



NEWSLETTER

SEPT
2021

PO Box 100627; Anchorage, AK 99510-0264

907/334-8049

www.alaska-trails.org

ALASKA TRAILS NEWS AND NOTICES

TRAIL CREWS MAKING PROGRESS ON SOUTHCENTRAL TRAILS

Alaska Trails has two trail crews in the field this summer. One of them continues the great work done last year on the Little O'Malley Peak trail in Chugach State Park. This commuter crew is progressing toward the top of the alignment and is creating a more sustainable and enjoyable route for hikers to reach the alpine. Thanks to funding from the Chugach Park Fund and the Recreational Trails Program, this work will continue into the fall. Volunteers through our Alaska Trail Steward program have also played an important role in this project.



Through our ongoing partnership with the US Forest Service, Alaska Trails is working on a variety of trails from Seward to Girdwood. After a chainsaw training in May, this crew has brushed many miles of trails in both the Seward and Glacier ranger districts. Some planned brushing in Cordova didn't get finished, so the work there will take place next year. In September, this crew will work on trails in both Settler's Bay and Hatcher Pass through funding from the Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation. This will also include a day of volunteering in each of those spots. We are excited to finish out the season with a great September.

(No, that photo is not Photoshopped!)

STILL HOLDING OUT HOPE FOR ALASKA LONG TRAIL FUNDING

The future of funding for the Alaska Long Trail, which was vetoed by Gov. Mike Dunleavy, is uncertain. Alaska Trails is hopeful some or all of the \$13.2 million will be restored in the current special session, which was called by Gov. Dunleavy on August 16. (Special sessions can last up to 30 days.)

However, wrangling over the size of the Permanent Fund Dividend and other aspects of the state budget are dominating talks and threatening to derail the session. If a PFD/budget deal can be reached, an appropriations bill may be crafted and passed. We are doing what we can to make sure the long trail funding would be included in that bill. The governor would still have the opportunity to veto it and any other funding, however, he has expressed support for long trail funding in the past. We will let you know as soon as we learn anything.

SAVE THE DATE - LAND MANAGER FORUM COMING IN NOVEMBER

ATTEND Mark your calendar for the annual Alaska Trails Land Manager Forum on **November 15**.

More details including agenda, speakers and whether it will be in-person or virtual will be forthcoming. We are excited to bring land managers, trails groups, pro trail builders and trail enthusiasts together to highlight the many successes we have had and share what's worked and what hasn't. (You can view last years' agenda and some presentations here: <https://www.alaska-trails.org/land-manager-forum>)



Send any questions or ideas for the forum to Steve Cleary (steve.cleary@alaska-trails.org).

WE NEED YOUR HELP WITH THE ANCHORAGE MAYOR'S CHARITY BALL

DONATE ITEMS Do you own a business or know one that would like to donate something to a silent auction as part of the Anchorage Mayor's Charity Ball?

All of the net proceeds from the ball – that's 100 percent – are distributed to the four local charities and this year we are one of them! The chosen charities receive an average of \$50,000 each from the ball.



We are excited to have this opportunity, as that is a significant amount of funding for our small organization.

Founded in 1994 by a group of dedicated volunteers, led by Robert Penney and then Mayor Rick Mystrom, the Anchorage Mayor's Charity Ball has raised more than \$3.5 million to support local

Anchorage charitable organizations. The ball will be held Saturday, October 9, at the Dena'ina Center in Anchorage.

If you would like to donate something or know of a business that would, please contact Alaska Trails at 907-334-8049 or office@alaska-trails.org

Find out more about the ball here: <https://mayorscharity.org/>

ALASKA TRAILS HAS TOOL TRAILERS READY FOR TRAIL PROJECTS



BORROW TOOLS 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 and fall. 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: www.alaska-trails.org/current-volunteer-opportunities

SEEN RECENTLY ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

Aug 27: Happy Friday! Our trail crews are happy to be out of the rain today. BIG thanks to Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm National Heritage Area for funding our work to clear and smooth the Gull Rock Trail out of Hope! Lots more work to do, but hope you appreciate the clearing, reshaping, and improved drainage from the trailhead to the Campground Junction. A majority of the work that was done in between the Overlook at mile 3.5 and Gull Rock itself so get out and enjoy this amazing trail.



