



NEWSLETTER

Aug
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www.alaska-trails.org

ALASKA TRAILS NEWS AND NOTICES

ALASKA TRAILS NOW HAS A TRUCK FOR TRAILS WORK!

Thanks to a grant from the Rasmuson Foundation and a donation from Kendall Ford of Anchorage, Alaska Trails was able to purchase a truck.

The vehicle will be used in conjunction with the Youth Employment in Parks (YEP) program in Anchorage, which is directed by our Trails Technician Kristen Mrozowski. The truck will also be able to tow the Alaska Trails tool trailer to volunteer events. The truck is already in action and has been to various YEP worksites and to Hatcher Pass State Park.



We are grateful for the support and eager to harness the horsepower of the truck to maximize the volunteer power of the Alaska Trail Stewards!

SOUTH FORK RIM TRAIL WORK NOT UNANIMOUSLY APPLAUDED

Work on the South Fork Rim Trail, led by Alaska Trails, has led to some criticism and some praise.

Long-time Anchorage nature and outdoor writer Bill Sherwonit had an article in the Anchorage Press that questions whether the rerouted trail was improved or “transformed into something unrecognizable.”

The redesigned trail's character has been fundamentally changed, especially along its lower section. Once appealing—or “friendly”—to skiers, walkers, and mountain-biking types alike, that lower section is now a biker's dream, with a series of tight 180-degree (or more) bends on sloped sections of trail, plus many exaggerated bumps, followed closely by dips, a combination that some call “jumps.” Many bikers enjoy such structures.



It can be reasonably argued that the same section of rebuilt trail has become something of a skier's nightmare, especially if you're a cross-country skier of beginning to moderate ability who doesn't like to

negotiate sharp, twisting bends on slick, hard-packed snow. Or even fresh powder.

Though park staff and biking enthusiasts might not consider the newly constructed curves to be hairpin turns, I would argue they'll be exactly that for many skiers, intimidating enough to keep some away. And that's a big change.

To see the Sherwonit's entire article, click here: <http://tinyurl.com/y27rebtv>

We posted the story on our Facebook page and got two responses. Lee Bolling said "I like the new reroute!" Corky Still wrote "I think it's a much better trail for both skiing and biking. Not much of a hiker, but as a trail runner the turns and lower grade are more fun. The old trail had all of the problems this opinion piece claims the new trail has: steep grades inducing excessive speeds, poor sight lines and blind corners, and muddy or icy conditions due to poor water management."

We also asked the opinion of the contractor that redesigned and rerouted the trail, Jon Underwood, owner of Happy Trails, Inc. Here's some of what he had to say:

The old trail had a lot of issues, including long areas of seeps with failing boardwalk, many over-steep sections (grades 10-18%), and an original tread 15 feet wide that caused ongoing maintenance issues for brushing and drainage. It actually had most of the issues that Mr. Sherwonit claims are a problem for the new trail.

The new trail lowers the grade and makes the trail much mellower for all users. It was designed as a multi-use non-motorized trail, which means that the designed user had to include hikers, skiers, and mountain bikers, as well as snow-shoers, winter fat-bikers, and trail runners. This type of trail requires some compromises in design. The design takes all of these uses into account, but cannot do all things for all users.

Nevertheless, the new trail is far better than the old one. The grade seldom surpasses 7%, keeping speeds low for descending bikers and skiers. Skiers will no longer be trapped into straight, steep, glaciated hellslide downhills and unable to stop. More and better views are now available over a larger variety of viewsheds. The route avoids the worst of the mountainside seeps and springs while providing dry passage for users. Great care was taken to provide firm, stable tread and drainage in the few wet areas. Turns are mildly banked to help hold skiers and bikers on the trail. The trail itself is far more interesting as it winds through a variety of terrain and vegetation types. It's contour design fits into the natural environment and lies lighter on the land than the old homesteader trail that formed the basis for the original trail. The many changes in grade and viewpoints provide places to stop for a breather, admire the view, and chat with friends.

Any change in a trail's route invites possible controversy. We took on this project because we felt the need was strong. We wanted to create a trail that was usable by many, even though we understood it would not be perfect for all. We are sorry to those who feel the reroute has hurt the character of the trail, but we hope the work we spearheaded allows the trail to be appreciated by a wider number of trail users.

