



NEWSLETTER

MAY
2021

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www.alaska-trails.org

ALASKA TRAILS NEWS AND NOTICES

VACCINATIONS HELP VOLUNTEER TRAIL EVENTS FOR THIS SUMMER

GET VACCINATED, VOLUNTEER Alaska Trails is planning to return to volunteer events this summer. We are still working out all of our COVID mitigation plans but we are excited to return to trail work soon.

The Centers for Disease Control recently announced that if you're vaccinated, you don't need to mask outdoors (<https://tinyurl.com/ydzdkxmf>). Therefore, we are optimistic about having safe and fun events to build and maintain trails. **The best way for you to join in on that is to get vaccinated and do your part to keep the community safe.**

Please **check our volunteer page** for updates: www.alaska-trails.org/alaska-trail-stewards



ALASKA LONG TRAIL GAINS MORE SUPPORTERS, NEEDS ADVOCACY

ADVOCATE Support for the Long Trail continues to gain momentum. Gov. Mike Dunleavy, a number of Alaska legislators, and Anchorage, Fairbanks and Seward are all on the record as active Long Trail supporters.

Tourism organizations are likewise rallying around the project.

"We're seeing a clear evolution towards younger travelers with greater interest in active experiences, and COVID has accelerated that trend," Julie Saube, Visit Anchorage executive director recently told the Senate Transportation Committee. "A trail linking different communities is a proven incentive for travelers to spend more time and money in our communities."

U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski announced at the Statewide Trails Conference hosted by Alaska Trails in April that she would be sponsoring legislation focused on improving Alaska's trail system (see story in Statewide section), including the Alaska Long Trail. Specifically, the bill would seek the trail's designation as a National Scenic Trail, which would make the project eligible for additional funding opportunities.

**THE ALASKA LONG TRAIL:
A PATH FOR A STRONGER SUSTAINABLE
ECONOMY**

From the Camino de Santiago in Spain to the Great Himalayan Trail in Nepal, the Inca Trail in Peru to the Appalachian and Pacific Crest Trails in the United States, long trails have captured the attention of travelers the world over. With some of the most stunning wilderness in the world, Alaska is long overdue in creating a world class long trail of its own. Long trails engage visitors in everything from simple day hikes to multi-week, bucket list lifetime accomplishments. Alaska Trails and its partners are proposing such a route connecting Fairbanks and Seward.

This first 500-mile segment could ultimately expand into a 2000-mile trail extending north from Fairbanks to the Brooks Range and the North Slope, and south to a future SE Long Trail, following an alluring mix of trails and ferry rides. Many sections of the proposed Alaska Long Trail already exist or are currently planned, and the route is almost entirely on public lands, enormously reducing the complexity and cost of the trail.

It is time for Alaska to invest in its future by creating a route that will stand with the other great long trails of the world.

The recent general obligation bond package proposed by Gov. Dunleavy includes \$13.2 million to be put toward connecting the existing segments of the Long Trail. However, the bond idea is likely to be scratched over concerns about whether that action is necessary given Alaska's \$1.02 Billion share of the

Congress's recent passage of the \$1.9 Trillion American Rescue Plan (<https://tinyurl.com/3bm39489>). The Alaska Trails Initiative (ATI) is now asking the legislature to add the projects to their capital budget.

It is time to urge the Alaska Legislature to follow Governor Dunleavy's direction and include funding for the proposed 500-mile "Alaska Long Trail" to their capital budget. This project will help kick-start our economy, and provide more ways for Alaskans to be active, healthy and happy outside. We encourage those of you who support the Long Trail to reach out to your representatives and share information about the need for funding this project.

For more information, including the correct projects list and **how to advocate for this project** see: www.alaska-trails.org/go-bond-2021

HELP SECURE MORE TRAIL FUNDING BY ADVOCATING FOR LWCF

ADVOCATE The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is a federal 1:1 match program which has funded over 350 outdoor recreation projects in Alaska, and it now needs our help. Starting in 2021, the Alaska's share of the LWCF is increasing to \$2.5M each year, thanks to the Great American Outdoors Act. Alaska cannot afford to turn away these critical outdoor recreation dollars that would double state and local investments for trails, boat launches, playgrounds, and more. Now is the time to reach out to your state legislators and urge them to keep the LWCF in the FY2021 Supplemental and FY2022 Capital state budgets.



Learn more, including how to contact your legislators, at: www.alaska-trails.org/funding-for-trails

TRAILS CONFERENCE 2021 – LOOKING TO BRIGHTER DAYS AHEAD!

TAKE SURVEY While we were once again disappointed that the COVID-19 pandemic prevented the 2021 Alaska Statewide Trails Conference from happening in person, Alaska Trails seized the opportunity to stage a successful virtual conference.

By hosting a series of webinars from Wednesday, April 14, through Friday, April 16, Alaska Trails brought a wide variety of trail topics to an audience that spread across the state and featured many presenters from outside the state.

Senator Lisa Murkowski gave the keynote address in which she shared insights on the upcoming \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan Act. She also spoke about her plans to introduce bills regarding the Chilkoot Trail and Alaska Long Trail (see story in Statewide section).

National presenters included two representatives from Leave No Trace as well as two from the National Digital Trails Project, an innovative mapping project of the USGS that will greatly benefit Alaska trail builders and planners.

Other sessions focused on the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2022-27, COVID Conservation Corps, the maintenance funding gap for land managers, trail funding in general, the health benefits of

trails and the effects the COVID had on trail use, and volunteer successes and project updates. The recorded video presentations as well as the powerpoints to go with them can be found at our conference website: <https://www.alaska-trails.org/trails-conference>



Alaska Trails would like to extend a special thank you to all the presenters who took the time to share their knowledge and expertise.

We want to make it ever better next year! **You can help with that by filling out our conference survey by clicking here: <https://tinyurl.com/njy7v75b>.** As a special incentive to get your opinion, all those who complete the survey will be eligible for a \$100 REI gift card! We hope you will share your opinions on how to make the conference even better in 2022 and beyond!

HELP PROTECT SPRING TRAILS WITH STATUS REPORTS, AVOIDANCE

ADD REPORTS, TREAD LIGHTLY This is a difficult time of year for trail users in Alaska. We want to get out on the trails, but many of the trails are thawing, making them wet, muddy and vulnerable to damage. There are a couple of ways you can help.

One way is to post reports on Trail Forks. Trail Forks is a popular trails app that is getting more use in Alaska, especially in the Fairbanks and Anchorage/Mat-Su regions. In addition to adding trails, users can add trail condition reports to trails already on the app.

The app is a great multi-user app, so it's good for motorized and nonmotorized users. Trail Forks has a free version as well as a paid version. Please consider downloading the app and submitting trail reports.

