



NEWSLETTER

Sept
2019

PO Box 100627; Anchorage, AK 99510-0264

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www.alaska-trails.org

ALASKA TRAILS NEWS AND NOTICES

TRAIL TALES EVENT TO SUPPORT ALASKA TRAILS, KMTA

ATTEND Alaska Trails is excited to present another installment of the Trail Tales storytelling series.



We are excited to have the Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm National Heritage Area (KMTA) as our community partner for Trail Tales #15. In the spirit of Arctic Entries, storytellers will share seven-minute stories about their trail experiences, adventures and life in general. Come enjoy this fun event and support Alaska Trails and KMTA.

Trail Tales #15 will be held at 49th State Brewing Company (717 West 3rd, Anchorage) on Tuesday, September 17. Doors open at 6:30. Stories start at 7:00

pm. Tickets will be \$15. Pizza by the slice and drinks will be available for purchase throughout the evening. You can buy your tickets online at: <http://www.alaska-trails.org/trailtales.html>

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>

- Sept 7: Middle Fork Trail Work Day
- Sept 7: Whittier Trail Work Day
- Sept 10: Tuesday on the Trail: Govt Hill
- Sept 14: Middle Fork Trail Work Day
- Sept 21: Settlers Bay Coastal Park (Mat-Su)
- Sept 22: Trail Sweep, Celebration: Govt Hill
- Sept 28: Middle Fork Trail Work Day
- Oct 1: Tool Maintenance Party
- Oct 5: Whittier Trails and BBQ



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

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 bike, or a unique, guided Alaska adventure! Tickets are \$35 in advance at alaska-trails.org or \$50 at the door.

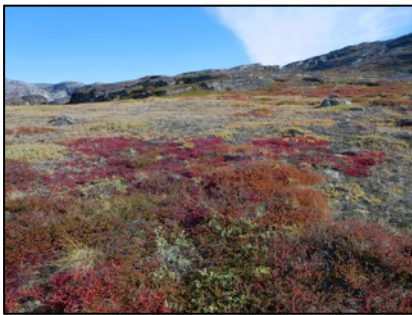
For more information, please contact us (info in masthead) or see our event page:

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

SEEN RECENTLY ON THE ALASKA TRAILS FACEBOOK PAGE

Aug 28: One of the neat things about working with the Hatcher Pass State Park trail crew is their attention to conservation.

For our project at Independence Mine this Saturday, we will form a fireline to bring gravel up to a new trail in the tundra. While many trail projects in Alaska rely on helicopters and mechanized equipment, this one is powered by humans.



Tundra is delicate terrain, and social trails establish themselves almost instantly if we veer off designated trails. The Hatcher Pass crew has opted not to use four wheelers to haul gravel to the worksite to reduce impact to the tundra. By hardening the trail with gravel, we will create a more durable, dry walking surface that will help keep people on the trail and reduce "braiding."

If you care about conservation and are free this Labor Day weekend, sign up to help out on this sustainable trail. We need you! <http://tinyurl.com/y4uj76jg>

Photo: "Lowland Tundra" by D-Stanley is licensed under CC BY 2.0

Aug 10: A big thank you goes to Blaine, Michelle, Bob, and Simon - these awesome trail stewards spent this beautiful sunny day building new trail on Middle Fork, helping to complete the mile-long section that Alaska Trails Stewards has been chipping away at all summer, alongside expert Alaska State Parks crews.

If you'd like to join us for a future event, we have several more on the schedule this summer!

Sign up for one today: <http://www.alaska-trails.org/current-volunteer-events.html>



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

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS TO OUR APPRECIATION PARTY

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 HAS TOOL TRAILERS READY FOR TRAIL PROJECTS



The trails building and maintenance season is not over yet. Don't forget 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 TRAILS NEEDS YOUR HELP TO PRESERVE, PROMOTE TRAILS

This newsletter is brought to you free by Alaska Trails. Our mission is to enhance the Alaska trail experience by supporting sustainable, world-renowned trails through advocacy and education. We couldn't do this without support from our members. Please join or renew your membership here: <http://www.alaska-trails.org/join.html>

FOUR EASY WAYS TO HELP FUND ALASKA TRAILS

With the help of other organizations, you can help Alaska Trails continue advocating for trails.

