



# NEWSLETTER

OCT  
2021

PO Box 100627; Anchorage, AK 99510-0264

907/334-8049

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

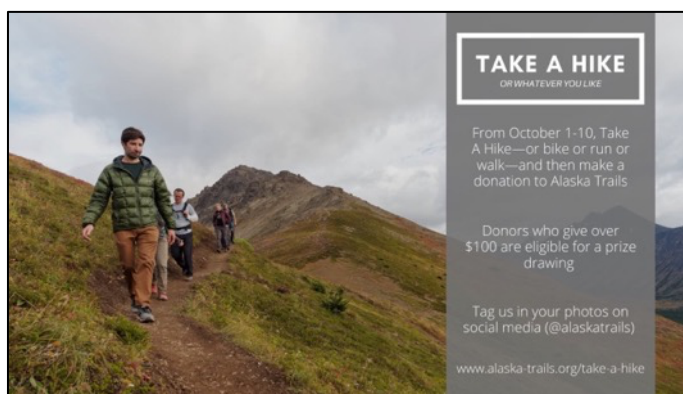
## ALASKA TRAILS NEWS AND NOTICES

### HEY, TAKE A HIKE. SERIOUSLY. IT'S AN ALASKA TRAILS FUNDRAISER!

The past year and a half have been a great reminder just how much trails mean to our community. A safe place to escape, breathe, and connect with nature, trails are an invaluable recreational and economic resource for Alaska. Great trails build great communities, and your support allows us to build, maintain, and advocate for great trails across Alaska. Invest in the trails you love and join us for Take A Hike (Or Whatever You Like)!

It's simple. From October 1-10, Take A Hike—or bike or run or walk—and then make a donation to Alaska Trails. Donors who give over \$100 will be eligible for a prize drawing for REI goodies (Packs, coolers, and camp chairs, oh my!)

We need your help getting the word out about it. This event raised nearly \$10,000 last year and we are hoping to get even more donations this year. Share your photos on social media and encourage your friends to participate. Find out more here: <https://www.alaska-trails.org/take-a-hike>



### SAVE THE DATE - LAND MANAGER FORUM COMING IN NOVEMBER

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



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

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

### ANCHORAGE MAYOR'S CHARITY BALL POSTPONED UNTIL FEBRUARY

**DONATE ITEMS** The Anchorage Mayor's Charity Ball has been postponed from the Saturday, October 9, until February 19, 2022. So, not canceled, just delayed, and you can still donate!

Thanks to everyone who has donated to our portion of the Anchorage Mayor's Charity Ball. We are so grateful to be one of the non-profit charities that will receive the proceeds from the ball. We are very appreciative of everyone's generosity.

However, the ball committee has decided postponing the event is for the best. Here is what the committee says:

“We have been following the COVID case counts provided by the state of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, as well as ICU bed availability in Anchorage, and made our decision out of an abundance of caution.”

Alaska Trails is excited about the event and what it means for our organization but we also acknowledge the greater health concerns in our community. We will be excited to celebrate in February and would like to once again express our gratitude for the donations.

**Oh, and we are still accepting more donations! Do you own a business or know one that would like to donate something to a silent auction as part of the ball?** If you would like to donate something or know of a business that would, please contact Alaska Trails at 907-334-8049 or [office@alaska-trails.org](mailto:office@alaska-trails.org)

Founded in 1994 by a group of dedicated volunteers, led by Robert Penney and then Mayor Rick Mystrom, the Anchorage Mayor's Charity Ball has raised more than \$3.5 million to support local Anchorage charitable organizations. All of the net proceeds from the ball – that's 100 percent – are distributed to the four selected local charities (including us this year!). The chosen charities receive an average of \$50,000 each from the ball.

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



## THANK YOU EVENT FOR YOU WONDERFUL ALASKA TRAIL STEWARDS



Alaska Trails invites you to the Alaska Trail Stewards Volunteer Appreciation Party!

The event is open to all people who have participated in any of the Alaska Trail Stewards volunteer events. The party will be held October 7 in Anchorage at Turnagain Brewing, 7920 King Street, from 5 to 7 p.m. We will be holding the festivities outdoors, so please dress accordingly. We encourage attendees to either be fully vaccinated or wear a mask.

We're so grateful for all the hard work our volunteers have done this summer. Please join us for this end of season celebration!

## SEVERAL EASY WAYS TO HELP FUND ALASKA TRAILS

With the help of other organizations, you can help Alaska Trails continue advocating for trails.

**FASHIONPACT:** FashionPACT, an Anchorage resale boutique, seeks to strengthen the Anchorage community by raising funds for local non-profits. You can help by donating gently used clothing, shoes, jewelry, etc. at FashionPACT and choose Alaska Trails. FashionPACT sells the items in their boutique and gives us payment for the things that sell. Learn more at [www.FashionPact.com](http://www.FashionPact.com).



**FRED MEYER REWARDS:** Sign up for the Community Rewards program by linking your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to Alaska Trails at [www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards](http://www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards). You can search for Alaska Trails or by our nonprofit number – KU871. Then, every time you shop and use your rewards card, you are helping Alaska Trails earn a donation! You still earn your rewards points, fuel points, and rebates, just as you do today.



