



NEWSLETTER

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ALASKA TRAILS NEWS AND NOTICES

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM REPORT HIGHLIGHTS SUCCESSES

Anchorage's Youth Employment in Parks (YEP) program recently came out with its annual report highlighting the summer 2019 projects, which includes lots of trails! We are proud supporters. Our Trails Technician, Kristen Mrozowski, leads the program. Look at this list of projects that YEP crews completed over the course of 10 weeks.

- Castle Heights Park Trail
- Government Hill Bluff Trail
- Campbell Park Streambank Restoration
- Far North Bicentennial Park Streambank Restoration
- Ruth Arcand Park Schools on Trails Connector Trail
- Chestercreek Single Track

Youth Employment in Parks is a Summer employment Program for Anchorage youth that engages a new generation of diverse young leaders as conservation stewards of public lands and the Anchorage Community through meaningful job training, employment, and education. The teens learn valuable natural resource management job skills by building trails, restoring stream banks, and performing a variety of other park improvement projects.

Read the full 2019 YEP report here: <https://tinyurl.com/rmqnrs7>

(Photo courtesy of the Anchorage Park Foundation: Kristen Mrozowski leads a YEP group on a trail project.)



TRAIL TALES EVENT TO SUPPORT ALASKA TRAILS, BIKE ANCHORAGE

ATTEND Alaska Trails is excited to present another installment of the Trail Tales storytelling series on February 6! Our community partner for Trail Tales #18 is Bike Anchorage, as part of Winter Bike Month.

In the spirit of Arctic Entries, storytellers will share seven-minute stories about their trail experiences, adventures and life in general. Come enjoy this fun event and support Alaska Trails and Bike Anchorage.

We're back at 49th State Brewing Company in Anchorage for this round of Trail Tales. Doors open at 6:30, stories start at 7:00 pm. Tickets are \$15 and can be bought online at: <http://www.alaska-trails.org/trailtales.html> Pizza by the slice and drinks will be available for purchase throughout the evening.

We'll be featuring our storytellers on our Facebook Event page so look for them over the coming weeks: <https://www.facebook.com/events/433544147551485/>

USE “PICK. CLICK. GIVE.” TO DONATE TO ALASKA TRAILS

DONATE Alaska Trails is included in the Permanent Fund Dividend’s “Pick. Click. Give” charitable contributions program. It’s a secure and easy way to make a donation. When you file for your PFD online, you will be given an opportunity to donate using money from your PFD. If you do, please remember Alaska Trails.



If you use “Pick. Click. Give” you will be able to check a box that authorizes the state to send your name, contact information and the amount you give when it sends contributions to an organization. We want to acknowledge and recognize your generous support, and this is the only way we will know it’s you making the gift.

For more information on “Pick. Click. Give” (<http://www.pickclickgive.org>). To go directly to the Alaska Trails “Pick. Click. Give.” page <http://www.pickclickgive.org/index.cfm/pfdorgs.info/Alaska-Trails>

FOUR EASY WAYS TO HELP FUND ALASKA TRAILS

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

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. 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 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) 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 is shown and you can choose Alaska Trails from the list.

ALASKA TRAILS NEEDS YOUR HELP TO PRESERVE, PROMOTE TRAILS

BECOME A MEMBER 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

FIRST DAY OUTINGS TO BE HELD IN ALASKA STATE PARKS

Alaska State Parks encourages Alaskans to celebrate the New Year by enjoying the great outdoors in their state parks. **As of press time, two First Day Hikes were planned each for January 1 and January 4.** Areas included are Delta Junction, Homer, Anchorage, and Juneau. The events aren't necessarily just for hiking. Some include skiing and/or snowshoeing. Find out more on the Alaska State Parks Facebook Events page: <https://tinyurl.com/svxnrej>

These free, guided events are part of the national First Day Hikes initiative sponsored by state park systems throughout the United States. For more about First Day Hikes see: <https://tinyurl.com/www5cu7>

SUPPORT STATE, NATIONAL TRAILS BY PURCHASING PARK PASSES

BUY A PASS Many of the great trails in Alaska and the rest of the United States are in state and national parks. Buying a pass helps support these agencies even if you never use the pass. Of course, if you do use the pass, then so much the better. That means you are out having fun!