FRED MEYER REWARDS: Sign up for the Community Rewards program by linking your Fred Meyer



Rewards Card to Alaska Trails at www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards. You can search for Alaska Trails or by our nonprofit number – KU871. Then, every time you shop and use your rewards card, you are helping Alaska Trails earn a donation! You still earn your rewards points, fuel points, and rebates, just as you do today.

AMAZONSMILE: If you shop at Amazon, please take the simple extra step of signing up for AmazonSmile.



It's the same Amazon website, but when you shop from AmazonSmile, you can make a donation to Alaska Trails at the same time: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/73-1677483>

GOODSEARCH: GoodSearch.com is a search engine that donates half its revenue, about a penny per



search, to charities designated by the user. You use it just as you would any search engine, and, it's powered by Yahoo!. Just go to www.goodsearch.org and

be sure to enter Alaska Trails as the charity you want to support.

BAGOY'S: Anchorage-based Bagoy's Florist and Home helps through its Helping Hands web fundraising



program (<https://www.bagoys.com/programs/charitable-giving/>). When you order online from Bagoy's (www.bagoys.com) there is a check box at the bottom of the payment page that says "This is a Helping Hands order." When you check that box, the list of enrolled organizations are shown and you can choose Alaska Trails from the list.

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Steve Cleary, Executive Director



Still Time to Give Back to the Trails you Love

Don't listen to those snow happy friends of yours (and ignore that recent snow advisory for the eastern Interior); there's plenty of summer left, leaving you plenty of time to get out and enjoy some of Alaska's great trails. As you read these words, Alaskans are out recreating on trails across the state.

Alaska's trails improve our physical and mental health, boost our economy, and strengthen our social bonds. For residents and visitors alike, trails get us out, keep us active and help us access the outdoors.

While we all enjoy these amazing trails, we don't always consider how they are maintained or built. This summer, Alaska Trails has been teaming up with local land managers to help protect the trails we love and make sure that people can continue to enjoy them. Trail users who want to give back still have the opportunity to join up with other volunteers for a fun and engaging day (or more) of trail work this summer. Our Alaska Trail Stewards program is set to give volunteers all they need to give back to the trails they use and love.

Alaska Trails and Chugach State Park have collaborated all summer on the Middle Fork Trail. There will be several more events on the Middle Fork in September, highlighted by National Public Lands Day on Saturday, September 28. There are other volunteer days coming up, as well (see story on page 1).

Volunteers have provided lots of labor, this summer and in previous summers.

The Alaska Trail Stewards (ATS) volunteer program celebrated a successful 2018 season with 291 volunteers contributing over 1900 hours of labor at 23 separate events. In addition to the trails on Mat-Su Borough land, ATS volunteers worked on



public lands in Chugach State Park, Chugach National Forest, the City of Whittier, and Hatcher Pass State Park - amounting to \$52,644 in donated labor. We are set to surpass that in 2019 with 30 events - thanks to all the great volunteer support.

Summer is cooling off and turning to fall, but there's still time to get out and enjoy the great trails Alaska has to offer. If your schedule permits, we hope to see you at one of our volunteer events. No experience is necessary, just sturdy boots, a good attitude and a willingness to learn what it takes to keep our trails great.

See you on the trails,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steve Cleary".

STATEWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

STATE TRAIL PROGRAMS STILL ALIVE AFTER BUDGET BATTLE

Four state trail-related programs have survived the recent battle over the state budget. However, two of the programs were significantly affected.

The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) and Snowmobile Trails Program (STP) now have one less person to administer them. In addition, the State Legislature required that RTP funds be split between the state parks division and local community organizations. (Gov. Mike Dunleavy's administration had earlier tried to distribute RTP funds solely to state parks.) As a result, state employees are still working out how to administer the programs. Applications for them are not yet available. When all that is finalized, the Department of Natural Resources will issue an announcement to let people know they can again apply.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) saw some budget wrangling but survived. The program, which is not solely for trails but considers them "high priority projects," is available to local and regional governments. A call for applications for a new round of LWCF projects should be coming soon.

