



# NEWSLETTER

Dec  
2019

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

## ALASKA TRAILS NEWS AND NOTICES

### TRAIL TALES EVENT TO SUPPORT ALASKA TRAILS AT NEW VENUE

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

We are excited to have the Chugach Park Fund as our partner for Trail Tales #17. 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 the Chugach Park Fund.

Trail Tales #17 will be held at the Anchorage Museum, 625 C Street, on Thursday, December 11. Doors open at 6:30, stories start at 7:00 pm. Tickets are \$15 and can be bought online at:

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

The museum's atrium kiosk has beer, wine and non-alcoholic beverages for purchase. Drinks may be brought into the auditorium in a reusable Museum tumbler (available for purchase there, includes a beer or pour of wine!). There are small take-away foods for purchase, too. The Muse Restaurant is open for dinner and drinks starting at 5pm.



We are excited to have Dorn Van Dommelen as one of our storytellers.

Dorn moved to Alaska over 25 years ago to teach geography at the University of Alaska Anchorage. He and Diane raised their children (Lang, Eve, and Puck) in an off-grid cabin at the foot of Bird Ridge. He loves to backpack, hike, ski, and orienteer in the Chugach and other places close to home. Dorn is also an avid

winter camper and teaches winter camping to Boy Scout leaders, having served as a Scoutmaster for his son's Scout troop. He will share a story about hiking and camping in the winter with Scouts and the hidden lessons learned at -33F.

You can read about our other storytellers on our Facebook Event:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/426522981629864/>

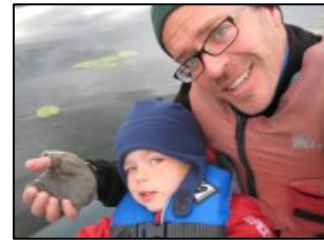
*(Photo by Lang Van Dommelen)*

### ALASKA TRAILS LINKS

- A vision for the Alaska trail system of the future: <https://tinyurl.com/y2xdh4op>

**DIRECTOR'S CORNER**

*Steve Cleary, Executive Director*



## **A Season of Thanks and Looking Forward to a great New Year**

We are grateful for a successful 2019 and appreciate the support of all the volunteers, donors and supporters who have made that happen. Alaska Trails is thrilled to report some exciting changes that will serve as a springboard into the new year:

First a farewell. Thanks to longtime, Fairbanks-area board member Malcolm McEwen who has reached the end of his term limits and is stepping off the board. We appreciate Malcolm for all his years on the board. We hope to replace him with someone in the Fairbanks area so be on the lookout for that.

And now introducing:

### **Mariyam Medovaya – Alaska Trails Initiative Support Staff:**

Alaska Trails is pleased to report the hiring of Mariyam Medovaya as our staff person on the Alaska Trails Initiative. Mariyam brings diverse experience and skills needed for our ambitious initiative. This includes guiding hikes for local tour business Ascending Path developing interpretive programs on the natural and cultural history of Prince William Sound, and narrating on-ship tours. She has worked in the non-profit world, including positions with the World Wildlife Fund and the Girdwood Art Institute. Mariyam brings valuable experience building relationships with universities, colleges, nonprofit organizations and community groups, and is skilled with a range software and communication tools, including CANVA, the program we've used to create Trails Initiative publications.



### **Lindsay Garrod - Volunteer Program Coordinator:**

Alaska Trails is excited to report the hiring of Lindsay Garrod as the Volunteer Program Coordinator for its Alaska Trail Stewards program, which is the main focus of the Murdock Charitable Trust grant. Lindsay has extensive experience in the non-profit world, most notably with the Anchorage Museum. She served in a variety of roles at the museum including Director of Programs as well as the Visitor Engagement and Programs Manager. In addition to working directly with donors, Lindsay also has valuable experience with a wide array of systems including website development software, client relationship management software, databases, and word processing software. Lindsay loves to trail run, hike, bike, and get out with my family and dog whenever possible.



With these great new staff members, Alaska Trails is looking forward to 2020 and beyond. We hope to continue to build better trails, better maintain the ones we have and build the network of trail advocates across the state.

