



# NEWSLETTER

June  
2020

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

## ALASKA TRAILS NEWS AND NOTICES

### ALASKA TRAILS INITIATIVE SEEKS TO BRING JOBS TO ALASKA

Did you know more than one in ten Alaskan jobs is tied to tourism and outdoor recreation spending?

People and communities across Alaska recognize that outdoor recreation supports health, contributes to a high quality of life and—perhaps most importantly—drives spending that supports business, creates jobs and generates tax revenue that pays for schools and other public services.

That's why the Alaska Trails Initiative is busy looking to the future and working hard to ensure we take full advantage of our State's phenomenal outdoor recreation resources. A coalition of trails organizations from around the state, the ATI collaborates with leaders in government, business, the health industry, and the non-profit sector to invest more in the trails we love.

Investing in outdoor infrastructure attracts employers, residents, retirees, and skilled workforce, ensuring communities thrive economically and socially. Smart investments can further grow this dynamic sector; good planning will make sure we grow while maintaining the quality of our natural settings and communities. Will you join us in building toward a future that invests in our outdoor infrastructure and Alaska's trails?

**DONATE** Invest in the future of Alaska's trails: <https://www.alaska-trails.org/donate>

Learn more about the Alaska Trails Initiative: <https://www.alaska-trails.org/alaska-trails-initiative>



### ALASKA TRAILS HAS TOOL TRAILERS READY FOR TRAIL PROJECTS



**ORGANIZE** 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).

## SEEN RECENTLY ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

May 22: The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted nearly every aspect of our lives and caused a great deal of uncertainty. As Alaska reopens, it can be confusing to navigate this “new normal” in terms of how to recreate responsibly. The #RecreateResponsibly Coalition has guidance to help us all get outdoors safely:

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

Be safe out there this weekend!



May 19: Trails aren't cancelled, but volunteering is for now. Our Alaska Trail Stewards volunteer program is at the heart of the work we do each summer. We wouldn't be able to build or maintain nearly as many trails without you. Until we can hand you a Pulaski and get you back out there, consider making a donation to Alaska Trails. Every dollar counts, and your support is what helps us keep planning for future projects during this uncertain time. We're grateful for any support you can provide. [www.alaska-trails.org/donate](http://www.alaska-trails.org/donate)

May 18: We hope you're all getting out as the weather warms and the trails dry out. We've compiled a new set of resources on our website, with everything from Leave No Trace guidelines for recreating during COVID to Alaska public lands websites with updates on openings and closures. Check it out before your next adventure! <https://www.alaska-trails.org/trail-resources>

## 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](http://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](http://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](http://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.





## Trails in the Time of COVID

Alaska Trails is adapting to the new reality of COVID-19 for the summer season and beyond. We had hoped to conduct our Crew Leader Training for the Alaska Trail Stewards program in May. The training would have led to big volunteer events on National Trails Day (June 6th) and throughout the rest of the summer. Fingers crossed (and washed) in hopes that we will be able to have volunteer events later in the summer, but they are all on hold for now. We are making the best of the situation and have been encouraging Alaskans to continue to use trails with the proper safety measures and have put new resources on our website – including health recommendations and trail reports – to inform new (and veteran) trail users about trails across the state.

We are happy to be welcoming back Kristen Mrozowski, our Trails Technician, for her third season leading the Alaska Trail Stewards (ATS) program. We are in the process of hiring a Trail Crew that Kristen will supervise as they work on the Little O'Malley Peak trail in Chugach State Park (CSP). This is a new and exciting step for Alaska Trails. While it will have many challenges, the small nature of the trail crew has much fewer logistics to manage than a large volunteer event. We are taking the necessary steps to ensure that their workplace conditions are safe and healthy. In May, Kristen and retired CSP Trails Specialist Blaine Smith finalized the layout for the Little O'Malley



*Kristen Mrozowski*



*Blaine Smith*

Peak trail. We are excited to be collaborating with the Chugach Park Fund (CPF) on this exciting project. CPF has so far raised more than \$30,000 - including numerous individual donations, an \$11,000 grant from the Rasmuson Foundation and a donation of \$2,500 from GCI. The project will reroute this popular trail and help celebrate the park's 50th anniversary. We are also grateful to the Anchorage Trail Care Fund and REI for their financial support of this project.

