



# NEWSLETTER

July  
2020

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

## ALASKA TRAILS NEWS AND NOTICES

### TRAILHEAD TUESDAY CELEBRATES TRAILS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

**SUBMIT** We've started a new feature on our Facebook page. It's called Trailhead Tuesday, where we highlight a new trail each week. We'd love for you to submit a trail! We'll need a photo and short description of the trail and why you like it. We'd also appreciate if you could include a link that leads to a website with more information about the trail. You can message us on Facebook or send us an email at: [steve.cleary@alaska-trails.org](mailto:steve.cleary@alaska-trails.org). We'll keep including the Trailhead Tuesdays in this newsletter (for our non-Facebook members and everyone else). If you are on Facebook and want to see them sooner, just like our page.

Check out these Trailhead Tuesdays from June!

June 23: It's #TrailheadTuesday! Today's recommendation is from Steve Cleary, our Executive Director.

Bike the Moose - You can tour around Anchorage for hours on your bike and see sites you haven't see before, even if you have lived here for decades. My family and I jump on the Chester Creek Trail and connect to the Campbell Creek Trail and the Coastal Trail to connect this nearly 30-mile loop.

There are places to stop – Tastee Freeze, Yeti Dog food truck – to eat, enjoy the views and soak up the sun.

See more details on this fun loop at the Anchorage Park Foundation website:

<https://tinyurl.com/ycpy8sq6>



June 16: It's #TrailheadTuesday! Today's recommendation comes to us from Lia Slemons:



Johnson Pass on the Kenai Peninsula is a lovely lake linkup in ideal condition right now, neither too muddy nor brushy. Point to point, the trail is 23 miles with a relatively mellow 1,000-foot gain/loss. Two small stream crossings on the north side of Bench Lake can test your long jump. Choose your pace by backpacking (several primitive campsites and a few vault toilets provided by the US Forest Service), running, or biking. Be courteous of other users, especially wildlife. Black bear, grouse, and marmot were all seen or heard on a recent outing. Trail description and map here:

[https://www.fs.usda.gov/In.../FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/stelprd3818050.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/In.../FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprd3818050.pdf)

June 9: It's #TrailheadTuesday! If you're looking for a fairly mellow outing, let us suggest this one out of the Prospect Heights Trailhead.

Suggested route: leaving Prospect Heights parking lot, take the Golden Grass Trail → Denali View → Alder Trail → South Fork Rim Trail and back to Prospect Heights. A very leisurely two hours with great views out over Anchorage to the Alaska Range. As always, keep an eye out for wildlife. Trail map here: <https://tinyurl.com/ybjl3tgt>



## SEEN RECENTLY ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

June 17: I enjoyed a great day with our Trail Crew yesterday - working on the Little O'Malley Peak trail in Chugach State Park. Hard work - very impressed with this crew and their progress!



June 15: We're so grateful to everyone that has made a Pick Click Give pledge through their PFD. If you're one of our 74 anonymous donors, know that we're thinking of you too! We strongly believe that trails are a thing of magic, whether it's an hour on one in town or a weekend spent in the mountains. Your support allows us to continue building and maintaining trails around the state, ensuring that more Alaskans have access to that magic. Thank you for joining us in this important work.

June 11: We're grateful to have received the 2020 ConocoPhillips Spirit of Conservation Award! These funds are helping support our construction of the new Little O'Malley Peak Trail. Our trail crew is busy working and they're also practicing social distancing, so if you encounter them while you're out, give a wave from afar, but please do not enter the worksite.)

June 8: Alaska Trails updated their profile picture.

June 2: We are mourning the loss of George Floyd and many others. These tragedies continue an unacceptable history of racial violence and inequity in this country against Black, Indigenous, and people of color. We stand with Black Lives Matter in demanding racial justice.

We believe that trails are for everyone, and we know that cannot happen without everyone coming together to make this nation a just, equitable, and safe place for every person. It is our job to dismantle racism, and we are committed to becoming a more equitable organization that fights for racial justice in the outdoors.



## ALASKA TRAILS HAS INFO TO HELP GET ALASKANS ON TRAILS

Trails are a great way to get outside while social distancing, and these longer days mean you'll have more light for your adventures. Need help finding the right trail? We've compiled a list of trail maps and other resources from around the state on our website. If we missed anything, please let us know!