ALASKA TRAILS HAS TOOL TRAILERS READY FOR TRAIL PROJECTS

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

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



ALASKA TRAIL STEWARDS NEEDS PEOPLE WHO LOVE TRAILS

VOLUNTEER Come join the Alaska Trail Stewards on one of our several trail work projects this summer. 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 scheduled so far. 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>

- Aug 3: Whittier Trail Work Day
- Aug 10: Middle Fork Trail Work Day
- Aug 13: Government Hill: Brown's Point Park
- Aug 17: Settlers Bay Coastal Park (Mat-Su)
- Aug 20: Government Hill: Brown's Point Park
- Aug 24: Middle Fork Trail Work Day
- Sept 7: Middle Fork Trail Work Day
- Sept 21: Settlers Bay Coastal Park (Mat-Su)
- Sept 28: Middle Fork Trail Work Day



(Mike Downs photo of volunteers working on the Middle Fork Trail in Chugach State Park.)

SEEN RECENTLY ON THE ALASKA TRAILS FACEBOOK PAGE

July 23: This one's not to miss! REI's first First Friday with a legendary climber. Dolly Lefever was the first American woman to complete climbs of the Seven Summits (the tallest mountain on every continent). Join REI and this Alaska Sports Hall of Fame inductee for an intimate evening of amazing tales and a celebration of mountain life-style (**August 2**). <http://tinyurl.com/yywctmz7>



July 18: Building and maintaining trails requires the right tools. Recognize this one? Today we're shining the spotlight on one of the most popular trail tools: the PULASKI! Commonly used by wildland firefighters, the Pulaski proves useful to trail workers because it's so good at chopping through tough roots and digging into soil.

July 1: Thank you to all the volunteers who came out to Middle Fork on Saturday - it was a smoky one, but certainly productive! Cookies from Great Harvest Bread Co. Anchorage, AK made the event even sweeter.

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

EXECUTIVE BOARD HAS OPENINGS FOR INTERESTED PEOPLE

Alaska Trails is always interested in hearing from people who might want to serve as board members. By serving on the board you help guide our group in its mission "to enhance the Alaska trail experience by supporting sustainable, world-renowned trails through advocacy and education." If you would like to run for the board sometime in the future, please contact us (info on masthead).

ALASKA TRAILS LINKS

- Travel Tuesday: Caring for Alaska's trails: <http://tinyurl.com/y5wqvxyq>

STATEWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

TRAIL PROGRAMS STILL CAUGHT IN STATE BUDGET WRANGLING

As of this newsletter deadline, the future of the state trail programs is still unclear.

At last report the three main state trail programs (Recreational Trails Program, Land and Water Conservation Fund, and Snowmobile Trails Program) were in the Capital Budget, which finally passed the state Legislature on Monday. However, Gov. Mike Dunleavy still may veto all or portions of the capital budget. As of Monday, he said he was studying the budget that just passed to determine what, if anything, he will veto. **If you would like to advocate for one or all of the trail programs, contact Gov. Dunleavy at: <https://gov.alaska.gov/contact/>**

To read more about the budget passing the Legislature see his Associated Press story: <http://tinyurl.com/yxtyv7c9>

NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY TO BE CELEBRATED IN SEPTEMBER

At least one event will be held in celebration of National Public Lands Day. More are expected to be listed as the day—held this year on Saturday, September 28—comes nearer. The one event listed so far is the Alaska Trail Stewards trail work party on the Middle Fork Trail. For more information on that see: <http://tinyurl.com/y4p9fz2g>



National Public Lands Day is the nation's largest, single-day volunteer events for public lands, held annually on the fourth Saturday in September. NPLD brings together hundreds of thousands of individuals and organizational volunteers to help restore America's public lands. This year marks the 25th NPLD. The event began in 1979. For more info see: <https://www.neefusa.org/npld>

REC TRAILS PROGRAM GRANT OUTREACH DUE IN SEPTEMBER

Gov. Mike Dunleavy's budget directed all Recreational Trail Program funding to state parks, but the Legislature has so far directed about half the funding to community organizations. If the Legislature's mandate survives the budget process, then community organizations will be able to apply for RTP funds. Therefore, the following notice is currently valid.

It's time to get your Recreational Trails Program grant application started.

RTP grants provide reimbursable, matching funds to develop and repair recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both non-motorized and motorized recreational trail uses. Grants are also available for trail-related environmental protection, safety, and educational projects. The grants are administered through the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation. The timeline is below. Questions? Contact the State Trails Coordinator at (907) 269-8699.

- Applicants must begin public outreach on their proposed projects by September 15;
- Grant applications must be submitted by October 15.

