



NEWSLETTER

Aug
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PO Box 100627; Anchorage, AK 99510-0264

907/334-8049

www.alaska-trails.org

ALASKA TRAILS NEWS AND NOTICES

ALASKA TRAILS WELCOMES HEMINGSON, WRIGHT TO BOARD

Alaska Trails is excited to add two new members to its Board of Directors!

GLEN HEMINGSON

Glen is a tourism professional and long-time trails advocate. He is originally from Austin, Texas. After a ten-year stint in the ski industry in Alta, Utah, he has resided in Anchorage since 2001. His current professional role is Business Development for Alaska Skylar Travel.



Glen's experience includes two years as Summer Trail Planner for the Town of Alta and participation at all levels with numerous non-profit and professional organizations. In Anchorage, he has worked on the revitalization of the Westchester Lagoon Nature Trail as part of the Anchorage Park Foundation's "Schools on Trails" program. His hobbies include biking, gardening, and cross-country skiing.

BRYANT WRIGHT

Bryant grew up living between Fairbanks, Alaska and Tulsa, Oklahoma. He studied art and ran competitively at Trinity University in Texas, finding inspiration during summer training runs on the trails around Fairbanks. Ultimately wanting to help people access the outdoors, he sought another degree at University of Alaska Fairbanks where he earned his Masters of Science in Natural Resources Management.

Bryant now works for the Fairbanks North Star Borough as their Trails Coordinator. He helps to develop, plan, and implement a community wide trails plan in Fairbanks. Bryant's dedication for getting people outdoors inspired him to develop the Trails Challenge program which encourages locals to stay active and curious by highlighting nearby trail opportunities.

While he is new to serving on a non-profit board, he is eager to gain experience and support Alaska Trails. When he's not problem-solving on the trails Bryant is an avid runner and skier, spends time with his family and dogs, and keeps his creative mind healthy through music and art.



See our entire board and staff at: <https://www.alaska-trails.org/board-staff>

TRAILHEAD TUESDAY CELEBRATES TRAILS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

SUBMIT We've started a new feature on our Facebook page. It's called Trailhead Tuesday, where we highlight a new trail each week. We'd love for you to submit a trail! This Google form has all the info we need: <https://forms.gle/4aTMougo5yCc2AT28>. You can also message us on Facebook or send us an email to: steve.cleary@alaska-trails.org. (We'll need a photo and short description of the trail and why you like it. We'd also appreciate if you could include a link that leads to a website with more information about the trail.)

We'll keep including the Trailhead Tuesdays in this newsletter (for our non-Facebook members and everyone else). If you are on Facebook and want to see them sooner, just like our page.

Check out these Trailhead Tuesdays from July (and one from June)!

July 28

It's #TrailheadTuesday, and today we're heading to the Ridge Trail in Talkeetna.

A big step forward for Talkeetna is the new/reborn Ridge Trail system. This area was originally developed by local volunteers for XC skiing, then became more of a 4-wheeler system. Most recently the Mat Su Borough, working with Jon Underwood of Happy Trails, Inc., built a new multi-purpose/motorized trail, and designated a delightful set of trails for non-motorized biking, walking and winter skiing.

Check out the route on the Borough's "Outer Spatial" trail app, and consider renting a bike (or just getting fudge or a milkshake) at North Shore Cyclery. Find the trail head on Beaver Road, a bit under 2 miles east from where you leave the Spur Road. Watch for Small parking area on the left, new trail signs on the right.



July 14



It's #TrailheadTuesday! Today's recommendation is the Angel Rocks Trail and comes via Mariyam Medovaya, our Alaska Trails Initiative staff member.

If you are looking for an easy hike with spectacular views, varied terrain and amazing bouldering right outside of Fairbanks, Angel Rocks trail will provide. Maintained by the AK State Parks, the trail is a popular destination on its own or an opportunity to stretch legs on the way to Chena Hot Springs. Official guide here: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/maps/angelrockstrail.pdf>

July 7

It's TrailheadTuesday! Today's recommendation comes from Melanie Renée: Creamer's Field Boreal Forest Trail in Fairbanks. The 1.5-mile trail winds through a small sample of the largest land ecosystem on Earth: the boreal forest. Whether you can visit in person or not, you should definitely explore this awesome ArcGIS StoryMaps digital interactive map of the trail.

<https://bit.ly/CreamersFieldBorealForestTrail>



June 30 It's TrailheadTuesday! Today is a Chugach State Park classic: Rabbit Lake. From the Rabbit Creek Trailhead, follow the road past the gate, onto the trail, and all the way to the lake. Great for a mellow weekend jaunt or a quick after work run, hike, or bike on a sunny evening.