The Statewide Trails Conference showed our adaptability to these challenging times. While we were disappointed that the 2020 Alaska Statewide Trails Conference could not be conducted in person, Alaska Trails seized the opportunity to stage a successful virtual conference. We hope you take advantage of the webinar recordings and presentations at our conference website: <https://www.alaska-trails.org/2020-conference-sessions>.

Thanks again to ConocoPhillips Alaska, Alyeska Pipeline Service Company and Friends of State Parks, Mat-Su for sponsoring the 2020 Alaska Statewide Trails Conference.

See you on the trails,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Cleary".

## STATEWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

### STATE, FEDERAL AGENCIES CREATE UNIFIED SAFETY MESSAGE

Alaska State Parks worked with National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Forest Service on the Kenai Peninsula to come up with one cohesive message for a safe and fun summer for Alaska. We need that.

These posters will be put up around our public lands across the state over the next few weeks but as you prepare for having fun outdoors, please keep these points in mind and plan accordingly. Thanks Alaska- SUMMER IS HERE!

**STAY SAFE ALASKA!**  
**ENJOY YOUR PUBLIC LANDS AND HELP STOP THE SPREAD OF COVID-19**

Feeling under the weather? Please visit later- your adventure will still be here when you're feeling better!

**Give everyone space.** Keep a minimum of 6 feet distance and respect others' social bubbles.

**Avoid crowds and keep gatherings small.** Check current guidelines prior to arrival.

**Wash your hands often.** Use warm, soapy water for 20 seconds or hand sanitizer as a backup.

**Help Alaska's wildland firefighters during this pandemic.** Attend your campfires and put them out entirely!

**Follow COVID-19 CDC guidance and State of Alaska health mandates.**  
[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
FOREST SERVICE  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE  
ALASKA STATE PARKS



## PLEDGE REPLACES EVENTS ON TRAILS DAY DURING COVID-19

**TAKE THE PLEDGE** The following message was recently published on the National Trails Day page:

*Celebrate by taking the #NationalTrailsDay Pledge*

*Take the Pledge, Promote National Trails Day*

*Together we can take action to preserve trails and fight for equitable access to quality green space, even from within quarantine.*

*We've temporarily experienced life with limited access to trails and public lands and, now more than ever, realize how much we need them.*

*Take American Hiking Society's #NationalTrailsDay Pledge and commit to taking at least one action in 2020 to preserve trails and fight for equitable access to quality green space.*

*American Hiking Society will provide easy actions you can take.*

*Once it's safe to get outside in groups again, we'll also share ways to get involved with local trail service projects.*



## ALASKA STATE PARKS STAY OPEN WITH GUIDELINES AMID PANDEMIC

The following letter was recently published on the Alaska State Parks website: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/>

*Dear Alaska State Park Users,*

*Alaska State Parks are open so Alaskans can get outdoors and spend time in nature to get fresh air and exercise. Regional headquarters in each area are open by appointment and you can make an appointment by calling the regional headquarters office in your area.*

*As always, we have the safety and well-being of our visitors and staff in mind. Alaska State Parks is operating campgrounds according to our division COVID Plan. This plan includes a guidance document and Alaska COVID 19 Health Mandates:*

- *State of Alaska COVID-19 Health Mandates: <https://covid19.alaska.gov/health-mandates/>*
- *THE MOST CURRENT ALASKA COVID-19 INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND AT: <http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/id/Pages/COVID-19/default.aspx>.*

*While we encourage park visits, we do ask that if you are sick and/or experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19 that you please refrain from visiting. Visitors to our parks are encouraged to follow social distancing guidelines at all times by keeping a distance of 6 feet or more between you and others. By visiting Alaska State Parks, you voluntarily assume all risks related to exposure to COVID-19.*

*We are committed to keeping our public use cabins open throughout Alaska. The public use cabins do not pose a distinct public health threat, but do note that the cabins are not sanitized on a regular schedule do to the remoteness of their locations. The public is advised to follow guidance by keeping group sizes small and bringing supplies to wipe down surfaces before and after use; this will help us keep them open for everyone to enjoy. To check cabin availability, go to our cabin page: each cabin has a direct link to the Reserve America booking window. Stay safe and get outside!*

*Sincerely,  
Alaska State Parks*

## ALLIANCE OUTDOOR INFRASTRUCTURE DRIVE GATHERS STEAM

**HELP THE ALLIANCE** The following story was recently published in the Alaska Outdoor Alliance online newsletter. See the full newsletter at: <https://tinyurl.com/y7zc9hfz>