We wish you a happy holiday season filled with many trail adventures!

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

## STATEWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

### NEW PORTAL ON PITTMAN-ROBERTSON FUNDS INCLUDES SURVEY

**TAKE SURVEY** A new online portal has been created for the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act, often referred to as the Pittman-Robertson Act. This act provides funds to state fish and wildlife agencies for a variety of wildlife programs, including public access, which includes trails. The portal has a link to a survey asking the public about which types of hunter access projects people want to see happen. See the new portal here: <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=access.hunter>

### SUPPORT PARKS AS PART OF YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

**BUY A PASS** The holiday shopping season is here. You can use it to encourage people to get outside AND support some of our greatest recreational assets. Buy a pass for yourself or someone else. Plus, buying early pays off for State Parks passes because after Jan. 1 the cost increases. Day-use passes will be \$60, boat launch passes will be \$150. The 2020 passes are good to use starting Nov. 15, 2019.

- Alaska State Parks annual pass: Support state parks during a time of tight state budgets. Permits are \$50 and, of course, your parking is then paid for when you park at a state parks trailhead that requires a fee. Passes are good for the calendar year. Annual boat launch passes are also available for \$100: <https://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/passes> (Passes are also available at the DNR Public Information Centers and Recreational Equipment Inc. stores in Anchorage and Fairbanks; at visitor centers in Kenai, Soldotna and Homer; at 24 Mile Java on Chena Hot Springs Road in Fairbanks; and at the Seward Chamber of Commerce office.)
- National Park Service annual passes: The park service offers general passes for \$80. It also has a variety of other discounted or free passes for seniors, fourth-graders, people with disabilities, some volunteers, and members of the military: <https://www.nps.gov/planyourvisit/passes.htm>



### PLANNING RAMPS UP FOR JUNEAU OUTDOOR WEEK, MARCH 2 - 6

**PARTICIPATE** We're so thankful for the bounty of outdoor riches this state offers. With the arrival of the holidays, so too come thoughts about the coming year and planning for our next big event that shines a spotlight on outdoor industry business concerns and causes: Juneau Outdoor Week, March 2 - 6. It's a legislative fly-in plus more as businesses and cause-related partners host and participate in events that increase awareness of Alaska's outdoor recreation sector.

We hope you'll consider sharing your thoughts, exuberance and issues you care about during in the upcoming Juneau Outdoor Week, March 2 - 6. This one-pager Juneau Outdoor Week Info explains how easy it is to get involved (<https://tinyurl.com/rkow6oh>). If you want to join us to meet with legislators and/or host or participate in an event highlighting your business or cause, just let us know on this super simple and quick Juneau Outdoor Week Pledge Form (<https://tinyurl.com/tb62edb>). The form is just like it sounds, a pledge to participate. We can work out the details in these next months leading up to the first week of March.

*(From Alaska Outdoor Alliance newsletter)*

## FIRST DAY OUTINGS USUALLY HELD IN ALASKA STATE PARKS

Alaska State Parks encourages Alaskans to celebrate the New Year by enjoying the great outdoors in their state parks. As of press time, no outings had been scheduled, but state parks and local volunteer groups often host hike/ski excursions in several Alaska state park units on New Year's Day. These free, guided events are part of the national First Day Hikes initiative sponsored by state park systems throughout the United States. See more about First Day Hikes at: <https://tinyurl.com/www5cu7>

## STATEWIDE LINKS

- Hunting trails don't always end in obvious places, but they all have turning points: <https://tinyurl.com/qwsbaay>

### SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- After Talkeetna, Confluence Gets 2020 Vision: <https://tinyurl.com/yy99z538>
- State Board of Forestry plans December 3 meeting (includes proposed partnership fostering outdoor recreation in Tanana Valley State Forest near Fairbanks): <https://tinyurl.com/tt9ji92>
- It's never too early for avalanche safety: <https://tinyurl.com/t835pc4>

## SOUTHCENTRAL NEWS AND NOTICES

### ANCHORAGE'S FIRST HEALTH AND WELLNESS PARK OPENS

Folker Park is a short walk from the classes at UAA and just across the street from the Providence Horizon House elder care home. It's the perfect place for Anchorage's first "health and wellness park".