Aug 26: It's #ThankfulThursday and we are beyond stoked that Alaska Wildland Adventures has donated a stay at their Kenai River Lodge AND a canyon raft trip for the Anchorage Mayor's Charity Ball, Inc.. Whoever ends up with this is in for one gorgeous adventure. Thank you to everyone at Alaska Wildland Adventures for supporting Alaska Trails. We are incredibly grateful!

Aug 24: Thanks to a great team of volunteers, we finished up our Bird to Gird brushing last weekend! This crew covered a good chunk of the trail, and they brought out their bikes to make it happen. We're grateful to the Alaska Department of Natural Resources for the RTP grant that funded the project and to all the volunteers that helped us complete it. If you haven't had a chance to get out there this summer, now's a great time to check it out!



PARTICIPATE Aug 24: Alaska Trails is excited and grateful to be part of the Virtual Race Across Alaska Winter Challenge again this winter. Turnagain Training did an amazing job launching it last year and we are looking forward to more fun this year!

For every racer that participates in the challenge, the race will donate \$10 to the Alaska Trails! AND All donations will go towards supporting developing the Alaska Long Trail.

<https://runsignup.com/Race/Donate/AK/Anchorage/AlaskaChallenge>

DONATE Aug 12: Did you know that Alaska Trails is one of the Anchorage Mayor's Charity Ball, Inc. recipients this year? This #ThankfulThursday we're beyond grateful to Alpaca Raft for donating this amazing raft as an auction item.

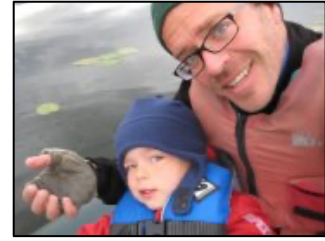
If you have a business and would like to support Alaska Trails by donating an auction item for the ball, you can contact us at office@alaska-trails.org.



Aug 9: "The Alaska Long Trail — the work-in-progress, world-class route from Seward to Fairbanks — is a compelling example of the investments Alaska needs. Quality trails benefit residents and all categories of travelers. Trails provide an up-close experience of Alaska, and more reasons for visitors to slow down, stick around, and spend money at local hotels, BnBs, retail stores, restaurants, and with outfitters and guides."

A great article in ADN by our very own Chris Beck and Alaska Long Trail partners. Check it out and learn more about the Alaska Long Trail on our website at <https://www.alaska-trails.org/the-alaska-long-trail> Here in Alaska, trails mean business: <https://tinyurl.com/4s4cv3s9>

DIRECTOR'S CORNER
Steve Cleary, Executive Director



Continuing to Promote Trails with the Help of Our Supporters

Alaska Trails has a lot to be grateful for as summer ends. With school starting and fall approaching, it is more important than ever to make sure that we stay safe and healthy. Recreating on trails continues to be a great way for Alaskans to bolster their physical and mental health. From hunting to mountain biking, strolling with family or running hard with friends – trails are a mainstay for life in Alaska.

The Alaska Long Trail

While we hoped to have positive news about \$13.2 million in state funding for the Long Trail, Gov. Dunleavy vetoed that after first expressing his support for it. Our coalition will continue to explore and develop funding options, especially those that Alaska has not taken full advantage of. The Long Trail route - connecting Fairbanks and Seward – has many existing or planned sections and connecting those to solid and sustainable funding is a key priority.

Long trails like the Pacific Crest Trail and the Appalachian Trail have captured the attention of travelers for decades. Alaska is blessed with some of the most stunning wilderness in the world and we are poised to create an enduring trail of our own. Long trails engage visitors in everything from simple day hikes to multi-week, bucket list lifetime accomplishments. And they will bring new opportunities for residents to explore their backyard.