*From Ketchikan to Fairbanks, elected officials, outdoor businesses, civic leaders and enthusiast groups - from biathletes to mountain bikers, snow machiners, hikers, skiers, dog mushers and others - are getting behind Alaska Outdoor Alliance's request for jobs to get Alaskans back to work this summer.*

*The outpouring of support continues. Last week, 11 state legislators sent letters of support to Alaska's Congressional delegation: Representatives Matt Claman, Sara Hannan, Andy Josephson, Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins; Dan Ortiz, Andi Story, Geran Tarr, and Chris Tuck, plus Senators Mia Costello, Elvi Gray-Jackson and Jesse Kiehl. City and Borough of Juneau Assembly and Mayor Beth Weldon sent their own*



*letter to the delegation. Anchorage Mayor Ethan Berkowitz and Assemblymen John Weddleton and Forrest Dunbar also got behind the request as did the City of Delta Junction. Other organizations of note include: Tourism Management Best Practices, Sitka Chamber of Commerce; Kodiak Area Native Association and Alaska Chapter - American Society of Landscape Architects.*

*One of the strongest comments of support came from Bill Popp, President and CEO of Anchorage Economic Development Corporation (AEDC), who wrote: "AEDC supports this effort and encourages Congress and the President to provide funding for these shovel-ready projects that will help put Alaskans to work!"*

*WHAT'S NEXT: Last week we spoke with DC staff for each of our Congressional leaders and they asked for real stories about job loss and how streamlining hiring processes and accelerating funding for local, state, federal and tribal shovel-ready projects would benefit individuals, families and businesses.*

*Please submit your story via this easy and quick Workforce Impact Story Form or email us directly if you'd prefer to discuss.*

## WATCH FOR BEARS, MOOSE CALVES WHEN OUT ON THE TRAILS

It's calving season for the moose again and things can get dangerous really fast when you surprise a moose or get too close and the mama decides it's time to protect her young. And, of course, bears are out of hibernation and active. To learn how to avoid surprising animals and deal with uncomfortable or dangerous situations, check out these resources:

- <http://www.muni.org/Departments/parks/Pages/Wildlife.aspx>
- <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=livewith.moose>

## SEVERAL TRAIL-RELATED POSITIONS AVAILABLE ACROSS STATE

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

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

## WATCH FOR BIRD NESTS WHEN WORKING ON TRAILS

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

For more information and recommended time periods for avoiding vegetation clearing see: <https://tinyurl.com/y9ulmffg>

## SEEN RECENTLY ON THE STATEWIDE FACEBOOK PAGES

### ALASKA STATE PARKS

**DO YOUR PART** May 28: We live in an amazing state with public lands that are unparalleled in beauty and access, readily available within a quick drive for most Alaskans.

Whether you believe it is a right or a privilege to access our public lands, it's everyone's responsibility to help with the DOing:

DO: Be a responsible user of our lands.

DO: Pack out what you pack in.

DO: Stay positive and allow the outdoors to be your energy, your refuge, your recharge.

DO: Respect the people around you.

DO: Be kind... to the land, to yourself, to those managing the Parks.

While most of our Alaska State Parks campgrounds ARE open, some are not, due to reasons beyond our control. If you choose to camp at one of these places, it is imperative that you take out EVERYTHING you take in with you. Anything you do leave will add to the time we can open.

Your cooperation and Alaskan spirit is appreciated. We do hope you are out there enjoying the lands and getting what you need to recharge... responsibly.

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

## STATEWIDE LINKS

- **APPLY** Outdoor Recreational Trails Advisory Board (ORTAB) Recruiting New Members, deadline to apply June 5: <http://notice.alaska.gov/197487>
- Letter: Give trails a break during break-up (ADN): <https://tinyurl.com/ybsvh3eo>

### PANDEMIC-RELATED LINKS

- Spring weather pulls Alaskans outside, but virus precautions still in play: <https://tinyurl.com/y85w8fj9>
- Alaska kids spend less time exercising, more on screens during pandemic: <https://tinyurl.com/y73fleoc>

### BEARS AND SUCH

- As COVID-19 restrictions send more Alaskans outside, Fish and Game warns about bears: <https://tinyurl.com/yagwogp5>
- Moose attacks Eagle River woman and her dog, Fish and Game says: <https://tinyurl.com/y734pvag>

### SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Changes at Denali National Park

- The Denali Highway Is Now Open for Public Travel: <https://tinyurl.com/ybaxhr3s>
- Denali National Park to open summer season July 1: <https://tinyurl.com/ydgtq99q>
- Private vehicles to be allowed on Denali road: <https://tinyurl.com/yara4nmw>
- **ATTEND** The 2020 Alaska Walk, Bike Conference goes virtual and free: <https://tinyurl.com/ycvrp55n>
- This invasive plant is ruining some Alaska water bodies: <https://tinyurl.com/yc23mnw2>
- Alaska State Troopers warn of hiking danger citing recent death: <https://tinyurl.com/yb7gvnx8>
- Through Our Eyes: Artistic Visions of Our State Parks (open for submissions): <https://tinyurl.com/y8am3usr>
- Bureau of Land Management opens all summer recreation sites: <https://tinyurl.com/y8kbort9>
- **ENTER** Alaska State Parks 50th Anniversary Photo Contest (run **monthly**): <https://tinyurl.com/qnssp93>

## SOUTHCENTRAL NEWS AND NOTICES

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

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

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

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

### SEEN RECENTLY ON THE SOUTHCENTRAL FACEBOOK PAGES

#### ALASKA STATE PARKS

May 22: Our ASP Design and Construction team is hard at work! They recently helped Fish and Game with a boat launch project at the Rabbit Slough in the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge.

Parks excavated the existing ramp surface, improved grading, and installed fill material and 60 feet of articulated concrete matting to provide a smoother ramp surface that allows boats to get into deeper water faster. The sides of the banks were lined with riprap armoring to prevent erosion. Construction started in early April, and just wrapped up last week. The contractor was Tutka General Contractor.

The Rabbit Slough facility is primarily used as a launching point for boaters into Wasilla Creek to fish for coho salmon and to hunt waterfowl in the fall.



#### ANCHORAGE PARK FOUNDATION

**APPLY** May 15: Youth Employment in Parks will be different this year to maintain social distancing and to keep participants safe, but the program will still take place. For the past 13 years, YEP has provided hundreds of local teens with their first meaningful employment with on-the-job training in natural



resources, outdoor experiences, career guidance, and other valuable life skills. We are so grateful to the partners and supporters who make programs like this possible. <https://tinyurl.com/ya71m2p9>

**SIGN ON** May 7: Parks. Trails. Outdoor Recreation. Nature. History. Culture. Anchorage has all of these attributes, and with federal investment we can build a new, stronger economy.

APF is part of the Alaska Outdoor Alliance and Alaska Trails Initiative, and we helped develop this package of requests to Congress. We encourage your organization or business to sign on!

<https://tinyurl.com/yctoaeaqd>

May 4: Careful, everyone. Black bears were spotted in Kincaid Park and there have been brown bear sightings along Turnagain Arm. Be safe! Time to get out your bear spray and remind yourself how to use it. <https://tinyurl.com/ybvxx4e4>

### SINGLETRACK ADVOCATES

**JOIN** May 12: Are you a motivated volunteer who wants to join our Trail Crew? Contact our Hillside Trail Manager or Kincaid Trail Manager to get lined out on a project. Visit our website on how to join.

<http://www.singletrackadvocates.org/trailcrew>

May 9: Moose Calving Season is here. Please give moose the space that they need. See link for details on dealing with moose and bears. Moose calving season is from May to Early June.

<https://www.muni.org/Departments/parks/Pages/Wildlife.aspx>

**UPDATE** May 8: Please help make the Trailforks online mapping app of our trails better. Work with Seth Nolan and see his post below.

*Seth Nolan to Alaska Mountain Bike Group*

*May 8: All, I am the local ambassador and admin for the web and phone app Trailforks, for Alaska. I am looking for people to update trail conditions if and when they can and please if you are on strava, add the connection from strava to Trailforks so the trail associations can track their usage for future trail work days on high traffic trails etc.*

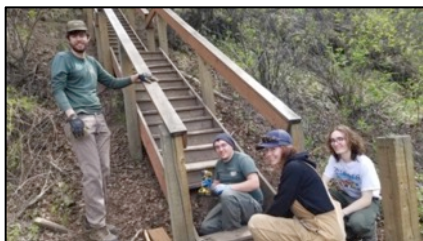
*Enjoy the opening weekend of 2020 on the Southside Kincaid trails*

<https://www.trailforks.com/apps/map/>

<https://www.trailforks.com/region/alaska/ridingareas/>

<https://www.trailforks.com/region/alaska/reports/>

### MAT-SU BOROUGH RECREATION AND LIBRARY SERVICES



May 13: On behalf of the Mat-Su Borough Recreation Services Division, I want to thank the kind people who brought the broken stairs at the West Butte trail to our attention. Our trail crew started back to work Monday morning and the stairs and bench were repaired on Tuesday. - Hugh Leslie, Recreation and Library Services Manager, Matanuska-Susitna Borough.