Check out Trail Forks here: www.trailforks.com/trails/

(For more about the free version see:

<https://tinyurl.com/54dbtndh>

Another way is to always keep in mind how your trail activities might affect other trail users, especially in the spring.

As snow melts and the ground thaws, the trails become extremely muddy. Using really muddy trails at this time can result in ruts that stay all summer when the trails dry out. Those ruts can make the trails difficult to use all summer and into the next winter. They help create erosion by keeping water on the trails.

Early season damage of trails is a recurring problem. Many people are chomping at the bit to get outside once the snow melts. And some people love to get as muddy as they can while out on the trails. But with a little thought this problem can be greatly reduced.

- **Time your adventure.** In some places when spring temperatures dip below freezing at night, trails may remain frozen and more solid in the morning hours.
- **Try to be patient.** Stay off the trails if you can. If you are unsure if a trail is ready to be used, check it out with the commitment to turn back if you are doing too much damage.
- **Choose low impact.** If you use the trails in several different ways, choose the method of travel that will cause the least amount of damage if you do run into some muddy sections.
- **Pick your trails carefully.** Use well-drained trails with lots of southern exposure. They typically dry out the quickest. If you just have to get muddy, please limit your activities to trails that are already thrashed. A little more damage probably won't make a big difference, but a trail in nice shape can be damaged for a season in a hurry.

An alternative to using trails in the spring is to get out on foot or by bike and go explore quiet subdivision roads new to you. You get to be outside, be active, and probably find out new things about your community.

Photo: Erosion on a popular trail in the Chugach State Park as seen on September 9, 2020 (Lex Treinen/Alaska Public Media)



ALASKA TRAILS HAS TOOL TRAILERS READY FOR TRAIL PROJECTS



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

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

SEEN RECENTLY ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

April 21: Just when you thought the Virtual Race Across Alaska Winter Challenge couldn't get any better, this comes in the mail. A handy medal to have.

Big thanks again to Turnagain Training for including us in this fun and amazing virtual event that included their donation of over \$19,000 to our AK Long Trail Project!!!



ALASKA TRAILS LINKS

- Funding for 500-mile trail awaits lawmaker action (Kenai Pen Clarion): <https://tinyurl.com/2tkvaybm>

STATEWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

STATEWIDE EFFORT STARTED TO CREATED TRAILS WORKFORCES

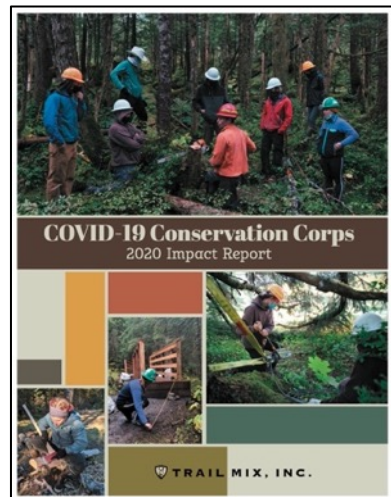
SIGN PETITION, WRITE LETTERS A Juneau trails group is spearheading an effort to direct federal money from the American Rescue Plan Act to build a trained trails workforce and better access to Alaska's incredible landscapes. The group needs your help.

Trail Mix, Inc., is advocating for the Dunleavy administration and the legislature to create a statewide trails workforce development program. The program has been inspired by Trail Mix's successful COVID-19 Conservation Corps (CCC), as well as similar programs in Sitka and Anchorage. Those programs, funded from the federal CARES Act, quickly got people working on building new trails or repairing existing trails with a strong focus on job training.

The Trails Build Alaska coalition is asking for a \$12 million allocation from the recently passed Rescue Plan Act for this trails workforce development program to be administered by the State. (The State is receiving more than \$1 billion from the Rescue Plan Act.)

Administrators would then pass on 80 percent of the funding to communities to either bolster their existing trails programs or, in places that have no program, to create one. 20 percent of program funding would go towards developing curriculum, coordinating skills training, and supporting community programs.

Grantees would be required to spend at least 60 percent of the funding to payroll and employee costs, thereby ensuring that the program would be putting people to work quickly. While trails jobs are often entry-level, crew members would gain significant trades-related experience in construction, carpentry, landscaping, and natural resource management.



Shovel-ready projects, such as many subprojects of the Alaska Long Trail, would be first on the list to benefit from such a program.

The investment in trails would benefit the state in the long run in several ways, including:

- Enhancing an visitor industry infrastructure that emphasizes access to the wilds of Alaska.
- Giving a place for residents to exercise, improving their physical and mental health.
- Allowing access to wild resources, such as fish, game, berries, and mushrooms.

While this program has a great deal of potential, it is not reality yet. Trail Mix needs help to make it happen. You can help by signing this petition telling Governor Dunleavy to put trails to work for Alaska's economy (bit.ly/trailsworkforcepetition) and writing a letter of support on behalf of your trail group or business to the legislature. For more information, email sophia@trailmixinc.org.

ALLIANCE CALLS FOR ACTION ON OUTDOOR INFRASTRUCTURE

TAKE ACTIONS The Alaska Outdoor Alliance recently sent out the following letter describing actions people can take. These actions will help bolster outdoor recreation infrastructure, which includes trails.

Dear Outdoorists,

It really is go time. Decisions made by our elected leaders these next four weeks can create “generational change.”

GET YOUR SHARE OF THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN. More than \$1 billion in American Rescue Plan pandemic relief funds are headed to Alaska. Outdoor recreation advocates and stakeholders need to demand their fair share. **Do not delay and do not be shy in letting your elected representatives know** you want some of that funding to support outdoor recreation infrastructure priorities in your community. Remember and repeat the mantra: outdoor recreation infrastructure IS critical infrastructure. Click to open AOA's advocacy toolkit and use any or all of the facts to bolster your pitch: <https://tinyurl.com/5xmb5zbn>



APPROVE STATE PARKS BUDGET/RESTORE LWCF.

Legislators are deep in budget debates so now is also go time to be sure they know outdoor recreation is not just a nice to have, it's a need to have! Ask your legislators to approve the Governor's request for state parks that includes restoring the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Why does it matter? LWCF grants can double local investment in outdoor recreation projects. **Personal appeals are most effective but if that seems daunting, sign this letter that we'll send to members of the legislative finance committees:** <https://tinyurl.com/fhyfzbx>

GET ON THE SCORP TRAIN. It's go time to connect with regional facilitators to be sure they hear your opinions about the needs, challenges and opportunities for outdoor recreation as the state updates the federally mandated Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). Regional facilitators are seeking to connect with folks from the diverse spectrum of interests that comprise our sector: summer/winter motorized/non-motorized sports enthusiasts, hunters, anglers, land/sea/air guides and outfitters, lodge owners, youth sports, playground and ice rink planners, allied non-profits and others.