**AMAZONSMILE:** If you shop at Amazon, please take the simple extra step of signing up for AmazonSmile.



It's the same Amazon website, but when you shop from AmazonSmile, you can make a donation to Alaska Trails at the same time: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/73-1677483>

**GOODSEARCH:** GoodSearch.com is a search engine that donates half its revenue, about a penny per



search, to charities designated by the user. You use it just as you would any search engine, and, it's powered by Yahoo!. Just go to [www.goodsearch.org](http://www.goodsearch.org) and

be sure to enter Alaska Trails as the charity you want to support.

**BAGOY'S:** Anchorage-based Bagoy's Florist and Home helps through its Helping Hands web fundraising



program (<https://www.bagoys.com/programs/charitable-giving/>). When you order online from Bagoy's ([www.bagoys.com](http://www.bagoys.com)) there is a check box at the bottom of the payment page that says "This is a Helping Hands order." When you check that box, the list of enrolled organizations are shown and you can choose Alaska Trails from the list.

## SEEN RECENTLY ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

Sept 22: Dreaming of something like this for Alaska!

Interview with Colorado's Front Range Stewardship Strike Team: <https://tinyurl.com/ab523yx2>

Sept 14: Last Thursday we celebrated this summer's accomplishments on the Little O'Malley Peak Trail. We're so excited about all the progress we've made on this project with our Chugach State Park and Chugach Park Fund partners. If you haven't had a chance to check out the upper section of the trail, we highly recommend it!



Sept 10: BINGO! Alaska Trails is grateful and honored to received funding from The Hoarding Marmot! Peak Bingo was a great way to get people out and active on trails and we will continue our work to build and maintain more trails.

Shared from:



The Hoarding Marmot is at The Hoarding Marmot.

Sept 10: Peak Bingo finished up last week and we have excellent news to share! Two months of peak bagging raised \$860 for Alaska Trails! Thanks to everyone who played and to our event sponsors!!! We hope to see you all again next summer for version 2.0!

Sept 10: It's #beforeandafterFriday (just made that up), and can we all agree there are few things more satisfying than a freshly brushed trail? We've been working to clear alder overgrowth on the Rabbit Lake Trail this week and it is looking great. Many thanks to the Chugach Park Fund for facilitating this work!

Aug 31: It's #TransformationTuesday and we want to give a shout out to all the ladies that came out over the weekend for our collab event with Pioneers: Connecting, Supporting and Mentoring Women.

They tackled a notoriously wet section of the Wolverine Bowl Trail and put in 100 feet of drainage, which will make a big difference. Thanks to everyone that came out!



## STATEWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

### ADVOCACY NEEDED FOR RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM

**ADVOCATE** The Senate bipartisan infrastructure bill left the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) completely untouched, relegating it to stagnant funding once again. According to the recently released Federal Highway Administration report, the nation's trails community currently contributes \$281 million in tax revenue each year, yet for the last ten years the program has been held at flat funding of only \$84 million. From an equity and climate standpoint, the budget reconciliation represents an opportunity to invest in our nation's recreational trails for the first time in nearly a decade.

There is clear benefit to ensuring states and localities can access the funds needed to expand their active trail networks, ensure outdoor recreation is a part of the clean energy transition, provide safe and healthy outdoor spaces for all communities, and encourage greater carbon-free modes of transportation. Several members of Congress have sent a letter asking that the reconciliation package include funding for the RTP that brings it up to the \$147 million per year included in the INVEST Act.

You can help. Send a copy of the letter to our federal representatives to let them know you support fair and accurate funding of the RTP. You can print the letter and send it via snail mail or copy the content and email it.

Letter: <https://tinyurl.com/4z2m2h33>

Contact information for our federal representatives can be found here:

- Rep. Don Young: <https://donyoung.house.gov/contact/>
- Sen. Dan Sullivan: <https://www.sullivan.senate.gov/contact>
- Sen. Lisa Murkowski: <https://www.murkowski.senate.gov/contact>

You can also add your name to the American Hiking Society sign-on letter. The AHS is advocating for the whole RTP program, not just non-motorized trails: <https://tinyurl.com/y6fey7ny>

*Mostly from an Coalition for Recreational Trails article*

### OUTDOOR REC TRAILS ADVISORY BOARD SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

**APPLY** The Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation is seeking multiple candidates to fill two (2) volunteer positions, representing Motorized trail users, for the Outdoor Recreational Trails Advisory Board (ORTAB). Applicants should have knowledge, experience, and interest in outdoor recreational activities and grant-funded programs. This is a Commissioner-appointed position with a three-year term, and the board meets a minimum of twice per year.

The primary role of the ORTAB is to assist in evaluating grant proposals for the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) and Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). Since 2000, these programs have invested over 30 million dollars in trail projects throughout the state, creating critical and sustainable infrastructure while supporting private sector jobs throughout Alaska. Because ORTAB members carry a wide array of trail and public land user experiences, they are occasionally asked for additional advice on other outdoor recreation related subjects. Additional information regarding the ORTAB can be found at <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/misc/ortaboard.htm>.

The last day to submit applications is November 30, 2021. For more information on applying see: <http://notice.alaska.gov/203835>

## INCIDENT DRAWS ATTENTION TO HORSE INTERACTIONS ON TRAILS

The following was excerpted from a post on the Fairbanks Area Hiking Club Facebook page earlier this summer. It has useful information for any non-equestrian trail user who comes across horses while out on the trail. (Note: The photo is from an Alaska Trails public service campaign several years ago; it did not accompany the post.)