For more information on the RTP, LWCF, and the STP (also referred to as the Snowmobile Grant Program) see: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/grants/index.htm>

Matching funds for the Pittman-Robertson program also survived. Like the LWCF, the Pittman-Robertson program is not solely for trails, but it does pay for projects that increase hunter access. In an August interview with the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner (<http://tinyurl.com/y3dmh7qd>), Doug Vincent-Lang, commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, said "over the next few years, the department plans to use funds for projects including things like bolstering airstrips and restoring trails and parking lots."

NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY TO BE CELEBRATED IN SEPTEMBER

VOLUNTEER At least three events 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. Of the three events listed so far, one is definitely trail-related: 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>

CONFLUENCE ON OUTDOORS SET FOR SEPTEMBER IN TALKEETNA

Registration is now open for the Fourth Annual Confluence: Summit on the Outdoors, which will happen in Talkeetna on Sept. 25-27.



Confluence brings the outdoor recreation community together to explore and share ways to grow and promote Alaska's flourishing recreation economy. This year's conference will have an emphasis on strengthening gateway communities. Town planners, economic development staff and volunteer boards, rec planners, public land managers and elected officials will convene to learn, share and leave this event with more tools and resources to strengthen connections between communities and public lands for better economic, health and social well-being.

The summit is sponsored by Confluence AK whose mission is to strengthen businesses, improve lives and stimulate local economies through Alaska's outdoor recreation sector. To see the full agenda, go to <https://www.confluenceak.com/agenda>. To register, go to <https://www.confluenceak.com/talkeetna-registration>. For information on Confluence AK, go to <https://www.confluenceak.com/home>.

From What's Up? by Peg Tileston

STATEWIDE LINKS

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Anchorage cyclist breaks 8-day barrier in 1,053-mile race in Kyrgyzstan: <http://tinyurl.com/y4ojhzb8>
- Comment Period for Kantishna, Wonder Lake Planning Extended to Oct 31: <http://tinyurl.com/y5zmjxhk>
- BLM issues first review of Ambler Road project: <http://tinyurl.com/y2x9thhr>

SOUTHCENTRAL NEWS AND NOTICES

FIRST ADA ACCESSIBLE TRAIL BEING BUILT IN MAT-SU BOROUGH

Starting in August, VMBaH has been developing the first trail in a Mat-Su Borough park unit that follows Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines. The trail is inspired by Amy Schooley, who is wheelchair-bound and was not able to get out on the trails from Government Peak Recreation Area (GPRA) parking lot. Community member, Roy Wahl proposed the ADA trail to VMBaH this past winter and the work to find funding and an appropriate location began. The trail will originate at the main GPRA trailhead and terminate at a picnic area with spectacular views. VMBaH is excited to take this significant first step towards addressing a recreational challenge by developing opportunities for an under-represented user group. Building this new trail will expand trail access in Mat-Su Borough Parks and ensure that trail users of all abilities have recreational opportunities.

From VMBaH email newsletter

MAT-SU TRANSPORTATION FAIR TO INCLUDE TRAILS

The Mat-Su Transportation Fair will be held on September 12 from 3 to 7pm at Raven Hall, Alaska State Fairgrounds. The Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities, Mat-Su Borough, cities of Palmer and Wasilla, and the Alaska Railroad Corporation bring you the hottest updates on roads, rails and trails at this family-friendly, one-stop transportation fair. The event provides you information about many projects in your neighborhood and beyond. The Mat-Su Transportation Fair is free and open to the public. There is no cost for parking. For more information, go to <http://matsutranspofair.blogspot.com/>.

From What's Up? by Peg Tileston

KENAI NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA PHOTO CONTEST DEADLINE SOON

The deadline for the Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm (KMTA) National Heritage Area photo contest is September 30. Amateur and professional photographers are invited to submit images that capture the essence of the Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm National Heritage Area (KMTA), which includes the area's trails, or speak to KMTA's role in preserving, promoting and protecting the national heritage area. For more info go to www.kmtacorridor.org/photocontest or contact karenlewis@kmtacorridor.org.