Click to connect with your regional facilitator today and learn more about the SCORP process:
<https://tinyurl.com/35ht7kp4>

DONATIONS NEEDED. Finally, next week is the end of the month which means it's go time to show our anonymous donors that AOA has friends willing to put some skin in the game - even \$25 dollars - to support this movement to stand up for the outdoor recreation economic sector. Click to donate any amount you are comfortable sharing today: <https://tinyurl.com/7h2ndcuz>

MURKOWSKI BILL WOULD ENHANCE ALASKA'S PUBLIC LANDS, TRAILS

SEND THANKS U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) delivered remarks at the Alaska Trails Statewide Conference where she announced the upcoming introduction of new legislation recognizing the incredible trail systems throughout the state.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has had a detrimental effect on Alaskan's health and our state's economy and has hit our small communities dependent on seasonal tourism especially hard. Despite all that, one of the positives to pull from this time is that we have deepened our appreciation for Alaska's great outdoors. The positive impact Alaska's outdoors spaces can have on our economy, public health, and well-being cannot be understated. I look forward to introducing these two bills to further improve Alaska's already incredible outdoor recreation opportunities."

The Chilkoot Trail is a 33-mile hiking trail connecting Dyea, Alaska, to Lake Bennett, British Columbia, which served as a Tlingit trade route prior to the gold rush. Senator Murkowski's first bill will designate the Alaska section (~16 miles) of the Chilkoot Trail as a National Historic Trail.

"This designation is long-overdue, and will pay homage to those who traveled this trade route



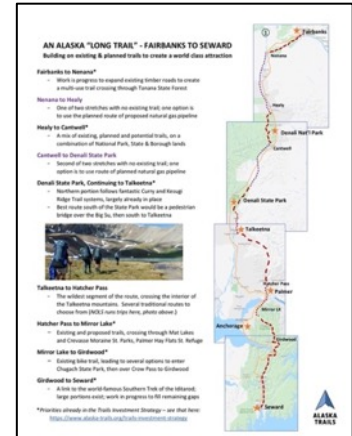
during the Klondike Gold Rush. The first and only National Historic Trail designation was in 1978 and is the Iditarod trail. I am excited at the prospects of adding one of my personal favorite backpacking trails, connecting two communities and countries to the list."

The Alaska Long Trail is a proposed 500-mile route connecting Seward and Fairbanks. Senator Murkowski's second bill will require a feasibility study to be conducted on whether to designate the Alaska Long Trail

as a National Scenic Trail.

"America has eleven national scenic trails, most of which you'd recognize, such as the Appalachian Trail, or the scenic Pacific Crest Trail. Alaska Trails, and many others have been advocating for the Alaska Long Trail for years. It makes perfect sense for this proposed trail to garner national attention, recognition, and support through a scenic trails designation."

From Sen. Murkowski press release. To read the full release see: <https://tinyurl.com/y3a7r8m6>
If you would like to thank Sen. Murkowski, her contact info is here: www.murkowski.senate.gov/contact
Historic photo of Chilkoot Trail from National Park Service



COMMENTS SOUGHT ON CENTRAL YUKON MANAGEMENT PLAN

COMMENT The deadline for comments on the Central Yukon Draft Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS) is **now June 9** (extended from March 11).

This statement aims to shape how the BLM manages about 13 million acres of public lands, including a utility corridor along the Dalton Highway, for the next few decades. When complete, the Central Yukon RMP would combine three existing management plans and provide decisions for managing unplanned lands west of Fairbanks. The Bureau of Land Management Central Yukon Field Office is developing a new resource management plan (RMP) for the Central Yukon Planning Area. The RMP will provide future management direction for approximately 13.1 million acres of BLM-managed public land including the Dalton Highway.

Among many other places, this area includes segment of the Iditarod National Historic Trail.

For more information see: <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/35315/510>

Information can also be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/5jt7vy8>

From What's Up? by Peg Tileston

BIPARTISAN LEGISLATION WOULD BOOST RTP FUNDING

ADVOCATE You can help increase one of the biggest sources for trails funding in Alaska.

The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) brings in critical funding for recreational trails for all seasons in Alaska. It has provided funding for recreational trail development and maintenance for more than 500 state projects. In Alaska, the RTP has funded hiking, biking, OHV, snowmachine, paddling and multi-use trails. The RTP is funded by a portion of the fuel tax attributed to snowmobile and OHV usage, but it also funds non-motorized trails on federal, state, local, and tribal lands. Worthy project proposals greatly exceed Alaska's share of current RTP funding, so more funding would be welcome.

You can help by sending letters to our representatives in Congress. The Alaska Outdoor Alliance has a letter template and links to contact our representatives. Read more here:

<https://tinyurl.com/576n36uz>

American Trails also has an article on this bipartisan legislation introduced by representatives Peter Welch (D-Vt.) and John Curtis (R-Utah). Read that article here: <https://tinyurl.com/junrn8uv>

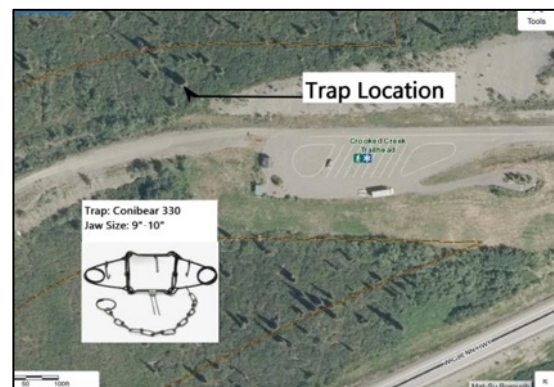
From Alaska Outdoor Alliance and American Trails articles

DOG KILLED IN TRAP OFF GLENN HIGHWAY SPARKS COMMENTARY

Trapping, trail use, and loose dogs have long been at odds in Alaska. Over the years the issue seems to be getting more publicity, probably because of increasing trail use. The issue is contentious. Some trappers claim the problem is irresponsible dog owners. Some dog owners point the finger at irresponsible trappers.

Recently, a dog was killed by a Conibear trap, one of the most lethal for dogs because it is designed to kill large animals in a hurry. (And, therefore, is more humane than leg hold traps.)

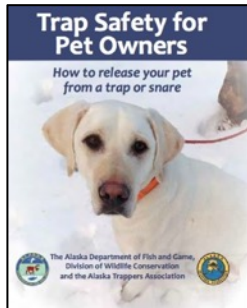
Many dogs that are caught in traps are simply companion animals that are out with their owners who like to let them run loose. Sometimes trappers will point out that local leash laws require owners to keep their dogs restrained. This incident was different in that the dog was a hunting dog and that the area does not require dogs to be on a leash or otherwise restrained. The trap was also just off the Glenn Highway near a parking area.