Alaska Trails will continue to work with its partners to highlight the great trails on the Long Trail route that already exist and to connect the dots to make this expansive vision a reality.

Alaska Trails Initiative – Making the Case for Trails

The Alaska Trails Initiative (ATI) continues to make great strides to raise the profile of trails across the state, highlighting their economic and health benefits and showing how they build our communities. The statewide coalition that has come together for this project is helping to develop an update Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) which will serve as a blueprint for trails and trail projects across the state and direct funding to shovel-ready projects with real impact.

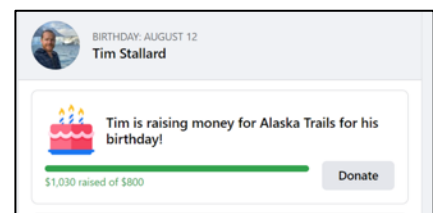
Big Thank You's to Trail Angels!



Finally, we would like to extend some trail appreciation to R&M Consulting for making Alaska Trails the beneficiary of their annual charity golf tournament, which raised over \$6,000! And also to Tim Stallard for celebrating his birthday by raising over \$1,000 via Facebook! We couldn't continue our work without our great supporters.

See you on the trails,

Steve Cleary



STATEWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

OUTDOOR RECREATION ECONOMY FOCUS OF CONFLUENCE



The 6th Annual Confluence – Summit on the Outdoor Recreation Economy – returns this fall.

Confluence will be an online, virtual event held Oct. 26 - 28. Our theme this year is Recover and Rebound. Presentations will be short and succinct to maximize opportunities to hear your views and answer your questions, as we work together to strengthen our businesses and communities. Our three main focal points will be: Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) revisions, funding opportunities for outdoor recreation, and active transportation infrastructure. Watch the Alaska Outdoor Alliance page for more info: <https://www.alaskaoutdooralliance.org/>

SEEN RECENTLY ON STATEWIDE FACEBOOK PAGES

ALASKA OUTDOOR ALLIANCE

Aug 16: Heads up: Masks now required to visit National Parks. Following the latest science and guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and to promote staff and visitors' safety, the NPS is requiring visitors, employees and contractors to wear a mask inside all NPS buildings and in crowded outdoor spaces, regardless of vaccination status or community transmission levels. www.nps.gov/aboutus/news/public-health-update.htm

STATEWIDE LINKS

SLIGHTLY OFF TRAIL

- The Whale's Tail, Denali National Park (Luc Mehl): <https://tinyurl.com/43w8a3r4>
- Can a novice packrafter take on the Ivishak River? Yes, but be prepared for exhaustion and challenges (ADN): <https://tinyurl.com/9n24jka9>
- Landslide prompts closure on Denali park road in Alaska: <https://tinyurl.com/526xz5xn>
- Shallow Water Crossings (Wading): <https://tinyurl.com/zx7s26nv>
- Andrea Kuuipo Abroad (travel blog with Alaska trail guides): <https://andreakuuipoabroad.com/>

SOUTHCENTRAL NEWS AND NOTICES

MAT-SU TRAILS AND PARKS FOUNDATION VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE

ATTEND You're invited to the Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation's Virtual Open House on **September 16, starting at 5:30 pm.** Join us to learn more about the Foundation - who we are, what we do, how we serve the community, and how we can support your goals for a world-class trail and park system in the Mat-Su.

The open house will include information on our grant-making program, new grant portal, and discussions on the future of trails and parks in the Mat-Su. All attendees will be eligible to win MSTPF swag door prizes during the event, including our new trucker hats!

Registration for this event is required. If you have any questions please contact us at info@matsutrails.org. Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/dytpcwc9>

From Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation newsletter

ALASKA HUTS GETS GRANT TO BUILD FIRST OF THREE HUTS

DONATE Alaska Huts recently announced that the Atwood Foundation awarded the group \$150,000 to build the 22-bunk Spencer Glacier Lodge, the first of three huts in the Glacier Discovery Hut-to-Hut system. However, individual donations are vital to making the lodge a reality - join Alaska Huts now by donating to the Hut Fund!