From What's Up? by Peg Tileston

STATE PARKS FACEBOOK FULL OF SOUTHCENTRAL TRAIL NEWS

HATCHER PASS

Aug 23: UPDATES ON MAT-SU REGION, the DESHKA FIRES and HUNTING RESTRICTIONS:

Independence Mine SHP has a closed the gate at the entrance for staff safety (the smoke was affecting their lungs and eyes) and will not be staffed, but walk-in traffic is allowed.

Nancy Lake State Recreation Area is closed to recreation, however, the campground at Nancy Lake State Recreation Site is open. Access to boat across the lake to personal property is allowed but Lake recreation is closed.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game has issued two orders: 1) an emergency order for Willow Swamp area to be closed to hunting and 2) an order restricting hunting and public access to Willow Swamp area due to the Deshka Landing Fire. See details of both orders here:

<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=wcnews.main>

**Stay updated on fires throughout the state here: <https://akfireinfo.com/>

Thank you for your patience and cooperation!

SEWARD

Aug 14: Alaska State Parks staff recently built a tent platform in Caines Head State Recreation Area at South Beach. The new campsite is tucked in the woods along the beach. The views from South Beach are spectacular as you look out on the ocean as swells from the Gulf of Alaska crash along the beach.



Caines Head SRA is accessed from Seward, Alaska by boat, kayak or hiking in with (or without) the tide. For more information: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/units/caineshd.htm>

KACHEMAK BAY



Aug 24: Love our trails? **Thank a volunteer! Be a volunteer!**

Thanks to the many, many volunteers who have spent hundreds of hours helping Hig and Erin with Ground Truth Trekking build the Tutka Backdoor Trail this summer and summer's past, including Clark Fair who shared these gorgeous images during his numerous days working on the trail.

Aug 3: Volunteer Coordinator Christina Whiting and volunteer guide Taz Tally led a group of experienced hikers along the gorgeous, strenuous 13-mile roundtrip Blue Ice trail.

This was most of the hikers first time on this trail, which includes the fun and challenging tram experience! The group started the hike out by installing a new trailhead sign just above the high tide line at the Glacier Spit trailhead.

Thanks to the awesome hikers, to Taz for guiding and to Bay Excursions for providing discounted water taxi rates for hike transports into the park again this summer and to the HOWL group for recently clearing a section of the trail.



Want to join Alaska State Parks Homer staff on their guided hikes that vary from family friendly to advanced? Contact Christina at kbayvolunteer@gmail.com or stop by the Alaska State Park offices in Homer on the 2nd floor of the Islands & Ocean building and complete a volunteer form to receive email notifications of upcoming hikes.

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

Aug 16: Last week's fun walk along the Chester Creek Trail with some of the Health Promoters from Catholic Social Services - Alaska Refugee Assistance and Immigration Services! We've been working with a few community partners over the past year to develop resources that better connect people in the newcomer community to their neighborhood parks.



July 29: The Westchester Lagoon Nature Trail and parking lot rehabilitation is complete and the trail is open again!

The Westchester Lagoon Nature Trail was built in 1977-1978 as an ADA accessible multi-use trail where visitors could access the south banks of Chester Creek and connect to the main Chester Creek Trail. A neighbor dreamed of restoring this public space to its original intent and purpose and applied for an Anchorage Park Foundation Challenge Grant. The project grew from there with involvement from Steller Secondary School through the Schools on Trails program, Alaska Chapter ASLA, Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities, and a Salmon in the City grant from the Alaska Department of Natural Resources. The trail's function as a neighborhood connector to the main Chester Creek Trail makes it a perfect quiet spot to view a wide variety of plants and wildlife; we recommend checking it out!

ANCHORAGE PARK FOUNDATION

July 31: The Youth Employment in Parks crews earned their ice cream yesterday after making some finishing touches to the new Government Hill Bluff Trail! Assembly Member Christopher S. Constant stopped by to thank the teens for all of their hard work this summer.

SINGLETRACK ADVOCATES

Aug 7: Great turnout for tonight's work party! Twenty-seven people fixed drainage on Middle Earth, and weed whacked Change of Pace and Hanging Chad!