<https://www.alaska-trails.org/trail-reports>

## ALASKA TRAILS LINKS

- Alaska's trails aren't canceled. But do take care when using them: <https://tinyurl.com/y8kpm74a>

## STATEWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

### BIG NEWS FOR OUTDOORS IN LOCAL, FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS

The Alaska Outdoor Alliance had this report from last week:

**THANK LEGISLATORS** *This past week has been a banner week for Alaska outdoors as elected leaders in Juneau, Anchorage, and Washington DC approved measures that will put Alaskans to work on conservation and restoration projects that will benefit residents and visitors to the state for years to come.*



*Read the details below then take a moment to thank Senators Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan. And don't forget to take time to thank your representative on the Anchorage and Juneau assemblies for their votes for conservation jobs programs.*

*Senators Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan joined 71 other US Senators, in a rare bi-partisan show of support, voted in favor of passage of the Great American Outdoors Act.*

*By a vote of 7 - 1, the City and Borough of Juneau voted to approve an ordinance allocating \$1 million of its CARES Act Reserve Fund to a COVID-19 Conservation Corps. Funds are split fairly evenly between CBJ Parks and Rec, Eaglecrest Ski Area and Trail Mix for projects including ongoing work on the Treadwell Ditch Trail, more trails at Eaglecrest and a mountain bike skills track at Cope Park.*

*The Anchorage Assembly voted unanimously to allocate \$3 million of CARES Act funds for a Public Lands Jobs Program to fund two major initiatives. The first initiative provides for wildfire mitigation to remove swaths of spruce beetle infected trees. The second initiative focuses on shovel-ready soft-surface trail maintenance and construction projects in conjunction with muni nonprofit partners Alaska Trails and Singletrack Advocates.*

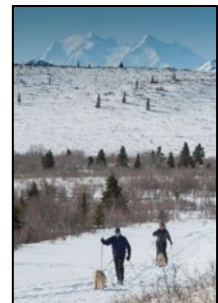
*See the rest of this Alaska Outdoor Alliance story here: <https://tinyurl.com/yd2keb22>*

### INFRASTRUCTURE CHANGES CONSIDERED AT DENALI NATIONAL PARK

**COMMENT (DEADLINE JUNE 30)** The National Park Service (NPS) is considering implementing management decisions and constructing limited infrastructure to provide increased access and visitor opportunities in Denali National Park and Preserve (Denali) during the winter and shoulder seasons (approximately mid-September to mid-May)

Actions proposed in this environmental assessment (EA) are:

- Allow private vehicle access to the Denali Park Road (Park Road) west of Headquarters to the Teklanika rest area after the first winter weather event of the fall
- Plow a portion of the Park Road during winter months, up to approximately mile 12 beginning in February
- Install a seasonal footbridge near Mountain Vista to facilitate access to traditional winter routes
- Create a connector trail for mushing access at the Mountain Vista rest area
- Allow commercial guiding for non-motorized winter recreation in some areas of the Denali wilderness
- Groom trails in the park entrance area, and potential trails in the Nenana River area



- Allow concessioner transit and tour bus service starting May 10
- Allow parking on the Park Road west of the Savage River for private vehicles during the shoulder seasons
- Open the Savage River and Teklanika campgrounds earlier in the spring and later into the fall
- Install facilities at the Teklanika rest area including parking lines, signs, and informational kiosks
- Provide seasonally specific detail to established desired conditions

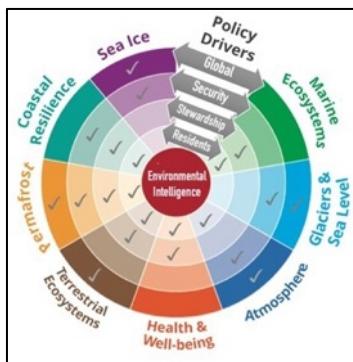
The purpose of the proposed actions is to equip the NPS to anticipate changes to winter and shoulder season visitation and more effectively manage visitor services and opportunities. Recent growth and diversification of off-season visitation necessitate a reexamination of the visitor experience offered in Denali during the winter and shoulder seasons, as well as the potential resource impacts from possible alterations to visitor services and facilities.

This EA is [open for public comment June 1-30, 2020](#). Submit your comments using the menu on the left side of the screen. These menus will also take you to copies of the document, links to useful websites, and other information that will help you as you read the EA and develop comments.

From Denali National Park and Preserve webpage: <https://tinyurl.com/y73bye6m>

## HELP GUIDE ARCTIC RESEARCH!

**COMMENT** The Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee (IARPC) is developing a five-year research plan and wants your input. (And skiers probably have something to say about this!)



The committee seeks input from a wide variety of sectors including citizens who live in Arctic areas, like interior Alaska. Residents are one of the four policy drivers of the plan. Of particular interest to residents is “Health and Well-being,” one of nine topics that the research will explore.

If you believe federally funded science and engineering research can support your information needs for living or working in the Arctic, then the committee would like your input for the IARPC research plan for 2022-2026.