Now, three new ADA accessible pathways weave through the park in the shape of a Celtic healing knot, providing almost a mile of walkable trail. Modern fitness equipment provides an opportunity for people of all ages to work on their dexterity and balance while peaceful musical chimes and a new play area provide entertainment for neighborhood children.

Residents of Providence House were at the heart of creating a space of "intergenerational wellness" and worked closely with Senior Park Planner Maeve Nevins-Lavtar of the Municipality on the design and construction. While walking the newly paved trail this summer, Rosa Lee Osborne, a resident at Providence House, came up with a unique idea to celebrate the grand opening of the park this fall. She thought that since the new path was wide enough for two wheelchairs they should celebrate the park with a walker and wheelchair parade. Dozens of seniors decorated their walkers and celebrated the rejuvenation of the park this September. Now neighbors have a park to connect with each other, a place for elders to spend precious time with grandchildren, and patients with the nearby hospital to take steps towards recovery.



*(From the Anchorage Park Foundation newsletter)*

## FOUNDATION AWARDS OVER \$240,000 TO PARK, TRAIL PROJECTS

In 2019, the Anchorage Park Foundation (APF) awarded more than \$240,000 to 16 community-driven park and trail improvement projects across Anchorage. Every two years, APF invites the community to submit their ideas for a park or trail improvement project in Anchorage. Successful ideas are awarded with a dollar-for-dollar matching grant for the energy volunteers put into their project through cash donations, volunteer labor, and in-kind materials or services. The program is made possible through the generous support of the Rasmuson Foundation. To read more about the projects see: <https://tinyurl.com/yx7neoju>

*(From the Anchorage Park Foundation newsletter)*

## MAT-SU FOUNDATION ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR PROJECTS

**APPLY** The Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation is accepting applications for Summer 2020 projects.

**Deadline is December 31.** The process consists of four steps:

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



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

*From Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation newsletter*

## ARTICLE HIGHLIGHTS TUTKA BACKDOOR TRAIL IN KACHEMAK BAY

The December issue of Trail Runner magazine has an essay, with photos, by Erin McKittrick on the building of (and running of) the 30+ mile Tutka Backdoor Trail in Kachemak Bay State Park. You can pick up the magazine at local stores or get an electronic version (<https://pocketmags.com/us/trail-runner-magazine>). To find out more information about the trail see: [www.groundtruthtrekking.org/tutka\\_backdoor/](http://www.groundtruthtrekking.org/tutka_backdoor/)

## SEEN RECENTLY ON THE SOUTHCENTRAL FACEBOOK PAGES

### ALASKA STATE PARKS

November 27: SNOW MACHINERS! Denali State Park Is open to snow machines from Byers Lake and all areas north of MP 147 and Petersville. All other areas will open tomorrow (11/28) after/during the next storm cycle.

Please be advised all rivers and creeks are still flowing and ice on Byers lake is only about 3". Be safe out there and have a great Thanksgiving! Updated conditions on all our State Parks can be found here: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/asp/curevnts.htm>

November 19: The Anchorage- Alaska Public Lands Information Center (AAPLIC) on 4th Avenue in downtown Anchorage got a recent \$1.7 million remodel and is definitely worth checking out! They had a Grand re-opening on November 13th and the displays are spectacular. Guests can find information for all public lands here, and it's a must visit for residents and visitors alike.

Bonus: you can also get your Alaska State Parks day-use parking pass at the AAPLIC. Open Tuesday-Friday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.

## ANCHORAGE PARKS AND RECREATION

November 18: Stay up to date with the trail grooming status for the Anchorage Nordic trails via the interactive MOA Nordic Trails map! 🗺️ View trails by usage (multi-use vs. ski only), which are lit, when they were last groomed, and skill level.

Winter operations are just ramping up with the most recent snowfall. Thanks Nordic Skiing Association of Anchorage and Girdwood Nordic Ski Club for helping us maintain so many of the trails!