Aug 2: As you are out enjoying the South Fork Rim trail in the Chugach State Park, please be respectful of fellow trail users. This trail is 2-way and multi-use (hikers, runners, bikers, etc), so downhill users yield to uphill traffic. Slow down at blind corners and intersections to avoid collisions. Stay safe and have fun!

VALLEY MOUNTAIN BIKERS AND HIKERS

Aug 13: #trailbuilding in action! Yesterday, we took the first steps on our brand new #universalaccess #adacompliant trail out at GPRA. HUGE thanks to our contractor, Trailwerx and our volunteers!

SOUTHCENTRAL LINKS

- Public access easement for driveway, trailhead near Twentymile River (**comment ddline Sept 23**): <http://notice.alaska.gov/195250>
- Trails, campgrounds and cabins reopen as Swan Lake Fire dies down: <http://tinyurl.com/y5jhlhnp>
- Winds push smoke from Swan Lake fire to Kenai communities, closing trails: <http://tinyurl.com/y5oz4hzh>
- Hikers enjoy organized outing on Grace Ridge (Homer): <http://tinyurl.com/y34jtl3a>
- Albert Loop Trail at Eagle River Nature Center is temporarily closed: <http://tinyurl.com/yxaag6ye>
- Reopened Maud Road improves access to shooting range, Jim Lake trails: <http://tinyurl.com/y2fqjb8k>

- State Parks is hiring a seasonal trails tech for MatSu area (closes Sept 5): <http://tinyurl.com/yy5nbrs6>
- Government Peak Recreation Area gets wheelchair-accessible trail: <http://tinyurl.com/y5urqya2>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Alaska Huts' Manitoba Cabin and Yurts Woodstock 2019, September 14-15: <http://tinyurl.com/y3qxlddp>

INTERIORWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

TRAIL-LADEN BLOCK OF NORTH POLE LAND WITHDRAWN FROM SALE

ADVOCATE Below are excerpts from an email update from Cam Webb, who has been spearheading the "Keep Peede Trails Public" effort. The group has been trying to get some Fairbanks North Star Borough land in the North Pole area set aside for recreational use, especially for motorized, multi-use trails. The land had been nominated for sale in the Salcha-Badger Development Plan. See the group's website at: <http://peedetrails4all.org/>

The Mayor has decided to withdraw the main Peede Rd. Tract (166 acres) from the Borough land sale, citing the need for more detailed planning of the Chena Annex/Heritage Forest area. You can see the final land sale Ordinance here:

<http://fnsb.us/assembly/OrdinanceResolutions/2019-36.pdf>

So we can continue to enjoy public access to this area for the near future! Thanks to all of you for your support.

*The Assembly work session, when the land sale will be presented in detail to the Assembly by the senior Land Manager, will be on September 5. The Public Hearing and adoption of the Ordinance will be on September 12, concurrent with the adoption of the Salcha-Badger (S-B) Development Plan. If you are still interested in testifying in support of public use of this land, or would like to thank the Mayor or the authors of the S-B Plan (which recognizes our concerns), **please come and speak on September 12.***

Please note that the two 40-acre lots we were also campaigning for are still for sale (the Florence & Blalock lots, see map). Opinions vary on whether to accept this, or to continue to voice the view that all sales should be delayed until after more planning and review by the Borough and residents. If you are concerned about this ongoing plan to sell the Borough land in the Chena Annex/Heritage Forest area, please testify on September 12.

A Fairbanks Daily News-Miner story on Mayor Ward's decision to withdraw the land from the land sale is here: <http://tinyurl.com/y2hkolqn>

PUBLIC HEARING TO BE HELD ON ORDINANCE AFFECTING FAIRBANKS' CRANBERRY TRAIL

COMMENT Also at the September 12 Borough Assembly meeting, an ordinance that would, among other things, accept a dedication of a portion of the Cranberry Trail will also be up for public hearing. A block of borough-owned land over which the trail runs, which is in the hills north of the Goldstream Valley, is also slated for public sale in the ordinance. Anyone wishing to comment on the ordinance can do so at the meeting or by emailing Assembly members at: <http://tinyurl.com/y5a2oncp>

The ordinance (# 2019-36) can be read here: <http://tinyurl.com/y2oor7mr>

SEEN RECENTLY ON THE INTERIOR FACEBOOK PAGES

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH PARKS AND RECREATION

Aug 14: Are you a Borough resident with an idea for a project? NOMINATE IT TODAY! Forms are available at www.fnsb.us/CIP

This week is the launch of the new FNSB Capital Improvement Program, or CIP. The new CIP has been re-built from the ground up as a transparent public process to evaluate, prioritize, and fund capital projects.