After an event this evening at Chena flood plains I feel like I need to just educate a little. Maybe a few people will learn something and we can all have better interactions on the trails.



When hiking, especially with our favorite K9s, and you come across horses on the trail. Please just step off but stay in sight. It's helpful if you talk to us on the horses while you do that. We will let you know if there is something special to do that will help our horses stay calm.

99% of my interactions with fellow hikers while I am on horseback are amazing. Not everyone knows what to do but everyone in the past has been receptive to directions from us. I know no one wants any one of us 2 or 4 legged to be hurt.

What occurred tonight was extremely dangerous for us. My repeated attempts to try to calm the situation were met with this individual with two (well behaved and leashed) dogs by them yelling at us to move on.

We can't move on when our horse is rearing and spinning (first time this has ever happened to us to this extent in this scenerio). My 13 yr old daughter handled her big 1200 lb horse very well.

A dog hiding in the woods is a predator to a horse and in their mind we are asking them to just walk towards something that wants to kill it. Please excuse us and give us a minute to calm them down. It's way easier when they can see your dog. For my horses they don't care if they are barking and jumping. They are use to that. They just care that something is in the woods and it's for sure going to kill them right then and there.

Thank you everyone. Hope to see you on the trails this fall and in seasons to come with our pony's.

In May we ran a story titled "TIPS ON HOW TO DEAL WITH HORSES YOU MEET ON TRAILS." It is on page 8 of the newsletter, which can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/2fzvuj65>

## STATE SNOWMACHINE TRAIL GRANT APPLICATION PERIOD OPEN

**APPLY** The Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (DPOR) is accepting applications for the Snowmachine Trail Grant Program for FY2022.

People interested in applying for a Snowmachine Trails Program grant should visit the program's website at <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/grants/snowmotr.htm>

**Applications are due by October 22.**

The Snowmachine Trails Program provides reimbursable grant funds for trail easement acquisition, development and maintenance of trails and trail-related facilities for Snowmachine use. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the application process, please email us at [parks.SNOWTRACapp@alaska.gov](mailto:parks.SNOWTRACapp@alaska.gov)

## OUTDOOR RECREATION ECONOMY FOCUS OF CONFLUENCE



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

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

## SEEN RECENTLY ON STATEWIDE FACEBOOK PAGES

### ALASKA OUTDOOR ALLIANCE



**TAKE SURVEY** Sept 27: As thoughts turn to tuning up all that snow sports gear, if you love playing in snow, tell us how we can make winter more fun. Please take this 5-minute survey and share with fellow snow lovers to do the same. Comments will be factored into the revised Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan that will guide state outdoor recreation priorities and investments for the next 5 years. Click to take the survey:

<https://forms.gle/oAA71cVFhgnp7UBWA>

### BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT - ALASKA

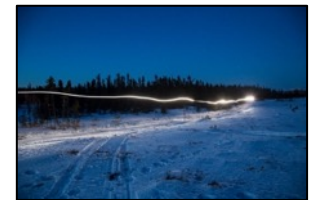
Sept 10: ? Did you know many of Alaska's modern highways were originally trails worn in by gold miners?

One of the most famous mining trails never became a road– the Iditarod National Historic Trail. 🐾

Here's a fun kids activity from BLM's Campbell Creek Science Center to explore the trail and the history of it 🧑🏫 <http://ow.ly/Gufl50G7ou8>

🕶️ Learn more about how the trail, its mining history, and all the recreation opportunities it now offers: <http://ow.ly/UsDN50G7ou7>

📷 BLM Photo by Bob Wick



Sept 3: More #BackyardtoBackcountry access than ever – if you've got the right tools!

Most of #YourPublicLands managed #BLMAlaska are remote with little or no road access, but #OHVs provide access for recreationalists and hunters alike in some places.



#KnowBeforeYouGo

Use our interactive "Top BLM Motorized Recreational Opportunities" experience for the most detailed trail reconnaissance available!

Then, download our georeferenced PDF maps to take with you off grid.

Get maps, contact info, trail conditions and advice from #BLMAlaska #PublicLandsPro at <https://www.blm.gov/alaska/recreation>. Please remember to #Tread Lightly!

## ALASKA STATE PARKS

Sept 14: We've been improving our OuterSpatial app...

- ✓ Download and check it out! <https://www.outerspatial.com/>
- ✓ See if you can figure out how to share a photo in the app
- ✓ Use the app to map yourself on a trail or to a PUC
- ✓✓ Let us know how it goes!

## STATEWIDE LINKS

- 10 Amazing Alaska Hikes Under 3 Miles: <https://tinyurl.com/2twukpdz>
- Cross-country Travel Rex Trail Land Use Permit: <http://notice.alaska.gov/203761>

## SLIGHTLY OFF TRAIL

- The Roof Of Alaska (Bjørn Olson blog): [www.mjolnirofbjorn.com/journal/2021/9/16/the-roof-of-alaska](http://www.mjolnirofbjorn.com/journal/2021/9/16/the-roof-of-alaska)
- Fueled By Fire (Bjørn Olson blog): [www.mjolnirofbjorn.com/journal/2021/9/16/fueled-by-fire](http://www.mjolnirofbjorn.com/journal/2021/9/16/fueled-by-fire)
- Work on \$55 million bridge on Denali Park Road could start next year: <https://tinyurl.com/2yubb8rp>

## SOUTHCENTRAL NEWS AND NOTICES

### GROUP CONTINUES WORK ON SHOUP BAY TRAIL NEAR VALDEZ

The announcement below is from a Valdeze Adventure Alliance post. Find out more about the group at: <https://valdezadventurealliance.com/>

VAA (Valdez Adventure Alliance) is thrilled to announce that the request to continue work on Shoup Bay Trail has finally been approved!