IARPC is committed to a transparent and equitable engagement process throughout the Plan’s development and you can learn more about planned engagement events here: <https://tinyurl.com/yda36k75>

You may provide input in any of the following ways by August 2nd:

Email comments to: [IARPCPlan@nsf.gov](mailto:IARPCPlan@nsf.gov). Submit a comment through the Federal Register Notice which can be found online here: <https://tinyurl.com/y7jh9krt>. You may also direct additional questions to Meredith LaValley at 940-733-5675 ([mlavalley@arcus.org](mailto:mlavalley@arcus.org))

## WATCH FOR BIRD NESTS WHEN WORKING ON TRAILS

Trail work sometimes requires downing trees or clearing shrubs. When doing so make sure not to violate the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which makes it illegal for anyone to “take” migratory birds, their eggs, feathers, or nests. “Take” includes destroying or damaging active bird nests or eggs. Different areas of the state have different sensitive periods generally occurring between April 15 and July 25. However, if you encounter an active nest at any time leave it in place and protected until young hatch and depart. “Active” is indicated by intact eggs, live chicks, or the presence of an adult on the nest.

For more information and recommended time periods for avoiding vegetation clearing see: <https://tinyurl.com/y9ulmffq>

## SEVERAL TRAIL-RELATED POSITIONS AVAILABLE ACROSS STATE

**APPLY** Alaska State Parks is looking for seasonal employees and volunteers whose duties often include trail work or oversight. Please note that opportunities are dependent on pandemic conditions.

- For more info on the volunteer program see: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/vip/index.htm>
- For more information on Alaska State Parks seasonal jobs see: <http://tinyurl.com/7mog8q3>

## SEEN RECENTLY ON STATEWIDE FACEBOOK PAGES

### ALASKA STATE PARKS

June 9: Recreational Trails Program Training: Mitigating High Risk – Technical and Management Assistance for Alaska RTP

The Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation will be hosting a teleconference training opportunity for the Alaska Recreational Trails Program!

This training is intended for current and prior Alaska grantees who are familiar with the Recreational Trails Program, but all who are interested are welcome to attend! The training will provide detailed information on the Alaska RTP requirements for grantees, and what the expectations are to ensure that awarded projects are successfully executed.

There will be two teleconference training opportunities:

- Tuesday, July 14, 2020, 9:00am – 12:00pm
- Tuesday, July 28, 2020, 1:00pm – 4:00pm



The weblink to join this training will be posted to the Alaska RTP webpage the week of the training at <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/grants/trails.htm>

After the presentation, there will be some time available for a Q&A session. Please feel free to email any questions you may already have prior to the training session to [Parks.RTPGrantApp@alaska.gov](mailto:Parks.RTPGrantApp@alaska.gov).

We look forward to providing this training and answering your questions!

## STATEWIDE LINKS

- Pay to play (Craig Medred): <https://craigmedred.news/2020/06/28/pay-to-play/>

### BEARS AND SUCH

- Bear attacks happen in Alaska, but how often?: <https://tinyurl.com/y87qytqv>

### SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- **ENTER** Alaska State Parks 50th Anniversary Photo Contest (run **monthly**): <https://tinyurl.com/qnssp93>
- Denali Park makes changes to tours, buses: <https://tinyurl.com/y7wvzwzc>
- State/federal coordination produces Alaska coastal mapping plan: <https://tinyurl.com/y989rjq8>
- 'Into the Wild' bus removed from Alaska backcountry: <https://tinyurl.com/y8ta4j5>
- Controversies continue for placement of 'Into the Wild' bus: <https://tinyurl.com/yav5f2na>

## SOUTHCENTRAL NEWS AND NOTICES

### MAT-SU TRAILS AND PARKS OFFERING RAPID RESPONSE GRANTS

**APPLY** In response to the COVID-19 crisis, the Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation (MSTPF) has created a special grant opportunity to maintain and increase trail and park maintenance and projects.

The expedited Rapid Response #ActiveMatSu Grant program is meant to support our community partners with grants of \$5,000 to those who have been, and are currently facilitating and improving our access to outdoor recreation during the COVID-19 crisis. We have already approved 13 Rapid Relief #ActiveMatSu Grants, totaling \$65,000. We are still accepting applications and plan to give out at least ten more Rapid Relief Grants over the next few months.

<https://matsutrails.org/2020/05/26/rapid-relief-activematsu-grant/>

### SEEN RECENTLY ON SOUTHCENTRAL FACEBOOK PAGES

#### ALASKA STATE PARKS

June 24: This week's FIND YOUR TRAIL is the Lynx Lake Loop Canoe Trail in Nancy Lake State Recreation Area - check out our newest Video Trail Guide!