FAIRBANKS AREA HIKING CLUB FAN PAGE

Aug 20: It's sad when a friend visits from out of state and one of the things they notice most about our trails while they travelled is the TP on the trails. This was at wickersham ridge trail. 4 times we counted.

It is degradable but boy it would be nice if folks just put it under a rock or root or something if they have to use TP.

Besides the TP it was a beautiful day last Saturday

FAIRBANKS SUMMER TRAILS CHALLENGE ENDS THIS MONTH

The Fairbanks Trails Challenge ends on September 30.

The challenge is free for anyone who wants to participate. Just find the signs 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>

INTERIORWIDE LINKS

- Nenana River boat launch's condition ramps up: <http://tinyurl.com/y2yul3cw>

SOUTHEAST NEWS AND NOTICES

SEEN RECENTLY ON THE SOUTHEAST FACEBOOK PAGES

JUNEAU PARKS & RECREATION

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

TRAIL MIX, INC (Juneau)

Aug 14: A huge THANK YOU to our dedicated volunteer team! Aside from our scheduled volunteer events, this group volunteers with our crew every Monday and Thursday morning! This season they have logged well over 1000 hours of volunteering with Trail Mix.

Volunteers play an integral role in fulfilling our mission of bringing together community resources to maintain and develop Juneau's world class trails!



Aug 14: For the next month or so, there will be a crew working out on the Horse Tram Trail at the Eagle Valley Center. The goal is to connect the Eagle Valley Center all the way to Boy Scout Beach. Much of the work will be blazing new trail, building turnpike to get through the muskegs, and moving tons of rocks and roots to make sure this new trail will be scenic and sturdy for years to come.

SOUTHEAST LINKS

- **ATTEND** Sitka Trail Works Annual Meeting – Sept 16: <http://tinyurl.com/y4mjm98h>
- Now you see it, now you don't: Trail Mix removes 4-ton boulder from trail: <http://tinyurl.com/y2u5ls96>
- Who owns Haines' trails?: <http://tinyurl.com/yxbxe6eo>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Top Ten Cabins on the Tongass National Forest: <http://tinyurl.com/yx93ce2t>

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 (Sept): <http://tinyurl.com/yy7hfjgg>

ADVOCACY

- Tell Congress to Protect, Preserve, and Expand Trails and Public Lands: <http://tinyurl.com/y653vuo2>

TRAIL GUIDES

- 6 of Atlanta's best bike trails: <http://tinyurl.com/yyjgr92f>
- 11 Perfect Fall Hikes You Must Do In South Florida: <http://tinyurl.com/y4xbdoxh>
- Ten of the Best Places to Paddle in National Forests: <http://tinyurl.com/yye8q2sm>

FUNDING

- **IDEA:** Old Parking Meters Are Helping Revitalize Colorado Trails: <http://tinyurl.com/yxkcsvr3>

OTHER NATIONAL LINKS:

- The Walmart Heirs Putting Arkansas on the Fat-Tire Map: <http://tinyurl.com/y3bsa75p>
- The Controversial Plan to Protect America's Trails: <http://tinyurl.com/yyv9drx8>
- Is YouTube Good for Long-Distance Trails?: <https://thetrek.co/youtube-good-long-distance-trails/>
- 6 Solutions For Managing Multi-Use Trails And Conflict: <http://tinyurl.com/yyr37nq2>

INTERNATIONAL LINKS:

- Canada opens world's longest hiking trail that stretches coast to coast: <http://tinyurl.com/y6am4jk8>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Living Near Trees, Not Just Green Space, Improves Wellbeing: <http://tinyurl.com/yxkwn455>
- Why strange balls of poop appear to be rolling down trails: <http://tinyurl.com/yy7tl58u>
- The Forest is the Therapist: <http://tinyurl.com/y2cholru>

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