STATEWIDE LINKS

- GVEA has requested modification to Northern Intertie easement including allow winter access via the Rex and Cosna trails (**comment deadline Aug 29**): <http://notice.alaska.gov/194992>
- The 12 Best Bike Trails of 2019 for Summer Activities (includes Tony Knowles Coastal Trail): <http://tinyurl.com/y3x8arjm>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Early Birds Save the Most on Summit Registration; Confluence Comes to Talkeetna Sept. 25 – 27 (**Aug 1 deadline**): <http://tinyurl.com/y6y4kwrv>
 - Top 5 Reasons to Get On the Road to the Confluence Summit in Talkeetna: <http://tinyurl.com/y3dx78ec>
- The Alaska Statewide Active Transportation Plan (Bicycle and Pedestrian) has been updated and adopted by the Department of Transportation: <http://notice.alaska.gov/194803>
- Mountain biking — try it, you might rock it: <http://tinyurl.com/y452m9on>
- Upstream Paddling with Helium: driB Creek, Alaska: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hk_ABpj6K-Q
- Packraft Safety: How Do We Prepare for Rescue? Backcountry Ranger Monica Morin Discusses Eight Important Factors to Consider: <http://tinyurl.com/y5gvvfsh>
- Amendment 4 to the 2018-2021 STIP is open for Public Comment: <http://notice.alaska.gov/194950>
- Woman dies trying to reach famed 'Into the Wild' bus: <http://tinyurl.com/y3qm3uu7>

SOUTHCENTRAL NEWS AND NOTICES

APPLICATIONS FOR KENAI-TURNAGAIN AREA GRANTS DUE IN AUGUST

August 20 is the application deadline for Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm (KMTA) National Heritage Area grants. Applications will be reviewed at the September board meeting.

The KMTA area comprises the north-south road, rail, and trail corridors from Bird to Seward and includes the communities of Girdwood, Portage, Moose Pass, Cooper Landing, Sunrise, Hope, Portage, Whittier and Indian. KMTA awards grants to community projects that recognize, preserve, and interpret the historic, scenic, and natural recreational resources and cultural landscapes of the Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm historic transportation corridor, including trails. Projects must be located within the KMTA Heritage Area, be sponsored by a community, non-profit or government organization, and commit a minimum match of funding for at least 50% of project costs. For more information and to apply for a grant see: <https://www.kmtacorridor.org/grants/>

CAMPBELL CREEK WATERSHED SURVEY INCLUDES TRAIL USERS

The Anchorage Waterways Council (AWC) is working on the scoping for a Campbell Creek Watershed Plan. The resulting plan will be a document that guides how we manage, improve, and care for this great Anchorage asset. If you float it, fish it, bike its trail, or just enjoy nature--**please participate in this survey** at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/gyqnrh> it takes only 5-10 minutes. Please know that your input will be included in our scoping document.

(From What's Up? by Peg Tileston)

STATE PARKS FACEBOOK FULL OF SOUTHCENTRAL TRAIL NEWS

July 29: Wondering what trails to hit up next so you can expand your world of getting outside? "Walk-About Guide to Alaska- Volume three" (Ship Creek Valley to Hatcher Pass) is being released. Anchorage freelance writer and author, Shawn Lyons, is an avid hiker and author of three "Walkabout Guides to Alaska" covering the Chugach Mountains; Palmer and Hatcher Pass; and Kenai and Turnagain Arm. You'll also find him volunteering on trail maintenance projects here and there.

HATCHER PASS

July 19: A big THANKS to Alaska Trails and Alaska Trail Stewards for coordinating two days of volunteer work at Independence Mine State Historical Park this week (Friday and Saturday).

The Hatcher Pass Trail Crew and Mat-Su area parks employees are hard at work with the Alaska Trail Stewards in Hatcher Pass. The two day volunteer project occurs today and tomorrow at Independence Mine SHP. They will be repairing damaged fencing and hardening trail tread on the IMSHP trail system. Efforts begin at 9 am and will end at approximately 4 pm both days. Volunteers should check in with Parks staff upon arrival.



July 6: The Hatcher Pass Trail Crew has been working hard to improve access and safety on the Hatcher Pass trail system. We have multiple hiking opportunities for all hiking desires including April Bowl, Gold Mint, Gold Cord Lake, Arch Prospect, Lane Basin, Ray Wallace, Marmot Mountain (Fishhook) and Reed Lakes. Visitors can also stroll through the Independence Mine State Historic Park complex and enjoy views from the Mill Loop and Hard Rock trails. We also provide a downhill single track bike trail at Mile 16. Revegetation work is being done on the Gold Cord Lake trail so please stay on the marked trail and avoid the fall line social trail.

