



NEWSLETTER

DEC
2020

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www.alaska-trails.org

ALASKA TRAILS NEWS AND NOTICES

VIRTUAL RACE ACROSS ALASKA BENEFITS YOU AND ALASKA TRAILS

ENTER/DONATE The Race Across Alaska Winter Challenge, a multi-sport challenge, is a great way to get outside while challenging yourself to stay happy and healthy during winter. And you'll be helping our cause to help build and maintain some of the best trails in the world!

Here's how it works. You can run, walk, fatbike, indoor bike, XC ski or swim 125 miles, 225 miles, 350 miles, 850 miles, or 2,000 miles. The goal is to log as many miles as you can over the three months of winter, doing any of six sports to get (virtually) from location A to B:

- 125 miles = Anchorage to Seward, AK, that's 1.4miles/day
- 225 miles = Anchorage to Homer, AK, that's 2.5miles/day
- 350 miles = Anchorage to Fairbanks, AK, that's 3.9miles/day
- 850 miles = Anchorage to Deadhorse, AK, that's 9.5miles/day
- 2,000 miles = Ketchikan to Deadhorse, AK, that's 22.3miles/day



You will have the ability to log your miles, track your progress, collect virtual badges, so how you rank up to others on the leader board daily. You can invite other to this challenge to help you to stay motivated all winter long.

The challenge will start on December 21, the first day of winter and continue through March 20.

The challenge is a fundraiser for the Alaska Trails development of the Alaska Long Trail, too! For every racer that participates, \$10 will be donated to Alaska Trails, plus **racers can donate additional funds to support the development of the Alaska Long Trail.**

The challenge will have a Zoom Kickoff Party on December 21 at 4:30pm AK Time (8:30pm EST) to cheer everyone on, go over the details and wish everyone luck. Additionally, the challenge will have occasional pop-up Zoom and/or Zwift free workouts for anyone in the Facebook Race Across Alaska Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/824863588292365>

To register and find out more see: <https://www.raawc.com/Race/AK/Anchorage/AlaskaChallenge>

From Race Across Alaska Winter Challenge website

ALASKA TRAILS SEEKS A TRAIL STRATEGY PROJECT MANAGER

APPLY Alaska Trails is seeking highly qualified applicants to manage projects leading to more and better trails in Alaska. The primary responsibility for this position, working as an Alaska Trails staff member, is to manage the Tongass Sustainable Trail Strategy project. A secondary responsibility is to help with the overall statewide Alaska Trails Initiative. We also hope that the person hired for this position will continue with Alaska Trails, and shift into the lead role on the statewide Trails Initiative.

Read the full job description and application criteria at: www.alaska-trails.org/jobs

SEEN RECENTLY ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

Nov 27: More than ever, this year we encourage you to #optoutside! And as always, please remember to #recreateresponsibly. As seasons change, so do our practices to stay safe outside and to protect the places we play. Learn more at:

<https://www.recreateresponsibly.org/>



Nov 26: It's #ThankfulThursday! As we enter a season of thanks, Alaska Trails would like to express its gratitude by acknowledging all the volunteers, donors, partners and trail advocates who have made our work so successful over the years. You are the reason that our work will continue, and expand, in 2021 and beyond! We wish you and your loved ones a safe and active holiday. Please take care and stay healthy. We thank you for your generosity and commitment to trails!

: Bob Wick (BLM)

SHOP Nov 18: Did you know you can support Alaska Trails when you buy things on Amazon? Shop through <https://smile.amazon.com/>, designate us as your charity of choice, and Amazon will make a small donation from each of your eligible purchases. Every little bit counts!

Nov 18: We hope you're all getting out each day for some trail time. Thanks for the reminder Play Every Day! https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tXNPzfvI_U

Nov 12: It's #thankfulThursday, and we're grateful for the Chugach Park Fund, our go-to partner for trail improvements in Chugach State Park. The Chugach Park Fund was created by members of the Chugach State Park Citizen's Advisory Board to support the park through philanthropy and partnerships. Find out more about the work we've accomplished together in Anchorage's backyard park and how you can support them by visiting <https://alaskacf.org/blog/funds/chugach-park-fund/>



Nov 10: It's #TrailheadTuesday! It's starting to looking pretty wintry out there, and today we wanted to remind you that we've compiled a great list of Trail Report resources on our website. Trail grooming is happening across the state, and it's especially helpful to know before you go when heading out for winter recreation. Check out our Trail Report page for more information: <https://www.alaska-trails.org/trail-reports>

STATEWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

GET OUT ON THE TRAILS TO RECREATE BUT DO SO RESPONSIBLY

Are you in the know for snow? At the start of the pandemic in the United States, the #RecreateResponsibly campaign became the go-to resource for how to get outside responsibly. As seasons change, so do our practices to stay safe outside and to protect the places we play.

Winter is a beautiful time, but with the new season comes new challenges and safety considerations to take into account. The winter environment changes quickly and access points may be more limited. We want everyone to be able to enjoy this incredible time

of year, and we want you to stay safe while doing it. Check out these tips to gauge your winter safety awareness, and do your research to #RecreateResponsibly this season.