Trail description and map:

<http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/maps/mchughrabbitlakeguide.pdf>

FORMER GOV KNOWLES ADVOCATES FOR ALASKA LONG TRAIL

Former Alaska Governor Tony Knowles has written a great editorial advocating for the Alaska Long Trail, an Alaska Trails project.

You can read the editorial in the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner (<https://tinyurl.com/y6mbww9w>) or the Anchorage Daily News (<https://tinyurl.com/y2cqmcu8>). You can also read about the project on our website: www.alaska-trails.org/the-alaska-long-trail.



The Alaska Long Trail is a different concept than the Trans-Alaska Trail (<http://aktrail.org/>), which would turn the gravel pad of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline into a long trail from Valdez to Deadhorse. The concept of the Alaska Long Trail currently runs between Seward and Fairbanks. While different, the two concepts are not necessarily mutually exclusive. If both are completed, they could meet in Fairbanks, providing for more routing options.

SEEN RECENTLY ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE



July 31: Our trail crew continues to work hard, creating a new route for the Little O'Malley Peak Trail in Chugach State Park. We're grateful to have received the 2020 Outdoor Places Grant from REI, which is helping to fund the project. The crew kindly requests that you stay off the new trail for now, but you can start getting excited because it's going to be amazing when it's done!

July 23: Check out Max Romey's new project at:

<http://maxromeyproductions.com/trailboundalaska>

ALASKA TRAILS NEEDS YOUR HELP TO PRESERVE, PROMOTE TRAILS

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

- Promote the health, social and economic benefits of trails by educating users through forums, conferences, information materials, training and other activities.
- Preserve and improve public trail access by assisting public and private organizations in forming coordinated programs, policies, and standards.
- Promote sustainable trail systems for all users by developing and providing technical assistance for trail projects.

STATEWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

WATCH FOR BIRD NESTS WHEN WORKING ON TRAILS

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

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

SEEN RECENTLY ON STATEWIDE FACEBOOK PAGES

ALASKA STATE PARKS

ATTEND July 31: **Training schedule UPDATE for Recreational Trails Program**

The Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation is hosting a training opportunity for the Alaska Recreational Trails Program!

The training is offered to Alaska RTP grantees to learn how to ‘Mitigate High Risk’ for awarded projects in accordance with Code of Federal Regulation, 2 CFR 200. This training is intended for current and prior Alaska grantees who are familiar with the Recreational Trails Program, but all who are interested are welcome to attend!

The training that was originally scheduled for July 28 is **rescheduled for August 13, 2020. Details at: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/grants/trails.htm>

Photo credit: Lauren Wells, K’esugi Ridge



STATEWIDE LINKS

- Rex Trail opens up to larger vehicles: <https://tinyurl.com/y6stuppy>
- Alpine Paradise Off the Richardson Highway: <https://tinyurl.com/y6f2hyta>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- June Featured Big Wins for Alaska Outdoors: <https://tinyurl.com/yb9h9n9z>
- Granite tors evidence of ice-free Alaska: <https://tinyurl.com/ycoul3ou>
- 2020 Alaska Mountain Wilderness Classic (Luc Mehl): <https://tinyurl.com/y2zfs9au>
- Plan E: Nabesna Road Bike and Hike: <https://tinyurl.com/y226nhux>
- ‘Into the Wild’ bus likely lands a home at Fairbanks museum: <https://tinyurl.com/y2d9szfr>
- Siberia wildfire smoke could remain over Alaska for weeks: <https://tinyurl.com/yxqv732l>
- Denali Park officially opens with a few changes: <https://tinyurl.com/y5977yc7>
- **ENTER** Alaska State Parks 50th Anniversary Photo Contest (run **monthly**): <https://tinyurl.com/qnssp93>

LATEST FROM YOUTH EMPLOYMENT IN PARKS: YEP, IT'S HAPPENING

The Anchorage Park Foundation announced in June that YEP (Youth Employment in Parks) would be happening, though in a modified form due to the pandemic. Below is an article from the foundation. If you'd like to see a video on what YEP is all about see the 5-minute "Welcome To Youth Employment in Parks": <https://tinyurl.com/y9alb5g8>

There was uncertainty this spring as to whether Youth Employment in Parks (YEP) would take place this year, given the challenges posed by novel coronavirus. We are happy to announce that YEP is indeed taking place in 2020, though it looks quite different from how it has looked in the past.