The incident has sparked quite a bit of commentary on Facebook and in other media. To find out more see:

- Alaska Public Media story: <https://tinyurl.com/5y8upcx7>
- Commentary by Anchorage Daily News columnist John Schandelmeier: <https://tinyurl.com/2nefkxbe>
- Commentary by Craig Medred: <https://craigmedred.news/2021/04/09/a-family-loss/>

For more information for pet owners on traps and trap lines, a pamphlet and videos are available.



PAMPHLET: A pocket-sized pamphlet titled "Trap Safety for Pet Owners" describes the types of traps and snares that may be encountered and provides illustrated instructions on how to free pets swiftly and safely. It is produced by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and the Alaska Trappers Association (ATA). Copies are available free of charge at department offices, or may be viewed on the website at: <http://tinyurl.com/m6oulhk>. More information, including video footage featuring trap removal instructions, is found on the department's website at www.adfg.alaska.gov (see "Sharing the Trails" under the "Hunting > Trapping" dropdown menu).

VIDEO: The ATA also sells a 30-minute video, "Sharing Alaska's Trails," that includes information such as how to know if you are on a trap line, trap line safety, the physics of handling and opening traps and snares, and tips for first-aid for pets accidentally caught in traps. The video doesn't promote trapping, but deals with the practicalities of sharing the trails. A three-minute excerpt of the DVD can be found on YouTube (www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jk242jZwEAQ). To order a copy of the DVD check the ATA store (www.alaskatrappers.org).

Most trapping seasons run from November 1 to the end of February, but the season for a few species lasts longer. Wolf traps could be active well into April.

You can also report pet/trapping incidences here: www.akwildlife.org/safetrails

Graphic from post on Alaska Mountain Bikers Facebook page

TIPS ON HOW TO DEAL WITH HORSES YOU MEET ON TRAILS

The following public service announcement regarding horses was recently seen on Facebook:

Horses are high-flight prey animals. They are not big dogs! If you encounter a horse on roads or trails, please adhere to the following for your safety and the safety of the rider/horse.

- If you're driving on a road and you encounter horses, please slow down. A horse can bolt sideways at 45 mph and most often are frightened INTO the road.
- If you're walking, biking, or running on a trail, please stop, speak to the rider, and ask how they would prefer you proceed. Horses often have right of way on trails.
- If you have children with you and you encounter a horse, please be sure your children remain still. Talking to the rider as they approach will help their horse understand you're no threat.
- If you approach from behind, please communicate your presence as soon as you're able. Horses are much more likely to become fearful if you are suddenly running or riding up to their hind end. And always keep a healthy distance when passing behind or to the side of a horse, for your own safety.



Thank you for helping keep everyone safe and enjoy the outdoors.

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>

Photo from Denali 101: www.denali101.com/denalinationalpark/birds_of_denali.html

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:

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

ALASKA STATE PARKS POSITIONS CAN INCLUDE TRAIL WORK



Alaska State Parks has a variety of seasonal positions through its the Alaska Conservation Corps (ACC), which are paid jobs, and its volunteer program. Tasks will vary and may include trail work, maintenance, fee station, or office work. Most positions begin in late May or early June. Some offices will start recruitment as early as March. You may wish to call the office in the area you wish to work in, to find out what positions they are offering this year and when applications are being accepted. For more information see:

- ACC: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/misc/accinstr.htm>
- Volunteer Program: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/vip/index.htm>

SEEN RECENTLY ON STATEWIDE FACEBOOK PAGES

ALASKA OUTDOOR ALLIANCE

April 17: Tell our state elected leaders to invest in outdoor recreation infrastructure. [Sign the business community letter.](https://tinyurl.com/yjtmxdpu) <https://tinyurl.com/yjtmxdpu>

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT - ALASKA

April 10: The "Break Up" = 🐻 Wake Up season. #NationalWildlifeWeek

Be bear aware now that spring is here and the snow is starting to melt. Learn about Alaska's 3 bears. www.blm.gov/alaska/public-room/fact-sheet/bearable-knowledge-alaska-infographic

April 7: Making a #bucketlist for summer adventures? Visiting this historic spot in Alaska's Fortymile region is a challenge but well worth it! #yourpubliclands

<https://www.blm.gov/blog/2021-03-18/steele-creek-history-heart-alaskas-fortymile-region>

ALASKA DNR- DIVISION OF FORESTRY (DOF)

April 15: It's that time of year again. With the snow melting and #TananaValleyStateForest roads sagging due to saturated soils as a result of spring breakup, the Alaska Division of Forestry is asking the public to avoid driving on select forest roads in the Fairbanks area from April 17 to May 23. Affected logging roads include Cache Creek, Nenana Ridge, Rosie Creek, Skinny's, Bonanza, Standard Creek, Two Rivers and Mosquito Creek.

"The silt-based roads in the Fairbanks area are extremely soft and muddy at this time of year," Fairbanks Area Resource Forester Kevin Meany said. "Traffic in these tenuous conditions produces ruts, which channels runoff and causes roads to wash out."

Some roads become impassable and driving on them now results in costly, long-term damage, he said. Motorists can also find their vehicles mired in mud up to their axles.

"If roads are severely damaged by traffic and/or runoff during spring breakup, it can cost thousands of dollars to fix them and access will be restricted until they are repaired and dry enough to drive on," Meany said. "Getting stuck or ruining a road at this time of year isn't worth a load of firewood."

If roads dry out quicker than anticipated or breakup persists longer than expected, the division will adjust the dates accordingly and notify the public.

Call the Fairbanks Area Forestry office at 451-2602 if you have questions about forest road conditions.

PHOTO: Breakup damage on Cache Creek Road near Fairbanks, May 2020. By Andrew Allaby/Division of Forestry.



ANCHORAGE PARK FOUNDATION

April 14: It has been a long winter and maybe that meant your exercise routine was also cooped up indoors. Now that Spring is nearly here, make plans to bring that exercise routine outside, experts say the benefits are ten fold!

www.shape.com/fitness/tips/outdoor-workout-study-physical-mental-benefits

STATEWIDE LINKS

- **Comments** Needed on Arctic River Protection (**comment ddline June 9**): <https://tinyurl.com/36aej84h>
- Craig Medred: Shared trails (bears and humans): <https://craigmedred.news/2021/04/01/shared-trails/>

SLIGHTLY OFF TRAIL

- Retail woes: Outdoor shops hope supply will soon meet demand (Fairbanks' Beaver Sports highlighted): <https://tinyurl.com/zwx4c6h3>
- Statewide Survey of Outdoor Priority Projects Top \$207 Million: <https://tinyurl.com/bd5jceww>
- CCC pandemic relief programs prove power of wider rollout to create jobs, boost economic recovery: <https://tinyurl.com/sm8crnd4>
- Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee's Draft Arctic Research Plan 2022-2026 (**comment deadline June 11**): www.iarpccollaborations.org/draft-plan.html
- Podcast: BLM Alaska Public Room Shedding Light On The Process: <https://tinyurl.com/fzjh59zh>
- Promoting the packrafting "Culture of Safety": <https://tinyurl.com/2ypse4sb>