KACHEMAK BAY STATE PARK

July 28: We love our volunteers! Thanks to Alejandro, Alex, Susan, Vicki and Zaida for their efforts helping to brush a section of trails near the Halibut Cove Lagoon ranger station earlier this week, working alongside our ranger station hosts, Darren and Julie.



This was an overnight work party, with volunteers working during the day and relaxing in the evenings, tucked into the ranger station bunkhouse. Volunteers reported that the hosts were fantastic, treated them to blueberry pie and hot showers and that they played (picked berries and hiked) as hard as they worked. Yay!

Alaska State Parks will be hosting another overnight work party in August, painting buildings, repairing an outhouse and removing old appliances. This work party is already full, thanks to a family visiting from out of state as well as local volunteers.

We are always looking for folks to lend a hand in beautiful Kachemak Bay State Park. For more information, **to complete a volunteer form and to sign up for our work parties and guided hikes**, contact volunteer coordinator Christina Whiting, kbayvolunteer@gmail.com, 907-435-7969.

Love our local park? Thank a volunteer. Be a volunteer.

July 14: The bears are out in all the parks. There have been more encounters reported at Alpine Ridge in Kachemak Bay as well. Remember to hike in groups when possible. Make noise, carry bear deterrent and know how to use it. Keep all food, garbage, toothpaste, deodorant, cosmetics, and other hygienic items in a bear proof container. If camping: Prepare and cook food at least 100 yards from all tents. Yours and your neighbors.

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR GOVERNMENT PEAK AREA TRAIL WORK

VOLUNTEER Valley Mountain Bikers and Hikers volunteers will be out on the Government Peak Recreation Area (GPRA) trails every Tuesday night in August hand finishing and fixing trails for all of us to enjoy. Please come and lend a hand. We need all able-bodied hikers and bikers to get the trails in shape. No experience is necessary. We supply the tools and training, you supply the muscle and good energy.

We meet at 6 p.m. in the GPRA parking area. Bring work gloves, water, and bug spray.

FYI - If you put in 8 hours of volunteer time on the trails you are eligible for a MSB Parking Pass that can be used at all Borough-owned trailheads and parks.

For questions contact Mike Danz (akdanz@gmail.com) or Rene' Dervaes (rene.dervaes@gmail.com).

(From Valley Mountain Bikers and Hikers email)

A GLIMPSE OF TRAIL NEWS IN SOUTHCENTRAL FACEBOOK PAGES

ANCHORAGE PARKS AND RECREATION

July 24: Construction update: crews will be repairing an area at the Audubon viewing platform along the Tony Knowles Coastal Trail, between the Fish Creek bridge and the S. Westchester Lagoon underpass. Work is starting today, Wednesday, July 24th and repairs are expected to take about 10 days.

No trail closures are expected but there may be some delays and flaggers will direct trail users as needed.

Thank you for your patience!



July 18: The Chester Creek Trail singletrack project has begun! About 1.5 miles of soft surface trail will be constructed between Valley of the Moon Park and Goose Lake Park, using existing social trails and disturbed land.

The Chester Creek Trail remains open and we don't anticipate any impacts to trail users during construction. We expect this work to be complete by September 1st, weather dependent. You can learn more about this project at bit.ly/2Z1rmJk

Thanks for your patience while we construct these trails!

Update: Construction for this project is expected to last until September. The main Chester Creek Trail will remain open and will not be impacted by this work.

July 5: Phase 3 construction on Campbell Creek Trail is complete and the trail is open! Phase 3 was the section of trail from north of Taku Lake to Lynwood Park.

Thanks for your patience while these repairs were completed!

MAT-SU TRAILS AND PARKS FOUNDATION

July 11: We wanted to let you know that for the second year in a row we are sponsoring of the Active Soles Footwear, 6 Peak Challenge Adventure Book. As part of our sponsorship, we are hosting six adventure hikes throughout the summer including (Wishbone Hill, Eska Falls, Gunsight Mtn, Mat Peak Bowl, Pioneer Peak to the Picnic Table, and Craigie Creek / Dogsled Pass). We would love for you to join us for one or all of these hikes. Our next hike is Gunsight Mtn! Watch our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/MatSuTrailsandParksFoundation/>) or sign up for our eNewsletter to get notifications about upcoming events.