YEP is an inclusive summer employment program that provides Anchorage teens with hands-on experience in stewardship and conservation of public lands, while giving many participants experience in their first summer jobs. Youth Employment in Parks had a phased start, this year. In May, crews consisted only of a few returning crew leaders. These crew leaders were working on smaller projects, like tree plantings or clearings, for the past five weeks. Starting this week, YEP is operating with a full crew, training 21 teenagers new to the program.



With the program scaling up this week, the YEP crew is separated into three smaller groups to ensure social distancing. Face masks are required, provided by YEP, and were created by local artist Brett Connor of Hulin Designs. Crew members have their own tools, are required to wash their hands a minimum of three times per day, and have access to hand sanitizer. Temperatures are also taken every morning. The safety measures don't stop there: tools are sanitized at the end of every day, and crew members transport themselves to work sites, rather than traveling together in vans.

The YEP program is off to a great start. One of the hopes for this year is that, with smaller groups, YEP crew members can form closer bonds with one another. Teaching the essentials of teamwork is still a core focus for the program, and coordinators believe that the teens have an increased opportunity to demonstrate leadership skills in their smaller crews.

Even with all the adaptations, we at APF are thrilled that Anchorage teens still have a valuable opportunity this summer, earning money while learning some central principles of stewardship and conservation. In the words of Meredith Gutierrez, the program's field educator, "we still get to make a difference through the program."

YEP staff have seen personal growth and team building for teens foregrounded again and again in the life of the program. This year, we believe, will be no exception. Thank you to the many supporters who make YEP possible. Stay tuned to Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube for updates from days in the life of our YEP crews.

MAT-SU GROUP ACCEPTING GRANT APPLICATIONS, IMPROVING APP

The Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation is continuing to accept grant applications and to upgrade and its trails and parks app. See the articles below from the foundation newsletter.

GRANT APPLICATIONS

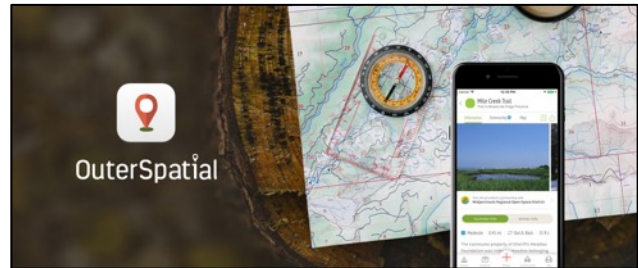
APPLY Is there a trail, parks, or education project you'd like to see funded? Do you know of a trail or park organization looking for project funding? The Mat-Su Trails and Parks Association is accepting and approving grant applications for two separate grant opportunities!

In addition to our regular grant-making program we are also offering the expedited Rapid Relief #ActiveMatSu Grant program to support our community partners who have been facilitating and improving our access to outdoor recreation during the COVID-19 crisis.

If you are interested in learning more or applying for either of our grant applications, please contact our Executive Director, Wes Hoskins, at whoskins@matsutrails.org.

OUTERSPACIAL APP

Are you looking for new trails or parks to explore? The Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation has been upgrading the OuterSpatial app with brand new content, photos, and trail descriptions. There are now over 3200 miles of local trails, parks, and amenities on the app. The Outerspatial app is a great resource but does not replace a compass, map, and research about the area. Please adhere to trail and park user guidelines so that the entire community can safely recreate during this time. Free App download available on the Appstore for IOS and Android Users.



Download the App: <https://welcome.outerspatial.com/>

VALLEY GROUP WORKS ON GOVERNMENT PEAK ADA TRAIL

The following note was in the July issue of the Valley Mountain Bikers & Hikers "Trailpost" newsletter:

Our new ADA-compliant trail at the Government Peak Recreation Area is getting its final touches this summer. Our contractor, Trailwerx has gone through and re-compacted the trail. Most exciting however, are the two new accessible picnic tables that will be assembled and put in place along the trail by the end of the summer!

SEEN RECENTLY ON SOUTHCENTRAL FACEBOOK PAGES

ALASKA STATE PARKS

July 29: **Mat-Su Update: Ermine Hill**

The moose carcass has recently been removed from the Ermine Hill trail off of K'esugi Ridge. This is an update from the June 15 post.

Although this decreases the risk of encountering a bear, you should always be prepared for an animal encounter in the backcountry. 🐻

<http://ow.ly/pBhS50ALLZJ>.



July 28: ****Update in Mat-Su Region****



A bear has been hanging around Willow Creek State Recreation Area in the campground and along the trail to the river.

Signs are posted but please note that bears hang out when salmon are running and this one is setting up camp. Be aware and always be prepared for an animal encounter.