- Know Before You Go – Some areas can become dangerous with winter conditions. Research your destination, as roads and facilities may be closed in winter.
- Practice Physical Distancing – Be prepared to cover your nose and mouth. When possible, opt to eat and rest outside. If you feel sick, stay home.
- Plan Ahead – Check local conditions and prepare for the elements, packing extra layers, waterproof clothing, and avalanche safety gear for the backcountry.
- Play It Safe – Know your limits and your gear. Slow down and choose lower-risk activities to reduce your risk of injury.
- Explore Locally – Consider exploring locally, as driving and parking may be more challenging in winter. If you travel, be mindful of your impact on Native and local communities.
- Leave No Trace – Did you know that the snow is our water supply? Keep our winter playgrounds clean. Pack out any human or pet waste. Be respectful of the land.
- Build an Inclusive Outdoors – Everyone deserves to experience a winter wonderland. Be an active part of making the outdoors safe, accessible, and welcoming for all identities and abilities.

For more information, including how to spread the message, see: <https://tinyurl.com/y6zlrvc3>

From Winter Wildlands Alliance

SUPPORT PARKS AS PART OF YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

BUY A PASS The holiday shopping season is here. You can use it to encourage people to get outside AND support some of our greatest recreational assets. Buy a pass for yourself or someone else.

- Alaska State Parks annual pass: Support state parks during a time of tight state budgets. Day-use passes are \$60 and, of course, your parking is then paid for when you park at a state parks trailhead that requires a fee. Passes are good for the calendar year. Annual boat launch passes are also available for \$150: <https://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/passes> (Passes are also available to purchase in person. See the webpage for available



locations.

- National Park Service annual passes: The park service offers general passes for \$80. It also has a variety of other discounted or free passes for seniors, fourth-graders, people with disabilities, some volunteers, and members of the military:
<https://www.nps.gov/planyourvisit/passes.htm>



SEEN RECENTLY ON STATEWIDE FACEBOOK PAGES

ALASKA STATE PARKS

Nov 16: We now have an APP with GIS maps: Download today!

BIG thanks to our partners, Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation and the Mat-Su Borough who got the ball rolling in 2018.

This year has been a work in progress for Alaska State Parks but all of our GIS trail data is in, THANKS to the GIS team at DNR. We are slowly but surely adding content but need your help with photos for our trailheads and areas.

OuterSpatial

And just when we thought it couldn't get better, OS also just launched a Dark Mode option 🤖

<https://tinyurl.com/yxqj7zc6>

Download today and check it out. Please send questions and feedback to

wendy.sailors@alaska.gov

MORE TO COME!

Nov 13: Making weekend plans? Stay updated on trail openings.

Of note: Some trails are now closed to snowmobiles in the Chugach so check your trail updates before making plans!

<http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/asp/curevnts.htm>

November 4: Employers, Managers and Business Owners: Are you 🤖 for the perfect Holiday gift for your team? How about the gift of "Get Outside!" ...and we mean that in the nicest way, of course. 😂😂

Our 2021 Day-Use Decals are \$60, but if you buy 25 or more, you can get a deal. For more info, email wendy.sailors@alaska.gov

More Alaskans are getting outside this year! Fresh air is so good for the soul. Support your team with the gift of the outdoors. ❤️❤️❤️

STATEWIDE LINKS

- 2020-21 Grooming Awards from the Snowmachine Trails Program: <https://tinyurl.com/y5e6wbos>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Discomfort can be a hurdle to getting outside in winter, but the right gear can keep you warm and motivated (ADN): <https://tinyurl.com/yxtq6mfm>
- Saved by truck (Medred reminder that moose are dangerous): <https://tinyurl.com/y49qr25p>
- Safe Physical Activity During Social Distancing April 2020 – Play Every Day PSA:
<https://tinyurl.com/y4e8esjy>
- Walks of a Lifetime in America's National Parks (book; includes Alaska): <https://tinyurl.com/y3kpnhn9>
 - Walks of a Lifetime webinar (free): <https://tinyurl.com/y6lxg9aq>

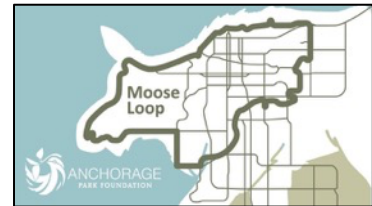
- New Federal Data Shows Alaska's Outdoor Recreation Sector Grew 4% Between 2018 and 2019: <https://tinyurl.com/y2r9xhgh>
- Putting the Shoulder in Shoulder Season (Luc Mehl): <https://thingstolucat.com/2020/11/29/shoulder/>
- Outdoor Explorer podcast/radio show
 - It's OK to be a beginner in the outdoors: <https://tinyurl.com/y6b75gay>
 - Preparing for winter recreation: <https://tinyurl.com/y5j2gxkq>

SOUTHCENTRAL NEWS AND NOTICES

HELP BUILD A SAFER MOOSE LOOP FOR ANCHORAGE

SIGN The Municipality's Transportation Planning organization, AMATS, will soon be offering the opportunity to provide public comments on its draft non-motorized transportation plan.