With 8+ miles of lake trail with portages and connecting sloughs, this is one of the best ways to explore 14 of Nancy Lake SRA's lakes, as well as the area's public use cabins and campgrounds. With an abundance of waterfowl, you'll not experience a shortage of wildlife on your visit...not to mention the amazing sunrises and sunsets!

Lynx Lake Loop Video Trail Guide: <https://tinyurl.com/yaukzfzh>

June 16: We appreciate our volunteers!

Trails Day and was not cancelled on June 6 in Kachemak Bay. Homer residents of all species came out to do some trail work and then they "gathered" to celebrate in Homer in the evening.

Thanks to all! (Sadie too)

#### ANCHORAGE PARKS AND RECREATION

June 23: The Chester Creek Trail tunnel at Arctic Blvd will be closed for construction starting Wednesday, June 24th as Project Management and Engineering works to replace the culvert and alleviate flooding in the area. Arctic Blvd will periodically be closed as well.

The detour route will be posted, and please respect the closure and be aware of heavy equipment in the area. The closure is expected to last approximately four weeks.

Questions? View the project website at <https://chestercreekflooding.com/> or contact PM&E Project Administrator Brooke Blessing at [brooke.blessing@anchorageak.gov](mailto:brooke.blessing@anchorageak.gov) or 907-343-8387.

Thank you for your patience as these improvements are completed!

June 17: Hanging Chad is closed for improvements, and Singletrack Advocates will be completing STA improvements throughout the summer in Kincaid Park.

Thanks for making our trails amazing, STA!



## ALASKA TRAILS

June 24: "Some money will also be appropriated for hiking and biking trails. Those projects will be done in partnership with Alaska Trails and Singletrack Advocates." From ADN story: Anchorage Assembly approves \$21.5 million for pandemic-related economic relief: <https://tinyurl.com/y9zvqktr>

## ANCHORAGE PARK FOUNDATION

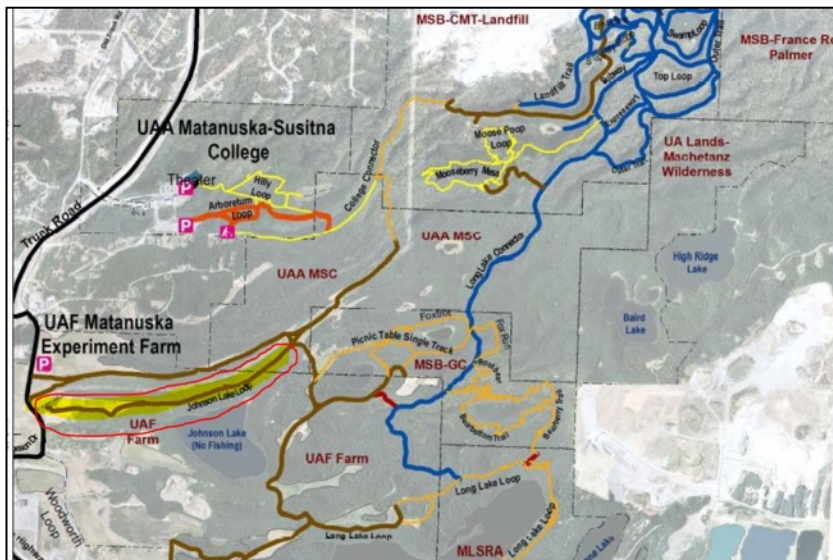
June 4: This week, Youth Employment in Parks began training new team members. Yesterday at Government Hill, Brown's Point Park, crew leaders were learning the ins and outs of movement dynamics and safety in trail work. What a beautiful day to be working on Anchorage trails!



## MATANUSKA EXPERIMENT FARM & EXTENSION CENTER

June 9: **\*\*Attention Trail Users\*\***

The administration at the UAF Matanuska Experiment Farm and Extension Center have decided to close the Johnson Lake Loop section of the trail that begins at the MEA substation. This closure is due to the research being conducted in this area and the safety of our trail users. As we continue to grow a



variety of plants along that section of trail, we are using pesticides and for the health and safety of our trail users and their dogs, we are closing this trail. Please see the map below that has a highlighted section of the trail that is closed indefinitely.

Thank you for respecting our signs as we seek to keep you safe and continue our research that benefits our great state. We encourage you to still use our trail-head

that begins at the Kin-Win parking lot. Our main farm road connects you to miles of beautiful trails in the Greenbelt system. We hope you and your family are staying healthy, active and well.

\*Edited: To those who have expressed concern, we are not using pesticides next to the lake. The research protocol we are following requires us to control weeds by chemical suppression. We use the lowest possible amount of chemicals in our upper field to comply with the research protocol. We are a research station funded to do research to support agriculture throughout Alaska and pesticide studies are a part of grain production in many parts of Alaska. Doing this work we are able to suggest lower working dosages for pesticides to achieve the same results to come to an overall reduction in pesticide use.