July 24: ****Kachemak Bay area update****

We have received reports that a sow (aka: mama bear) with cubs around Grewingk Lake has been showing signs of stress recently. The sow has been making huffing sounds and they are not moving off the trail.

Please inform us of this type of behavior as it is very important to get the word out via trail reports and signage at trail heads and at the lake. This type behavior can escalate to a more dangerous encounter if the sow feels more threatened by hikers.

BIG thanks to the commercial operators that have been informing the public about bear sightings and how to properly deal with unexpected bear behavior, especially in the Grewingk Valley and Saddle Trail. Keep it up! Please be certain that if your operation has multiple employees working in the park, that they understand the importance of reporting these encounters to us.

Our goal is to provide an awesome and safe experience for the everyone.



July 24: Trail work is happening in Eagle River...

The trail that leads to the south fork confluence of Eagle River got some rerouting work done this past week thanks to Parks Specialist, Tim Gurnett and Parks Technician, Sean Cook along with a crew from the Student Conservation Association.

You can access this new section of trail from Briggs Bridge trail head. BIG thanks to volunteers and staff!

July 20: Chugach State Parks and Alaska State Parks is celebrating our 50th Birthday virtually and individually this year and we are excited to share in the festivities with you!

Stay tuned for more details on how to listen in on our virtual event on August 6 at 6 PM. We have an event scheduled on FB, so take a look and mark your interest for updated deets.

On the agenda: Music, videos honoring Alaska State Parks on Chugach State Parks 50th Birthday, words from some folks who were around "back in the day".

HUGE THANKS to the team at Arctic Valley Ski Area and Dave Todd, for being the music and sound gurus. ❤️

July 1: Today's FIND YOUR TRAIL highlights a southcentral favorite - the "Bird to Gird." However, we can't sell this trail short, this trail starts off in Indian Creek and it will see an additional mile of trail added later this year! However, there is still so much trail to enjoy...including these trail guides!

Get out in Alaska this summer with the whole family!

- PDF: <https://tinyurl.com/y767ec2x>
- Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XZWymJHbSZQ>

ANCHORAGE PARK FOUNDATION

July 24: The Youth Employment in Parks crews wrapped up their work improving the Rabbit Creek Park trail. Many thanks to Anchorage Parks and Recreation staff, volunteer Dan Fleming and Alaska Trails's Kristen Mrozowski for their leadership in sustainable trail management and training the youth crews.

To bike or walk the trail - see attached map. You can also connect over to Hamilton Park via the road to Bell's nursery, and then on to Ocean View Park. Please note the nearby pedestrian overpass shown on the map is under construction right now.



July 19: Volunteers are hard at work building a reflexology path at Anchorage's first intergenerational health and healing park, Folker Park.

Thank you Alaska Reflexology Association, Earthscape, and Parks and Rec Senior Planner Maeve Nevins for your creativity, time and vision to transform a pocket park into a sacred place of wellness.

July 3: Located less than a 1/2 mile off of Taku Campbell Creek Park, Turnagain Brewing on King Street is a great place to enjoy a Friday night. Make sure you thank them for their support for Anchorage trails through their sponsorship of this lovely mile marker.

July 1: Every two years, APF and Rasmuson Foundation provide matching grants for neighbors to improve parks and trails. Thanks to Dan and the Youth Employment in Parks crews for working on the Rabbit Creek Park trail improvements. Contributions help! Follow the link to donate and be part of this exciting project: <https://tinyurl.com/y2lyv6sn>

June 29: Thank you Matson in Alaska for your support for Anchorage trails! This sponsorship sign has a prime spot at Point Woronzof. Make sure to keep your eyes on the trail and not the planes overhead as you fly around this corner on the coastal trail.

SINGLETRACK ADVOCATES

July 18: STA is partnering with Chugach State Park to build a world class, multi-use singletrack trail for bikers, hikers and skiers, that traverses from Glen Alps to Prospect parking lots.

The vision is to have a fun, family friendly trail that many different people can enjoy. The character of the trail will be similar to a mix of the South Fork Rim trail and STA's Bolling Alley trail at Kincaid Park.

We are excited to partner with the Chugach State Park on an amazing new project for our community!

For more details go to www.singletrackadvocates.org/hemlock

July 16: Thanks to our volunteers for hand finishing the upgrades to Northwest Passage at a Kincaid!!!

June 30: Evolution trail at Kincaid is reopened for your enjoyment! Remember to PreRide, ReRide, FreeRide. Thank you to Happy Trails and our Volunteers for a great job!



VOLUNTEER June 30: Thanks to our volunteers for working on several sections of Jeff's Whoop Whoop and Gauer Power yesterday. Please remember to PreRide, ReRide, FreeRide. If you're interested in volunteering with us please email: Stahillside@gmail.com or Stakincaid@gmail.com to get on the list!