In the summer of 2020 VAA rehabilitated the first section of Shoup Bay Trail. Some of you have been wondering why this did not continue in 2021. In October of 2020 we submitted for an RTP grant and permission to continue the work. However, since the second section of work included replacing the footings for the bridge over an active stream, a full environmental review process was required at both the state and federal levels.

Unfortunately, the job position responsible for those reviews was vacant at both the state and federal levels. So, other state and federal employees had to review the submitted projects in addition to conducting their regular jobs. The project work has just now been approved! Too late for summer 2021, but will begin as soon as possible in summer 2022.

I am happy to answer any questions. You can email [lanette@valdezadventure.com](mailto:lanette@valdezadventure.com) or call 972-835-6039.



## MOOSE LOOP VIRTUAL RACE TO RAISE FUNDS FOR TRAILS, PARKS

**PARTICIPATE** The Moose Loop Virtual Race celebrates the world-class urban trails that loop around the city of Anchorage, in the shape of a moose! Participate in this family-friendly virtual event by running, walking, biking, or rolling on the Moose Loop trails in Anchorage or anywhere. Every dollar raised supports Anchorage parks and trails through the Anchorage Park Foundation.

- When: October 20-24, 2021
- Where: Anywhere along the 32-mile Moose Loop trail system in Anchorage
- Events: Virtual 5K, 10K, Mini Moose (12.75K), or Mighty Moose (51.5K Moose Loop)
- Why: Supporting our park and trail system supports the well-being of our community



### Plan Your Route!

Anchorage has one of the best urban trail systems in the country, with hundreds of miles of paved multi-use trails connecting neighborhoods, parks, and businesses across the city. Linking existing trails and city streets forms a 32-mile urban greenway loop in the shape of a moose! Use this interactive Google map (<https://anchorageparkfoundation.org/moose-loop-trail/>) to plan your 5K, 10K, Mini Moose routes, or navigate the full Moose Loop.

Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/2myzrv2y>

Anchorage trails connect us all. Our park and trail infrastructure needs public and private support to connect more neighborhoods to the trail system, improve safety, and update every playground to be inclusive, benefiting children and families of all abilities. We need your support.

## NEW TRAIL CONSTRUCTION RESUMES ON KODIAK'S NEAR ISLAND

The story below is from the most recent edition of the (Kodiak) Island Trails Network *Trails Update*. Read more of the update here: <https://tinyurl.com/x99u6zth>

We are in mid-construction of a new trail on the south end of Near Island that will be completed and opened next summer, possibly earlier. It is fairly well hidden from daily traffic, but the bench is 80% cut



and we already have some gravel down. The trail runs south along the coast-line from Trident Basin and brings the trail out of the heavy tree fall area. From there we hope to connect from South End to Channel Side via the boat harbor and then have a continuous trail that completes the circumference of the island. Marcus Dunbar is responsible for this effort, and Andy helped with the layout. Marcus led a crew of eight Kodiak high schoolers working on the trail for two months this summer. Michelle Kouremetius-Parekh has continued to support the

project as a sponsor (The Kouremetis Family). The lower trail will be clear of any windfall threat and be considerably better designed, scenic and more enjoyable than the old trail.



# SEEN RECENTLY ON SOUTHCENTRAL FACEBOOK PAGES

## ALASKA STATE PARKS

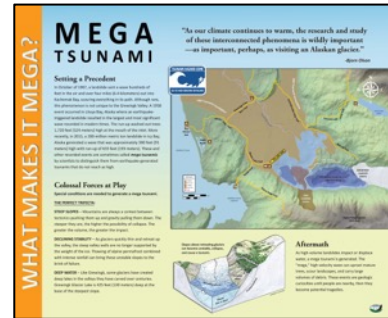
Sept 15: Did you know? Tsunamis don't just happen at sea level!  
\*\*Kachemak SP: Grewingk Lake with views of the glacier is a popular hiking destination spot -- and we can see why!

It's also the subject of ongoing studies on a wild phenomenon that happens under very unique circumstances (and only in a handful of places in Alaska). But it's happened here before! In 1967, a landslide triggered a mega wave that scoured this seemingly sleepy valley and washed everything in its path out into the bay (over 4 miles away).

Learn more about this geological marvel and how to stay aware when traveling at lower elevations around Grewingk Lake:

Brochure: <http://ow.ly/cDj150GaCvN>

To review both Info Panels: <http://ow.ly/g9q750GaCvM>



Sept 3: **\*\*Mat-Su Update\*\*** MP 16 to Fishhook trailhead will be getting a new bridge between MP 16 and Mile post 12 of the Palmer-Fishhook Road.

The "existing" bridge is completely washed out so we will be replacing the washed-out bridge, and some of the parking lot at this MP (12) will not be available from September 7 through October 15.

Please be aware if you planning to go to this area. Thanks! 🍌✅

## ANCHORAGE PARK FOUNDATION

Sept 22: Many, many thanks to Anchorage Sand & Gravel Co., Inc. for sponsoring a beautiful new wayfinding sign at Kincaid Park's Jodhpur trailhead- helping new park users navigate the trails. And thanks to Will at Anchorage Parks and Recreation maintenance for the install!