Find the map at this link: [https://maps.ancgis.com/AGOL\\_NordicTrails](https://maps.ancgis.com/AGOL_NordicTrails)

## ANCHORAGE PARK FOUNDATION

November 1: Never doubt the indomitable Halloween spirit of Spenard! We had fun with everyone who came out to the new and improved Fish Creek Trail to trick or treat!



Thank you to the transportation and community leaders who literally built bridges to connect Anchorage residents in one more neighborhood – Spenard.

Spenard Community Council, Turnagain Community Council, Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities, Neeser Construction, Inc., CRW Engineering Group, LLC, Anchorage Parks and Recreation, and everyone who made this project

possible! Photo Credit: Michael Dinneen

October 29: A few things we spotted on the Westchester Lagoon Nature Trail today: some mallards, a drone (does that count as birding?), and almost 100 kids from Inlet View Elementary School!

Thank you to everyone who came out to celebrate the new and improved (and even more accessible) Westchester Lagoon Trail today!

Special thanks to Anchorage Parks and Recreation, Bettisworth North Architects and Planners, Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities, Anchorage School District, The Boutet Company, and everyone else who helped rejuvenate this wonderful trail!



## SOUTHCENTRAL LINKS

- New Pacific Northern Academy Trail Opens in Ruth Arcand Park: <https://tinyurl.com/us9xm7m>
- Trails, campgrounds, cabins and a road still remain closed in wake of fire (Kenai Peninsula): <https://tinyurl.com/w3pquld>
- Chester Creek Singletrack Completed: <https://tinyurl.com/yx89j33b>

## SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- New documents reveal coordinated effort to eliminate Campbell Lake public access: <https://tinyurl.com/t8uuf0e>
- Girdwood weighs future of the popular, but deadly, Winner Creek hand tram: <https://tinyurl.com/temzawp>
- Over 200 acres added to Palmer Hay Flats: <https://tinyurl.com/rvh478o>

- Kenai Peninsula highway project to start in 2020 will include Alaska's largest bridge: <https://tinyurl.com/y2u4agj4>
- Hatcher Pass Avalanche Forecast website: <https://hpavalanche.org/>
- **APPLY** Mat Su Trails and Parks Foundation seeking full-time Donor Relations Officer: <https://tinyurl.com/ttrw4zb>
- REI Anchorage classes and events: <https://tinyurl.com/yxz7x26k>
- Outdoor Explorer radio show: Exploring the fascinating (and sometimes restricted) wild areas on Anchorage's eastern border: <https://tinyurl.com/v2zxwr8>

## INTERIORWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

### FAIRBANKS ASSEMBLY TO ADDRESS TRAIL-RELATED ITEMS

**ADVOCATE** The Fairbanks Borough Assembly has at least two trails-related items on the agenda for its December 12 meeting. Trail advocates who feel strongly about these issues should take action by taking one of the actions below:

- Attend the meeting and testify in support (meeting starts at 6pm on Nov 14 at 907 Terminal St.)
- Call or email one or more of the assembly members letting them know of your support: <http://co.fairbanks.ak.us/assembly/Pages/Assembly-Members.aspx>

The items on the agenda are:

- ORDINANCE NO. 2019 - 47: To exempt from borough property taxes the Musher's Hall and trailhead for the Jeff Studdert Trails trailhead and parking. The Alaska Dog Musher's Association owns the property. The less the ADMA has to spend on taxes, the more it can spend on the its extensive trail system, which is free and open to the public. (See the ordinance here: <http://fnsb.us/assembly/OrdinanceResolutions/2019-47.pdf>).
  - The Fairbanks Daily News-Miner wrote a cautionary editorial regarding the Musher's Hall exemption: <https://tinyurl.com/s24l5wg>
- ORDINANCE NO. 2019 - 20 - 1N: To spend \$38,161 as match for a \$367,480 in federal highway funding to improve access roads to Birch Hill Recreation Area and South Davis Park access roads. Birch Hill has an extensive trail system and the South Davis access road leads to the Fairbanks Dog Park, which has several trails. Both are free and open to the public. (See the ordinance here: <http://fnsb.us/assembly/OrdinanceResolutions/2019-20-1N.pdf>).