June 26: Hello Everyone,

This is Ryan with Singletrack Advocates. At this time we are pleased to announce that Hanging Chad is reopen. Our contractor Happy Trails has reworked all of the jumps as well as re-routed a section of the trail. Please familiarize yourself with the trail before getting rad. Remember to pre-ride, re-ride, and then free ride! We would also like to remind you that as Singletrack Advocates and our trails evolve, we want everyone to stay safe and have a great time. This means being respectful and courteous to all users. Remember to travel the right way on one way trails. Bikers yield to hikers. On one way downhill trails the person below you has the right of way, just like at the ski resort. On two ways trails, the uphill rider has the right of way. Your continued support allows us to maintain and update the trails. Thank you!

MAT-SU TRAILS AND PARKS FOUNDATION

July 14: [Sign up for Trail News](#) to get the best trail suggestions, updates, and tips on accessing and enjoying all the world-class trails in the Mat-Su!

https://conta.cc/3ftSvNe?source_type=fppo&source_id=231bd818-7554-4799-b574-45254ea2a41b

July 8: Wow! Have you been out to Settlers Bay Park recently?

Great Land Trust partnered with the Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation, other community organizations, and individual supporters to acquire 293-acres of undeveloped coastal property in the Settlers Bay community with the intent to create a park for public recreation and habitat conservation.

Settlers Bay Park officially opened to the public last Fall. The Mat-Su Borough manages the land and has been working hard to provide a multitude of recreation opportunities, to protect wildlife and historical sites, and offer educational opportunities for school children, families, and visitors to the park.

We are so appreciative of Elliot, MSB Staff, and GLT for all your hard work in providing our community world-class recreation access and opportunities!

MAT-SU BOROUGH RECREATION AND LIBRARY SERVICES



July 31: Exciting things are happening at the new Settlers Bay Coastal Park! This week the Mat-Su Trail Crew completed cutting the tread of 1.8 miles of beginner friendly mountain bike trail! This trail is relatively flat and flowy with some banked turns, as you can see in the picture! There is still some dirt work and root cutting that needs to happen before the trail is finished, but hopefully that will be completed by fall. We hope you get a chance to check out the new park and trail system.

ISLAND TRAILS NETWORK (KODIAK)

July 31: The trail crew that brushed all the Near Island trails helped to clean all the beaches on Near Island too! The morning started with a stretch circle at the first beach on North End Trail. The beaches on North End and South End were fairly clean, but they still managed to collect 96 pounds of marine debris. The crew learned that although beach cleanups are important, it is not the solution. The solution lies in the choices of each individual and to practice the 4 R's: to refuse, reuse, reduce, and recycle. The goal is to stop marine debris from entering the ocean in the first place.



July 25: Thank you all who came out and cleared the Monashka trail! All of your work is much appreciated!

July 24: Marcus Dunbar (retired teacher and former track and field coach) is leading a crew of seven high schoolers for the month of July to complete the Channelside Trail on Near Island.

The trail starts on the North End trail, continues underneath the Near Island bridge, follows alongside the Near Island office buildings, and ends close to St. Herman's Harbor. This trail is heavily used by the Kodiak track and field team, some of which the crew members are on.

A donation from Michelle Parekh made it possible to finish the construction of this trail, which was put on hold for a few years. The donation was originally intended for the 2020 Brian Young Invitational Alaska Star Track and Field Meet which unfortunately was canceled due to COVID-19. Dunbar asked if the donation could support the completion of the Channelside Trail and Parekh gladly agreed.

The track and field team will now have better trails to practice on to prepare for next year's track meet.



July 23: Travis is back as the Trails Coordinator this summer and started a 6-week summer work



program, running from June 26th to July 31st with a trail crew of five Kodiak youth. This program is sponsored by The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR). It directly targets ITN's mission by maintaining our local trails as well as providing employment skills training specific for the outdoor, conservation, and natural resources career fields.

The crew has been working hard brushing the trails on Near Island, starting with the North End Trail. They finished the Near Island trails, continued to some of the Adjust Your Altitude trails, worked in the State Parks and are finishing up at Termination Point.

To round off the crew, ITN is also hosting a local Student Conservation Association intern, Matthew Wald, who provides mentorship and developing leadership skills.

July 12: We had a great turnout for today's trail maintenance on Heitman trail; thank you for everyone who came out! We widened the trail from the trailhead to the lake. Happy hiking!