## ISLAND TRAILS NETWORK (KODIAK)

June 6: Happy National Trails Day!

Get ready for a summer full of trails! There will be many volunteer opportunities this season. More details will be released soon, but to prepare, you can fill out our participant agreement form here:

<https://www.islandtrails.org/registration.html>

These are good for the year 2020, so you'll only need to fill it out once for any volunteering you sign up for.

Thank you and hope to see you on the trails!



## SOUTHCENTRAL LINKS

- Tackle Anchorage's terrific city trail system: <https://tinyurl.com/yc68952m>
- The Friendly Moose: It's a bike network, not an angry ungulate: <https://tinyurl.com/yb9b48h4>
- The Moose Loop Map (Anchorage Park Foundation): <https://tinyurl.com/y9lj5puj>
- 'Explore Local' and experience your Fairbanks backyard: <https://tinyurl.com/y74dxfof>
- Lost Lake, Soggy Bottom 100 canceled (USFS will not allow recreational permits for remainder of 2020): <https://tinyurl.com/y87ymvqb>
  - Lost Lake Run goes virtual: <https://tinyurl.com/y7bbo92w>
- Exploring the lesser known branches of Anchorage's trail system: <https://tinyurl.com/y8lvtljv>
- (Home)Schools on Trails (Anchorage Park Foundation): <https://tinyurl.com/y8ggms8k>
- Skyline, Hideout, Fuller Lakes trails reopen: <https://tinyurl.com/ydccl9m7>
- Prince William Sound Stewardship Foundation **volunteer** projects: <https://tinyurl.com/y8cyvl5z>

### SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Nellie Juan – Snow River Loop (Luc Mehl story/video): <https://thingstolucat.com/nellie-juan-snow-river/>

## INTERIORWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

### CHALLENGE OFFERS OPPORTUNITIES TO FIND TRAILS IN INTERIOR

The Fairbanks Summer Trails Challenge is live!

This time there are 20 signs to find from all over the borough, including Skyline Ridge Park, the White Mountains National Recreation Area, the Chena River State Recreation Area, the University of Alaska Fairbanks trail system, Chena Lake Recreation Area and lots more.

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, prove you made it by taking a "selfie" photo with the sign and posting it on social media with the hashtag #FNSBTrails or email your photo to [Parks@fnsb.us](mailto:Parks@fnsb.us). And of course, leave the sign





to be found by the next trail challenge participant.

Participants who find AT LEAST TEN signs during the event can win prizes from local sponsors and the coveted Trailblazer Award. Participants under the age of ten can find at least five signs to win the Junior Trailblazer Award! Whether you find one or find them all, challenge yourself to get outside and enjoy nature!

To find a list of signs and more about the event see: <https://tinyurl.com/y8wpzzk7>

*Photo at Eagle Trail sign courtesy of Toni Nunley from Trails Challenge Facebook page*

## ADMA TRAILS PROTECTED IN CONSERVATION FUND, REFUGE DEAL

The Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge will grow by 530 acres and in the process give strong protections to several portions of the Alaska Dog Mushing Association trails.

John Wros of the Conservation Fund wrote in an email on June 25: *Some good news! We will have completed the purchase of Sec. 33, Sec. 32, and Mr. Wessel's 50 acres by next Tuesday, and transfer it all to the State shortly after. Creamer's Refuge will grow by 530 acres in July.*

Wros is working on securing other properties to add to the refuge.

This project to secure land for the refuge has been controversial because it included a variance from dedicated trail easements involving portions of some ADMA trails. Some trails included in the land deal now have strong protections by being included in the refuge. However, some ADMA trails were left out of the land deal. Those trails are on University of Alaska land and have no legal protection, but they have historically been allowed to remain (though one trail has been rerouted).

More has been written about this issue on the Interior Alaska Trails blog:

<https://www.interioralaskatrails.org/2020/03/14/planning-board-approves-variance-affecting-adma-trails/>

## FAIRBANKS CAPITAL PLAN INCLUDING TRAIL PROJECTS APPROVED

The Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly recently approved the borough's Capital Improvement Program (CIP), which includes several trails-related projects.