Also, Alaska Huts was mentioned in Outside Magazine for our goals with the Glacier Discovery hut-to-hut system and Spencer Glacier Lodge. **Read more and how to donate here:**
<https://tinyurl.com/3ka9syfy>

KENAI NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA PHOTO CONTEST DEADLINE SOON

ENTER 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. All photographs must be taken within the KMTA area which include the communities of Indian, Bird, Girdwood, Whittier, Hope/Sunrise, Moose Pass, Seward and Cooper Landing. For more info go to <https://kmtacorridor.org/photo-contests/>



Photo of Lower Trail Lake by Rhonda Lynn, 2020 winner, Sweeping Views category

SEEN RECENTLY ON SOUTHCENTRAL FACEBOOK PAGES

ALASKA STATE PARKS



Aug 27: JUST IN 🤓

Check out our latest Parks blog contribution by the talented Ann Dougherty on the Mt. Eklutna Trail: a inspiring poem with some sweet photos and a watercolor! 🙌🙌

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

(easy to find on our website: www.alaskastateparks.org)

ANCHORAGE PARK FOUNDATION

August 9: Healthy forests need healthy volunteers, especially when it comes to beating back bird cherry trees! We are so grateful for everyone who helps fight this invasive species. If you see us on the Chester creek trail today, say hello!

MAT-SU BOROUGH RECREATION AND LIBRARY SERVICES

August 19: The 2021 Trail season is winding down and staff are starting to leave for winter adventures, but here is a picture of the Crew that has been working so hard to make new trails and maintain the existing trails in our area. We hope that you can get out and enjoy their efforts!



SOUTHCENTRAL LINKS

- Ceremony recognizes Dena'ina place names along Anchorage trails (ADN): <https://tinyurl.com/2rr8pfbp>
- Hilltop Bike Park opens on Saturday (ADN): <https://tinyurl.com/4s4rxtf4>
- Trail blockader demands arrest of Landmine team, elected officials: <https://tinyurl.com/2ybnx9em>
- Whittier to Valdez by sea kayak (Luc Mehl): <https://tinyurl.com/3xfkt42r>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Indigenous Place Names Project (video): www.youtube.com/watch?v=xdbX-gQ4u8U

INTERIORWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

FEARS OF MINING ON ESTER DOME CAUSE LARGE OUTCRY

A mineral prospecting project that includes Ester Dome has caused a community outcry.

Two companies, Millrock Resources of Canada and Felix Gold Alaska, are prospecting for minerals, especially gold, over more than 10,000 acres in the Fairbanks area. Millrock announced the prospecting in March, however, the news didn't start to spread widely until after the Mental Health Trust Authority announced its intention to issue a mineral lease its land on Ester Dome to Felix Gold.

Once that news was released, opposition to large-scale mining on Ester Dome grew quickly. The Mental Health Trust Authority is required to seek public comment before it makes its final decision. The authority reportedly got hundreds of comments with many being in opposition or at

least expressing concern. A Facebook group "Mental Health Trust Mine Lease OPPOSITION Group" was quickly formed and has more than 400 members.

See a KUAC story about the controversy here: <https://tinyurl.com/bf8nfbf6>

People have expressed concerns about what a large-scale mine would do to both the recreational opportunities on Ester Dome, which has many trails, and residential areas scattered about the dome. Millrock and Felix Gold held a public open house in August to answer questions about the prospecting project. It was attended by a large and vocal group of people opposed to the project.

See a Fairbanks Daily News-Miner story about the event here: <https://tinyurl.com/wr4nwc7b>

When Millrock announced its prospecting intentions in March, it said it was aware of and would protect trails. The Fairbanks Daily News-Miner did a story on the exploration. A spokesperson from Millrock told the News-Miner: "We may want to make new trails where we want to drill. We would be very careful not to damage existing trails and there may be opportunities for us to improve some trails if it made sense."

