



NEWSLETTER

Oct
2019

PO Box 100627; Anchorage, AK 99510-0264

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www.alaska-trails.org

ALASKA TRAILS NEWS AND NOTICES

SAVE THE DATE! OUR FALL FUNDRAISER IS COMING IN OCTOBER

ATTEND Our Fall Fundraiser will be held Friday, October 25, at the 49th State Brewery in Anchorage.

Come celebrate a great year of trail building, volunteers and fun!

Come meet the Alaska Trails board and staff. Executive Director Steve Cleary will give an update on all the exciting summer projects that the Alaska Trail Stewards have been working on and a look at what's to come this winter and

next year for Alaska Trails.

Join us for an evening of fabulous food, auction items, and the chance to celebrate with fellow Alaska trail advocates. You will get chances to win round-trip tickets with Alaska Airlines, a new e-bike, cabin stays, and unique Alaska adventures! Tickets are \$35 in advance at alaska-trails.org or \$50 at the door.

For more info see our event page: <http://www.alaska-trails.org/fall-fundraiser.html>

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS TO OUR APPRECIATION PARTY

ATTEND Volunteers, we want to thank you. Please come to our Volunteer Appreciation Party on October 3, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., at Cynosure Brewing, 144 E Potter Dr, Unit E, Anchorage, Alaska 99518.

We've said it before, and we'll say it again: Alaska Trail Stewards would be nothing without its incredible volunteers! As a thank you to all of the program's amazing volunteer leaders and participants, we welcome everyone who came out during the 2019 season to an evening of great food, friends, and some surprise awards. Come celebrate your efforts alongside other trail stewards.

Please RSVP to trailstechnician@gmail.com.

ALASKA TRAILS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR TWO NEW POSITIONS

ALASKA STATEWIDE TRAILS INITIATIVE COORDINATOR

APPLY Alaska Trails is seeking a motivated individual for a nine-month, full-time position to work with our associated partners to continue progress on the Alaska Statewide Trails Initiative. This ambitious, multi-year project aims to take greater advantage of Alaska's impressive but underdeveloped outdoor recreation resources, by advocating for more and better trails statewide, and making the case for the economic and other benefits those investments can bring.



The initiative is in its second year. A helpful summary of our objectives and progress to date can be found on the Alaska Trails website <http://www.alaska-trails.org/alaska-trails-initiative.html>

Please review the position description, and submit a cover letter, and a resume by Oct 10 (preferably sooner!) More information on the position and application info here: <http://tinyurl.com/yy4z5uqh>

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM COORDINATOR

APPLY We're hiring! Thanks to a generous, three-year grant from the Murdock Charitable Trust, Alaska Trails is seeking applicants for the Volunteer Program Coordinator position detailed below. We are excited for the possibilities this position will bring to our growing Alaska Trail Stewards program.



The person who fills this half-time, year-round position will be in charge of all aspects of the Alaska Trail Stewards program, including management, coordination and fund development. This includes recruiting stewards for trail improvement projects, arranging training opportunities, and coordinating with land managers to identify meaningful, safe, and fun projects. In addition, the coordinator will head up program development and promotion. The coordinator will be responsible for identifying and pursuing new funding sources – including grants, individual donors and corporate giving.

ALASKA TRAIL STEWARDS NEEDS PEOPLE WHO LOVE TRAILS

VOLUNTEER The Alaska Trail Stewards season is coming to an end, but we still have a couple of events coming up. Alaska Trail Stewards is an Alaska Trails program designed to help give volunteers opportunities to maintain and improve the trails that they and many others love. Below are the volunteer days we have left. For more information on the program and to register for one or more of the work parties see: <http://www.alaska-trails.org/alaska-trail-stewards.html>

- Oct 2: Tool Maintenance Party
- Oct 5: Whittier Trails and BBQ

SEEN RECENTLY ON THE ALASKA TRAILS FACEBOOK PAGE

September 28: Thanks to all the volunteers who made it a great day on the Middle Fork Trail in Chugach State Park today. And thanks to the Brown Jug and Southern Glazer's wine and spirits for a great barbecue after.

September 28: The packraft has arrived. Big THANKS again to Alpacka Raft for donating it! Please help me put it to better use than an office chair by bidding on it at our Fall Fundraiser on Oct. 25.

Tickets at: <http://www.alaska-trails.org/fall-fundraiser.html>

September 6: BIG Thanks to Alpine Air for donating their time to this project!