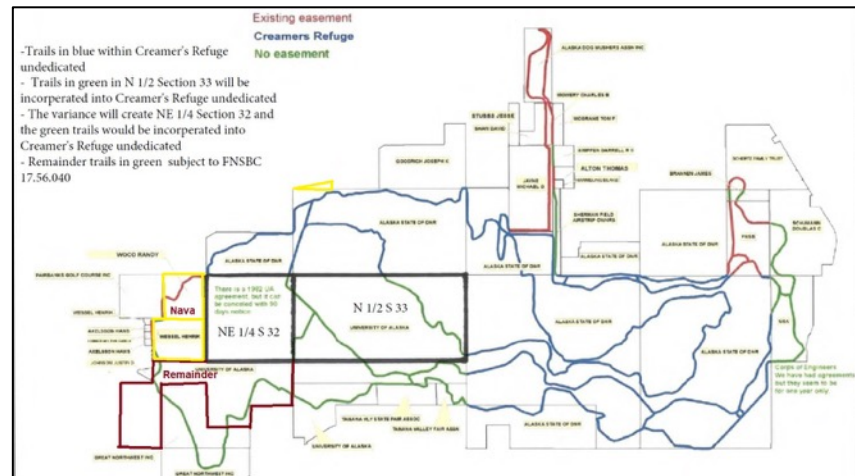
Among many projects listed in the program are several trails and parks projects including Isberg Recreation Area Master Plan Implementation, Peede Trailhead and Trail Development, and Equinox Trail Extension and Completion. The main trails projects are farther out on the timeline (starting in 2028). The administration and Assembly will revisit the CIP every two years.

The CIP can be viewed here: <http://www.fnsb.us/CIP/Pages/default.aspx>

- Fairbanks Daily News-Miner story on Assembly approval of CIP: <https://tinyurl.com/ya9hhx29>

## RECREATIONAL TRAIL PLAN OVERHAUL FUNDING

The assembly approved the CIP at its June 25 meeting. Another trails-related item, Ordinance 2019-20-2C,



was on the agenda, but the meeting went long, and that item was not dealt with. The meeting is being reconvened on June 30.

Ordinance 2019-20-2C would appropriate money from a federal grant for several things, including an update of the Comprehensive Recreational Trails Plan. The trails plan has been in need of an overhaul for a long time. The Trails Advisory Commission has been trying to tackle that job, but it's a big lift.

See Ordinance 2019-20-2C here: [www.fnsb.us/assembly/OrdinanceResolutions/2019-20-2C.pdf](http://www.fnsb.us/assembly/OrdinanceResolutions/2019-20-2C.pdf)

## SEEN RECENTLY ON INTERIOR FACEBOOK PAGES

### ALASKA STATE PARKS

June 26 at 6:24: \*\*Northern Region update #2\*\*

Chena River State Recreation Area: Mile 28 River Access is closed due to flooding. Thank you for your patience and cooperation! And spread the news.

### BLM-WHITE MOUNTAINS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA



June 25: White Mountains trail advisory: While most of the White Mountains summer trails are now open, the Quartz Creek Trail remains blocked by lingering snow along Little Champion Creek, about 6 miles from the trailhead. At this time the snow patches are too steep to cross with motorized vehicles. BLM photo by Garrett Jones.

June 16: Summit Trail advisory: We've had several reports from visitors about the brushy conditions on the Summit Trail. The worst section is a few miles from Beaver Creek where the trail climbs onto the ridge above the boardwalk section. The BLM had planned to clear brush from that part of the trail this summer, but the volunteer work crew's travel plans had to be postponed until next year. Those planning to hike the Summit Trail this summer should be advised that careful route-finding may be necessary for several miles where the trail is often obscured by brush. Conditions are much better closer to the Elliott Highway. If you have questions, please call the BLM's Fairbanks District Office at 907-474-2200. BLM photo by Teri Balsler.



## INTERIORWIDE LINKS

- Rosie Creek area to get a recreation makeover: <https://tinyurl.com/y7y2dpxg>
- Cache Creek Exploration: <https://tinyurl.com/ybwvmjrz>
- From Eagle to Circle by river: 165 miles in Yukon-Charlie National Preserve: <https://tinyurl.com/y82cmklb>
- From trail lover to trail builder: <https://tinyurl.com/ybudts5c>

### SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Solo overnight on the Denali Park Road: <https://tinyurl.com/y8bhphjv>
- Meet the northern region's new superintendent of state parks: <https://tinyurl.com/y9g5lmtg>
- Alaska Cross 2020 (Jay Cable blog post): <https://yak.spruceboy.net/2020/06/alaska-cross-2020.html>

## SOUTHEAST NEWS AND NOTICES

### SEEN RECENTLY ON SOUTHEAST FACEBOOK PAGES

#### TRAIL MIX, INC.

June 25: Good article in the Empire about Trail Mix using a specialized heavy lift helicopter on Tuesday to build the Horse Tram trail from Amalga harbor to the Eagle Beach Boy Scout trail.