Although the 32-mile Moose Loop can be completed in its current form, there are some gaps in the route, navigation challenges, and a difficult crossing at Lake Otis on the Campbell Creek Trail. Help advocate for a safer bike and pedestrian crossing by **signing this Safe Crossing Petition**: <https://tinyurl.com/y5otsqv3>



From Anchorage Park Foundation story

COMMENT SOUGHT ON KACHEMAK BAY PARKS MANAGEMENT PLAN

COMMENT The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is seeking public review and comment on a final revision of the Kachemak Bay State Park and Kachemak Bay State Wilderness Park Management Plan.



“The Kachemak Bay region possesses unique wilderness and scenic values that are ecologically important,” said DNR Commissioner Corri A. Feige. “This plan encourages recreational activities on state-managed land in the area, while protecting their unique assets far into the future. Our team has worked very hard with residents and other interested parties to craft a plan that balances diverse interests.”

This “intent-to-adopt” management plan covers Kachemak Bay State Park and Kachemak Bay State Wilderness Park, as well as in the Eveline, Diamond Creek, and Overlook Park state recreation sites, an area totaling

approximately 371,000 acres.

It results from Commissioner Feige’s decision on Dec. 7, 2018 to replace a previous management plan with one produced with more complete public information and involvement.

To review the plan, go to: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/plans/kbay/kbayplan.htm>. **Comments will be accepted until Friday, Jan. 22, 2021** and can be sent to:

Kachemak Bay State Park Planning
 550 W. Seventh Ave, Ste. 1050
 Anchorage, AK 99501
 Fax: (907) 269-8915
 Email: kbsp.comments@alaska.gov

From Department of Natural Resources press release; Eric Troyer photo from Emerald Lake Loop Trail

SEEN RECENTLY ON SOUTHCENTRAL FACEBOOK PAGES

ANCHORAGE PARKS AND RECREATION

Nov 25: Anchorage Parks and Recreation now has a YouTube channel! Look for lots of cool ideas and helpful information to make playing in our parks a ton of fun! <https://youtu.be/AyARNV1tpHU>

Big thanks to Anchorage Park Foundation, our partners in this new way to reach the community.

Nov 12: Anchorage Parks and Recreation has been made aware of animal snares in the area between Abbott Loop Community Park and the Hilltop trails system. Wildlife Troopers and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game have been notified and are investigating.

To report a snare, please call Wildlife Troopers: (907) 352-5401, extension 1; OR ADF&G: (907) 267-2257.

Here is a link to the Maps & Apps Gallery that shows the boundaries of legal and illegal trapping: <https://tinyurl.com/yy7lnf3z>

NORDIC SKIING ASSOCIATION OF ANCHORAGE

Nov 11: Current Trail Status: Winter. Cross Country Ski Trails are open to SKIING ONLY in Winter. Single Track trails and Multi-Use are open year round for walking, biking and dogs. The second picture is damage to the soft snow on Spencer Loop from Fat Tire bikes. Please check trailhead signs to make sure you're on the right type of trail during winter months.

ANCHORAGE PARK FOUNDATION

Nov 19: The Anchorage Park Foundation is celebrating 15 years of improving the parks and trails we love. We have done so much together and we are grateful for your support. Please consider making a contribution, and remember to get outside and play, every day!

Visit: www.anchorageparkfoundation.org

November 9: Are you ready for the snow? We are so grateful for twelve volunteers with the Alaskan Sled Dog & Racing Association, one of our Challenge Grantees from 2019. They donated 91 hours and use of personal equipment to place signage along 18+ miles of sled dog trails in Far North Bicentennial Park.



This included four work days to place posts at intersections with multi-use trails along the trail system. Final posts were placed in August and October of 2020 with signage going up at the end of October.

Thanks also to Rasmuson Foundation for supporting our Challenge Grant program!

November 4: Live. Work. Play. Anchorage is in the Top 10!

With 11,000 acres of City parks and surrounded by the Chugach Mountains, Anchorage is No. 1 in the US for parks, at 84%! We also score well for low air pollution, percentage of campgrounds and housing costs as percent of income.

Best Places for Outdoor Enthusiasts to Live and Work: <https://tinyurl.com/y2l67x2z>

SINGLETRACK ADVOCATES

Nov 11: Please remember to STAY OFF the groomed Nordic ski trails at Kincaid and Hillside. Our friends at NSAA have started their winter grooming operations. Only skiing is allowed on the Groomed

ski trails. No hiking or biking allowed on the groomed ski trails. Thanks for your help. Let your friends know!

MAT-SU BOROUGH RECREATION AND LIBRARY SERVICES

Nov 16: The Mat Su Borough Grooming Crew added a new piece of equipment to our tool box this past week. It's a four foot wide Ginzugroomer from Yellowstone Track Systems. It has the ability to pack the snow, cut icy snow with hydraulic knives, set classic ski tracks, and leave a nice corduroy surface. This Groomer will fit on much narrower trails than our other groomers, so it can be used on the Morgan Equestrian Trail, the Matanuska River Trail, and the new trails at Settlers Bay Coastal Park. We still need more snow to pack some of these trails, but we hope you can get out and enjoy these additional groomed trails as the season progresses.