If anyone comes across trail damage, vandalism etc on Borough trails, please reach out to me at the Borough at 861-7868 or post it on the Borough Facebook page or Recreation Services Facebook page.

## VALLEY MOUNTAIN BIKERS AND HIKERS

**VOLUNTEER** May 22: Trail maintenance friends,

Please join us any Tuesday night during the summer at 6pm to work and maintain trail at GPRA. This coming Tuesday the 26th we will begin our season.

For those of you who have volunteered before, please notice the earlier start time.

We shall give everyone their SIX FEET and still maintain trails.

This Tuesday we will assess muck holes over on Fiddlehead and lower Monkshood. I'll see if I can get some gravel and fabric staged. Once the brush comes in, we will begin the usual course of mowing. In the middle of the summer, Happy trails will be constructing new DH trails within the Monkshood system so consider making some time available for that.

Bring a backpack and straps to ride in with a tool on your back. Many us enjoy being able to ride after the work is done. No big deal to walk in, your choice.

<https://vmbah.wildapricot.org/>



May 15: We are pleased to report that the GPRA (Government Peak Recreation Area) single track trails are open for business.

## ISLAND TRAILS NETWORK IS IN KODIAK, ALASKA.

**VOLUNTEER** May 25: We are gearing up for another great summer season of marine debris cleanups and trail work.

One program happening right now is our setnet program. This is a volunteer program that involves setnet fishermen to remove marine debris from coastlines near their respective fishing sites during fishing closures. 31 cleanup kits will be delivered to Uganik setnet sites through an Ocean Beauty tender. There are more cleanup kits available. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact Hana Reyes at 907-205-5222 ext. 2, or email at [hana@islandtrails.org](mailto:hana@islandtrails.org). You can also find more information at [islandtrails.org/setnet](http://islandtrails.org/setnet).

Thank you!

**APPLY** May 1: We are hiring for a 6-week summer work experience from June 26th-July 31st. To be an eligible applicant, you must be a current student in an Alaskan public school and receive services through a 504 plan or IEP. All applicants should have a career interest in the outdoor, conservation, or natural resource setting. Primarily students will work as a cohesive trail crew, clearing and maintaining local trails. In addition to trail work, students will complete job skills training and learn about a variety of local land management agencies and job/career options with-in each agency.

Interested students should be willing and able to spend the majority of the time outside doing manual labor.

Applicants should be between the ages of 14-21 and be receiving services from an Alaskan school district through an IEP or 504 plan.

This program is sponsored by the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) and students that may potentially qualify for DVR services are encouraged to apply.



Dates and Time: June 26th-July 31st working Tuesday through Friday, 24-30 hour workweek  
\*\*We may shift the week before the 4th of July to a Monday-Thursday  
Number of Positions available: 4 Pay: \$10.19/hr  
Contact: Travis Cooper, [travis@islandtrails.org](mailto:travis@islandtrails.org), (907) 205-5222 ext. # 1  
\*\* We are following the current mandates for COVID-19, so this position may be subject to change.  
However, we encourage all eligible applicants to apply. \*\*

#### MAT-SU TRAILS AND PARKS FOUNDATION

May 21: With your support, the Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation offers grants to a variety of projects in the Mat-Su Valley!

During the Fall of 2018, we were able to provide some of the funding needed for the Willow Area Community Organization (WACO) to build a fenced-in Dog Park at Newman Memorial Park in Willow. Dogs, and their owners, can now enjoy this world-class forested dog park 24/7 all year round! Thanks, Willow Area Community Organization, for providing the Mat-Su with another public off-leash dog park. We appreciate all of your hard work!

Check out some of the other projects we've been involved with ->  
<https://tinyurl.com/ybd94uys>

#### GREAT LAND TRUST (Facebook Event)

The Swan Lake Boardwalk & Trail in Wasilla are now open!