This year we are also sponsoring the end of season celebration for the Adventure Book by hosting our first ever Dutch Oven Cook-Off at the event and we are asking all of our friends consider

participating as a cook-off team! This event will be a great opportunity to make new friends with a great group of trails and parks lovers like yourselves and you can show off your camp/backcountry cooking skills (or develop new ones). Here is the link for more information about the cook-off:

https://matsutrails.org/?page_id=3064&preview=true

SOUTHCENTRAL LINKS

- Mineral Creek Trails (Valdez)- Easement application for existing trails (**comment deadline Aug 1**): <http://notice.alaska.gov/194762>
- Public easement for proposed ATV access trail near Fox River, Homer (**comment deadline Aug 26**): <http://notice.alaska.gov/194971>
- Popular trail on private land near Eagle River's Mount Baldy closed to the public: <http://tinyurl.com/y6y6kdsf>
- Downhill Mountain Biking in Alaska - (Hatcher Pass, video, 18 min): <http://tinyurl.com/yymf5aga>
- \$36,500 in grants help Anchorage, Homer improve street safety: <http://tinyurl.com/y4bdeypl>
- Government Hill residents seek connectedness, community through new trail: <http://tinyurl.com/y5onw7uw>
- Which Parks (and trails) Are Open, And Which Remain Closed (on Kenai Peninsula): <http://tinyurl.com/y3tspwgk>
- New singletrack bike trails come to Midtown Anchorage: <http://tinyurl.com/yxqmx94s>
- Alaska's First Via Ferrata Opens at Tordrillo Mountain Lodge: <http://tinyurl.com/y3zvtug>
- Outdoor Explorer radio show: Exploring Hatcher Pass: <http://tinyurl.com/y67v9mht>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- REI Anchorage regularly has trail-related classes (some are free, some cost): <http://tinyurl.com/y3xuczfb>
- Summit snacks and dreams of lawn chairs lead to a women's speed record in the Chugach front range: <http://tinyurl.com/y4yrmudo>
- Lars Arneson slashes three hours from 12-peak Challenge speed record: <http://tinyurl.com/yyhgr6vn>
- At Gunsight Mountain, a teen and a stepmom bond as they hike: <http://tinyurl.com/y6aqor3p>

INTERIORWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

PLAN THAT WOULD AFFECT NORTH POLE TRAILS MOVING FORWARD

ADVOCATE The tentative adoption schedule for the Salcha-Badger Road Area Plan has been released. While this plan is not trails-specific, it would affect land that has trails north of Peede Road that have no legal protections.

A group is trying to save some of that land from being sold. The lots nominated for sale are part of a larger area that is laced with trails and is used by a variety of motorized and non-motorized trail users. There are several actions you can take, so if you use trails in that area, please check out the website:

<http://peedetrails4all.org/>

The schedule for adoption of the Salcha-Badger Road Area Plan is:

- August 22nd – FNSB Assembly first reading of resolution to adopt the plan (tentative)

- September 5th – FNSB Assembly work session (tentative)
- September 12th – FNSB Assembly public hearing (tentative)

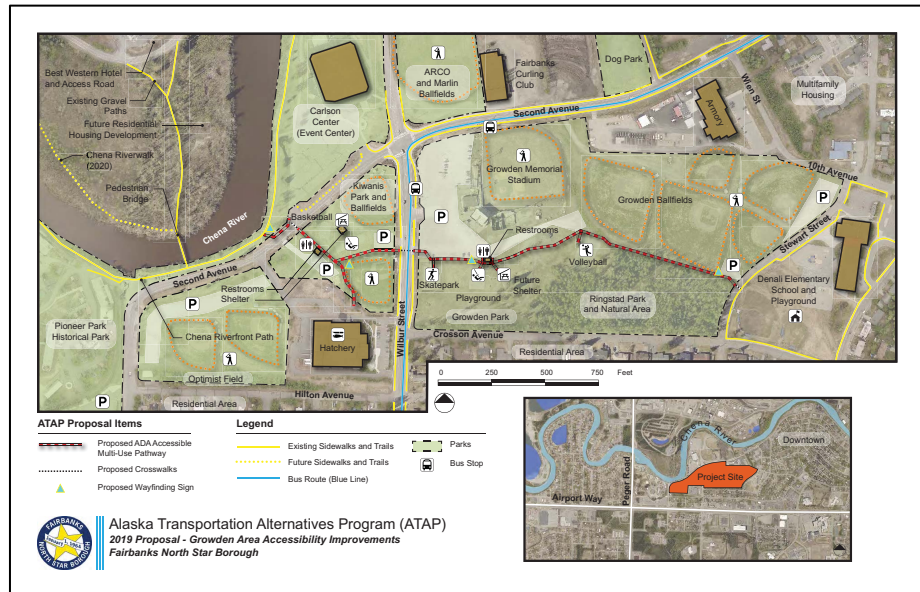
To learn more about the plan see: <http://salchabadgerplan.com/>

BOROUGH TO BUILD PAVED PATH THROUGH GROWDEN AREA PARKS

The Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly recently approved funding to help make a new paved path through Growden park complex a reality.