Nov 12: With low temperatures and fairly early snow, the MSB Grooming Crew has started packing the local core trails. On Tuesday 11/10/2020 the road system at the Matanuska River Park were packed, as were the Nordic loops at Lazy Mountain. More snow is needed before any classic tracks can be set, but for now, there is some nice corduroy to enjoy. Remember, you can check the status of the MSB trails, and other trails, at <https://www.matsugov.us/trails> by clicking on "more information".

SEWARD DAILY TRAIL REPORT

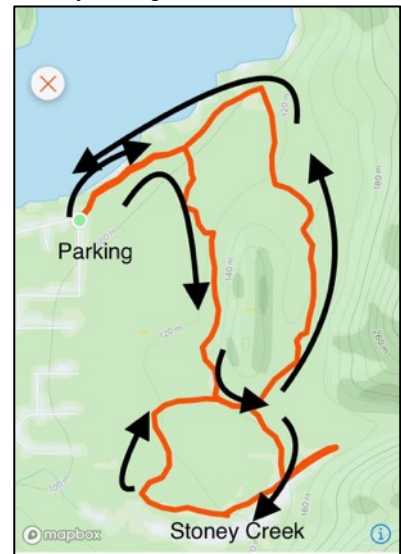
Tasha DiMarzio

November 18: In an effort to get more people out fatbiking and cross country skiing on Seward trails, we have been working on a 5 mile figure 8 loop that is bike and skiable on the Bear Lake - Iditarod trails. We cut back brush in the over grown parts and stamped down the trail with snowshoes. I have ridden it 5 times now and the more it gets packed down the funner and faster it will become.

To complete the loop: Start at the Bear Lake Trail and go 1/2 mile down on the right you will see a ATV trail take that ~1 mile to the junction then take a left follow that out to Stoney Creek and head right down the creek. Jump back on the Iditarod Connector Trail (right) to the main junction take a right. Go 1/4 mile take a left to Tyhacker Trail past Little Bear Lake. Follow that up and over and back down to Bear Lake and take your last left to the parking area.

I am hoping to somehow keep it in riding/skiing condition thru the winter by grooming it with a snow machine. You can also make the trail longer by crossing Stoney Creek and joining up with the Iditarod Trail towards Nash Road! Lots of fun to be had. It would also be fun to do some group rides! I have also created some Strava segments for those that use that app. Enjoy!

(Currently the trail is all conditions: dirt, large ice puddles, frozen bumpy moose tracks and 5 inches of snow.)



ALASKA STATE PARKS

Nov 20: More beautiful shots from Grewingk Glacier in Kachemak Bay State Park THANKS to Sarah Histan and Luc Mehl. 😊❄️

To get to this magical spot, you take a boat ride across the bay from Homer but there are water taxis available at a price most can afford. Don't forget your warm clothes, snacks and emergency needs. Sarah added: "In addition to extra layers we brought a throw bag, ice picks, ice screws, and a pole to test ice thickness since it was different thicknesses in different parts of the lake."

Access info: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/maps/kachemak/glacierylakesaddle.pdf>

SOUTHCENTRAL LINKS

- Illegal traps on Hillside trails in Anchorage are snaring dogs: <https://tinyurl.com/y66faon4>
- University eyes future gravel mine in Matanuska Greenbelt, drawing ire from trail users: <https://tinyurl.com/y6lzy262>
- Information about skiing Talkeetna's trails (incl trail maps): www.denalinordicskiclub.org/ski-trails/
- Guide to Mountain Biking Around Anchorage, Alaska: <https://tinyurl.com/y69nxe8s>
- Rabbit Creek Park Trail Revitalized: <https://tinyurl.com/yyvvr7ba>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Recreation advocates seek more funding for Seward Highway snowplowing near Turnagain Pass (ADN): <https://tinyurl.com/y2yupyfu>
- More snowplow funding sought for Alaska's Seward Highway: <https://tinyurl.com/y38chvq7>
- Forestry Grant Awarded to Improve Health of Parkland (Anchorage): <https://tinyurl.com/y69nxe8s>
- Chugach National Forest Opens Turnagain Pass Area To Winter-Motorized Use: <https://tinyurl.com/yxwpmptj>
- Campbell Lake HOA submits letters to State alleging Campbell Lake is a private lake: <https://tinyurl.com/y5r94jm2>

INTERIORWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

FAIRBANKS BORO PARKS AND REC OFFERS TRAILS REPORT

Looking for information about winter trails, especially reports on grooming and conditions? The Fairbanks area has two resources. The Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks and Recreation Department is now doing a Trail Conditions Report that is updated every Thursday. Right now the focus is mainly on Chena Lake and Tanana Lakes recreation area, but the page has links to other resources. From the page:

Your one-stop source for current winter trail conditions for cross-country skiing, snowmachining, fat-tire biking, snowshoeing, ice skating and walking in the Fairbanks North Star Borough. Our team updates the winter trail conditions



report weekly on Thursdays at 11AM throughout the winter season. Additional updates may be available. For additional information and trail maps, please visit this page:
<https://fairbanksak.myrec.com/info/facilities/details.aspx?FacilityID=14955>

Check out the report here: <https://fairbanksak.myrec.com/info/facilities/details.aspx?FacilityID=14968>

The Nordic Ski Club of Fairbanks also maintains a page that is skiing focused but includes information on multi-use trails.