- Alaska State Parks annual pass: Support state parks during a time of tight state budgets. Permits are \$50 and, of course, your parking is then paid for when you park at a state parks trailhead that requires a fee. Passes are good for the calendar year. Annual boat launch passes are also available for \$100: <https://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/passes>
- National Park Service annual passes: The park service offers general passes for \$80. It also has a variety of other discounted or free passes for seniors, fourth-graders, people with disabilities, some volunteers, and members of the military: <https://www.nps.gov/planyourvisit/passes.htm>



KEEP TRAILS IN THE PUBLIC EYE DURING TOUGH BUDGET TIMES

ADVOCATE The Alaska State Legislature will be meeting soon and the budget outlook continues to be bleak. More cuts are being called for and revenues, such as taxes, are being hinted at. Trail advocates need to speak loudly if trails are to be treated fairly. There are several ways trails could be affected.

- Staffing for the Recreational Trails Program could be cut, This would be a huge mistake as \$200,000 in state funding brings in more than \$1 million from the federal government, but that \$200,000 has been considered for the budget axe before.
- Staffing for the Department of Natural Resources could be cut. Very few people in state government work solely on trails, but many deal with trails as part of their jobs. If positions are cut, other duties may take precedence over trails.
- Pullouts along roads that offer parking for access to trailheads could see less maintenance, including snowplowing, as the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities focuses on keeping high-traffic roads clear. (This has already started happening in some areas.)
- Direct state grants for trail projects could dry up.

So, what can trail advocates do? Let your voice be heard.

- Call or write your legislators. Our legislators will have many things vying for their attention this session.

If they don't hear from trail advocates they may think that trails are not important to Alaskans. Contact information for senators and representatives can be found at: <http://w3.legis.state.ak.us/>

- Call or write the governor: <https://gov.alaska.gov/contact/>
- Write an editorial or letter to the editor for your local newspaper.
- Have your trail-related group pass a resolution, then send that to your legislators, the governor, and the local newspaper.

STATEWIDE LINKS

- The constant buzz of winter trail maintenance: <https://tinyurl.com/vs9o7c7>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- 4 million acres open to snowmachiners at Denali: <https://tinyurl.com/v6jw62m>
- Community Transportation Program Project Evaluation Board Public Meeting (Jan 8-9): <http://notice.alaska.gov/196390>
- Park Service may close Denali road for 2020 season due to landslide: <https://tinyurl.com/ye7pwrxc>
- Arctic Circle Skate (Luc Mehl): <https://tinyurl.com/qpgqjcc>

SOUTHCENTRAL NEWS AND NOTICES

COMMENT TIME EXTENDED FOR PROPOSED REPEAL OF JET SKI BAN

COMMENT A deadline to comment on a state proposal to repeal the current ban on jetskis and other personal watercraft in parts of Kachemak Bay has been extended to January 21.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game proposes to repeal a ban on specific types of watercraft from the Fox River Flats and Kachemak Bay critical habitat areas. The previous comment deadline was January 7.

The proposed repeal of the personal watercraft ban is being done as a "stand-alone" regulation change. It is being conducted separately from the current ongoing revision to the management plan that governs the two critical habitat areas, according to a Nov. 19 memo from a Fish and Game biologist to members of the planning team working on that management plan revision. For more information or to submit comments, contact Rick Green at rick.green@alaska.gov.



For more see this state notice (<http://notice.alaska.gov/196330>), this Anchorage Daily News story (<https://tinyurl.com/vsr3pfd>), or this Homer News story (<https://tinyurl.com/uxlvfa3>).