Lost Lake in Seward, Alaska. If you hike or mountain bike the iconically beautiful Lost Lake Trail, the first sight of the lake nestled in the rolling tundra of the Kenai Mountains is unforgettable. We spent a day volunteering time and materials to maintain this jewel of a trail, with the help of a team of tireless volunteers from the U.S. Forest Service and Alaska Trails. Thanks to Pilot Taylor Hutchins for his precision slinging 24 loads of gravel through patchy clouds to the trail. Happy trails, everybody - get out there!



Photo by Deb Essex

To see more posts like these, see our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/alaskatrails/>

STATEWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

ALASKA STATE TRAILS PROGRAM ENDS AS RESULT OF STAFFING CUT

The Alaska State Trails Program has been shut down as a result of staffing cuts proposed by Gov. Mike Dunleavy and accepted by the state legislature.

Certain aspects of the program will continue, such as administration of the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) and the Snowmobile Trails Program, but those programs will be substantially changed. For example, the types of projects being accepted for the RTP are severely limited (see story below).



The program was cut because the program manager position was cut, according to Wendy Sailors, development specialist with the state Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation. The program manager position, formerly held by Darcy Harris, was downgraded to a grant administrator position. The other grant administrator position, held by Steve Neel, was cut. When Harris quit to take a position with the Municipality of Anchorage, Neel took Harris' old position.

One big loss to the program is that there is now no one who can approve Environmental Review Checklists, basically a mini-Environmental Impact Statement, required under the National Environmental Policy Act. That is one of the big reasons that RTP projects will be limited (see story below).

Another visible change due the end of the program is that there is no longer any Alaska State Trails Program webpage. Navigating to the old webpage address (<http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/aktrails/>) results in an "Access Denied" message.

REC TRAILS GRANT APPLICATION PERIOD OPENS BUT WITH CAVEATS

APPLY The Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation is again accepting grant applications for the Recreational Trails Program (RTP), but the types of projects that will be accepted are severely limited from previous years.

Due to staffing cuts and a short timeline, applications for projects are limited to "Stipulation 1" projects, which have either no or minimal environmental, cultural, and social, etc., impacts. This means projects will almost exclusively be limited to brushing and clearing trails and minor trail repair within an existing footprint. (allowable activities listed below).

Eligible applicants include non-profit organizations, educational institutions, state, local and federal government entities, native corporations and tribal governments. The state anticipates that \$1.2 million may be awarded to eligible Alaska projects.

The application package is available at <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/grants/trails.htm>. The application deadline is 4 p.m. on Friday, November 22.

Projects usually accepted under Stipulation 1 include:

- Purchase of trail maintenance equipment, materials and supplies;
- Rehabilitation contained within the footprints of existing trails and trailhead facilities, including resurfacing or improving the trail facility surfaces;
- Regrading within the footprint of existing trail and/or parking areas;
- Striping and/or re-striping of existing trail facilities;
- Development and distribution of educational materials;
- Replacement, renovation, and/or rehabilitation of existing signs, kiosks, and markers;
- New installation of signs, kiosks and markers at, and along, existing facilities;

- Minor alterations to existing facilities in order to make them accessible to people of different abilities (Example: replacement of stairs with ramps, installing hand rails, etc.).

Because the program was caught up in the recent state budget wrangling, the schedule has been modified from previous years. The current schedule is as follows:

- September 9: Application available online
- October 22: Mandatory Public Notice must be posted by this date
- November 22: Application due date
- December 30: Qualified applications sent to ORTAB for review
- January 22-23, 2020: Outdoor Recreational Trails Advisory Board meeting for final scoring of qualified applications
- February 2020: Applications recommended for award will be forwarded to Federal Highway Administration for review
- March through June 2020: Award and grant agreements are signed and implemented

For more information contact parks.RTPgrantapp@alaska.gov

STATE WON'T ACCEPT APPLICATIONS FOR LWCF THIS YEAR

The state will not be accepting applications for the Land and Water Conservation Fund this year. This newsletter earlier reported that a call for applications should be coming soon, but that information was incorrect. The state budget office did not provide the program with enough receipt authority to open an LWCF grant round this fall. The program, which is not solely for trails but considers them "high priority projects," is available to local and regional governments.

For more information on the LWCF and other Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation grant programs see: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/grants/index.htm>

NATIONAL RECREATION TRAIL APPLICATIONS DUE SOON

APPLY Some applications for designating a trail as a National Recreation Trail are due by November 1.



For trails on private, city, county, or state land, or on federal land NOT overseen by the Department of Agriculture, the designation process goes through the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI). Those applications are due on November 1 of each year.

For trails on National Forests, National Grasslands, and National Recreation Areas and associated lands, the designation process goes through the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Those may be submitted anytime, but must be submitted by February 15 to be included in publicity with DOI designations each June.