September 9: We are so excited about this AARP Alaska grant to improve the Fish Creek trail. There's an opportunity for artists and culture bearers!

Shared from  
NeighborWorks Alaska is in Spenard, Anchorage.  
September 1

Calling all Artists, Poets, Storytellers, Lovers of Spenard! We are seeking Alaskan artists to bring storytelling, arts, and culture to the Spenard neighborhood's iconic Fish Creek Trail through interpretive signs. This initiative will create, design, and install up to six culturally relevant interpretive signs along the Fish Creek Trail.

If you're interested, find out more and apply by Sept 17:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Fd486olgXAN\\_nWGXGPVTuzKxqtVIQB9h/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Fd486olgXAN_nWGXGPVTuzKxqtVIQB9h/view)

This project is in partnership with Spenard Community Council, Anchorage Parks and Recreation, Anchorage Park Foundation, and thanks to AARP Alaska @AARPLiveableCommunities and NeighborWorks America.



## SINGLETRACK ADVOCATES

Sept 14: The new Summit to Sea Connector trail is open!!! This is a new two-way trail for bikers, hikers and skiers. Uphill users have the right of way. Thank you to everyone who donated and helped on this trail. Thank you Chris Beck for leading the public process, Lee Bolling for leading the project, Happy Trails for building it, and everyone on the STA Board!



Sept 12: We installed a replacement wood feature on the Bolling Alley! If you like what you see, please help us fundraise for more of these professional ramps. Each one costs between 3K and 8K depending on size. If you want your logo on this ramp let us know!

Thanks to Ryan Greeff, Kim Greeff, Joe Ramos, Charlie Camp, Mike, Toby, Yuli, and Lee Bolling for the install!

## SOUTHCENTRAL LINKS

- The long, grueling hike up Pioneer Peak is worth the effort, once: <https://tinyurl.com/4znpvwh2>
- Hike Grewingk Glacier Lake Trail in Kachemak Bay State Park: <https://tinyurl.com/vkczrhss>
- Hike Carter Lake Trail Near Moose Pass: <https://tinyurl.com/y5rk37px>
- Backpacking Resurrection Pass Trail: <https://tinyurl.com/32zkt5rs>
- When Life Gives You Lemons. . . (a biking/hiking trip in Southcentral): <https://tinyurl.com/88feuk5c>
- Hike Hanging Valley Lake in Eagle River: <https://tinyurl.com/48k7829c>

## SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- South Fork Matanuska Loop (Luc Mehl): <https://tinyurl.com/ncdskjws>
- **DONATE** Future Huts with your help!: [www.alaskahuts.org/blog/2021/09/22/future-huts-with-your-help/](http://www.alaskahuts.org/blog/2021/09/22/future-huts-with-your-help/)

## INTERIORWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

### INCIDENTAL “MIGRATION” OF LOCAL TRAILS CAUSES PROBLEMS

A couple of local trails are starting to make small migrations from their regular routes. These changes can harm trees and widen trails unnecessarily. Please proceed with care.

Both Secret Trail, in Skyline Ridge Park, and Cranberry Trail, on the ridge above the Vallata, are having this problem. First a trail is established that goes around trees. Then people start walking around the other side of the tree. This happens for a couple of reasons. As trails get more packed down with use, the roots become more pronounced and make for more difficult footing or biking. On sidehills, trails tend to migrate downhill, which also leads to people taking a “shortcut” by going below a tree or two. This has happened on sections of the Skarland Trail that haven’t been benchcut.



These trail changes are usually not done with a lot of thought and can cause problems. While moving a trail to another side of a tree to avoid pronounced roots can temporarily make for better footing, eventually the roots become pronounced on the other side of the tree as well. Then the footing is just as

difficult on both sides of the tree. Unfortunately, this unduly stresses the trees and can cause them to die sooner than they would have. It also makes for a wider trail.

Trails that migrate downhill in one portion only usually make another portion of the trail steeper as it regains its original route. In a worst-case scenario, a trail could move out of its legal easement.

Occasionally, a trail moves for a good reason. The original layout of the trail may not be the best. For example, bikers might reroute around a too-tight space between trees or skiers might need a wider turn. Such changes, though, should be done only if truly needed.

Some trail stewards have placed logs or brush across the trail on one side of the tree to guide trail users to the other side. Please leave these in place unless you have a really good reason to make the change. If you see that the log has been replaced on your return, consider leaving a note (in a plastic bag) with your name and contact information so that you can talk to the person who is making the change. A civil discussion can often clear up disagreements. If you are not comfortable leaving your name and contact info, at least leave a note explaining your reasoning. Both have worked in the past.

Please be mindful of how you are using the trails. Keep in mind that your actions affect others, including the plants and animals that make up the area you are moving through. And remember that while you are just one person, you are one of many and the many can have a great impact.

*Photo by Eric Troyer of a braided part of Secret Trail with a log on one side to guide users to the other side of the tree.*

## **MEETING TO ALLOW FEEDBACK ON FAIRBANKS TRAILS PLAN UPDATE**

**GIVE FEEDBACK** The Fairbanks Borough is continuing work on the Fairbanks Comprehensive Recreational Trails Plan update. Below is a message regarding the work. One meeting was already held in late September. However, there is still a meeting set for Monday, October 25, starting at 6 p.m.