The NSCF grooms the skiing-only trails at Birch Hill Recreation Area and does grooming reports for those on its website and Facebook page. It also maintains an "Other Local Trails" page that has short descriptions of the trails or trail systems and includes links to maps and other information, including where people can find grooming reports.

- NSCF Trails page (for grooming updates and other info): <https://www.nscfairbanks.org/trails/>
- NSCF Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/NSCFairbanks/>
- NSCF Other Local Trails: <https://www.nscfairbanks.org/trails/other-local-trails/>

FDNM story: Borough parks and rec website adds trail report: <https://tinyurl.com/yxb2u2sf>

SEEN RECENTLY ON INTERIOR FACEBOOK PAGES

FAIRBANKS AREA HIKING CLUB FAN PAGE

Rice Retory shared a link.

Nov 20: Re Eagle Summit and the damage done to the Pinnell Mountain Trail during this fall's caribou hunt: There was an enlightening comment (below) in a Fairbanks Daily News-Miner story. This indicates there is fertile ground for changing the structure of the hunt so that it's not such a "mess." That could help stop a recurrence of the damage.

--Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee member John Siegfried said he has never hunted the Fortymile hunt because "it's a mess."

"I think there's a mentality that whatever goes and that's unfortunate," Siegfried said.—

<https://tinyurl.com/y54wofw8>

Reply:

Karen Brewster

At the Board of Game's meeting on November 18, they approved an Agenda Change Request to consider a proposal that could give ADFG authority to make the fall hunt of the 40 Mile Caribou Herd a targeted hunt. This would give them the chance to stagger when hunters are out in one place which could help reduce the chaos of so many hunters at once that happened this year. The Board of Game will discuss the proposed change to the hunt at their March 2021 meeting in Fairbanks.

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH PARKS & REC

November 10: CONGRATULATIONS TRAILBLAZERS! Did you or a friend or family member finish the Summer 2020 Trails Challenge? Check out our current list of Trailblazers and Junior Trailblazers here: <https://tinyurl.com/y64dvn29>

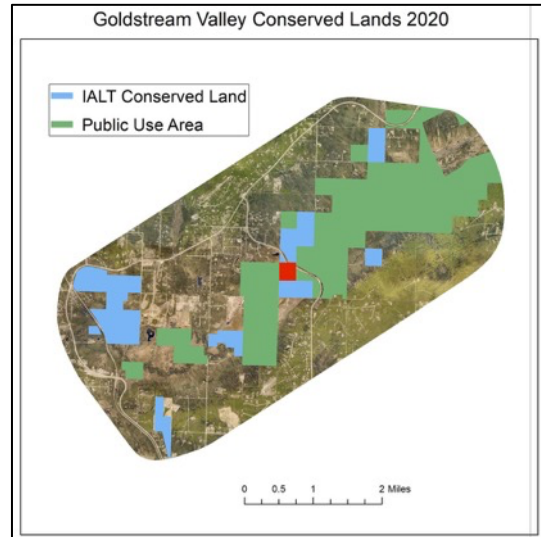
Let us know if we missed you by Monday, Nov 16! Tag your trail buddies! Prize drawing next week and awards are on their way!

INTERIOR ALASKA LAND TRUST

Nov 15: That red dot in the middle of Goldstream Valley is the most recent acquisition of ours! The 40-acre Steffensen parcel was the final piece to the central Goldstream conservation lands "puzzle" which allows for continuity of habitat and trails across Ballaine Road.

A couple months ago we asked the community for help, as we were short on funds to acquire this critical parcel. Thanks to all the generous donations from folks across the community, this property (and the trail that crosses it) will now be conserved in perpetuity! You did it -- this would not have been possible without your help! We're so glad to have support from all over the Fairbanks area, and beyond.

Another thanks to Frank Steffensen and his sister, Christina Dix, for reaching out to IALT to have their land conserved!



FAIRBANKS TRAIL USERS

Mara Bee

Nov 27: No judgement, just a PSA to bikers, skiers and walkers that use Eldorado Creek Trail - there is now an active trapline posted about 1, to 1.25 miles on the trail (from goldstream road side) right at the corner where the trail turns right to go down the long hill to creek bottom. Keep your loose dogs close.

Map of Eldorado Creek Trail: <https://tinyurl.com/y39qzj2b>

Todd Smith

Nov 22: Yesterday, we (members of the Fairbanks Snow Travelers) rode the Dunbar Trail from the Chatanika River, south. We made it to Goldstream Creek near the railroad tracks, and did a lot of trail clearing near that end until it got dark. The trail basically now stops with several down birch trees in its path. We did not encounter any open water, just some frozen overflow. Although, I would certainly not cross Goldstream Creek yet.