For more information see: www.americantrails.org/national-recreation-trails/apply

STATEWIDE LINKS

- Alaska Trails Initiative presentation to state Board of Forestry: <http://tinyurl.com/y5wco3ur>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- From Llewellyn Glacier to Emmonak, these men in motorboats traveled the length of the Yukon River in less than 25 days: <http://tinyurl.com/yyjxcbce>
- Hiking the Brooks Range: <http://tinyurl.com/yywvalnf>
- The art of the outdoors deal: <http://tinyurl.com/yye4dn2c>

- Bursting with joy over vast landscapes, extensive bike trails (in Whitehorse) and time to enjoy them: <http://tinyurl.com/y5tluvju>
- Winter is Coming, but Denali Still Has Much to Offer: <http://tinyurl.com/y5uh74x6>
- 2018-2019 Transportation Alternatives Program Project Awards: <http://dot.alaska.gov/stwdplng/atap/>
- Outdoor Explorer radio show: Revisiting wildlife hazards in context: <http://tinyurl.com/y3xbqr5t>

SOUTHCENTRAL NEWS AND NOTICES

MAT-SU FOUNDATION ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR PROJECTS

APPLY The Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation is accepting applications for Summer 2020 projects. Deadline is December 31. The process consists of four steps:

1. Identify a trail or park project: Does the community support it? Is there a non-profit partner or government entity that can take the lead? If yes, then...
2. Visit the foundation website: To review the grant guidelines, funding levels, and match requirements. Does your project qualify? If yes, then...
3. Call the foundation: Share how/why the project contributes to creating world-class trails and parks in the Mat-Su. If the project meets the foundation's requirements it will invite you to...
4. Submit an application: Application forms are on the website. Applications are reviewed quarterly and grant awards are based on available funding.



Read more at: <https://matsutrails.org/our-grants/>

From Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation newsletter

RED SHIRT TRAIL IN NANCY LAKE REC AREA OPEN WITH CAUTION

Below is an excerpt from a longer Department of Natural Resources press release. For the entire press release see: <http://tinyurl.com/y44lfm6t>

In addition, Alaska State Parks is reopening the Nancy Lake State Recreation Area east of the fire area, with the exception of the South Rolly Lake Campground, which remains closed to all recreational use due to hazard trees. The Red Shirt Lake Trail and the Red Shirt Public Use Cabins are again open to the public for use. The trail is passable, but it is extremely important that those going through the burned areas stay on the trail to avoid ash pits. The fire and subsequent suppression efforts have deteriorated some sections of trail.

STATE PARKS FACEBOOK FULL OF SOUTHCENTRAL TRAIL NEWS

SEWARD

August 26: Caines Head State Recreation Area: a gorgeous beach, historic fort, and hiking trails accessible by boat or by foot (if you plan with the tide) just out of Seward.

Share this video with a person you'd like to visit Caines Head with!

HATCHER PASS

September 19: Check out this fantastic new trail guide video for the Reed Lakes Trail in Hatcher Pass!

Produced by Alaska State Parks Interpretation & Education Unit

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U-Z3caEXZT0>

KACHEMAK BAY

August 25: Volunteers Kim Sweeny, Lyn Maslow and Shirley Fedora spent last weekend helping our Ranger Station Hosts brush a section of the China Poot Lake Trail, paint numerous buildings and structures and remove old appliances, with hiking, berry picking and relaxing in between.

See more posts like this on the Alaska State Parks FB page: <https://www.facebook.com/AlaskaStateParks>

SEEN RECENTLY ON THE SOUTHCENTRAL FACEBOOK PAGES

ANCHORAGE PARKS AND RECREATION

September 22: We had a great walk down the Chester Creek Trail today to end Welcoming Week! The weather was perfect 🍂☀️, and the company was even better.

September 18: Thank you to Providence Health & Services Alaska's Information Services team who volunteered with us last week as part of United Way of Anchorage's Day of Caring!

They spent the morning at Goose Lake Park shoveling, wheelbarrowing, and spreading wood chips on the soft surface trails in preparation for this year's Enchanted and Haunted Trails. They worked incredibly hard - and were a blast to work with! Thank you, volunteers!



September 6: Campbell Creek Trail Phase 4 construction will start Monday, September 9th and continue through the fall.

The trail will be closed from the 72nd Ave spur to the Fairbanks St. spur at 55th Ave. Detour signs will be posted along the suggested detour route. We anticipate this segment of rehabilitation being completed this year. Please plan your trip accordingly; travel times may increase.

For more information about this project, please visit: <http://bit.ly/2E9DxeN>

Thank you for your patience while we make these improvements!