See News-Miner story here: <https://tinyurl.com/3937dnse>



At the time, Millrock had put out a flyer stating “We want to hear your input and stay directly engaged with community members.”

Millrock can be contacted by emailing info@millrockresources.com or by calling its Fairbanks office at 907/328-2289.

Millrock and Felix Gold have also acquired rights to explore in the Treasure Creek area north of Old Murphy Dome Road, which also has several trails. No large opposition is organizing against work in that area. In fact, one musher and business owner, Sven Haltmann of Arctic Winter Adventures, praised Millrock in a News-Miner opinion piece.

“Mineral exploration has come to my backyard but with their continued transparency and open conversation, we are able to start northern lights viewing in a few weeks and co-exist,” Haltman wrote, “a scenario that I thought would end up in a courtroom, instead we’re cooperating and coexisting.”

See Haltman’s full piece here: <https://tinyurl.com/5z2ncsb9>

See an announcement by Millrock about both projects here: <https://tinyurl.com/3b5uckjk>

Ester Dome has a long history of mining, but a large scale mine has not operated on the dome in many years. Since that time more residential areas have grown up and more people have started using the dome for recreation.

Photo by Eric Troyer of Millrock and Felix Gold Open House at Ken Kunkel Community Center in Goldstream Valley.

FAIRBANKS SUMMER TRAILS CHALLENGE ENDS THIS MONTH

The Fairbanks Trails Challenge ends on September 30.

The challenge, a popular event held twice a year by the Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks and Recreation Department, 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 the FNSB Parks & Rec Facebook page, OR email your photos to trails@fnsb.gov.



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! Participants

under the age of ten can find at least five signs to win the Junior Trailblazer Award, and seniors aged 60+ can find 5 to get win the Sourdough Trailblazer Award! To claim prizes, remember to register for the program and complete the trail checklist form.

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

<https://tinyurl.com/4dxdp7y6a>

Questions? Contact Bryant Wright at bwright@fnsb.us or 907-459-7401. For more info and how to register see:

- Facebook Event: <https://tinyurl.com/3ex8xccz>
- Trails Challenge webpage: <https://tinyurl.com/4chnx2xx>

INTERIORWIDE LINKS

- Division of Forestry continues work on Rosie Creek trail system (FDNM): <https://tinyurl.com/hyy7sz2x>
- Construction Report: An ADA-accessible path at Growden Park: <https://tinyurl.com/yf9bmc47>
- Your Help Needed for Birch Hill Brushing: <https://tinyurl.com/uxbkthxc>

SOUTHEAST NEWS AND NOTICES

SEEN RECENTLY ON SOUTHEAST FACEBOOK PAGES

TRAIL MIX, INC.

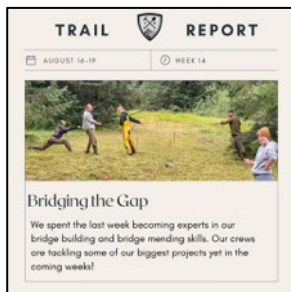
Aug 24: This #transformationtuesday was a real team effort! Our trail crew, trail maintenance volunteer team, and Juneau-Gastineau Rotary Club all collaborated to reroute one branch of the Switzer Creek trail away from a stream.

The crew kicked things off by plotting the new section of trail and removing large trees. The volunteer team took over for “grubbing,” the process of preparing a path to become a trail by removing shrubs, roots, and rocks. Juneau Gastineau Rotary joined the volunteer team to help fill and shape the new trail with gravel, and the crew put on the finishing touches, which included revegetating and “closing down” the old trail.

As one of Juneau’s few loop trails, we’re glad to have Switzer Creek ready for many more years of use. Thanks to everyone who helped make this happen!



Aug 23: 🪓 Trail Report Week 14 🪓



We have a lot of big improvements coming your way! 🌟 Last week was all about bridges. Crews trekked out to Perseverance early on in the week to assess the storm damage. While out there, we filled in the worst of the erosion, cleared out drains, and repaired a bridge that was damaged.