The assembly voted 9-0 in July to spend \$87,800 for match funding to secure a \$973,000 grant for the project.

“The 8-foot-wide, asphalt-paved, ADA accessible path will run from the Chena Riverfront Path through Growden, Kiwanis, and Ringstad parks (Growden Complex) to Denali Elementary School and the Ruth Burnett Fish Hatchery,” according to Brian Charlton, FNSB parks project coordinator. The new nonmotorized, multi-use path will improve safety and access and provide an important east-west transportation corridor for non-motorized travelers, Charlton wrote in an email.



“The Growden

Complex includes over 120 acres of parks and facilities that serve the entire Fairbanks population and attracts thousands each year,” Charlton wrote. “The Borough is working with community partners to rehabilitate these park facilities. This project provides the backbone that ties these facilities and the surrounding area together with accessible routes between important community attractions such as Pioneer Park, the Carlson Activity Center, Growden Memorial Stadium, the Ruth Burnett Fish Hatchery, local parks, and surrounding neighborhoods.”

The ordinance appropriating the funds can be seen here: <http://tinyurl.com/yxyczus>

INTERIOR FACEBOOK SITES CONTAIN LOTS OF TRAIL NEWS

ALASKA STATE PARKS FACEBOOK

July 28: The Northern Region trail crew is hard at work! Check out this brand new 1 ½ miles of boardwalk on the Granite Tors Trail in Chena River State Recreation Area. Thanks to the Recreational Trails Program, the original 1983 boardwalk has been upgraded to all weather wood. The project took three seasons to complete. A final sweep will be made this winter to remove old boards. Way to go Northern Region trail crew!



INTERIOR ALASKA LAND TRUST FACEBOOK

July 21: Thanks to the hard work of the REI Trails Day volunteers last month, the walking trail along the historic Cripple Creek channel is ready for you to enjoy! To access: Park by the Justa Store and walk (carefully) across Chena Ridge Road just west of the culvert. Look for the brown sign. Upon reaching the powerline trail, just follow the pink tape. More foot traffic = a well worn in trail. Look closely and you might find some exciting forest-dwellers!

FAIRBANKS AREA HIKING CLUB FAN PAGE

July 25: Chinook Conservation Trail along the historic Cripple Creek channel within the Chena Flats Greenbelt(550 Acres) This trail, approximately 2.25 miles, opened last month as a conservation project to preserve open space here in Fairbanks, Alaska. It was a bit rough in some areas but I can tell there has been quite of bit of work done to get the trail ready for the community! Thankful for those trailblazers who put in all that work! We saw lots of old moose poop and some fresh tracks.. Can't say I enjoyed the mosquitos though having forgotten the bug spray 😞

July 2: If you're looking for a place to get out of town when the smoke gets bad, the Denali Highway is a good choice. It was a bit hazy this past weekend, but not too bad. Here are some fun trail opportunities:

—Tangle Ridge Hiking Trail: This starts at Tangle Lakes Campground and rises gently to the ridge with 360-degree views of the area, including Lower Tangle Lake. Once on the ridge, the trail stays high and basically ends at a gravelly part of one ridge. Someone has built a spiral path out of rocks there.

(Actually, two. There's a smaller one earlier on.) A trail extends further and slowly peters out and splits up, but you can hike quite a ways on ridge tops. This is a great hike for anyone, but especially for families with young kids. They'll love the rock spiral! <https://www.blm.gov/visit/tangle-lakes-foot-trail>

--Maclaren Summit Trail: This is also an easy-to-hike ATV trail that extends just over 8 miles to Sevenmile Lake. You can go all the way to the lake or just do an out-and-back as far as you want. The trail passes several small lakes. We biked it on Sunday and saw just one other pair of bikers on this section. We also saw lots of wildflowers and birds, including some golden plovers!