KACHEMAK HERITAGE LAND TRUST

September 19: Phase one of construction of the Poopdeck Platt Trail is complete, and the trail is open for public use! Please note- although the trail is open, it is not yet ADA-ready with a bit more work to do. The gravel will continue to settle with time and weather, and we will make various adjustments to improve accessibility. Interpretive signage, a viewing platform, and ADA parking are all in the plans for later phases of this project. Stay tuned as the trail develops! We hope for this project to become a trail for all members of our community to enjoy. We'd love your feedback!



Thanks so much to all of the people and organizations who have helped make this possible!

GCI

September 24: Congratulations to the winner of our Apple Watch Giveaway with Anchorage Park Foundation Frankie Dashiel! 🎉 To enter the contest at the beginning of this month, we asked anyone in the Anchorage area to stop by Kincaid Park to check out the new way finding sign we sponsored and post a selfie with it.

We hope it helps our friends and neighbors navigate the trails for years to come! 🚴 🏃 🛹



ANCHORAGE PARK FOUNDATION

September 17: Yesterday students with Pacific Northern Academy (PNA) sang a song of celebration for their new trail at Ruth Arcand Park!

This marks the completion of Community Challenge Grant championed by Sarah Mariner, a teacher with PNA, to turn a small social trail in Ruth Arcand into a safe and healthy route to school. The trail was completed this summer by Youth Employment in Parks crews and has finally resulted in an alternative route to school that better connects children and their parents with nature.

SINGLETRACK ADVOCATES

September 18: It was a ConocoPhillips Day of Caring! And care they did! While flood warnings raged, 18 ConocoPhillips Alaska employees worked on Kitchen Sink and Tower Power. The downpour provided a teaching opportunity to see their efforts actually work by emptying puddles and restoring drainage. Thanks to our community partners and volunteers!

SOUTHCENTRAL LINKS

- Anchorage Parks and Recreation says trail improvements have made them safer: <http://tinyurl.com/yyj8at3v>
- **ATTEND** Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, ADA-Compliant trail, “Pink Wild Rose” at the Government Peak Recreation Area (October 5): <http://tinyurl.com/y5f53qzt>
- Government Peak Recreation Area gets wheelchair-accessible trail: <http://tinyurl.com/y5tw7qjf>
- Trails begin to reopen as Swan Lake Fire winds down: <http://tinyurl.com/yx95rr7g>
- Skyline Trail Remains Closed Due To Fire-Related Hazards (with video): <http://tinyurl.com/y66cohoc>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Hikers turn the summer of 2019 into a fast one, and a busy one, in the Chugach front range: <http://tinyurl.com/y43z9s7x>
- The Bizarre Story Of Campbell Lake, The Private Lake That Isn't: <http://tinyurl.com/y4v8xe93>
- EIS Complete For Preferred Route For Cooper Landing Bypass (affects Resurrection and Bean Creek trails): <http://tinyurl.com/y3zvcuep>
- Anchorage Parks and Rec director is retiring after decades of municipal service: <http://tinyurl.com/y3m7pdeh>

PARCELS WITH TRAILS PULLED FROM BOROUGH LAND SALE

The Fairbanks Borough Assembly voted earlier this month to pull several parcels of land from the borough's current land sale auction due to the presence of trails on those parcels.

Three parcels of land in the North Pole area and one in the hills above Goldstream Valley were involved. One parcel in the North Pole area had already been pulled by Fairbanks Borough Mayor Bryce Ward due to lobbying by trail advocates. Advocates asked the assembly to pull the other parcels from the sale, and the assembly did.

The parcel of land in the Goldstream Valley is off Pandora Drive. Portions of several trails, including the Cranberry Trail, which is on the borough Comprehensive Recreational Trails Plan, run across the land. The borough administration had been trying to make sure an easement to the Cranberry Trail was dedicated before the land was sold. That work has stopped since the land will not be included in the land sale.

KUAC public radio aired a story on the issue. The full meeting story is about 3 minutes long and the land issue starts at about 1 minute. Listen to the story here: <https://fm.kuac.org/post/09-16-19-kuac-morning-news>

Below is an email sent out after the meeting by Cam Webb via the Keep Peede Trails Public group:

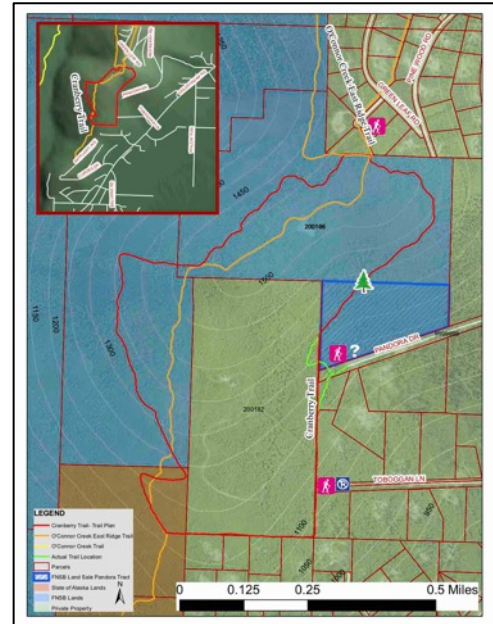
Great news!! The Assembly voted last night to accept the Ordinance, with an amendment (thanks to Marna Sanford) that also removed the two Brock Road Area lots (aka Blalock and Florence Rd lots) from the sale. The debate was lively and the vote on the amendment was close! The status of the Brock Rd Area lots is returned to that before the sale nomination: not for sale, but also not retained. The status of the Peede Rd Tract is now "retained for public use as greenspace", and the 166 acre parcel will hopefully soon get re-zoned as such by the Borough.

So, for the moment, Borough land in the Repp/Brock forest is all still in public hands. However, future assemblies may still decide to sell some land, and so we need to keep working with the Borough towards a stable future designation as greenspace. This whole process has been a wake-up call that we cannot take access to Borough land in this area for granted. I'll be discussing options with Borough staff and will get back to you. The Mayor suggested that some sort of formal planning and community engagement for the Repp/Brock forest could begin as soon as this winter. I hope many of you will participate.

Thanks again for your support and engagement with this issue. I hope you can get out and enjoy access to the trails and forest soon.

Anyone wishing to **thank the assembly**, especially Marna Sanford for introducing the amendment, can do so by emailing members at: <http://tinyurl.com/y5a2oncp>

The borough Trails Advisory Commission (TAC) also advocated for trails on the parcels. A letter



from the commission to the borough mayor can be found starting at page 13 of the this meeting packet: <http://tinyurl.com/y3gd93px>. You can find contact information to **thank TAC members** here: <http://tinyurl.com/yxah9xv2>

Map of Cranberry Trail and Pandora lot from FNSB website

FAIRBANKS PARKS AND REC OFFERS TRAIL EVENTS IN OCTOBER

ATTEND The Fairbanks Borough Parks and Recreation Department has two trail-related events coming up in October. The information below comes from a borough email.

Become a Trail Ninja: Leave No Trace and Outdoor Ethics on the Trails

- *When: Saturday, October 5th, 1pm-2pm*
- *Where: Tanana Lakes Recreation Area Picnic Pavilion*
- *Become a stealthy trail user and minimize your impact on the local trails! At this workshop we'll have fun learning about the principles of the Leave-No-Trace outdoor ethic. Pick up some skills that will help you navigate and enjoy our local outdoor areas while respecting other trail users, wildlife, and the natural spaces you love to visit. This is a great all-ages event, especially for kids and families. Arrive promptly at 1pm. Weather permitting we'll go on a short trail walk from the pavilion. Light snacks and water provided.*
- *Facebook Link: <https://www.facebook.com/events/460349087895718/>*

Trailblazer Awards and Prize Drawing

- *When: Saturday, October 5th, 2pm-4pm*
- *Where: Tanana Lakes Recreation Area Picnic Pavilion*
- *2pm-4pm Awards Pick-Up: Did you find at least ten of the Trails Challenge signs? Or are you a Junior Trailblazer who found at least 5? Come by and pick up your Summer Trailblazer Award if you completed the Summer Trails Challenge! Finding all those trails was a lot of work- you deserve it! Also, munch on some snacks, make some music at the musical playground, explore the Tanana Lakes trails with your family or friends, roast marshmallows and learn about other local trail opportunities.*
- *3:00pm Prize Drawing: Prize Drawing generously sponsored by REI, Trax Outdoor Center, and Beaver Sports! We'll call names of all the Trailblazers and Junior Trailblazers. Must be present or have a friend or family member pick up your prize.*
- *If you can't make it, come by the Parks and Rec Office at the Big Dipper, 1920 Lathrop Street, and pick up your Trailblazer Award AFTER OCTOBER 5.*
- *Facebook event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/949674618708217/>*



Photo from FNSB Facebook Event page

INSTITUTE OFFERS TRAIL ISSUES CLASS IN OCTOBER, NOVEMBER

ATTEND The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) will be offering a weekly class this fall on “Trail Issues in Alaska.”