SOUTHCENTRAL LINKS

- Kenai National Wildlife Refuge reopens some trails to public: <https://tinyurl.com/y8su5wdc>
- Kenai River, Seven Lakes trails reopen: www.kdll.org/post/kenai-river-seven-lakes-trails-reopen
- Mat-Su Borough adds more hiking, mountain biking trails to Settlers Bay Park: <https://tinyurl.com/yde3cjr8>
- Mountain bike riders get a race in exchange for volunteer labor: <https://tinyurl.com/y8ck7tr9>
- Resurrection Bay Marine Trail brochure (out of Seward): <https://tinyurl.com/yd2vxm75>

- What you can learn about Anchorage by biking 32 miles on the new 'Moose Loop': <https://tinyurl.com/y283rxeg>
- Abbreviated 2020 YEP program improves Tour of Anchorage trail: <https://tinyurl.com/y53etckt>
- Tour of Anchorage Trail resurfaced by youth employment in parks: <https://tinyurl.com/y3y94sap>
- Prince William Sound Stewardship Foundation **volunteer** projects: <https://tinyurl.com/y8cyvl5z>
- Stretch for Chugach: Fundraising Event for Chugach Park Fund (Aug 13): <https://tinyurl.com/y4fodvvq>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Anchorage Park Foundation Spring 2020 newsletter: <https://tinyurl.com/y9cgsqfx>

INTERIORWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

ASSEMBLY VOTES TO PROTECT SOME PEEDE AREA TRAILS

Cam Webb, organizer of the "Keep Peede Trails Public" campaign, sent out this email on July 23.

Great news! The Borough Assembly just voted unanimously to rezone the Peede Tract (the 166-acre parcel at the heart of the Borough's Brock/Repp land) to 'Outdoor Recreation'. This should now prevent sale and development of this parcel.

There's lots more work to do to keep the rest of the land public, but any new action on that is probably some time out.

Thanks for your actions, your support, and for just caring about the fate of the land.

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

SEEN RECENTLY ON INTERIOR FACEBOOK PAGES

STAN JUSTICE > RUNNING CLUB NORTH

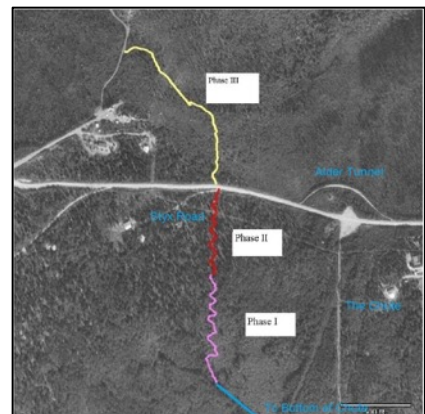
USE A NEW TRAIL July 24: The Section Line Trail has been brushed out - it needs traffic to wear in.

For decades RCN tried to get year round access to the chute but it was not to be. FNSB pointed out the section line and after year of effort DNR determined that there is a 66 foot easement along the section line and approved brushing out a trail. Reminds me of the Rolling Stones song - You can't always get what you want....you get what you need. No longer do you have to worry that the property owner will accost you for being on the chute or zipper. RCN only has race day permission to use the trail.

From the intersection of Styx Road and Ester Dome Rd the new trail goes both directions North and South. The South trail drops off the edge of Styx Road and the North trail starts on the original Equinox but goes straight along the section line.

Watch for trip hazards as it is a rough trail. Please don't cut the switchbacks. Enjoy!

It's worth noting that the affected property owners have been notified. They don't necessarily like it, but DNR has made a determination that a section line easement that permits public access exists there. Please respect private property and stay on the trail.



INTERIOR ALASKA LAND TRUST



July 11: We're excited to have more land conserved thanks to Sara Tabbert and Brandon McGrath-Bernhard! They contacted us about a conservation easement on their southern 40 acres back in 2012, and reached out again early last year about conserving the western 25 acres of their property above it. This is a beautiful parcel, and contains the Eldorado Creek Trail, which continues south into the Goldstream Public Use Area!

To learn more about conservation easements, visit our website:
<https://interioraklandtrust.org/conservation-options/>

FAIRBANKS AREA HIKING CLUB FAN PAGE

VOLUNTEER July 21: The still relatively new Interior Alaska Trails and Parks Foundation is starting to partner with BLM on trail projects. The one they've decided to start with this summer is to brush the Table Top Mountain trail in the White Mountains, off Nome Creek Road up the Steese.

They are proposing the weekend of **August 21-23** as the project dates. It would involve camping a couple of nights, some training on the tools, and then going to town on the trail.

An IATPF trailer with hand tools will be on-site, and BLM will provide gas brushcutters and PPE to use on the project. A BLM field training for operators on equipment safety and use will happen on that Friday (8/21).