THANK YOU to those who have provided comments already! Though the survey and interactive map comment periods have closed, there are more opportunities for input coming up. The planning team is now turning trail user ideas into preliminary recommendations. Next, they will present maps of the recommended trail routes for public review (check website closer to the meeting dates). Your feedback will be critical. Mark your calendar for these two Trails Advisory Commission meetings (via Zoom) to review and provide feedback on the recommended trail corridors.

Find out more about the update at: [www.fnsbtrailsplan.com](http://www.fnsbtrailsplan.com)

## **SEEN RECENTLY ON INTERIOR FACEBOOK PAGES**

### **FAIRBANKS TRAIL USERS OPEN GROUP**

Sept 30: The September 27 meeting packet of the Fairbanks Borough Trails Advisory Commission has some interesting letters attached. Three groups are applying for Recreational Trails Program grants for trail improvements in the area. They are:

- FNSB Parks and Rec: Develop proper trailhead and parking area for Skyline Ridge trail system.
- Interior Alaska Trails & Parks Foundation: Build multi-use trails linking existing Tanana Valley State Forest roads.
- Interior Alaska Land Trust: Construction of the Chinook Conservation Park ATV Trail.

The TAC is also advocating Fairbanks Borough Mayor Bryce Ward to include the following trail projects in the 2020 Capital Improvement Program list.

- Trail-a-Year Program: Develop public access for the Borough trail system
- Equinox Marathon Trail completion

- Skyline Ridge trail system development
- Isberg Recreation Area Master Plan implementation
- Peede Road open space tract access development

You can see the entire meeting packet (letters are at the end) here:  
<https://tinyurl.com/hhwp3a9j>

Sept 30: People who use trails north of Chena Hot Springs Road and south of Fort Knox Mine should be aware of this situation as it may affect trails in that area.  
<https://tinyurl.com/eusn8vd4>

Sept 30: The trails project for the Rosie Creek area of the Tanana Valley State Forest has been completed! This area won't be logged for several decades, so it's now being used as a recreation area. This project improved some of the old forestry roads that are now used as motorized multi-use trails (but no highway-size vehicles). It also added signage along the trails to make it easier to navigate. As part of the project, a trailhead was established. Find it at first pullout to the left after Mile 343 Parks Highway (just before its intersection with Old Nenana Highway). Thanks to the Interior Alaska Trails and Parks Foundation and the Alaska Division of Forestry for making this happen! (Photo by Geoff Orth)



#### ALASKA SKIJORING & PULK ASSOCIATION

Stan Justice

Sept 5: Great news - The 40 acre Joe Nava parcel has been purchased by The Conservation Fund to be added to Creamers Refuge. This protects another section of the 19.8 Mile Loop just E of the golf course. Now to get UA Lands to sell the very wet parcels N and E of the Fairgrounds.

#### FAIRBANKS AREA HIKING CLUB FAN PAGE

Sally Beth Guzman · Sept 18: So many thanks to everyone who made the boardwalk on wickersham and Summit Trail happen !! Just a little less hiking through three feet of mud and letting the trail heal!!! 🥰👍💜😊😊😊😊😊😊



#### DELTA JUNCTION TRAILS ASSOCIATION

Shared from

Golden Valley Electric Assn.



Sept 23: Spotlight on a 2021 Goodcents grant recipient! In May, the Delta Trails Association received a \$5,000 Goodcents grant to support the completion of River Walk Park in Delta Junction, Alaska. These beautiful new trails are now available for public use!

Thank you to every GVEA member who rounds up their electric bills each month to benefit Interior nonprofits!

The next deadline for nonprofits to apply for Goodcents funding is October 31, 2021. Apply now at:  
<https://www.gvea.com/goodcents-program/>



September 11: Come out today for the grand opening of the River Walk Park Trails and experience the Story Walk event in progress with Cindy Lou Aillaud the author of the featured book Recess at 20 below. Trails are located at the north end of the bio mass burn area off the Richardson Hwy across from the airstrip in Delta.

Note: River Walk trails are on Trailforks: <https://www.trailforks.com/trails/moose-loop-463508/>

### FRIENDS OF CREAMER'S FIELD

Sept 27: Thank you to our wonderful board members who took some time this weekend to tidy up the Boreal Forest Trail!

### INTERIORWIDE LINKS

- 'It's Really Fun!' Delta Junction Celebrates Opening of New Trail: <https://tinyurl.com/3s7c86xu>
- 2021 Summer Trails Challenge in 36 hours: <https://tinyurl.com/w5pue82p>
- Colorado Creek Trail, Notice of Decision to Issue Easement: <http://notice.alaska.gov/203756>

### SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Fairbanks Area Forestry to burn hundreds of slash piles near Cripple Creek, Goldstream AK subdivisions (these are also near some trails): <https://tinyurl.com/xjbyxt6>
- Mining company pulls back on Ester Dome mining exploration plan: <https://tinyurl.com/4rfhdph9>

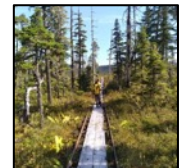
## SOUTHEAST NEWS AND NOTICES

### SEEN RECENTLY ON SOUTHEAST FACEBOOK PAGES

#### ALASKA STATE PARKS

Sept 9: Our Design & Construction team surveying and collecting data to support improving some sections of the existing tram in Oliver Inlet State Marine Park. This is in partnership with ADF&G Hunter Access Program. 🙌

📷 Thanks to Brad Garasky 🙌



#### SITKA TRAIL WORKS, INC.



Sept 28: Busting news! The two ends of the Cross Trail have finally met! The Sitka Trail Works crew has successfully excavated down to Watlachéix'k'i Héén (No Name Creek). Once spawning season is over, we'll install the bridge, which will connect the trail from Starrigavan to Kaasda Héén (Indian River).