The class will be held on Tuesdays from 10:30 to 11:45am at the Old University Park Elementary School building. The cost for the class is \$15, and participants need to be OLLI members.

Stan Justice is the lead instructor for the course, with help from other trail experts. The schedule is as follows:

- Oct. 15: Recent trail developments in the Interior, where to find information about Interior trails, and how to advocate for trails, with Eric Troyer
- Oct. 22: Building sustainable trails for Alaska, with Geoff Orth
- Oct. 29: FNSB trail system, including parks, trail planning, and the “Trails Challenge,” with Bryant Wright
- Nov. 5: Update on the Equinox Trail and Ester Dome, lessons from the Skarland Trail, Jeff Studdert mushing trails, and hand tools show and tell, with Stan Justice
- Nov. 12: ATV trails, mechanized construction, the art and science of trail building, GPS mapping, and GPS and map apps on phones, with Jon Underwood

To find out how to register and about other OLLI classes please see: <https://www.uaf.edu/olli/>

DENALI BOROUGH SEEKS TO IMPROVE BISON GULCH TRAIL PARKING

Below is an excerpt from a recent Kris Capps column in the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner:

The (Denali) borough is close to gaining approval of a federal grant that would improve and move the parking area at Bison Gulch, a popular hiking trail south of Healy.



The trail is located at Mile 243.5 Parks Highway. But the parking lot is on the east side of the highway and the trailhead is on the other side of the highway. Easily accessible, the trail offers easy access to alpine hiking and spectacular views along the way.

The project the borough has in mind would move the parking lot to the same side of the highway as the trailhead and the trail would be re-routed so it doesn't go straight up the mountain.

The project has a price tag of about \$450,000. The borough would contribute only \$10,000 to the project,

according to Denali Borough Mayor Clay Walker.

The grant is intended to improve access to federal lands. The trail at Bison Gulch leads into Denali National Park.

See the full column in the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner: <http://tinyurl.com/y2trjhut>

Photo of Bison Gulch parking lot during 2015 road construction by Eric Troyer

ADVOCATES WORK WITH MINE TO IMPROVE TRAIL REROUTE

Kinross Fort Knox has agreed to add surfacing to a section of newly rerouted trail after being contacted by trail advocates.

The mining company rerouted a couple of trails last year to accommodate expansion of its mine.

The trails comprise a route that connects trails in the Cleary Summit area and trails north of Gilmore Trail road. The trails were protected under the RS2477 law, so Kinross worked with the state on the reroute. Kinross has said it would monitor the reroute for a couple of years and would be willing to correct any problems regarding design and construction.

This summer two annual events took place on the reroute: Running Club North's Gold Discovery Run and the Fairbanks Cycle Club's Tuesday Night Mountain Bike Ride trip. Participants were generally positive about the reroute, which runs on the western side of the ridge that the old trails ran on top of.

However, one part of the reroute had a very rough, rocky surface. A group of people, including Gary Pohl, president of Running Club North, Rachael Kvapil, president of Fairbanks Cycle Club and race director of the Gold Discovery Run, Stan Justice, president of the Interior Trails Preservation Coalition, and Eric Troyer, editor of this newsletter, sent a letter in mid-September to Kinross asking the company to "add some less coarse material, such as D-1," to that section.



Anna Atchison, external affairs manager for Kinross, brought the concerns to mine management and responded in a few days.

"I spoke with our projects folks and they can get out there in the next few weeks. Thank you for the heads up."

A benefit of the reroute is that Kinross Fort Knox learned that trails are very important to the community. Several trail advocates commented throughout the process that allowed Kinross to proceed with the reroute. As a result, the mine donated \$20,000 to the Interior Trails and Parks Foundation. The money has no strings attached, though the Kinross "strongly" recommends that "part of the fund be used to maintain the rerouted section of Gilmore Trail."

Photo of 2019 Fairbanks Cycle Club ride on portion of reroute by Eric Troyer

SEEN RECENTLY ON THE INTERIOR FACEBOOK PAGES

ALASKA STATE PARKS

September 12: We love our volunteers! ❤️

This team from the Running Club North in the Fairbanks area were a great help in getting the supplies to this super remote trail shelter. Running Club North stages the Angel Creek 50-Miler each year which runs by the Chena Dome Trail shelter.

Thanks to Drew Harrington, Karen Taber, Tracie Curry, and Chris Garber-Slaughter, the Chena Dome Trail shelter in Chena River State Recreation Area received some much needed maintenance. The stove pipe and chimney were replaced and the porcupine-chewed floor was patched and painted.