- Outdoor Explorer podcast:
 - 80 years of climbing, skiing, and boating with Sepp Weber: <https://tinyurl.com/vc962whe>
 - Revisiting it's OK to be a beginner in the outdoors: <https://tinyurl.com/ypwkafbm>
 - Show Up and Blow Up: Luc Mehl whitewater packraft learning curve post: <https://tinyurl.com/nvrxf2t>

SOUTHCENTRAL NEWS AND NOTICES

COMMENTS SOUGHT FOR PLANNED ANCHORAGE TRAIL CONNECTION

COMMENT The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities is seeking comments and information on a proposal to construct a 1.3-mile trail connection between the Tony Knowles Coastal Trail and the Ship Creek Trail in downtown Anchorage. The purpose of the proposed project is to complete a missing link in Anchorage’s trail system. Construction for the proposed project is anticipated to begin in summer 2023. **Please provide written comments to the following address by May 31, 2021.**

Brian Elliott, Regional Environmental Manager
 DOT&PF Preliminary Design & Environmental
 P.O. Box 196900
 Anchorage, Alaska 99519-6900

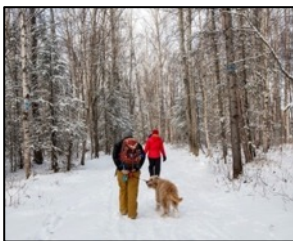
If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Alex Read, P.E., Project Manager, at 269-0611 or Drew von Lindern, Environmental Impact Analyst, at 269-0551.

For more information see: <http://notice.alaska.gov/202242>

SEEN RECENTLY ON SOUTHCENTRAL FACEBOOK PAGES

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT - ALASKA

April 1: “Everyone thinks they have the best dog. And none of them are wrong.” – W.R. Pursche



We get it. Our dogs are the best! If we could dedicate a park just for them we would. But the BLM Campbell Tract is a multiple use venue with runners, bikers, mushers, horses, and even an active airstrip! We want your fur buddy to be safe and to be a much loved part of the community of people and animals who recreate here every day. **Leash your dog on the Campbell Tract. And don't forget to clean up your dog's waste.** Thanks for your cooperation.

ANCHORAGE PARKS AND RECREATION

April 24: Anchorage Parks and Recreation has teamed up with 7th grade students at Anchorage STREAM Academy to create a short video about etiquette on our multi-use trails. Today, the team spent a few hours along the Chester Creek Trail observing user behavior and compiling data so we reach as many Anchorage residents and visitors as possible.

These are some trail-savvy kids, so look for a great product near the end of May!



ANCHORAGE PARK FOUNDATION

April 7: Anchorage parks and trails are full of adventure. This Spring, get outside and check it out! When you subscribe to our newsletter, you'll get access to this amazing parks and trails map. Subscribe today! <https://tinyurl.com/3rpzy7h>

SINGLETRACK ADVOCATES



April 20: Spring break up is here and the trails are a slushy mess. The STA trails at Kincaid and Hillside are closed to prevent damage. We'll let everyone know when the trails are open. Hopefully soon! If you want to volunteer for trail crews, sign up on our website. Thanks to everyone for your annual donation too.

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT - ALASKA

April 21: Modified easements mean more #PublicAccess

The BLM announced April 16 that it intends to modify a 2015 decision approving lands for conveyance to Eklutna, Inc. under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971.

✓ The modification means that seven trail easements and two site easements for #PublicAccess use would be reserved when the lands are transferred to Eklutna #KnowBeforeYouGo

- 1) Lands conveyed to a Native corporation are private lands
- 2) Use of the lands outside the easements must be arranged with the corporation.

For more information about and maps for 17(b) easements, check out:

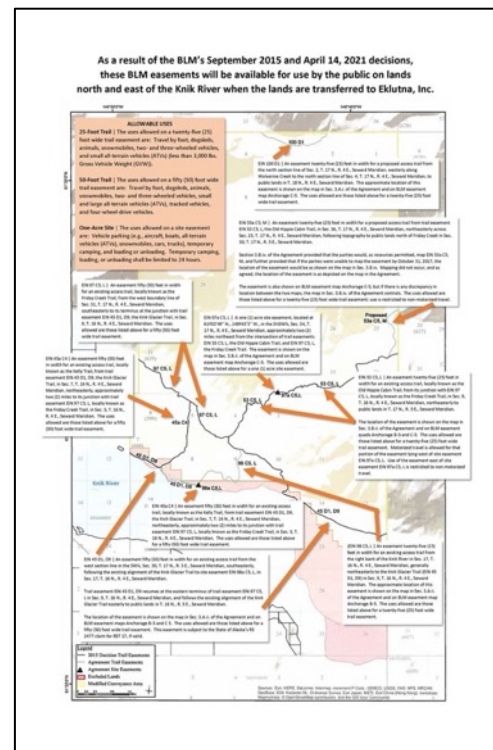
https://www.blm.gov/.../regional.../alaska/17b_easements.

👉 HINT: Using our ANSCA 17(b) Easement Maps link, these are "Anchorage B-5 Master" and "Anchorage C-5 Master"

As the BLM celebrates its 75th anniversary this year #PublicLands75, it also joins Alaska in celebrating the 50th anniversary of ANCSA #ANCSA50!

Read the modified decision at <https://www.federalregister.gov/.../alaska-native-claims...>

🗺️ Illustrated composite map depicting the locations of seven trail easements and two site easements that would be reserved to the US for #PublicAccess when the lands are transferred to Eklutna.



ALASKA STATE PARKS

April 29: **DSP update- NEW SNOW MACHINE CLOSURES**

Denali State Park will close to snow machines from MP 146 North to MP 169 at the railroad crossing to include all of Kesugi Ridge and all areas west to the Park boundary to the Eldridge Glacier and Puritan Creek. This seasonal closure will be effective at 11:59pm on April 30th 2021.

Be advised that open water exists throughout the Park and riders are advised to:

- ✓ Remain on established trail corridors

- ✔ Avoid areas of overflow or open water, and
- ✔ Exercise extreme caution/avoidance of any water crossings.

Snow machines may be used on established road corridors only to access Public Use Cabins at Byers Lake until further notice.

April 29: ****2021 Alaska State Parks Parking DECALS update/clarification****

The annual ASP decal is good at ALL state parks that we manage throughout the state. When ordering online, you have the opportunity to select your most frequented park region. When you pick a region, your money will go to that region, however the pass can be used for parking THROUGHOUT the state. This information helps us create a better recreational experience by routing funding to facilities that are most used. We have received multiple inquiries relating to this question recently so we wanted to clarify that choosing a park region on the order form does NOT limit your use of the pass to that region only. The annual passes will cover use at ALL state park regions, including MOST state park facilities, with few exceptions. Exceptions include: Pillars Boat Launch, Arctic Valley, Eagle Rock Boat Launch and Eagle River Nature Center.