Active construction with heavy machinery is ongoing, so be cautious if you venture out on the trail. Also, we appreciate your help in making a beautiful trail by keeping dogs off newly seeded grass areas.

Sept 16: Have you ever walked along the Kaasda Héen (Indian River) flume? The water supply pipe makes a way along one of the most beautiful sections of river. The community identified the trail as a priority for construction in 2003, but right-of-way hurdles have impeded progress so far. Instead, a separated pathway was constructed along Indian River Road.



**TRAIL MIX, INC.**



Sept 28: It was all hands on deck out at Point Bridget the past few weeks! To improve the trail, we first removed a ton of old, slippery boardwalk. Much of this boardwalk was rotting away or falling into puddles on the trail. Once the boardwalk was out, crews began to add gravel to the trail.

We worked to improve the trail by adding gravel and increasing drainage. Over the past few weeks, crew members emptied over 70 bags of gravel to create a much sturdier trail. We also installed some new culverts to direct the flow of water.

Shoutout to Liam, Sarah, Owen, Meghan, Jesse, Jean, Julio, Sage, and Dane for their work on this project!

Sept 27: Our crews continued their work at the Eagle Valley Center, Point Bridget, and Treadwell Ditch last week. The walkway is moving along and looking great at the Eagle Valley Center. The crew at Point Bridget finished up their trail improvements for the season. Our Treadwell crew prepared bags of gravel that will be flown out when there's a weather window.

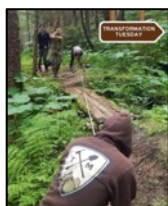
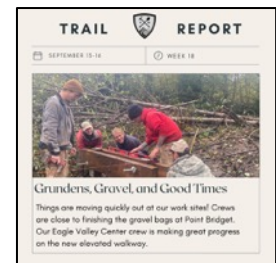


Sept 23: Exciting news! With the help of the JDHS Alpine Club, we have begun the long-awaited restoration of the connection between Cope Park and the Flume.

The Christopher Trail project will be supported by both trail crews and volunteer groups. If you are part of a group that would like to volunteer, go to [www.trailmixinc.org/give/volunteer/](http://www.trailmixinc.org/give/volunteer/) to let us know.

Big thanks to the JDHS Alpine Club for kicking things off!

Sept 20: The days are getting shorter but our crews are working harder than ever. Last week the crew out at Point Bridget emptied just over 40 gravel bags. Each bag is filled with about 500 pounds of gravel! The trail at Point Bridget is looking much less muddy and is close to finished. Meanwhile, our crew at the Eagle Valley Center finished adding in the support piers with the helical pile driver. They've begun construction on the new walkway and are at the halfway point. We can't wait to see the finished product!



September 14: It's been a bridge-building extravaganza on Treadwell Ditch!

In just a few short weeks, four new bridges have been installed by our Ditch crew. Some of these replaced old, basic wood structures while others created safe passage across gulleys that were cumbersome to cross.

The bridges range in size from 16 to 23 feet long and are all located within a mile of each other just south of the Bonnie Brae access trail.

Big thanks to our team of bridge-building experts, Dane, Jean, Jesse, Julio, and Garrett, who even camped out for a week in order to maximize their time out on trail. And a preemptive shoutout to our Trail Maintenance Volunteer Team, who is in charge of building the approaches, so there is a seamless transition from the trail surface to the start of each bridge.

September 13: Last week was amazing! Our Treadwell crew finished up the four smaller-scale bridges they've been working on and they look great. Another crew continued work out at the Eagle Valley Center. There, they began construction on the new elevated walkway. Out at Point Bridget, a crew continued filling in the old trail with gravel and removing boardwalk.

**APPLY** September 9: Do you love being a part of a team AND being outdoors? We're hiring crew members for the fall!

Join one of our trail crews where you work hard 🪛, crack jokes 😄, and make a big impact 💪 on Juneau's trail system all in a 4-day work week. The best part? No prior experience is necessary, and positions are available immediately.

Applications are being reviewed on a rolling basis so don't wait! ✨ We strongly encourage applications from BIPOC, LGBTQ2S+, women, and others with underrepresented identities in trail building and maintenance. ✨

**For full job description and how to apply**, go to [bit.ly/trailmixfall21](https://bit.ly/trailmixfall21). Help us spread the word and tag a friend who you think might be interested!



September 7: This #transformationtuesday we've been as busy as the beavers at Outer Point! 🐿️ After the heavy rains, a section of the trail washed out and became clogged with debris. Water was starting to accumulate on the trail and the drains were overwhelmed.