This beautiful boardwalk and trail take you into the Palmer Hay Flats, with a viewing platform at Swan Lake and a 1-mile upland loop through a birch forest. GLT and the AK Department of Fish & Game recently finished building a trail to connect the main trails to the road and it is ready for visitors!

Instead of having one big ribbon cutting event, we want to invite you all to check out these new trails on your own! Over the month of June, if you visit Swan Lake and send us a photo (send to [info@greatlandtrust.org](mailto:info@greatlandtrust.org)) we'll mail you one of our new swan stickers. (See photo in comments.)

We hope you get out and explore this newly opened area - it's a perfect spot to take the whole family!

Visit our website at the link for directions to the trailhead and for more info on the project.

<http://greatlandtrust.org/projects/swan-quggesh-lake-boardwalk-trail/>

And as always, please recreate safely and responsibly. Some tips can be found here:

<https://lnt.org/the-leave-no-trace-recommendations-for-getting-outside-amidst-covid-19/>

This project was made possible through funding from the Alaska Conservation Foundation, the Alaska Waterfowl Association, ConocoPhillips, The Conservation Fund, ERM Group Foundation, Gateway Community Council, JL Properties, Mat-Su Trails & Parks Foundation, M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust, National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, NOAA, Rasmuson Foundation, Wildlife & Sport Fish Restoration Program, and many generous individual donations.



## SOUTHCENTRAL LINKS

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- As more families hit the trails, an Anchorage mom gives guidance: <https://tinyurl.com/y9968p9u>
- Girdwood's popular hand tram will remain closed through summer: <https://tinyurl.com/ya9o6tku>
- Proposed realignment of RST 1467 Herning Trail near Wasilla: <http://notice.alaska.gov/198185>
- Building a new trail in Chugach State Park: <https://tinyurl.com/ydywedov>
- The Moose Loop Initiative: <https://anchorageparkfoundation.org/the-moose-loop-initiative/>
- Prince William Sound Stewardship Foundation volunteer projects: <https://tinyurl.com/y8cyvl5z>

### SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Parks expecting more Alaskans using campgrounds during pandemic: <https://tinyurl.com/ycl4h27y>

## INTERIORWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

### PEEDE AREA TRAILS GET CLOSER TO GETTING PROTECTION

Cam Webb, organizer of the "Keep Peede Trails Public" campaign, sent out this email in mid-May.

*The Planning Commission just voted 7-to-0 in favor of the rezone of the Peede Tract to Outdoor Recreation. This is a huge step towards preserving public access to this particular tract, and perhaps to more land around it. Thanks for your emails to the Commission, and thanks to those who testified via Zoom just now. And of course, thanks to the Planning Commission members!*

*The final stage is the Assembly vote on the rezoning Ordinance. I'll let you know more when we find out when that is, and if there might be any challenges - we may need one more effort of public support on this.*

To find out more about this effort see: <https://peedetrails4all.org/>

### SEEN RECENTLY ON THE INTERIOR FACEBOOK PAGES

#### ALASKA STATE PARKS



May 20: \*\*Alaska State Parks NORTHERN Region update\*\*

Good things are happening! The multi-use trailheads in the Chena River State Recreation Area are open for the season starting Thursday May 21, 2020. This includes Compeau, Stiles, and Upper Chena Dome.

Big thanks to our ASP Rangers for working hard to get the parks open across the state.

### INTERIORWIDE LINKS

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- Trust works to save trails across the (Fairbanks) borough: <https://tinyurl.com/y7ng9bq4>
- Paddle and Pedal Outings in the Interior: <https://tinyurl.com/y857wryg>



### SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- A Mother's Day hike replaced by a colder, windier and funner one: <https://tinyurl.com/ya98b7b8>
- Pet Owners Be Aware: Tularemia Suspected in Hares in Interior Alaska: <https://tinyurl.com/ycxcxggs>
- Satisfying Curiosity in the Donnelly Training Area: <https://tinyurl.com/yafa7zkg>
- Mount Margaret on Mother's Day: <https://tinyurl.com/yb7r4ll5>

## SOUTHEAST NEWS AND NOTICES

### SOUTHEAST LINKS

- USDA Forest Service proposes reroute of Harbor Mountain / Gavan Hill Trail section (Sitka): <https://tinyurl.com/yayp292f>
- Volunteers Take Action, Build Bike Trail: <https://tinyurl.com/ybpdcozp>
- City of Sitka approves finished 907 single-track loop off Sitka Cross Trail: <https://tinyurl.com/yd8n24yd>
- The spring issue of Sitka Trail Works' 'On The Paper Trail' is here: <https://tinyurl.com/y9sa5ar7>
- Sitka Trail Works: Summer 2020 Event Schedule Changes: <https://tinyurl.com/y94jd5lp>

### SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Enhanced Sitka Area Weather Data: <http://sitkatrailworks.org/enhanced-sitka-area-weather-data/>
- Opinion: Now's the time for a Civilian Conservation Corp-inspired effort: <https://tinyurl.com/yazrdo6u>

## NATIONWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

### SCHOLARSHIP OFFERED FOR OUTDOOR PROFESSIONALS

**APPLY** The application period for the Christopher K. Jarvi Scholarship to Advance Partnerships will **open May 1 and close on July 31**.

This scholarship was created to help dedicated professionals explore ways to enrich existing and integrate more partnerships into their work to benefit and bring value to parks, public lands and the communities that host them.

Learning about partnerships and developing skills is an iterative process. The more one learns and practices, the greater the innovation and partner engagement in all aspects of recreation and parks. The concept and practice of partnering will change as the needs of parks and recreation professionals evolve. This scholarship encourages applications to take the practice of partnerships to the next level.

To learn more about the scholarship, including eligibility and expectations of the applicants, see: <https://www.recro.org/christopher-k-jarvi-scholarship>

*(From the Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals website)*

### RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM NEEDS LETTERS OF SUPPORT

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **NATIONWIDE / INTERNATIONAL LINKS**

### *TRAILS AND THE PANDEMIC*

- Recreate Responsibly publicity toolkit: <https://tinyurl.com/ya25g2fe>
- How COVID-19 is Affecting the Trails Community: <https://tinyurl.com/y9kt44q4>
- Land Managers are Getting Nervous About Unauthorized Trail Modifications During Lockdown: <https://tinyurl.com/y8vt6sz8>
- How the Pandemic Splintered the Appalachian Trail: <https://tinyurl.com/y9ac4v6o>

### *WEBINARS, MEETINGS, CONFERENCES, TRAINING, ETC.*

- For a listing of upcoming trail webinars workshops, conferences, and other meetings, see the American Trails calendar at: [www.americantrails.org/Calendar.html](http://www.americantrails.org/Calendar.html)

### *TRAILS-RELATED NEWSLETTERS*

- American Trails "Trail Tracks": [www.americantrails.org/communications/newsletter](http://www.americantrails.org/communications/newsletter)
- Conservation Volunteers International Program (May): <https://tinyurl.com/yc327wcs>

### **ADVOCACY**

- Tell Your Senators to Support the Great American Outdoors Act: <https://tinyurl.com/y653vuo2>

### **VOLUNTEER**

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

### **FUNDING**

- National Forest Foundation's Matching Awards Program (ddline June 9): <https://tinyurl.com/px7y6ke>
- Submit Your Trail Infrastructure Projects for CARES Act Funding: <https://tinyurl.com/y8zwxwhl>

### *TRAILS AND HEALTH*

- The Healing Power Of Nature: <https://tinyurl.com/y952gr4y>

### *OTHER NATIONAL LINKS:*

- Wheels to Water: Inclusive Recreation on the Saluda River (S. Carolina): <https://tinyurl.com/yaghnzeu>
- Electronic OHV Mapping Applications: <https://tinyurl.com/y7yjh4p>
- Colorado's Singletrack Wars: <https://tinyurl.com/y7g5p87s>
- A Paddler's Guide to Leaving No Trace: <https://tinyurl.com/ybtbjzx8>
- Tips for handling harassment on the trail: <https://tinyurl.com/ybmjtw87>

### *SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL*

- Work Starts In Netherlands On 1,000-Meter Bat-Friendly Bicycling Bridge: <https://tinyurl.com/yded5964>

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The Alaska Trails board meets via teleconference on the first Tuesday of each month from noon to 1:00 pm. If you want to hear more about Alaska trail topics, share trail information, or propose a trail project, join us for an hour. Members and the public are welcome. Call for more information and meeting details [907-334-8049](tel:907-334-8049).

A copy of this newsletter will also be posted to our web site. Newsletters come out at the beginning of each month. Deadline for articles is five days before the first of the month. Send stories to Editor Eric Troyer at [fbxtrails@gmail.com](mailto:fbxtrails@gmail.com)