#### PREVIOUS TRAILS-RELATED ACTION BY THE ASSEMBLY

At its November 14 meeting, the assembly passed a resolution to spend \$8,300 to match a \$83,000 grant for multiple trailhead kiosks that will provide trail access information for multi-use trails within the Tanana Lakes Recreation Area and beyond the rec area, including the Bonnefield Trail, Tanana River, and Tanana Flats areas. (See the resolution here: <http://fnsb.us/assembly/OrdinanceResolutions/R2019-41.pdf>, and see the Trails Advisory Commission packet below, starting at page 21.)

#### OTHER BOROUGH TRAILS NEWS

Also in borough news, the Trails Advisory Commission and borough Trails Coordinator recently

recommended against a variance on required trail easements regarding a subdivision of land that affects the ADMA Jeff Studdert Sled Dog Trails next to Creamer's Field Refuge. (Starting at page 24 of the TAC packet.) The proposal has been put forth by the University of Alaska Land Management and The Conservation Fund as part a land swap. The commission and coordinator opposed the variance because the land swap does not guarantee protection of the trails, those that appears to be a final result of the swap.

- Trails Advisory Commission November meeting packet: <https://tinyurl.com/vrdu7y9>
- Contact information for the Trails Advisory Commission is here: <https://tinyurl.com/yxah9xv2>

## ROSIE CREEK AREA OF STATE FOREST GETTING MORE ATTENTION

A recently announced project by the Alaska State Division of Forestry has drawn attention to the recreation potential in the Rosie Creek area of the Tanana Valley State Forest.

The state Division of Forestry is applying for a grant to improve and sign some of the forestry roads in the area so that people are more willing to use it for recreation purposes. The plan also calls for creation of a trailhead off the Parks Highway. The project got a favorable response from the public during a public meeting this past fall.



The motivation behind the project is two-fold. One is that the division has no plans to log in that area for at least several decades. The other is that there is a desire on the Board of Forestry to explore more of the division's recreation mandate.

While the proposal has drawn attention to the recreation potential of the Rosie Creek area, many people already use the roads and trails informally winter and summer. However, some have been discouraged from venturing there because there are few directional signs, making it easy to get lost. For people interested in exploring the area on their own, this map can be useful: <https://tinyurl.com/uuwf75v>

Another way to get to know the area is to use it during an event, such as the Tanana River



Challenge winter endurance race

(<http://tananariverchallenge.org/>), which is open to skiers, ski-jorers, fatbikers, and runners. The race, which is usually held in February or March, starts on and uses a portion of the Tanana River (unless the river is not sufficiently frozen), but it also uses many of the trails in the Rosie Creek area of the Tanana Valley State Forest. Organizers of the race keep many of the trails groomed during winter (though no set track for skiing).

In recent years, the Nordic Ski Club of Fairbanks has held a tour in the area earlier in the winter. The Fairbanks Cycle Club is also planning a ride there in the summer of 2020 as part of its Tuesday Night Mountain Bike Rides.

*(Photo of biker on Rosie Creek trails by Eric Troyer; photo of winter grooming of Rosie Creek trails by Drew Harrington)*



## SEEN RECENTLY ON THE INTERIOR FACEBOOK PAGES

### GOLDSTREAM VALLEY LIONS CLUB

November 4: Thanks to a donation from the Joel Switzer trust, the Goldstream Lions recently re-decked this bridge over Goldstream Creek. Joel was often involved in trail work in our community and for various dog mushing events, so fixing up some trails in his memory seems like a good fit. Thank you Joel!



### UAF NORTH CAMPUS

November 15: Big news trail users! The lighting system control module has been replaced and appears to be working reliably. The lights are scheduled to turn on at 6 a.m. off at dawn and on again at dusk off at 10 p.m. If you notice anything different while using the trails, or sections of lights that are out, please report them by calling 474-2648 or email [kaaxx@alaska.edu](mailto:kaaxx@alaska.edu). Thanks!