<https://tinyurl.com/y8ulnwyd>

**APPLY** June 17: Work for Trail Mix. Now hiring Crew members and leaders. For more information and to apply visit <https://trailmixinc.org/employment/>

June 6: We are refocusing and re-examining the pursuit of our mission. We recognize that our work to make Juneau's trail system a valuable community resource is meaningless if we are not doing our part both to ensure equity within our community and to commit to anti-racist work. Stay tuned for updates on the ways that we hold ourselves accountable to this commitment:

<http://trailmixinc.org/2020/06/our-commitment-to-anti-racist-work/>

June 4: Construction of a trail and pad for a new bench along the Treadwell Ditch Trail, at Paris Creek. Work by the Trail Mix Volunteer group.

#### SITKA TRAIL WORKS, INC.

May 26: We wanted to update our followers about summer hikes & events and apologize for any confusion this might cause.

Since the newsletter went out earlier this month, we've made the decision to cancel four off-island events & our June volunteer day. We plan to replace most of these with alternative offerings.

Full details of these changes can be found here:

<http://sitkatrailworks.org/summer-2020-event-schedule-changes/>

#### ALASKA STATE PARKS

June 26: **\*\*Southeast Region UPDATE\*\***



Battery Point Trail Closure, due to more hungry bears.

The Battery Point Trail at Chilkat State Park in the Haines Area is closed to public access until further notice due to a Brown Bear actively feeding on and aggressively protecting a food cache near Battery Point along the trail corridor.

State Park personnel will continue to monitor the situation and advise when the trail is open to public access again.

Thank you for your cooperation!

### SOUTHEAST LINKS

- Easement Application for access trail for Alaska Rainforest Expedition (Ketchikan); **comment deadline July 10:** <http://notice.alaska.gov/198495>
- Sitka Cycling Club continues work on Little Machete single-track loop: <https://tinyurl.com/ydzbyczn>

## SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Local Involvement in Cabin Renovation In Tongass National Forest: <https://tinyurl.com/y7masmzl>

## NATIONWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

### SENATE BIPARTISAN VOTE PASSES GREAT AMERICAN OUTDOORS ACT

Today, the Senate passed the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) by a bipartisan vote of 73-25. A broad and effective coalition of supporters helped to bring about this landmark legislation, leading the effort to include maintenance backlog funding for the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; bringing together more than 100 outdoor recreation businesses in support of GAOA; garnering Senate support and much more. We thank everyone that pitched in for their tireless work to pass this legislation.

“The Great American Outdoors Act is the single greatest piece of conservation and outdoor recreation legislation before Congress in decades,” said Jessica Turner, executive director of Outdoor Recreation Roundtable. “Its overwhelmingly bipartisan passage in the Senate is proof that the outdoors crosses party lines and resonates with all Americans. We applaud Senate Republicans and Democrats for working together tirelessly to get this done. The entire outdoor recreation industry thanks every Senator who supported this bill and urges the House to move quickly to pass this measure so we can finally fully fund LWCF and begin the much-needed work on rebuilding infrastructure on our public lands and waters.”

The bill now moves to the House where we hope to see quick passage.

*From American Trails: <https://tinyurl.com/y9xp7qvu>*

### 2020 REC TRAILS PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS ARE BACK ON

**NOMINATE** The Coalition for Recreational Trails will host the 2020 achievement awards to recognize outstanding trail projects funded by the national Recreational Trails Program (RTP) virtually this year and will invite winners to in-person celebrations next year.

Award winners will be selected from projects nominated by public agencies, trail administrators or other project sponsors. Projects must be completed in order to receive an award. In addition, projects completed before 2011 are ineligible.

Project award categories will include: construction and design; maintenance and rehabilitation; public-private partnerships and access to public lands; community linkage; education and communication; accessibility enhancement; multiple-use management and “corridor sharing”; use of youth conservation/service corps and community outreach; engaging public-sector partners; and enhancement of federal lands.

People are invited to nominate an outstanding project and are encouraged to solicit support from their members of Congress – both U.S. Representatives and U.S. Senators – to build awareness of excellent RTP-funded projects and the RTP program itself.

**The nomination form, including any supporting materials and pictures, should be completed by July 31, 2020, at 5 pm EST.** If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact the Coalition’s Awards Committee Chairman Duane Taylor, Executive Director, National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council, at [coalitionforrecretrails@gmail.com](mailto:coalitionforrecretrails@gmail.com).

For more information see: <https://tinyurl.com/y8jveffq>

## WEBINAR USES COVID TO UNDERSTAND THE OUTDOORS, WELL-BEING

**ATTEND** As part of the #ResponsibleRecreation campaign, the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies is offering a two-part webinar series (detailed below), and an upcoming on-demand webinar that will help people understand the importance of outdoor recreation spaces for personal well-being and how to protect those spaces for future well-being for themselves, others and for the planet itself.