Reach the online ordering form at <https://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/passes>

April 26: ****Kachemak Bay SP update****

The ramp is down at Halibut Cove Lagoon, and the cabins and trails there are now easily accessible. Remember, reservations open up 7-months out, so plan ahead and get your reservations early. 🙌✔

April 23: NOTICE:

Denali State Park will close to all snow machines from MP 146 south to MP 132 to include all of Curry Ridge and all areas west to the Park boundary to Ramsdyke creek. This seasonal closure will be effective at 11:59pm on April 25th 2021. Be advised that open water exists throughout the Park and riders are advise to remain on established trail corridors, avoid areas of overflow or open water, and exercise extreme caution/avoidance of any water crossings. MP 146 North to include K'esugi ridge and areas of the Chulitna river will remain open until further notice conditions dependent. Updated trail condition reports can be found here:

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



VALLEY MOUNTAIN BIKERS AND HIKERS

April 14: The 2020/21 GPRA grooming season is a wrap! There was 228 hours of volunteer grooming this year. Break-up has arrived and the snow is now too soft to groom. Even if it does start freezing at night again, with the amount of foot traffic, the trail are not rideable. Thanks to a great team: Larry Dreese, Kevin Murphy, Brian Winnestaffer, Adrian Baer and David Kosik. **If you enjoyed the grooming, please consider making a donation to VMBaH! As we transition into summer PLEASE stay off the trails until they are dry.** It takes many hours of volunteer labor to fix damaged trails when they are used too soon.

MAT-SU BOROUGH RECREATION AND LIBRARY SERVICES

April 20: In case you haven't been outside for a few days, it looks like spring is here to stay. As you can see in this picture from Crevasse Moraine, the warmer days and temperatures staying above freezing at night, the snow is going away fast! We are done grooming the trails here in the Core area for this season.

Get out and enjoy what's left of the packed snow before the trails turn into a mud fest. **Please keep an eye out, very soon we will be asking people to stay off of the trails for break-up. Thanks for helping to protect our trails.**



SOUTHCENTRAL LINKS

- Knik Glacier's biking boom is drawing hundreds into backcountry once tough to reach: <https://tinyurl.com/ybazxskm>
- Thank You for Passing the 2021 (Anchorage) Parks Bond: <https://tinyurl.com/ua6ya6nh>

INTERIORWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

GET YOUR COMMENTS IN SOON ON FAIRBANKS TRAIL PLAN UPDATE

PARTICIPATE The comment time for the Fairbanks "Comprehensive Recreational Trail Plan" update's trail inventory is winding down. Make sure to get your comments in soon.

Ways to let your voice be heard now include a survey. There are still the interactive maps and direct comment submission form options, and you can always attend the next Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) Trails Advisory Commission meeting. All the ways to participate have been outlined below by Trails Coordinator Bryant Wright.

Many trails in the borough on the plan, but many are not. If a trail you care about is not on the plan, now is the time to try to get it added. Your advocacy won't guarantee that the trail is protected, but staying silent will guarantee you won't have a say. Now is also a good time to bring up issues with maintenance, right-of-way or public access, and use designation. Or maybe you have some ideas for new trails.



Go to www.FNSBTrailsPlan.com where you can find four ways to provide trail input:

1. **Take the Trail Use Survey – Ends May 15!**
 - a. Click here for survey: <https://tinyurl.com/7ykufd98>
 - b. Provide basic information use and perceptions about trails
 - c. Only take once. If you received a post card in the mail, use the link on the post card instead.
2. **Use the Interactive Mapping Tool – Ends May 15!**
 - a. Click here for interactive comment map: <https://tinyurl.com/pmpey3vu>
 - b. This tool helps you share specific details about your trail needs, ideas and concerns.
 - c. Submit as many map comments as your heart desires.

3. **Send a comment directly**
 - a. Submit a Comment Via Email here and be added to the trail plan email list: <https://www.fnsbtrailsplan.com/contact>
 - b. Fill out and send us the Trail Info Form here: <https://tinyurl.com/3wez323>
4. **Attend the Trails Advisory Commission planning meetings**
 - a. The next virtual zoom meeting is scheduled for May 4 at 6:00 PM. Agenda and links here: <https://tinyurl.com/yrr84nuu>
 - b. This will be a public workshop to develop a vision and overall goals for the community trail network. More monthly meetings to come. Check the website for updates.

The Comprehensive Recreational Trail Plan is the primary decision-making tool the borough uses to guide protection and management of local trails. The plan does not get updated often, so changes made now will affect local trails for the next 10 or 20 years. That is why it is so important for trail users to speak up now.

As part of this process, you can address issues with existing trails, such as maintenance, public access, and conflicts among user types. You will also eventually be able to address possibilities of new trails.

R&M Consultants has been hired to help with the update. Money for this project is coming from a federal grant. Unfortunately, the grant has a fairly tight deadline, so things have to move fairly quickly. A draft of the plan update needs to be done before the end of the year. The public will be invited to review sections of the plan when they are drafted later in the year. But the draft plan will be based on comments received at this stage, so input now is critical.

For questions contact Project Manager Bryant Wright, FNSB Parks & Recreation
Bryant.Wright@fnsb.gov

INPUT SOUGHT FOR CHENA LAKE RECREATION AREA SURVEY

TAKE THE SURVEY The Fairbanks North Star Borough Department of Parks and Recreation will be applying for grant funding to improve the Chena Lake Recreation Area. The department would like to know:

- How many users of the park are current or retired service members
- How you use the park
- What would make you use the park more

This online survey will be **open until June 30**. Staff will also be talking to users in the park during the months of March and June. Take the survey here: <https://tinyurl.com/y8xe5f9y>

SEEN RECENTLY ON INTERIOR FACEBOOK PAGES

FAIRBANKS TRAIL USERS OPEN GROUP

Jon Underwood > Fairbanks Trail Users Open Group

April 26: Happy Trails, Inc. is looking for enthusiastic trail workers for the summer of 2021. Work may include hand or machine trail construction and maintenance. Email me at happytrailsak@gmail.com.

April 21: It's that time of the year. **Please stay off any trails that are soft/muddy this time of year and will dry out later.** The ruts and divots created now -- whether by tire, foot, or hoof -- can create a really rough surface for the rest of the summer.

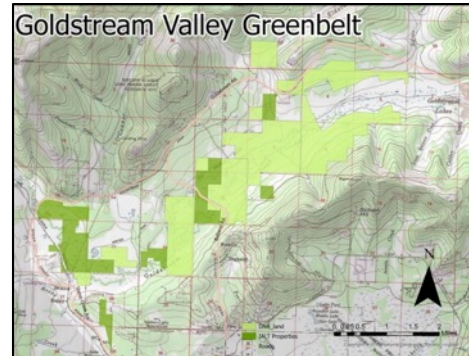
Shared from
Alaska State Parks

April 23: ****Northern Update****

It's mud season in the Northern Region and the time has come to close the multi-use trails to motorized vehicles to allow them to dry. We will re-open by Memorial Day. Thanks for your patience!