Meanwhile, our Treadwell crew flew in four bridges. 🛠️ Crews have started to assemble the new bridges along the ditch trail.

Out at the Eagle Valley Center, we began to use our new tool, the 🌟 helical pile driver. 🌟 This tool rotates long metal bars, called piers, 5-10 feet into the ground. These piers form support beams for the bridge we will be constructing over the next couple of weeks.

Aug 17: This #transformationtuesday is all about triage 🌊

Last week’s storms caused significant damage to our trails including Perseverance, where almost 30 feet washed away.

We sent a crew there first thing on Monday to address the most egregious issues. This team chainsawed a fallen tree, filled in big holes, repaired a bridge railing, and most importantly, created a path for trail users away from the edge of Gold Creek.

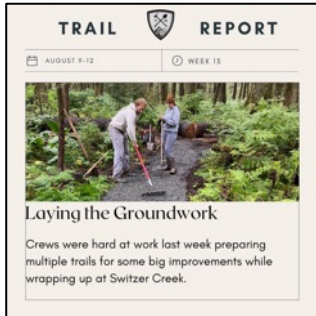
But this is only the beginning. The next step is to learn from where the water went in order to craft a long-term solution to manage it.



That's where you come in. The only force stronger than erosion is our community. With your support, we can improve our trails to better withstand the destructive forces of water and replace broken infrastructure. **Please donate now** to help us address damage in the Juneau trail system bit.ly/3kjZ8pl

Thank you to Owen, Sage, Laib, Ambrose, Sam, and Brittney for your quick response!

Aug 16: 🛠️ Trail Report Week 13 🛠️



Last week our Treadwell crew prepared everything for takeoff! 🚚 Today bridge parts were flown out to the Treadwell Ditch so that our crew can begin assembling the bridges.

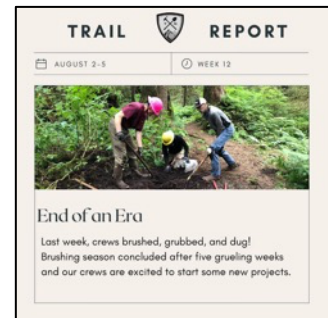
On the other side of the channel, crews worked out at Point Bridget and Switzer Creek. At Switzer, crews worked to improve tread on the new reroute that was constructed. The new trail is looking fantastic with their work! 🎉 After that, they headed out to Point Bridget to begin removing the old, rotting boardwalk. Removing the lays the groundwork for our upcoming improvements to the Point Bridget trail.

Aug 9: 🛠️ Trail Report Week 12 🛠️

Brushing concluded with a bang last week. 🌟 Crews blasted through the brush on Thunder Mountain, Mt. Roberts, Lemon Creek Trail, Switzer Creek Trail, Horse Tram, and at the Eagle Valley Center. Brushing is hard work. We're grateful for our hardworking crews and their perseverance to clear the brush of Juneau. 🎉

Our amazing volunteer crew spent last week working out at Switzer Creek. There, they worked on a reroute to divert the trail away from the creek. Their week was spent clearing ground, adding drainage, and graveling the new trail.

Our Treadwell crew continued work at the bridge sites. They began to prepare materials to be flown out. They're excited to get a weather window soon so they can begin construction. 🛠️



Aug 5: It's time to come clean. 🧼 🧽 💧 Trail Mix has a secret weapon.



Each week, our Trail Maintenance Volunteer Team heads up to Treadwell Ditch with one goal: improve the trail so you can bike it from end to end. While the goal is centered around cyclists, the improvements that they do benefit all types of recreationalists.

Since 2017, Trail Mix volunteers have clocked in over 4,317 hours on the Treadwell Ditch. That's a lot of hard work, grit, and determination.

To see the impact this team has made, look no further than the Emerson Spur trail. This trail was constructed entirely by volunteers from 2018-2020 and connects Fish Creek Road to Treadwell Ditch.