### BLM-WHITE MOUNTAINS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

November 27: Several people recently called the BLM about this big new gully blocking the Colorado Creek Trail about 2.5 miles from the Colorado Creek Trailhead. This week the BLM trail crew put in a detour around the gully, so the trail is open again all the way to Wolf Run Cabin. BLM photo by Eric Yeager.



November 27: White Mountains trail conditions update: Additional snow is improving White Mountains trail conditions, though thin ice and open water on creeks remain a problem in some areas. Snow depth ranges from 4 or 5 inches at lower elevations to several feet up higher. All trails have been broken or groomed except for the Big Bend, Windy Creek, and Cache Mountain Loop trails, as well as parts of the Fossil Creek and Fossil Gap trails. Beaver Creek crossings are solid in most spots, but the crossing by Borealis-LeFevre Cabin may require an upstream detour until the ice thickens. Windy Gap Cabin remains hard to reach because of open water and shelf ice on Fossil Creek, but the other cabins should be accessible (though additional snow is forecast for coming days).

This week the trail crew put in a detour around a large gully that developed on the Colorado Creek Trail a few miles from the trailhead. They then opened that trail as far as Wolf Run Cabin. They have also been busy on the McKay Creek side of the trail system, and they plan on opening the Moose Creek Trail today.

Read the full trail conditions report here: [www.blm.gov/visit/white-mountains/trail-update](http://www.blm.gov/visit/white-mountains/trail-update). Please have a safe and enjoyable Thanksgiving!

## INTERIORWIDE LINKS

- Fairbanks Daily News-Miner's Winter Survival Guide
  - Outdoor winter activity good for health, happiness: <https://tinyurl.com/y6xlf47x>
  - Winter rambling is easy on nearby groomed trails: <https://tinyurl.com/y3azf6ej>
  - Explore Interior Alaska's many backcountry trails by snowmachine: <https://tinyurl.com/y4rwghyk>

### SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- New cabin opening on Compeau Trail: <https://tinyurl.com/y2s9yyok>
- Ward seeks to stamp out smoking in local parks: <https://tinyurl.com/vfgl83o>
- Fairbanks REI classes and events: <https://www.rei.com/events/p/us-ak-fairbanks>

## SOUTHEAST NEWS AND NOTICES

### SEEN RECENTLY ON THE SOUTHEAST FACEBOOK PAGES

#### JUNEAU PARKS & RECREATION

November 19: Due to elevated landslide risk, we are temporarily closing the Flume Trail. Please abide by the posted signage. We will monitor the situation and notify the public when it reopens. For more information, call Parks & Recreation at 586-5226.

November 1: Construction has finished up for the season on the Kaxdigoowu Heen Dei, also known as the Brotherhood Bridge Trail, and the new section is open for use by the public. The hard-working folks at City and Borough of Juneau Engineering had finished removing the eroded, unsafe section of trail earlier this fall, and re-used the same material to construct the new section of trail that is replacing it.



In the spring, they will be paving it to match the rest of the trail, and the old trail site will be seeded to restore the area to wetland. As you can see from the photos, care was taken to preserve the famous

view of the meadow from the trailhead that so many people enjoy.

#### SITKA TRAIL WORKS, INC.

November 12: Sitka Trail Works has received reports of a major blowdown on Mosquito Cove Trail.

The ocean side of the trail is impassable due to this mass of fallen trees & there are additional downed trees in multiple other spots. We advise hikers to avoid the affected areas. We are working with State Parks on a plan for funding & repairs and will update you when more is known.



*Update 11/26 (from Trail Works website): The U.S. Forest Service Trail Crew along with Sitka Trail Works has cleared the fallen logs along the Mosquito Cove Trail. The Mosquito Cove Trail is now passable.*

*We continue to urge all trail users to use caution on the trail, especially on the ocean side of the loop & during high winds.*

*(Photo of blowdown by Naomi Ann)*

November 1: We're pleased to bring you a new addition to our trail guide: The Path of Hope.