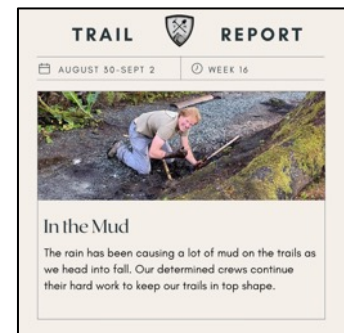
Luckily, we were able to quickly fix those issues to get one of Juneau's favorite trails back in tip-top shape. ✨ One of our crews worked to remove all the branches and mud that covered the trail. Then, they added in two new culverts to assist in funneling water under and away from the trail. Once the culverts were in place, crew members added fresh gravel to the areas of the trail that had eroded away.

🌟 Thank you to Owen, Liam, and Meghan for your hard work on this trail! 🌟

September 6: 🪛 Trail Report Week 16 🪛

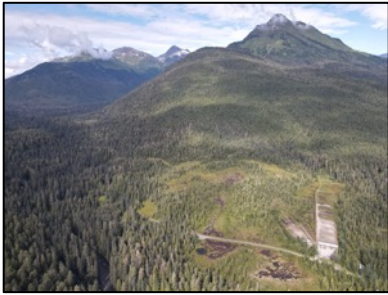
What a busy week! One of our crews headed out to Outer Point to install culverts and fix an eroded section of the trail. While they were over there, the Treadwell crew continued their impressive bridge building. They are very close to having the four bridges completed.

Over at the Eagle Valley Center, a crew finished installing the piers that will form the foundation of the new elevated walkway. Now, they are starting to assemble materials and lumber to begin construction on the walkway. Out at Point Bridget, we flew 70 bags of gravel out to the trail! These bags will be emptied onto the trail and will replace the old boardwalk with a fresh trail.



## JUNEAU PARKS & RECREATION

Sept 20: Over the summer, Juneau Parks & Recreation conducted an informal survey to better understand the current recreational uses, ideas for improvements, and community values for recreation in the Montana Creek Area. The results from the survey are being used to develop and guide the master plan process. The feedback from the survey informs questions to ask of the community and draft concepts to prepare for review. The survey results will not be used to make policy decisions or determine development and management of the area. The results are the first step in public engagement to begin a conversation with the community and land managers. Find the



Survey Report here ([bit.ly/3zpjil](https://bit.ly/3zpjil)) and all project updates here ([bit.ly/MontanaCreekMasterPlan](https://bit.ly/MontanaCreekMasterPlan)).

During the month of September, land managers will meet with stakeholder groups in the area to understand their goals and vision for the process and project area. With this information, concept drawings and plans will be developed for community input and review at a public meeting. The process will include multiple opportunities for public input throughout the fall and early winter.

September 9: With the help of Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition, our Parks Rangers recently installed a pond leveler device along the Outer Point Trail. It has lowered the pond level 11 inches and will prevent flooding previously created by the resident beavers. It is important for park visitors and hikers to not breach the dam or any of the three tiered impoundments in the area.

Our Rangers call it the 'Beaver Deceiver,' 😊 and it looks to be doing its job!



## SOUTHEAST LINK

- Skagway overhauls trail system as part of economic stimulus plan: <https://tinyurl.com/ufsknrsj>

## NATIONWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

### NATIONAL RECREATION TRAIL APPLICATIONS DUE SOON

**APPLY** Some applications for designating a trail as a National Recreation Trail are due by November 1.



For trails on private, city, county, or state land, or on federal land NOT overseen by the Department of Agriculture, the designation process goes through the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI). Those applications are **due on November 1 of each year.**

For trails on National Forests, National Grasslands, and National Recreation Areas and associated lands, the designation process goes through the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Those may be submitted anytime, but must be submitted by February 15 to be included in publicity with DOI designations each June.

For more information see: [www.americantrails.org/national-recreation-trails/apply](http://www.americantrails.org/national-recreation-trails/apply)



## NATIONWIDE / INTERNATIONAL LINKS

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

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

### TRAILS-RELATED NEWSLETTERS

- American Trails "Trail Tracks": [www.americantrails.org/newsletter](http://www.americantrails.org/newsletter)

### VOLUNTEER

- Wilderness Volunteers: <https://www.wildernessvolunteers.org/>
- ConservationVIP Community News (Sept): <https://tinyurl.com/h3va6j8a>

### FUNDING

- IMBA Dig In Program (November application period): <https://www.imba.com/digin>
- National Forest Foundation awards (deadline Jan 13): <http://tinyurl.com/px7y6ke>
- Yamaha Outdoor Access Initiative (OHVs, next deadline Dec 15): <https://yamahaoai.com/>

### OTHER NATIONAL LINKS:

- Be Trail Kind - Trails Are Common Ground Initiative Launches: <https://tinyurl.com/4af29h8z>
- RTP - Workforce Development, Equity, and Climate Resiliency: <https://tinyurl.com/3bcc852b>
- September 11th National Memorial Trail to Offer Interactive Map: <https://tinyurl.com/b2uv6yus>
- Cross-Country Bike Trail Follows Rural Route, Makes Lasting Impact: <https://tinyurl.com/yr734mj9>
- Apply for National Recreation Trail (NRT) Designation by November 1: <https://tinyurl.com/wchv62bu>
- Bill Aimed at Completing Continental Divide Trail by 2028 Introduced: <https://tinyurl.com/s88nfb27>
- 7 Tips for Better Trail Etiquette for Mountain Bikers: <https://tinyurl.com/yuwnpuuv>

### SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Launching a Successful Civilian Climate Corps: <https://tinyurl.com/4x5aa8vy>

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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](mailto:fbxtrails@gmail.com)