They need about six volunteers. If you're willing to help, please contact Geoff Orth at gorth@straydogs.us or (907) 479-0014.



July 16: Here is a short fun hike I found. Only a couple of miles but ends at some funny looking tors. Drive past the main Wickersham Dome trailhead about a mile and take the old road. Find the trail on the N side of the creek where it diagonals up steep road cut.

Many are aware of the similar trail that leaves from the second creek old road and gets to a ridge that can be followed to the summit of Wickersham Dome.

FAIRBANKS AREA SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

COMMENT (Some of the projects involve urban trails, especially the Airport West Bicycle & Pedestrian Facility.)

July 18: 🗣️ Opportunity for public comment!

💰 The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is the tool we use to plan/prioritize projects & track our spending. The 2019-2023 TIP is being amended & we need your input!

🌐 Please head to www.fastplanning.us/TIP3, read the summary, analyze options A & B, & leave your comments in the comment box provided.

📅 The **comment period will close on August 15th.**

NORDIC SKI CLUB OF FAIRBANKS

July 21: Parks and Rec reopened the Birch Hill Warming Hut earlier this week. It is sanitized twice a day every day. Please practice social mitigation and follow all other procedures that are posted in the Warming Hut.

Construction on the Birch Hill Recreation Area entrance road has begun so expect roundabout blockage, one lane traffic, and traffic control flaggers. Construction will also soon begin on the bypass exit for the new/far parking lot around the old garage and is expected to last until August 14.

Birch Hill staff is working on a new patch of topsoil to groom, fertilize, and grow grass. The patch is in front of the Timing Building. Please avoid this area.

INTERIORWIDE LINKS

- Misadventures on our Dawn to Dusk Summer Trails Challenge: <https://tinyurl.com/y7cprqt2>
- Cutting My Teeth on Sawtooth Mountain: <https://tinyurl.com/y7lk9sgb>
- Building a trail to unclimbed rocks near Birch Lake: <https://tinyurl.com/y59uk8fp>
- Biking the Back Way to Hutlinana Hot Springs (from Sept 2019): <https://tinyurl.com/y5jjozp2>
- Fairbanks Borough gets federal grant to update road and trails plans: <https://tinyurl.com/yxjudxsm>
- Fairbanks Summer Trails Challenges ends Sept 30: <https://tinyurl.com/y5j4ql4y>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- AlaskaAcross 2020: the last 'race' standing: <https://tinyurl.com/y74vpb2g>
- Far Mountain Traverse: <https://tinyurl.com/yy89qtof>

SOUTHEAST NEWS AND NOTICES

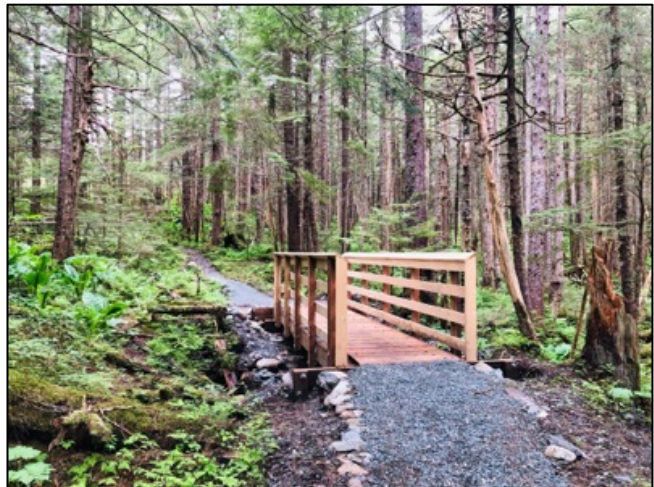
SEEN RECENTLY ON SOUTHEAST FACEBOOK PAGES

CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU

July 7: CBJ, Trail Mix, Inc., Alaska State Parks, and the U.S. Forest Service are partnering on the Juneau Trails Master Plan – a 20-year document that will define high-priority trails and projects, and identify and address opportunities and constraints in the Juneau trail system. Let the planning team know which trails you use the most, what recreational activities you most commonly use the trails for, and what trail projects you would like to see in the next 20 years by taking this survey

(<https://tinyurl.com/yafh3ads>). The survey will run until August 16.

The Juneau Trails Master Plan will provide coordination and connectivity between the partner agencies for the maintenance and further development of the Juneau trail system. The plan will be developed through community outreach, including one-on-one meetings with user groups, this online survey, and a public meeting later this year. With this input, the plan will establish a trail maintenance schedule to meet the growing demand for trail recreation of all kinds.