As part of the #ResponsibleRecreation campaign, one of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' goals is to "promote Responsible Recreation as a critical way to mitigate the stress and anxiety of the current COVID 19 crisis, supporting the health of America." This project will use COVID-19 as an opportunity to deeply connect participants to the environment/nature and attempt to go further to create advocates for public outdoor spaces. To be responsible is to have an obligation to do something and that something is to develop a relationship with the land, water and air nearby.

This is a series of two webinars held one week apart (July 15 and 22) and requires a pre-webinar homework assignment and completion of a survey of your homework reflections prior to the first webinar.

For more information and to sign up: <https://matlearning.org/>

## RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM NEEDS LETTERS OF SUPPORT

**SEND A LETTER** American Trails' partners always answer the call and we need your help once again! The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) faces a crucial time as the program is at risk of going dormant without Congressional approval before September 30th.

This sample letter of support (<https://tinyurl.com/yc4chym>), addressed to relevant committee leaders, requests "...that HR 5797, "The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Full Funding Act of 2020" sponsored by Congressman Welch of VT and Congressman Curtis of UT be included in the transportation reauthorization bill..."

Please use the language from the letter, modify it to address your specific needs, and put it on your organizational letterhead. It is important to note that while individual letters to Congress are valuable, this effort is primarily focused on getting our partner associations, clubs, and organizations to send organizational letters of support. If you have the authority to send the letters on your organization's letterhead, please do so. If you need to consult the board of directors or go through some other process before the letter can be signed and sent, please start that process ASAP.

The Coalition for Recreational Trails (CRT) and partners with a Washington, D.C. presence are currently advocating for the continuation of RTP and these letters will be used to support those efforts.

If you send a letter, please email it to the following House of Representatives staff and the leadership at the CRT:

[helena.zyblikewycz@mail.house.gov](mailto:helena.zyblikewycz@mail.house.gov); [Alex.Piper@mail.house.gov](mailto:Alex.Piper@mail.house.gov);  
[jackie.schmitz@mail.house.gov](mailto:jackie.schmitz@mail.house.gov); [Jake.Bornstein@mail.house.gov](mailto:Jake.Bornstein@mail.house.gov)  
[michael.falencki@mail.house.gov](mailto:michael.falencki@mail.house.gov); [cheryle.tucker@mail.house.gov](mailto:cheryle.tucker@mail.house.gov); [CRTleadership@rectrails.org](mailto:CRTleadership@rectrails.org)

## NATIONWIDE / INTERNATIONAL LINKS

### TRAILS AND THE PANDEMIC

- Recreate Responsibly publicity toolkit: <https://tinyurl.com/ya25g2fe>

### 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/Calendar.html](http://www.americantrails.org/Calendar.html)

### TRAILS-RELATED NEWSLETTERS

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

### VOLUNTEER

- American Hiking Society's Volunteer Vacations: <http://tinyurl.com/ydh95kp8>
- American Trails Volunteer Portal: [www.americantrails.org/connect/volunteer](http://www.americantrails.org/connect/volunteer)

### FUNDING

- National Forest Foundation's Matching Awards Program (ddline June 9): <https://tinyurl.com/px7y6ke>

### GUIDES

- The 10 Best Urban Walking Trails in America: <https://tinyurl.com/yawgslc9>
- 5 Best Hiking Trails in San Antonio: <https://kevsbest.com/hiking-trails-in-san-antonio/>
- 7 beginner-friendly hikes to check out this summer in Georgia: <https://tinyurl.com/y85kqppi>
- The best bike & hike trails in Northeast Ohio: <https://tinyurl.com/ybngy2te>

### RESEARCH

- Association between trail use and self-rated wellness and health: <https://tinyurl.com/ybfpabcc>

### OTHER NATIONAL LINKS:

- 1,028 Trail Projects Can Put Americans To Work: [www.americantrails.org/shovel-ready-trail-projects](http://www.americantrails.org/shovel-ready-trail-projects)
- Historical Perspective on Racism in the Outdoors and Looking Forward: <https://tinyurl.com/ycj8w3pt>
- 20 Photos of the Most Beautiful Hiking Trails in the U.S.: <https://tinyurl.com/yal6omhs>
- Stickers support Idaho's non-motorized trails: <https://tinyurl.com/y9vd3dwr>
- Historical Perspective on Racism in the Outdoors and Looking Forward: <https://tinyurl.com/ycj8w3pt>

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The Alaska Trails board meets via teleconference on the first Tuesday of each month from noon to 1:00 pm. If you want to hear more about Alaska trail topics, share trail information, or propose a trail project, join us for an hour. 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 five days before the first of the month. Send stories to Editor Eric Troyer at [fbxtrails@gmail.com](mailto:fbxtrails@gmail.com)