They also bring their skills to other trails around town like a reroute at Switzer happening right now. If you'd like to join our amazing volunteer crew or are interested in setting up a volunteer day for a group, go to www.trailmixinc.org/give/volunteer.

Aug 3: Fishing net and staples power this #transformationtuesday.

Last month, one of our crews headed down to Balls Lake near the center of Prince of Wales Island to fix up the loop trail that encircles the lake. To create traction on the slippery boardwalk, crew members attached seine net onto the planks using staple guns connected to an air compressor.

Ultimately the crew used between 500 to 600 pounds of staples for 1.8 miles, which amounts to 250,000 to 300,000 individual staples! While these materials are a little unconventional, this out-of-the-box thinking is what trail work is all about.

If you're not familiar with Balls Lake, it's a gorgeous freshwater lake surrounded by old growth forest and hosts the Eagle's Nest campground, one of the island's few maintained camping areas. It's a great spot for wildlife viewing and also is home to the rare round-leaved orchid, which grows there at the northern extent of its range.

Big thanks to Brittany, Laib, Meghan, Ambrose, Garrett, and Sam for all those hours you spent on your hands and knees stapling and also thank you to National Forest Foundation for funding this trail improvement project.



Aug 2: 🪓 Trail Report Week 11 🪓

Last week crews continued their hard work around Juneau. Our crew up at Treadwell Ditch continued their preparation for Nielson Creek. They are working to create the abutment sites (where the bridge will sit on either side). They've reached solid bedrock so it's been quite the process to prepare these spots!

Our other crews spent the week brushing. Under Thunder, Brotherhood Bridge Trail, and Dupont trail are all free from brush. One crew also headed off to Mendenhall Campground to finish installing nine bear-proof food storage lockers in the backpacker's camping area.

SITKA TRAIL WORKS, INC.



Aug 19: Continuing on the Thimbleberry theme, here's a trail description from the Parks & Recreation Committee's Sitka Trail Guide from 1980! My favorite line, "It is in poor condition due to the rain run-off and the lack of maintenance, as well as heavy usage by youngsters in the area." - I bet some of those "youngsters" have grandkids in Sitka now! 😄

Aug 12: If you liked last week's #ThrowbackThursday, you'll love this. We found this original colored pencil map sketched by local landscape architect Barth Hamberg in a dusty folder with a draft version of the 2003 Trail Plan. With the planned trails now constructed, it's a great idea for a local adventure - the 10-mile Three Lakes Loop!





Aug 11: Check it out! Our partners at Visit Sitka have published a new pocket Hiking Guide! If you have visitors in town, this is a handy way to get an overview of all the great trails here. You can pick up a copy from the Visitor's Center at 104 Lake St.

The new Hiking Guide uses information from our online Trail Guide, which is always a good resource if you're looking for more detail: <https://sitkatrailworks.org/trail-information/>

Thanks to The Greater Sitka Chamber of Commerce!

Aug 5: #ThrowbackThursday to this map of proposed routes in the 2003 Sitka Trail Plan. A short trail to Thimbleberry Lake existed, but no connection to Heart Lake. Similarly, a steep trail from the Sawmill Creek Campground accessed Beaver Lake, but the route from Herring Cove was just an idea. The City of Sitka, the Forest Service, the State, Sitka Trail Works, and other partners agreed that Heart Lake and Herring Cove were priorities, and then worked collaboratively to fund, design, and build these trails. Working together is how we create these beautiful trails!



SOUTHEAST LINK

- Glacier Bay to Yakutat (video): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TnC9r1rX7lw>

NATIONWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE TRANSIT TO TRAILS ACT

ACT On July 1, 2021, the House of Representatives passed the Transit to Trails Act as part of the INVEST In America Act to address transportation infrastructure. It's now critical for the Senate to include the Transit to Trails Act in their transportation and infrastructure legislation!

Tell your Senator to Co-Sponsor the Transit to Trails Act (S.1461) and include the legislation in any transportation and infrastructure package!