During the fall season here at Sitka Trail Works we've been doing some behind the scenes work to

update our online guide. We've spent part of October creating this page with help from the Sitka Cancer Survivor's Society. The Path of Hope is situated between Lower Moller Field's track and Moller Avenue. To learn more about this relaxing area visit The Path of Hope trail page:

<http://sitkatrailworks.org/path-of-hope/>

## NATIONWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

### SENATE ADVANCES PUBLIC LANDS AND TRAIL LEGISLATION

Recently the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee voted to advance two bills that would create new trails and ensure our existing trails and public lands are maintained for years to come. The LWCF Permanent Funding Act (S.1081) and the Restore Our Parks Act (S.500) are ready for a vote on the Senate floor! See the American Hiking Society's letter regarding Land and Water Conservation Fund legislation: <https://tinyurl.com/sh9e33c>

*(From the American Hiking Society Paperless Trail 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/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)

### **VOLUNTEER**

- American Hiking Society's Volunteer Vacations: <http://tinyurl.com/ydh95kp8>
- Volunteer Stewardship Tools: [www.americantrails.org/resources/volunteer-stewardship-tools](http://www.americantrails.org/resources/volunteer-stewardship-tools)
- American Trails Volunteer Portal: [www.americantrails.org/connect/volunteer](http://www.americantrails.org/connect/volunteer)
- Conservation International VIP newsletter (November): <https://tinyurl.com/y5om7w6>
- American Hiking Society's 2020 Alternative Spring Break schedule: <http://tinyurl.com/yxbnlema>

### **ADVOCATE**

- Write in support of the American Hiking Society's letter regarding Land and Water Conservation Fund legislation:

### **FUNDING**

- National Forest Foundation Matching Awards Program (**deadline Jan 16**): <http://tinyurl.com/px7y6ke>

*TRAIL GUIDES*

- And did those feet ... 15 pilgrim trails in the UK and Europe: <https://tinyurl.com/y5o3ocop>
- Easy Phoenix Hiking Trails To Experience The Desert Environment: <https://tinyurl.com/s8gcej>
- A Complete Guide to Grand Canyon Hiking: The Best Tours, Trails, and Tips: <https://tinyurl.com/vmnggg6>

- Avoid the traffic on these four scenic bike trails in Florida: <https://tinyurl.com/sy3vqwt>
- The Best Bike Trails Throughout Florida: [www.flamingomag.com/2019/11/25/florida-bike-trails/](http://www.flamingomag.com/2019/11/25/florida-bike-trails/)

#### STUDIES

- 15 Minutes of Walking On A Daily Basis Can Change Your Body Drastically: <https://tinyurl.com/yxxreyhg>
- Study: Rail-trails inject \$930M annually into Pa. economy: <https://tinyurl.com/r5h9uyt>

#### TRAILS AND ECONOMICS

- Trails spur economic development and more in northwest Indiana: <https://tinyurl.com/y4vqgpd2>
- Hatfield McCoy Trails Bring Tourists To Southern West Virginia: <https://tinyurl.com/yx8q28lk>
- Why cities build MTB parks, and how to convince yours: <https://tinyurl.com/y363a42p>
- Evidence of Many Varieties of Economic Benefits Linked to Trails: <https://tinyurl.com/t7pirud>

#### OTHER NATIONAL LINKS:

- Ramps for Accessible Trails and Shared-Use Pathways: <https://tinyurl.com/yv9bclx>
- National Recreation Trails Photo Contest (deadline Dec 15): <https://tinyurl.com/y72do9vl>
- New Rules Will Help the PCT Combat Overcrowding: <https://tinyurl.com/w2hy75m>
- **Apply** to Be a 2020 NextGen Trail Leader (Am Hiking Society; ddline Dec 6): <https://tinyurl.com/rl7xybj>
- Alternative Break Scholarships for School Groups: <https://tinyurl.com/y436r6z5>
- Our Public Lands Are Broke: Is It Time for a 'Backpack Tax'? : <https://tinyurl.com/u2qmhwl>

#### SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Outdoor-recreation fans are joining together to flex lobbying muscle: <https://tinyurl.com/tbz7zw3>

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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)