September 11: Now is the perfect time to hike Granite Tors Trail in Chena River State Recreation Area near Fairbanks. This 15-mile loop trail provides access to unusual rock outcroppings called tors, alpine tundra, and views of the Alaska Range and the Chena River Valley. For those wanting to make it a two-day hike, there's a trail shelter at mile 6.

For more information on this area, visit Alaska State Parks website: www.alaskastateparks.org

INTERIOR ALASKA TRAILS AND PARKS FOUNDATION

Sept 28: A very deep and heartfelt thank you to all the volunteers who came out today to support our local trails and parks! Many roots were removed, brush cleared, signs installed, and trails improved at Skyline Ridge Park. It was a wonderful collaboration between REI Fairbanks, the Borough Parks and Rec division, and our fantastic community volunteers on National Public Lands Day!



BLM-WHITE MOUNTAINS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA



September 27: As the hiking season winds down (and we look forward to snow sports!), we wanted to give a belated shout out to a hardworking Student Conservation Association trail crew, who in late August spent a week clearing brush from overgrown sections of the Summit Trail. The crew made a great start on a project that we intend to pursue with SCA and other partners in coming years. Photos courtesy of SCA/Jennifer Renier

FAIRBANKS AREA HIKING CLUB FAN PAGE

September 28: Just passing this along: Our bench on Mastodon trail survived the fire!!
John

On Wed, Sep 25, 2019 at 1:55 PM Ludwig, Brooks A (DNR)
<brooks.ludwig@alaska.gov> wrote:

Hi John,

Thought you would like to know about the good karma the Fairbanks Hiking Club Bench seems to have. Somehow the bench managed to escape the ravages of the Nugget Creek Fire this summer. It is still providing hikers a welcome spot to sit and take in the scenery at mile 6.5 Mastodon Trail. And by the way the trail will be completed within the next couple weeks. Jon Underwood with Happy Trails Inc. is working his way back towards the trailhead finishing out the single track trail as he goes. The new trail is 13 ½ miles long. He is around 5 mile this week. Thought this would be a good facebook post.



Brooks

Brooks Ludwig ~ park superintendent ~ alaska state parks ~ 907.451.2698

FAIRBANKS AIRPORT POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENT

September 5: We get it, we really do. You've got this sweet ride and you want to show your buddies what a BA you can be, or you want to see exactly how deep of a hole you can drive through or how much mud you can pack on the outside of said ride.

We also know that it's been raining. A LOT. As much as you think you can hear the sweet,

rhythmic voices of the mud gods calling your name, you're going to have to find a different source of mud to play in, sorry. No street legal (read: truck, car, motorhome, semi-truck) vehicles are allowed to be tearing around like monster trucks on the airport levee. #MudBogResponsibly

It has been determined that larger vehicles are damaging the levee area, which is what we need to help prevent future flooding in our community.

At this time, off road vehicles such as 4-wheelers and side-by-sides are still permitted to use the trail systems until their hearts are content, just please be cognizant of your impeccable driving maneuvers and DO NOT tear up the trails or levee. Our goal isn't to rain on your parade (see what we did there? Rain...) but it is in Fairbanks' best interest to work together in order to keep the levee functioning as it was intended.

UAF TRAILS CLUB STARTS NEW MEMBERSHIP YEAR

Below is a recent email from UAF Trails Club president Stan Justice:

Hope many of you enjoyed the UAF trails for the Equinox. The wider opening at the top of the sledding hill that we spearheaded seemed to work well. And my draining of the swamp that the 6-mile trail had become followed by UAF applying fresh wood chip was dry! I expect the problem will return as the old chips have degraded into black goo that hinders drainage. I have proposed adding a crowned gravel cap with numerous cross drains for the section down to Ballaine Lake. The project is on the agenda for NCC (North Campus Committee) meeting Oct. 9 at noon in physical plant conf. room. I would also like to get the trail lights changed to LEDs.

A new membership year has started and we are still don't have online dues payment. Please see <https://uaftailsclub.weebly.com/membership.html> to get a copy of the membership form.

INTERIORWIDE LINKS

- Off the beaten trail (Fairbanks Summer Trails Challenge): <http://tinyurl.com/y5dar7lz>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- AlaskAcross 2019: A wild and rugged hike along the Sawtooth Traverse: <http://tinyurl.com/y4vgoayf>

SOUTHEAST NEWS AND NOTICES

SEEN RECENTLY ON THE SOUTHEAST FACEBOOK PAGES

TRAIL MIX, INC (Juneau)

September 12: Trail Mix volunteers assisted Alaska Department of Fish and Game to harden the West Creek trail near Sunny Point! The hardened trail will help protect the wetlands and recently re-vegetated riparian area.



SITKA TRAIL WORKS, INC.