<http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/tlad/pdf/tlad9.pdf>

—Landmark Gap Trail: Starts at Mile 24.6 Denali Highway. It's an easy 3-mile hike on a 4WD trail. Little elevation gain or drop. Ends at the southern end of gorgeous Landmark Gap Lake, a great place to go fishing or wading. (There is a side trail there, but please don't follow it as it leads to a sensitive archeological area.) This is another great hike for families. It's open to motorized use, but on a beautiful Saturday afternoon I met only one other person, a woman walking her dog.

<http://www.alaska.org/detail/landmark-gap-trail-north>



No really good sources of information for these trails. I've added a few (above). Also check out this Fairbanks Cycling Club post, which shows how the Maclaren Summit and Glacier Gap trails connect:

<http://tinyurl.com/y36w8ob5>

NORDIC SKI CLUB OF FAIRBANKS

DONATE July 18: The Nordic Ski Club of Fairbanks helps maintain the trails at Birch Hill in summer (and winter). In the summer the ski club: Removes downed trees, repairs erosion damage, brushes trail edges, maintains trail signs, helps the borough with rec area improvements. The Borough Parks and

Rec Department makes improvements and mows the trails in August and September. Together we help keep the trails in great shape for summer (and winter) use.

This maintenance isn't free. Please consider a donation so that the ski club can continue helping to maintain the trails. If you're ready to donate, just go to the NSCF home page (www.nscfairbanks.org) and then to the "Support NSCF" dropdown menu. From there click on "Birch Hill Trail Fund."

Have a great summer on the Birch Hill trails!

FAIRBANKS BOROUGH TRAILS CHALLENGE RUNS THROUGH SEPT 30

How many trails can you explore this summer? Take the Fairbanks Trails Challenge!

Scattered around the Fairbanks North Star Borough Trails System are 12 Fairbanks Trails Challenge signs. Challenge yourself, your friends and family to find as many as you can.

This year's Summer Challenge will take place from June 20 to September 30 and is free for anyone who wants to participate. Just find each sign, and photograph yourself with the sign in the background. Then share your "selfie" photo on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram by typing "#FNSBtrails" in your post, OR post your picture on our FNSB Parks & Rec Facebook page, OR email parks@fnsb.us your photos.

To help you find the signs, download the Fairbanks Trail Challenge booklet at:

<http://tinyurl.com/yx9buqnm>

If you can prove you made it to at least 10 Summer Challenge Trails you will earn the elusive "Trailblazer Award" and be placed in a drawing for awesome prizes from our sponsors! Questions? Contact Bryant Wright at bwright@fnsb.us or 907-459-7401.

For more info and how to register see:

- Facebook Event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/334369447465250/>
- Trails Challenge webpage: <http://tinyurl.com/y3lq8rdn>

OVER TIME FAIRBANKS AREA TRAIL CROSSINGS TO GET SIGNS

New trail crossing signs should start appearing on roads around in the Fairbanks North Star Borough over the next few years. The editor of this newsletter recently noticed that no signs marked the place where the Skarland/Equinox Marathon Trail crosses Yankovich Road near the Large Animal Research Station. He contacted the state Department of Transportation and Public Facilities. This was the reply from Caitlin Frye, the department's northern region information officer:

I heard back from our traffic and safety engineer and she said a plan to install a trail crossing sign at that location is in the works. Our staff has been working with the borough's Trails Coordinator to identify trail crossings that warrant signing, and this is one of the spots they identified in that process. As you likely know, our department has a limited budget, so we are trying to install the signs as part of federally-funded construction projects whenever possible. The sign on Yankovich will be installed while the Yankovich/Miller Hill Reconstruction project is being constructed, which is currently expected to occur in 2022. I know that's a long way out, but these signs aren't cheap to install and we try to leverage federal funding whenever possible. It's always a budget balance here, and anything more we take on with state funds means something else doesn't get done.

INTERIORWIDE LINKS

- **ATTEND** Off-road vehicle park in works for Tanana Lakes: <http://tinyurl.com/yyr9awse>
 - Info for News-Miner nonsubscribers: Fairbanks Offroad Lions Facebook page or call Cory Bellows (378-8240).