JUNEAU PARKS & RECREATION

TAKE THE SURVEY July 15: Have you taken the survey yet for the Juneau Trails Master Plan? Let the planning team know which trails you use the most, what recreational activities you most commonly use the trails for, and what trail projects you would like to see in the next 20 years. Take the survey now <https://tinyurl.com/y6hvm4m>.

If you scan the QR code, you'll start the survey by telling us who you'd rather hike with! 😊

Survey closes August 16.

SOUTHEAST LINKS

- Workers laid off by pandemic get to work improving local trails in Juneau: <https://tinyurl.com/yc8f7vc>
- Sitka Cycling Club to complete two mountain bike trails this week: <https://tinyurl.com/y3qes66t>
- Juneau Forms COVID-19 Conservation Corps: <https://tinyurl.com/y6j75wqh>

NATIONWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

CONGRESS PASSES BIPARTISAN GREAT AMERICAN OUTDOORS ACT

In July, the House of Representatives passed the Great American Outdoors Act, a bill that would authorize billions in funding for two major park-related needs, the National Park Service deferred maintenance backlog and the Land and Water Conservation Fund. It now heads to the White House, where President Trump is expected to sign the bill into law.

“This bill is a conservationist’s dream,” said National Parks Conservation Association President and CEO Theresa Pierno.

The legislation includes components from two previous bills that NPCA has strongly supported, the Restore Our Parks Act and the Land and Water Conservation Fund Permanent Funding Act.

Excerpted from a NPCA blog post. See the rest of the post here: <https://tinyurl.com/y4fdctjk>

RTP AWARD SUBMISSION DEADLINE EXTENDED TO AUGUST 15

SUBMIT The Coalition for Recreational Trails (CRT) sponsors the Tom Petri Annual Achievement Awards as part of the ongoing effort to build awareness and appreciation of the highly successful Recreational Trails Program. Outstanding projects, State trail programs, and State RTP advisory committees funded by this program are honored at the awards ceremony.

The deadline for submitting your projects has been **extended to August 15, 2020** in order to accommodate the COVID-19 related delays our nominating agencies, organizations, and individuals are facing. This annual award is traditionally presented at an in-person awards ceremony on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. For 2020, the award will be announced and celebrated during an online “virtual” ceremony later this fall. Honorees will be invited to participate in the next “live” event, anticipated in June 2021.

For more information on CRT and the awards program visit www.rectrails.org.

From American Trails email

NATIONWIDE / INTERNATIONAL LINKS

TRAILS AND THE PANDEMIC

- Masks And The Outdoor Exerciser: Advice For Runners, Bikers, Walkers, Hikers: <https://tinyurl.com/y3r8vfaz>
- Recreate Responsibly publicity toolkit: <https://tinyurl.com/ya25g2fe>

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

VOLUNTEER

- American Hiking Society's Volunteer Vacations: <http://tinyurl.com/ydh95kp8>
- American Trails Volunteer Portal: www.americantrails.org/connect/volunteer
- ConservationVIP Community News (mid-summer 2020): <https://tinyurl.com/y5u7e63f>

FUNDING

- Polaris T.R.A.I.L.S. grants (ATV trail projects; due March 1, Sept 1): <http://tinyurl.com/zcz8u7a>
- NOHVCC's Grant Opportunities Webpage: <http://tinyurl.com/y6zvxfns>

GUIDES

- Grab a Buddy and Hit One of These Mountain Bike Trails Near Boston: <https://tinyurl.com/y8mdyxwk>
- 13 Incredible Hiking Trails in California: <https://tinyurl.com/y5po6x2z>
- 9 Best Hiking Trails Near NYC: <https://tinyurl.com/y4wvzf3v>

OTHER NATIONAL LINKS:

- The "Bearded Jeeper" shares video of clean up event: <https://tinyurl.com/ybdvtqpp>
- Rails-to-Trails Conservancy 2019 Impact Report: <https://tinyurl.com/yan6vbqj>
- TRAILS Project Earns the 2020 Esri SAG Award: <https://tinyurl.com/yax3aaey>
- Coronavirus pandemic gives new momentum to bike rides, local trails: <https://tinyurl.com/y59hwzbn>
- The art of crosscut: Keeping trails safe and accessible one log at a time: <https://tinyurl.com/yyojzpx>

INTERNATIONAL

- Spain's new 'Lord of the Rings'-inspired hiking trail is epic: <https://tinyurl.com/y9bruo38>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- This Camping Season, Make Sure Your Firewood Is Artisanal Firewood: <https://tinyurl.com/yadfnkup>

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