Nov 16: If you are going off trail into the mountains educate yourself about avalanche risk, observation and preparedness. Just snow-shoeing around my property I am noticing signs of a dangerous snowpack.

<https://alaskasnow.org/eastern-alaska/>

Nov 15: A big aspect of the damage done to the Pinnell Mountain Trail this past fall had to do with the high animal goal of the hunt (5,000) and the two-caribou-per-person bag limit. This information was announced shortly before the hunt and was probably one of the largest reasons so many hunters swarmed to the Steese Highway.

I wondered why this hunt goal and bag limit were announced just a few days before the hunt. Wouldn't announcing it earlier allow law enforcement more time to prepare? Well, after reading "Counting Caribou" and watching the video documentary, I better understand why you can't announce those limits at just any time.

If anyone else is interested here are links to the article and documentary. Even if you aren't interested in how a caribou census is done, the video has some awesome caribou footage.

Article: <https://tinyurl.com/y2r2qut4>

Video: <https://vimeo.com/471257951>

SKARLAND & PEARL CREEK PARK TRAIL USERS

Samuel Dashevsky

Nov 25: The “olde ski field” is on its way to becoming re-born as the “new ski field” !

It’s gonna be rough and non-skiable until we get another 10 or more inches of fresh snow.

After that you can expect to find paired tracks and new little loops that will allow side-by-side (socially distant) skiing with a friend through a sunny open space !

Meanwhile, thanks for your patience while the nearby tracks suffer during this week of mechanized work. There will no equipment operating there on Thanksgiving Day, but on Friday keep a safe distance away (+100 feet) while the contractor returns to finish up the brush cutting job.

Happy Thanksgiving all.

Samuel Dashevsky

Nov 20: The open-space preservation project (brush cutting) in the Old Ski Field portion of Pearl Creek Park got the green light from FNSB earlier this week - and work is set to begin Saturday ! tomorrow (Nov.21).

So be alert and steer clear of “Trail Closures” during the next several days on Commuter Trail & Fox Trot & Shaun’s Trail & Rabbit Run alongside the Old Ski Field brush cutting project.

Scroll down to May 25th posting on this FB page for background info, but here is a bit more info to catch you up.

After integrating input from the community and fundraising, we identified a professional land clearing contractor that gave us an affordable price estimate - so we then sought permission from FNSB parks Dept. to carry out the brush clearing project.

Borough staff supported the open-space preservation concept, but required that any work be managed by FNSB directly.... and then arose the question of no fiscal budget for such work, design parameters, insurance, etc.

FNSB Parks folks eventually came up with a way that they could accept our community donation of funds that we had budgeted for the project, and augment those funds while contributing project design and oversight.

It was a good solution and FNSB Parks has been reasonable and supportive, albeit adding a level of bureaucracy unimagined by us at the outset.

Thank you FNSB parks, and thanks to all you in the Pearl Creek community that contribute to this great asset of trails in our collective backyard.

Don Kiely updated the description.

Nov 16: Community group for the users of the historic Skarland and Pearl Creek Park non-motorized trails in Fairbanks, Alaska. The trails are multi-use in summer, and ski-only in winter once grooming begins.



DONATE If you'd like to donate to the maintenance of the trails, please make a check out to Pearl Creek Community Park Fund, and give or send it to Tako Reynolds, 1819 Musko Trail, Fairbanks, AK 99709-6626. Thanks for your support!

Martha Reynolds shared a link.

Nov 16: Many thanks to friends and family of Drew Harrington, who donated to the Pearl Creek Community Park Fund in his honor. Drew died too young of brain cancer. He was an avid outdoors-person, and really appreciated the local trails. He gave generously of his time, money and energy to support trails and cabins in the Fairbanks area during his lifetime, and now his legacy continues.

<https://www.runningclubnorth.org/2020/11/passing-of-drew-harrington/>

ALASKA SKIJORING & PULK ASSOCIATION

Kelsi Johnson shared a link.

DONATE Nov 16: North Star update: the trail is now groomed to the full width with classic tracks put in! Just a friendly reminder that we ask that dogs are to be leashed while on the course for the safety of all skiers/skijorers and dogs 😊 As always if you enjoy any of the trails groomed by the ASPA consider a trail donation to help cover costs for trail and machine upkeep:

<https://www.alaskaskijoring.org/store/>

SKYLINE RIDGE PARK TRAIL USERS GROUP

Wes Wagner

November 12: Trail report: Ridge trail is good thanks to some grooming. Secret trail, After Hours, Heart of darkness all walkable, but need a little more snowshoe action to pack them in. Huge thanks to those snowshoeing on the singletracks!

EIELSON FSS OUTDOOR RECREATION

Note: Access to Eielson Air Force Base is severely restricted during the pandemic. For more information see: <https://www.eielson.af.mil/>

Nov 18: Two on-base trails are now open for cross country skiing. Thanks to Natural Resources, both trails were recently groomed, and have tracks set for cross country skis.