September 12: We would like to thank the City and Borough of Sitka Assembly for providing Sitka Trail Works with a \$9,000 non-profit grant!

We will be using this grant to leverage other funds for trail projects.

JUNEAU PARKS & RECREATION

August 26: Exciting update on the realignment of the Kaxdigoowu Héen Dei Trail! Work begins this week and will go through mid-October. Please follow all posted signs and detours during construction.

SOUTHEAST LINKS

- Sitka Trail Works' "On The Paper Trail" newsletter (Fall 2019): <http://tinyurl.com/y5fskbou>
- Video: This Juneau high schooler just made your beach access easier: <http://tinyurl.com/y3flrff5>

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 news publications: <http://www.americantrails.org/trailtracks/index.html>

VOLUNTEERING

- American Hiking Society's Volunteer Vacations: <http://tinyurl.com/ydh95kp8>
- Volunteer Stewardship Tools: www.americantrails.org/resources/volunteer-stewardship-tools
- American Trails Volunteer Portal: www.americantrails.org/connect/volunteer
- Conservation International VIP newsletter (October): <http://tinyurl.com/y4czybqt>
- American Hiking Society's 2020 Alternative Spring Break schedule: <http://tinyurl.com/yxbnlema>

ADVOCACY

- Opinion: Hunters Pay for Conservation. Hikers Should Too: <http://tinyurl.com/y5tp5hxx>
- Tell Congress to Protect, Preserve, and Expand Trails and Public Lands: <http://tinyurl.com/y653vuo2>
- Americans Love Public Lands And Species Conservation But How Do We Pay For Them? (suggested actions at end of this opinion piece): <http://tinyurl.com/y2cph49x>

CONTESTS

- National Recreational Trail photo contest (**deadline Dec 15**): <http://tinyurl.com/y72do9vl>

TRAIL GUIDES

- Oahu's 7 Best Hiking Trails Have One Thing in Common — Breathtaking Ocean Views: <http://tinyurl.com/y4whxse6>
- Top running trails in D.C.: www.nbcsports.com/washington/redskins/top-running-trails-dc
- The 3 Best Hikes for Gem Hunters: <http://tinyurl.com/y3z7pg5r>
- Mountain biking in the Catskills: 10 great trails for thrill seekers and beginners: <http://tinyurl.com/y4wbfjg>

- Best 6 Fall Bike Trails in the U.S.A.: <http://tinyurl.com/y5n8wdc8>
- The Great Eight California Bike Trails: <http://tinyurl.com/yxr8p7r7>
- Here are some Nashville-area trails and hikes worth exploring this fall: <http://tinyurl.com/yy2ordw2>

FUNDING

- Take a Hike: Why a Foundation is Giving Millions for Nature Trails: <http://tinyurl.com/y5xhjazz>
- What the America's Transportation Infrastructure Act (ATIA) Means for Trails: <http://tinyurl.com/y6zeu8n2>

OTHER NATIONAL LINKS:

- Electric bikes soon to be humming along national park trails: <http://tinyurl.com/y5ab5pdw>
- Are Trails in Colorado Harming Wildlife?: <http://tinyurl.com/yxnvjb4d>
- Be a Good Steward of Public Land: 10 Tips for Equestrian Trail Riders: <http://tinyurl.com/y5yh5uud>
- Guidance for Managing Informal Trails: <http://tinyurl.com/yyyjdlasz>
- Rebuilding Trails After the Carr Fire in California: <http://tinyurl.com/y6guebox>
- Why You Might Consider Conservation Corps on Your Next Trail Project: <http://tinyurl.com/y4cc4uof>
- Which National Park Properties Allow Bikes On Trails? We Have a List for That: <http://tinyurl.com/yyeob3hv>
- The Hills Are Alive With The Sound Of Music And I'm Not Happy About It: <http://tinyurl.com/yywtbqx2>

INTERNATIONAL LINKS:

- New 800-mile trail launched to promote access to the countryside (UK): <http://tinyurl.com/y6ob3brj>
- The 5 most extreme hiking trails in Hong Kong: <http://tinyurl.com/y56gj968>
- China adds more national trails to boost forest tourism: <http://tinyurl.com/yxucq4gd>
- 10 Best Bike Trails Around The World: <http://tinyurl.com/yxwszx6h>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- The World's Most Thrilling Pedestrian Suspension Bridges: <http://tinyurl.com/yxbpa52g>
- America's public lands and waters need help of Congress (opinion): <http://tinyurl.com/y3lw4od4>
- Does Bear Spray Work?: <https://www.outsideonline.com/2401248/does-bear-spray-work>

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