Rice Retory shared a post.

April 1: This map shows the excellent work the Interior Alaska Land Trust has done in the past few years. The dark green shows property now protected because of the trust. There are a lot of trail connections because of that work. Please support the trust.



Interior Alaska Land Trust

March 31

152 acres added to the Goldstream Valley Greenbelt! This creek corridor is looking more connected than ever.

FAIRBANKS AREA HIKING CLUB FAN PAGE

April 19: I have been giving some thought to this but admins please improve upon if need be:

Please be kind and respectful to our trails during breakup. Even a footprint does trail damage once the trails get slushy and muddy. They are not good for fat tire biking, hiking, kick sledding, or ATV's. Trail maintenance takes a lot of time and money and some of the neighborhood trails are maintained by locals.

DELTA JUNCTION TRAILS ASSOCIATION

April 18: CAUTION-BREAKUP UNDERWAY

Take to the trails responsibly, a little thought, mud season problems can be greatly reduced

- Try to be patient. Stay off the trails if you can. If you are unsure if a trail is ready to be used, check it out with the commitment to turn back if you are doing too much damage.
- Choose low impact method of travel that will cause the least amount of damage if you do run into some muddy sections. Stay the trail.
- Pick your trails carefully a trail in nice shape can be damaged for a season in a hurry.
- Time your adventure. When spring temperatures dip below freezing at night, trails may remain frozen and more solid in the morning hours.
- Enjoy a water trail. The birds are pouring in to the Interior. Enjoy paddling or floating the Clearwater River, our local water trail.

Be responsible let's help keep our outdoor recreation areas beautiful, healthy and accessible

UAF NORTH CAMPUS

April 21: Hi Everyone! Are you sorry to see the ski season winding down but thankful for all the wonderful trail maintenance provided by UAF this year? Have you been wondering if there is a way to donate to support trail maintenance? Good news, **there is a way to donate!** Check out www.uaf.edu/northcampus and click the Give Now button at the top. Thank you and see you on the trails!



FRIENDS OF CHENA-ESTER DITCH

March 31: Would you like to see this trail system recognized for its value? Would you like to see improvements? Now's a chance to speak up. Zoom in and put your comment on a map of the trails. You will also see links to more information and ways to get involved.

<https://tinyurl.com/2sczmcwy>

BLM-WHITE MOUNTAINS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

April 23: Late-breaking White Mountains trail conditions update: The BLM trail crew spent the week shutting down and oiling cabins, assessing trails, replacing windows, and finishing other late-season maintenance. They visited the Trail Creek Trail on Monday and Wednesday. At that point, trails were still holding up with little water or mushiness, though the crew did not travel far enough to see any of the crossings on Beaver Creek. Today they went out to Colorado Creek Cabin. Duncan Creek (about 5 miles from the trailhead) was flowing over ice, but they made it across. With the forecast being for more warm weather this weekend and beyond, visitors should use extreme caution when going into the Whites, knowing things can change quickly. On the Steese Highway, Cripple Creek Campground and U.S. Creek Road are still covered with several feet of snow. Going to be a while yet.



FAIRBANKS PADDLERS

April 6: **BLM needs to hear from you** if you support protecting the Wild and Scenic values of 603 miles of 11 northern Alaskan rivers in the Draft Central Yukon Management Plan and EIS.

<https://tinyurl.com/36aej84h>

INTERIORWIDE LINKS

- Restoration work planned for Pinnell Mountain Trail (FDNM): <https://tinyurl.com/yd2wpvzx>
- An 'Otherworldly' Ski Backpack Trip into the Whites: <https://tinyurl.com/y39r5xwr>
- Saying Adieu to Winter (fatbike ride): <https://tinyurl.com/2ab34m42>
- On a spring cabin trip in Alaska's Interior, signs of a changing season: <https://tinyurl.com/jv4fxwcv>
- Ski Club Applies for Grant to Improve Birch Hill Trails: <https://tinyurl.com/hvja32b3>

SLIGHTLY OFF TRAIL

- One pandemic later, Mastodon Creek Trail sees its new cabin completed (FDNM): <https://tinyurl.com/3kxzzmfz>
- Spring bear sightings reported in Fairbanks, Fish & Game offers tips for staying safe: <https://tinyurl.com/djr734sx>
- Public urged not to travel on Fairbanks forestry roads during breakup: <https://tinyurl.com/2ecmv6xv>
- Prescribed burns planned at Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge: <https://tinyurl.com/c5vrutxm>

SOUTHEAST NEWS AND NOTICES

SEEN RECENTLY ON SOUTHEAST FACEBOOK PAGES

SITKA TRAIL WORKS, INC.



April 26: Sea Lion Cove is beautiful right now! This amazing drone photo was captured yesterday by Sitkan Nathan Kraft.

Thanks for sharing, Nathan!

You can read more about the trail to get here at:

<https://sitkatrailworks.org/sea-lion-cove-trail/>

April 22: The trail to Medvejie Lake is snow free! And exceptionally beautiful you might say.

Since the November 2020 storms washed out the log footbridge you have to ford the stream to access the beginning of the trail, but right now, it's below Xtratuf levels. As snow melt accelerates or when the rain starts up, stream levels are expected to rise and might make trail access difficult.



You can read more about the trail here: <https://sitkatrailworks.org/medvejie-lake-trail/>

April 1: We're excited to announce the opening of Sitka's newest trail that finally allows Sitkans to walk to the Causeway! The trail departs from the end of Seward Avenue on Japonski, drops below sea level, crosses the floor of Whiting Harbor and ends in a staircase into a bunker on Sasedni Island. We'd like to thank all our partners who have been hard at work on this landmark access improvement to the Fort Rousseau Causeway State Historical Park. The trail itself is a beautiful destination. The only downside is that the trail will only be open one day a year, on this day of the month.



TRAIL MIX, INC.

April 27: Next up on our list of projects for the 2021 trail season, we're returning to the Eagle Valley Center to install an elevated walkway.

Trail Mix crews will relocate and install a walkway to replace the existing deteriorating walkway that provides access over a tidal creek to the Amalga Meadows trail and the EVC Challenge Course (which SAIL is reopening this spring!).

This is one of many trail projects that Trail Mix is welcoming volunteers to take part in during this upcoming season. While Trail Mix crews build the elevated walkway, volunteers will help lay a gravel path approaching the walkway on both sides.

Another fun part of this project is that Trail Mix crews will employ a helical pier driver to create a sturdy foundation for the walkway in the marshy ground.