The Parcours is located next to the Natural Resources office and has 1.5 miles of trail. The 'Intermediate Trail' at Iceman Falls offers options for a 2.5 and 5 kilometer loop—stay to your right as you leave the parking lot and follow the tracks. Both of these trails are SKI ONLY and pets are not allowed. Please respect these rules as ski tracks are easily damaged.

The advanced trails at Iceman Falls—stay left as you leave the parking lot—will be groomed later this week. These trails offer 2.5, 5, and 7.5 kilometer loops and provide access to the public cabin. These trails are open to all non-motorized recreation including skiing, snowshoeing, fat tire biking, running, walking, etc. Snow machines are not allowed on any of these trails or the ski hill.

Cross country skis, bike, and snowshoe rentals are available at Iceman Falls Fri.-Sun. 10-6, as well as at Raven's Nest from Tues.-Sat. 10-6. You may download the maps from the Outdoor Rec website:

<https://tinyurl.com/y4I9lxc>

FAIRBANKS CYCLE CLUB

BUY A PASS/DONATE Nov 30: Awesome that the ADMA trails are getting in good shape. If you use these trails (and/or the Musher's Hall parking lot), please buy a trail pass or donate. See "Passes and Sponsorships" on the main ADMA page: <https://alaskadogmushers.com/>

INTERIORWIDE LINKS

- Volunteers restore access on Mastodon Trail (FDNM): <https://tinyurl.com/y28nn5o3>
- Bluff Cabin Trail Thank You (Delta Junction, 2.5 min video): <https://tinyurl.com/y3m7gfh8>
- Winter Light in the Whites: <https://tinyurl.com/y4n75gr6>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Anonymous backpacker passes down gear to new adventurers: <https://tinyurl.com/y26h89nn>
- Board of Game will consider regulatory changes to Fortymile hunt during next statewide regulations meeting (FDNM story): <https://tinyurl.com/y6gswnpm>
- Sleigh Ride: White Mountains Edition: www.youtube.com/watch?v=FEeG2PtW8do&feature=youtu.be

SOUTHEAST NEWS AND NOTICES

FUNDS HELP REPAIR WINDFALL LAKE CABIN NEAR JUNEAU

The Windfall Lake Cabin on the Tongass National Forest is a fairly accessible rental cabin in Alaska. Located outside of Juneau, people can hike 3.3 miles to the cabin or take a floatplane right up to the cabin's dock. The cabin itself is accessible for people with disabilities, with an elevated boardwalk connecting the dock, cabin, and outhouse. A picnic table sits on the front deck and a campfire ring is outside as well. A canoe is available for visitors to use and enjoy the silence that comes from being the only people on the lake.



Unfortunately, the deck and ramp for this cabin were at risk of failing and was deemed unsafe by the Forest Service. Through our Alaska Forest Fund (<https://tinyurl.com/y2tr6vre>) and with support from the Rasmuson Foundation, the NFF hired a local contractor to replace deck and ramp using Alaska yellow cedar, extending the life of the cabin and maintaining its accessibility for years to come.

For more on the cabin see: www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/tongass/recarea/?recid=78822

From National Forest Foundation News and Happenings in the Pacific Northwest & Alaska newsletter

CARES ACT FUNDING HELPS CREATE SITKA CONSERVATION CORPS

The Sitka Conservation Society is turning lemons into trails these days.

SCS created the Sitka Community Conservation Corps with funding from a City 2020 CARES Act



grant. The goals of this Covid-19 recovery funding is to start a CCC-type work corps and provide transitional employment for underemployed and impacted Sitkans.

The SCCorps has created 9 good-paying new natural resources jobs in a region seeing severe declines in tourism, fishing, and the service industries.

Crewmembers are working on a wide variety of long-needed maintenance and improvement projects including: building

new mountain bike and walking trails, restoring the flow of water at Goddard Hot Springs, clearing brush

from overgrown cemeteries, cleaning nature trail boardwalks, mapping trail inventory with GIS, revegetating the new Cross Trail, and a host of other projects around Sitka.

The Corps also recently landed on the front page of the Sitka Sentinel for handing out 12,000 pounds of food to Sitka residents. Crewmembers had a humbling experience, seeing traffic backed up for a mile from community members' cars needing this vital assistance.

Recently the crew helped place a bench on Thimbleberry Lake as a memorial to beloved Sitka author, radio host, and anthropologist Richard Nelson.

Funding runs out around Christmas, so the crew is pushing really hard to complete this very ambitious schedule. For more information contact: Blain Anderson, Project Leader, Sitka Community Conservation Corps, blain@sitkawild.org.

From Blain Anderson

SEEN RECENTLY ON SOUTHEAST FACEBOOK PAGES

TRAIL MIX, INC.

Nov 25: What are your tips for emergency communication in the backcountry?



No single communication tool is foolproof, so combining several together increases the likelihood that you'll get the help you're seeking. It's also paramount to think about what actions you need to take ahead of your outing for your communication to be successful.

Here's a few things you can do:

- Tell someone you trust where you're going, when you expect to be back, and what they should do next if they don't hear

from you.