Underserved communities across the country don't have access to outdoor spaces. Transportation to our public lands and open spaces is one barrier that prevents many from accessing all the benefits trails and green spaces provide. Removing barriers and increasing access for urban and rural areas is critical. The Transit to Trails Act can provide a crucial transportation option to and from trails, public lands, and outdoor spaces.

Click here to take action: <https://americanhiking.org/advocacy/take-action/>

From American Hiking Society webpage

CREW REQUESTS BEING ACCEPTED FOR AHS VOLUNTEER PROJECTS

The Volunteer Vacations program is designed to send you a crew of eager volunteers, ready to assist with your trail needs. Volunteer Vacations are week-long trail building/maintaining projects organized by American Hiking Society. Most projects are one-week or shorter in length, consist of 6-10 crew members, and involve trail maintenance and building tasks on hiking trails on public lands.

Some land managers may consider hosting an Alternative Break Crew, in addition to a Volunteer Vacation. Alternative Breaks are volunteer trail stewardship projects designed specifically for college student groups and young professionals. Any government land management agency or nonprofit organization can request a crew. (non-profit organizations will need to be Alliance Members of AHS to host).

Learn more about hosting a Volunteer Vacation and/or an Alternative Break crew.

- Volunteer Vacations: <https://americanhiking.org/volunteer-vacations/host-information/>
- Alternative Break: <https://americanhiking.org/volunteer-vacations/alternative-break/host-information/>

From Paperless Trail, the American Hiking Society newsletter

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/training/calendar

TRAILS-RELATED NEWSLETTERS

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

VOLUNTEER

- Conservation International newsletter (August): <https://tinyurl.com/yz4bfrk>
- Wilderness Volunteers: <https://www.wildernessvolunteers.org/>

FUNDING

- onX Access + Stewardship Grants (deadline Sept 19): <https://tinyurl.com/3h4fss56>
- IMBA Dig In Program (November application period): <https://www.imba.com/digin>
- Federal Highway Administration funding chart (has trails-related categories): <http://tinyurl.com/zqz2m8p>
- Clif Bar Family Foundation grants (for groups, projects; ddline Oct 1): <http://tinyurl.com/y5es3wjc>
- Yamaha Outdoor Access Initiative (OHVs, next deadline Sept 30): <https://yamahaoai.com/>

OTHER NATIONAL LINKS:

- Federal Recreational Trails Program Underfunded by \$200M+ Per Year: <https://tinyurl.com/fcphhk3r>
- 15 National Park Trails to Add to Your Bucket List: <https://tinyurl.com/4au9ftub>
- Digging Into the Numbers Behind the Pandemic Trail Boom: <https://tinyurl.com/nm796u9u>
- Teaching Kids to be Great Trail Stewards: <https://tinyurl.com/b4juytvz>
- Why Don't We See More People Of Color On The Trails Of Washington State?: <https://tinyurl.com/cssd22ae>
- Autism Trail seeks to break down barriers to deep nature: <https://tinyurl.com/udspufb4>
- Managing E-Bikes on Multi-Use Paths: <https://tinyurl.com/ybzvrfjn>
- National Park Service requires masks indoors, on crowded trails: <https://tinyurl.com/y9sp9mdz>
- What the Great American Outdoors Act Means for the Hiking Community: <https://tinyurl.com/2dw5mx5s>

INTERNATIONAL

- The 10 Best Hiking Trails in Costa Rica: <https://tinyurl.com/jvusa4h6>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Is It Finally Time for the Backpack Tax?: <https://tinyurl.com/awhah7p4>
- Walking Toward Peace: Veterans Healing on America's Trails: <https://tinyurl.com/zy66nyd2>

The Alaska Trails board meets via teleconference the first Tuesday of every other month from 5-7pm. If you want to hear more about Alaska trail topics, share trail information, or propose a trail project, join us. Members and the public are welcome. Call for more information and meeting details [907-334-8049](tel:907-334-8049).

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