, May 1 – October 14.

Motor vehicles must remain on BLM routes designated for their use unless traveling in an area designated open to cross-country motorized travel. Many of the BLM's georeferenced PDF maps include information about motor vehicle limitations.

#KnowBeforeYouGo - OHVs are permitted in some places and not in others as you cross between federal and state lands. Many of the BLM's georeferenced PDF maps for the area include information about the motor vehicle limitations, including the new summer recreation map: <https://tinyurl.com/y9rwzaky>

Browse the entire collection here: <https://www.blm.gov/maps/georeferenced-PDFs>

Photo by Jim Herriges, BLM.



July 9: Alaska's Birch Creek and Fortymile Wild and Scenic Rivers are off-the-beaten-path, beautiful and rugged landscapes.

But what can't always be seen on the surface are the nationally significant cultural, recreational, historical, archaeological, geological and wildlife values these landscapes provide. 🌲 🏞️

Placer mining is a part of this region's cultural heritage, but it left behind degraded streams, poor water quality, and hazardous material.

Today, the Bureau of Land Management is working on restoration initiatives to improve salmon habitat, better monitor land and water condition, improve water quality and aquatic habitat and ensure safe access for recreation.

Learn more about the project [➔](#)

<https://ow.ly/GwAg50P5rCA>.

Visit Birch Creek: <https://ow.ly/g5Yk50P5rCC>.

Visit Fortymile: <https://ow.ly/y5FL50P5rCH>.

👤 Bob Wick and BLM



INTERIORWIDE LINKS

- Application for Public Easement Nenana-Dune Lake Trail-Public Comment Period Extended (deadline now Aug 17): <http://notice.alaska.gov/211840>

SOUTHEAST NEWS AND NOTICES

POINT LOUISA PROJECT NEAR JUNEAU INCLUDES TRAIL WORK

The Juneau District Ranger has signed the Decision Memo for the Point Louisa Picnic Site and Trail Project, which authorizes the construction of a 225 square-foot gravel pad and 670 feet of trail improvements at Point Louisa in the Auke Village Recreation Area in Juneau, Alaska.

The trail begins at the Auke Village Campground and travels south for approximately 0.2 miles. Prior to Forest Service stewardship, the Auke Village Recreation Area was occupied by the Áak'w Kwáan people and is culturally significant.

Construction activities for the gravel pad include importing gravel, a metal fire ring, and a picnic table. For the trail, imported gravel will be used to harden an already existing social trail. A small excavator may be used to place large boulders for seating around a fire ring. These improvements are needed to help ensure the protection, and sustainable use of a popular recreation location.

To read the Decision Memo, see maps or learn more about the project, go to the project webpage: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/tongass/?project=61763>. For additional information about the decision, contact Pete Schneider, Juneau Ranger District Recreation Staff Officer, at peter.schneider@usda.gov.

From What's Up? by Peg Tileston



SEEN RECENTLY ON SOUTHEAST FACEBOOK PAGES

TRAIL MIX, INC.

July 17: Trail work is Teamwork 🤝

Shoutout to our donors, partners, and supporters who make trail projects possible! Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Juneau Community Foundation, and the US Forest Service have been key players in the Treadwell Ditch renovation project 🙌

Together, let's keep enhancing the beauty of our great outdoors, one trail at a time. 🌲 🏠

To get involved or learn more, visit <https://www.juneaucf.org/>



July 10: Learning, volunteering, and building trails. 🛠️ 🌱 🌍

Huge shoutout to the Global Leadership Adventures students for an unforgettable experience on the Christopher Trail while their time in Juneau. 🙌 📖

July 5: Trail building is a process 🗺️ 📄



Penciling out a trail isn't just about drawing lines on a map; it's about understanding the land 🌲, the ecosystem 🐾, and the paths 🗺️ connecting nearby areas. Our trail staffer Duncan recently met up with a trail crew member from the US Forest Service 🤝. They spent time exploring improvements at the Dan Moller Trail. It's all about teaming up, learning, and strategizing to make improvements that respect both our desire to explore and the inherent need to preserve the land systematically.

June 29: This February, our amazing Trail Mix leaders, Ryan and Meghan, visited the Juneau Gastineau Rotary Club to share about Trail Mix 🤝 🏠 ✨

The rotary club members have been part of our journey on the Lena Point Trail since the beginning, and our work together has been incredible over the past few years. From the early days in the 90s when the trail was first constructed to the recent improvements we've made with Trail Mix - the Lena Point trail truly mirrors our shared commitment. And guess what? The Rotary Club is back on the scene, volunteering their time and efforts yet again this year! A big shout-out to them for their relentless dedication. Let's keep making progress together for the love of our Juneau Trails! 🌲 🙌 🛠️



SITKA TRAIL WORKS, INC.

July 3: While this week we are taking a break from Lingít Aaní Trail Works Camp, we are also reflecting on the amazing memories we've made in the first three weeks. We've worked on dozens of trails including repairing the board walk on the Forest and Muskeg trail and removing all the moss and debris from the staircase by Magic Island. Rain or shine, our campers have put in a lot of effort to restore these places for the entire Sitka community to enjoy. Along the way, we've gotten to harvest in the muskeg and at Mosquito Cove and we've learned multiple beading techniques from our guests! All of the things we harvest are to share as gifts. We can't wait for the remaining three weeks of camp which starts up next Monday with the theme: Berries!



NATIONWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

NATIONWIDE / INTERNATIONAL LINKS

WEBINARS, MEETINGS, CONFERENCES, TRAINING, ETC.

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

TRAILS-RELATED NEWSLETTERS

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

VOLUNTEER

- Am. Hiking Society's 2023 Volunteer Vacations: <https://americanhiking.org/volunteer-vacation-trips/>
- Conservation VIP newsletter (July 2023): <https://tinyurl.com/ev9bbre7>

FUNDING

- FOX Factory Trail Trust (**applications reviewed quarterly**): <https://trailtrust.com/>
- Yamaha Outdoor Access Initiative (OHVs, **quarterly deadlines**): <https://yamahaoai.com/>
- Polaris T.R.A.I.L.S. grants (ATV trail projects; due March 1, Sept 1): <https://tinyurl.com/y49dxbhe>

OTHER LINKS:

- Trails group gathers at Arkansas College, develops national test: <https://tinyurl.com/bdhed79r>
- Why Trails Matter: In Praise of Water Trails: <https://tinyurl.com/y6pdedaa>
- Introducing Volume 1, Issue 1 of Trail Builder Magazine (for MTB trails): <https://tinyurl.com/hr7s6nk>
- At 75 Michigander hiked the 4,800-mile North Country trail, twice: <https://tinyurl.com/4cmhw89p>

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

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