- Fully charge all your devices along with a powerbank. Pack all relevant cables.

- Look up emergency phone numbers. Depending on where you are, 911 may not be the best option.

- Conserve your cell phone battery by putting it in airplane mode.

- Carry a satellite communicator or personal locator beacon with an SOS function.

What else?

Nov 24: Salmon are an important part of our ecosystem, so our trails must always be built with that in mind. This #transformationtuesday takes us to Horse Tram Trail where we upgraded the trail to better support salmon in their journey to their spawning grounds upstream.

Last year, a culvert had been installed to protect a small salmon stream underneath the trail. Working with our partners at ADF&G, Southeast Alaska, a biologist determined the culvert was 'perched,' creating a small waterfall at the outflow that was impassable by small fish, so we sprung into action.

With an excavator, the crew removed the existing culvert, dug holes to lay down sills or foundation pieces, and installed a new bridge. Now both trail users and salmon can traverse this section of stream!



Nov 17: This #transformationtuesday is a big shoutout to our crews who are still out working even though the landscape looks a little different ❄️



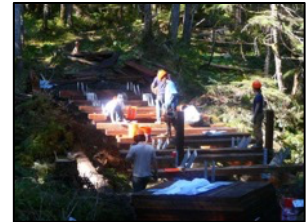
Check out the dedication of these folks! All our crews have been out the road at the Eagle Valley Center ropes course and the new CBJ public use cabin clearing snow off the trail before continuing their usual work of laying down gravel.

Working in these conditions has required problem-solving, teamwork, and mental toughness, but everyone has risen to the challenge, displaying the good spirits and sense of humor we've seen all summer.

Cheers to Maddie, Ambrose, Hunter, Juliette, Edgar, Able, Elias, Laib, Cedar, Mark, Jess, Julio, Annie, and Kim! You all are diamonds.

Nov 13: For this #fallbackfriday, it's the bridge that started it all 10 years ago! The Lawson Creek bridge was the first bridge that Trail Mix built on Treadwell Ditch and is still the largest, weighing in at 27,000lbs of wood and steel and requiring 18 helicopter sling loads.

This summer we built 9 new bridges and with your support, we'll continue working until we reach the northern terminus at Eagle Crest.



Nov 10: This #transformationtuesday is about what's been transpiring at Point Bridget State Park all summer. Swipe to see how new gravel is upgrading this very popular trail.



Our crews started by refilling the existing turnpikes with gravel, which are wooden structures that elevate parts of the trail above the wet ground.

In other sections, they removed old, slippery planks, regraded the terrain, and then put down gravel. Finally, drains were dug to direct water away from the trail, so it doesn't flood.

If you're excited about these changes, we're happy to report that this is only phase 1, so expect more improvements to Point Bridget next season too.

A big thank you to Jacob, Hunter, Liam, Meghan, Cedar and everyone else who has contributed to this project!

Nov 5: Congrats to the Juneau Snowmobile Club for finishing the Lake Creek Trail improvement project before the snow hit! Check out our story for a look at flying 99 bags of gravel out there 🙄

Shared from

Juneau Snowmobile Club

November 1 at 2:02 PM ·

Lake creek / Spaulding trail update

All bags of fill have been emptied and trail is looking ready for snow! It was just starting to dump!

Thanks to Jack, Marion and Ashley the last couple days to get it done before the snow hits.

SOUTHEAST LINKS

- Bear Mountain via Herring Cove Trail – Sitka (7 min video): <https://tinyurl.com/y6dywdmy>

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/Calendar.html

TRAILS-RELATED NEWSLETTERS

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

FUNDING

- 2021 Safe Routes to Parks Activating Communities (Deadline Dec 18): <https://tinyurl.com/y5prfeu4>
- Five Unique Trail Funding Solutions: www.americantrails.org/resources/unique-trail-funding-solutions

OTHER NATIONAL LINKS:

- Help NOHVCC'S Partners Identify LWCF-Eligible OHV Projects: <https://tinyurl.com/yxr43bxr>
- A Review on Improving Access To and Use of Trails Among Youth in Under-Resourced Communities: <https://tinyurl.com/yy28xajx>
- 5 Ways to Protect the Outdoors with Leave No Trace: <https://tinyurl.com/yyw3d78o>
- 2021/2022 National Recreation Trails Calendar (print at home): <https://tinyurl.com/y3sgcucj>
- ENTER 2020 National Recreation Trails Photo Contest (ddline Dec 15): <https://tinyurl.com/y6epgn2z>
- How to Camp in Comfort This Winter: <https://tinyurl.com/y6s2kj76>
- Where the Great American Outdoors Act stands now: <https://tinyurl.com/y32jmcff>

INTERNATIONAL LINKS

- Alter Grenzweg trail goes through land once disputed by France and Germany: <https://tinyurl.com/y3zqpidg>
- Jordan Trail is a 40-Day Hike That Gives You a Unique Glimpse of The Past: <https://tinyurl.com/y4qnyfro>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- The Healing Power of Nature: <https://tinyurl.com/y4qyemf6>

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