April 22: There are many ways to show appreciation for Mother Earth. In addition to everyday choices you make to lessen your environmental footprint and honor nature's gifts, we encourage you to engage in collective action to steward the land and mitigate climate change.

At Trail Mix, we believe working together towards a common goal results in the greatest impact. Join us in caring for the trails that serve our community by becoming a volunteer leader.

Gather a group of friends, family, colleagues, your club, or other community group to volunteer with Trail Mix this season. Our 2021 work plan includes many volunteer-friendly projects. To sign up or learn more, visit <https://trailmixinc.org/give/volunteer/>

COVID mitigation measures will be followed with all volunteer groups and group size will be limited. Get in touch to find out more!

April 20: Spring has sprung in Juneau and in the coming months, the trails will be flourishing with color!



Our trail crews and volunteers will be in the midst of the vernal transformation as we set to work transforming the trails too. This season, Trail Mix crews and volunteers will be making improvements to the Lena Point trail, where Wild Geraniums and Dwarf Dogwood thrive along the path and eagles nest overhead.

Trail improvements will include reshaping and resurfacing the tread and laying new gravel in areas where slippery boardwalk will be removed. Crews will repair or replace old staircases and boardwalk. When the work is over... well, we'll definitely keep coming back to enjoy this beautiful spot!

April 12: Trails have been a refuge for many during the pandemic, but did you know they've also created jobs?

Today we're proud to share the impacts of the COVID-19 Conservation Corps, the outdoor job training and employment program that Trail Mix administered last year, funded by a grant from the City and Borough of Juneau's federal CARES Act allocation.

This innovative trails program was created in response to the canceled cruise ship season and should be a model for continued workforce development in Juneau and across the state. When we invest in trails, we invest in Alaska's people, land, and the economy.

To read the full report, go to our website or here: <https://tinyurl.com/4b99xmv5>

April 6: It's hard to believe but field season is almost here! We've spent all winter surveying trails, preparing drawings, collaborating with land managers, and ordering supplies to be ready to work on Juneau's trails.

We have ambitious plans for 2021, and we're excited to share them with you. Each week, we'll debut another trail that will be getting some love and care from our trail crews.

Let's jump right in with the ever popular Point Bridget Trail! Providing access to the lovely Cowee Meadow and Blue Mussel cabins, our crews started work on this project last season.

By the time we're done, the trail will be updated with new gravel for a more pleasant and even surface all the way to the meadow. That includes continuing the work of removing old, slippery planks and digging drains to channel water away from the trail.

100 bags of gravel were helicoptered in last November, so we're ready to launch this as soon as the snow recedes. Thanks to our partner ADF&G, Southeast Alaska for supporting this big renovation project.



SOUTHEAST LINKS

- Alpine Mountain Biking In Juneau Alaska (video): www.youtube.com/watch?v=NMb0ETjbReg
- The Dirt (March - Juneau's Trail Mix newsletter): <https://trailmixinc.salsalabs.org/thedirtmarch21>

SLIGHTLY OFF TRAIL

- Kayaking to Sugarloaf Mountain – Sitka: www.youtube.com/watch?v=JOx6A8OYPAw
- Possible Closure Of Tongass Wilderness Cabins: <https://tinyurl.com/da5af5ue>
- Canadian side of Chilkoot Trail to open this season, but don't expect the same experience: Parks Canada: <https://tinyurl.com/dev9kdew>

NATIONWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

OHV GROUP ENCOURAGES USERS TO SUPPORT RTP LEGISLATION

ADVOCATE As the National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council (NOHVCC) recently posted (<https://tinyurl.com/n2vdmy69>), legislation (H.R. 1864) to reauthorize the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) has been introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives. Now NOHVCC partner Americans for Responsible Recreational Access (ARRA) has provided a simple way to urge your Representative to co-sponsor the bill, which is titled The Recreational Trails Full Funding Act of 2021.

As you are likely aware the RTP is arguably the most important government program ever created to benefit the off-highway vehicle community. RTP utilizes funds collected from federal gas taxes to pay for trail construction, maintenance, and education for both motorized and non-motorized recreation. To learn more about RTP click here: www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational_trails/

Click here to visit ARRA's website and to take action: <https://tinyurl.com/rwh8ytms>

From NOHVCC story

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY WILL STILL BE HELD DESPITE PANDEMIC

HOST NTD EVENT Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, National Trails Day will still be held on June 5 this year.

Millions of people have found physical, mental, and emotional restoration in the outdoors during the pandemic. Let's return the favor. Together we can care for our hometown trails and advocate for equitable inclusion outside.

While you can register in-person events (as long as you're following local COVID guidelines), the American Hiking Society (NTD organizer) understands organizing safe events in 2021 can be challenging and not possible in some areas. We've added the ability to also register virtual events for National Trails Day so you can still connect with your community even if you can't organize an in-person event this year.

To host an event see: <https://americanhiking.org/national-trails-day/host-information/>

From Paperless Trail, American Hiking society e-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

TRAILS-RELATED NEWSLETTERS

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

FUNDING

- National Forest Foundation's Matching Awards Program (ddline June 9): <https://tinyurl.com/px7y6ke>
- Clif Bar Family Foundation grants (for groups, projects; ddline June 1): <http://tinyurl.com/y5es3wjc>

ADVOCACY

- Hike The Hill 2021 Priorities: www.americantrails.org/resources/hike-the-hill-2021-priorities
- Bills to lobby for
 - Barragán, Turner, Neguse Introduce Bipartisan Parks, Jobs, and Equity Act: <https://tinyurl.com/35tc68pf>
 - Connecting America's Active Transportation System Act: <https://tinyurl.com/xawxn6ra>

VOLUNTEER

- American Hiking Society: 2021 Volunteer Vacations, COVID-19 Update: <https://tinyurl.com/y3nr9a4o>
- American Hiking Society Volunteer Vacations crew leaders needed: <https://tinyurl.com/ufrfz8xc>
- Conservation Volunteers International Program newsletter (April): <https://tinyurl.com/yfmcwcdtx>

OTHER NATIONAL LINKS:

- American Trails 2020 Annual Report: www.americantrails.org/resources/2020-annual-report
- 9 New U.S. Trails You Should Try This Year: <https://tinyurl.com/y8vaxsw4>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Highly-Rated Environmental Nonprofits (Charity Navigator): <https://tinyurl.com/y28ssjxc>
- A year into the pandemic, it's even more clear that it's safer to be outside: <https://tinyurl.com/fzk6atuv>

INTERNATIONAL LINKS

- 5 New Trails to Unusual Destinations: <https://tinyurl.com/3n3zfd35>
- 10 great British walking trails where you won't see another soul: <https://tinyurl.com/x8hphs73>
- This Coastal Paradise Is Mountain Biking's Best-Kept Secret (Mexico): <https://tinyurl.com/ysdee2m7>

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