- ‘Prindle personal trainers’ keep hikers motivated: <http://tinyurl.com/y2ef38zt>
- Summer Trails Challenge done in one day: <http://tinyurl.com/yxksv7hz>
- Foundation seeks path to better trails, parks: <http://tinyurl.com/yxscnagx>
- Granite Tors Trail in Chena River Recreation Area reopens as Nugget Creek fire cools: <http://tinyurl.com/y3lij5sc>
- New Denali Highway trails create a loop of spectacular scenery: <http://tinyurl.com/y2qx4cuf>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- REI Fairbanks regularly has trail-related classes (some are free, some cost): <http://tinyurl.com/y5lk5hot>

SOUTHEAST NEWS AND NOTICES

SOUTHEAST GROUPS SHARE TRAILS SUCCESS ON FACEBOOK

TRAIL MIX, INC (Juneau)



July 24: This week marks the first of four weeks that one of our crews will be out working on the Switzer Creek Trail. The crew will be pulling up old, slippery boardwalk that was recently flooded. We will be replacing that boardwalk by laying sections of turnpike and gravel. Gravel doesn't get quite as slippery as wood.

JOIN July 17: Hope you all are finding time this week to enjoy our beautiful trails! If you would like to help Trail Mix continue to improve Juneau's world-class trail system, consider becoming a member. For as little as \$35 a year, you can help us keep these trails in tip-top shape all year round! <http://tinyurl.com/y6fg5dke>

July 3: A few weeks ago, one of our crews did some work up on Bonnie Brae, a section of the Treadwell Ditch Trail. The crew rerouted a section of trail 1500' around a dangerous washout that occurred earlier this year.

SITKA TRAIL WORKS

July 5: Check out this awesome Mt. Edgecumbe footage shot & edited by Irbert Vega. We are so thankful to him for sharing his images from June's Mt. Edgecumbe hike. Enjoy! <https://vimeo.com/345346953>

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
 - Trail Ambassadors program for National Recreation Trails: <http://tinyurl.com/y5sgnukn>
 - Volunteer Portal: www.americantrails.org/connect/volunteer

ADVOCACY

- Two Very Positive New Bill Introductions: Recreation Not Red-Tape & The Soar Act (includes sign-on letter): <http://tinyurl.com/y2v2gm6a>
- 218 Organizations Call on Congress to Provide Robust FY20 Funding for Trails (House): <http://tinyurl.com/y6o983ng>
- Keeping Momentum Alive for Recreation 2.0: <http://tinyurl.com/yvf24thl>
- Advocacy And Lobbying For 501 (C) (3) Organizations – Understand The Rules (written for OHV groups, but applicable for any 501(c)(3) organizations): <http://tinyurl.com/y5zjuffj>

TRAIL GUIDES

- Take a break from the city with these 5 hiking spots within 50 miles of Louisville: <http://tinyurl.com/y2vwufwb>
- 80+ Chicago area bike trails: Your guide for summer rides: <http://tinyurl.com/y28bnk4l>
- These Are 25 of the Best Running Trails in the U.S.: <http://tinyurl.com/y3omxg6z>
- The best trail running routes along the Front Range: <http://tinyurl.com/y6d5848d>

FUNDING

- Polaris T.R.A.I.L.S. grants (ATV trail projects; due March 1, Sept 1): <http://tinyurl.com/zcz8u7a>
- Looking For OHV Grant Opportunities? – Check Out NOHVCC's Grant Opportunities Webpage: <http://tinyurl.com/y6zvxvfn>

OTHER NATIONAL LINKS:

- Michigan national park is the first to allow visitors to use a powerful 'track chair' to experience trails: <http://tinyurl.com/yyqpoi6k>
- Things you can do to prevent break-ins at trail heads: <http://tinyurl.com/y4qzwd4o>
- Volunteers Provide Interpretive Information Along Paiute Trail On National Trails Day: <http://tinyurl.com/y4sju4u6>
- Mind the gap: Efforts aim to stitch together long trails in Pacific Northwest, getting hikers off highway's edge: <http://tinyurl.com/y6nzp4b2>
- Design A Trail to Last 100 Years: <http://tinyurl.com/y4xete2q>
- Trails Fund and Insurance Program: <http://tinyurl.com/y6r8gamx>
- These Adaptive Hikers Want More Accessible Trails: <http://tinyurl.com/y5fad626>
- Hawaii Struggles To Maintain Its Worn-Out Hiking Trails: <http://tinyurl.com/y57zqa8p>
- 2019 National Trails Day® Report: <http://tinyurl.com/y4b4uxsc>

- Now some of Maine's winter ski hubs will be year-round hiking and biking trails:
<http://tinyurl.com/y5esq4ln>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- The 6 Flavors of PNW Trail Builders: <http://tinyurl.com/y5lb75jl>

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