From What's Up? by Peg Tileston; photo of Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area from ADF&G website

SEEN RECENTLY ON THE SOUTHCENTRAL FACEBOOK PAGES

ALASKA STATE PARKS

December 27: ASP staff is hard at work on trail access around Nancy Lake.

Yesterday they cleared trees on the East Red Shirt Trail and they will continue to do their magic in this area. Stay posted on updated Park Condition Reports: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/asp/curevnts.htm>

December 14: The People Behind the Parks: The Matanuska-Susitna Trail Crew.



The Alaska Conservation Corps takes on the lion's share of field work within Alaska State Parks. The Mat-Su Trail Crew is a prime example of hard work and dedication.

The 2019 field season had the Trail Crew working tirelessly on multiple projects throughout the region. Most notably, they were instrumental in the mitigation of hazard trees created by the region's beetle epidemic. The Trail Crew used advanced felling techniques to remove nearly 2000 dead trees that were threatening Park structures and infrastructure.

If that wasn't enough, they also constructed miles of new trail, hosted volunteer events, and maintained trails in the region.

The Mat-Su Trail Crew is comprised of Alaskans from all walks of life, from college students, National Guardsmen, to life long adventurers, the MatSu Trail Crew has plenty unique personalities.

Did I mention they are hiring?

To inquire about 2020 positions please contact Tim Gurnett at Timothy.gurnett@Alaska.gov

Thank you Mat-Su Trail Crew for keeping our Trails open and safe!

December 9: Here is the preliminary report on the Avalanche at Glen Alps:

<https://www.cnfaic.org/observations/flattop-2/>

While the buried hiker survived, it's an abrupt reminder of how dangerous avalanches can be. Be sure to stay vigilant about avalanche conditions and to check trail condition reports/avalanche reports before heading out.

Stay safe out there!

December 8: More on the Hatcher Pass volunteers that we SO appreciate!

Hatcher Pass Snow Rider volunteers helped break-in trail and install markers and signs so the Goldmint Trailhead and Archangel Valley could be opened to snowmachiners.

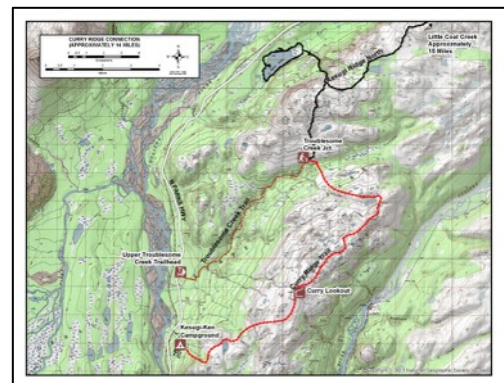
We could not have made this happen without their help. Their deep powder riding skills came in handy in the backcountry where the snow very deep. Volunteers are Kellin Turner and his father Lin Turner.

Volunteers not pictured who helped break trail the day before were Adam Greening and Zack Bennett.



MAT-SU TRAILS AND PARKS FOUNDATION

December 13: Exciting news! We've been teasing this all year, but the agreements have been made official and in partnership with Alaska Dept of Fish and Game and Alaska State Parks we are moving forward with building about 15 more new miles of trails on K'esugi Ridge. The surveying will start spring of 2020 and construction should be wrapped by 2022. The project is funded by Pittman-Robertson Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act from ADF&G and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Also, many thanks to the community and Mat-Su Health Foundation for



making this possible with matching funds. More info can be found on our page here:

<https://tinyurl.com/tvwfyvb>

See also: New Trail Connector to be Added to K'esugi Ridge Trail: <https://tinyurl.com/yx4zhen9>

SOUTHCENTRAL LINKS

- (Kodiak) Island Trails Network's "trails update": <https://tinyurl.com/qgtxmgd>
- One Man's Mountain: How decades of dysfunction on the Anchorage Hillside allowed one man to gate the Stewart Trail and seize control of upper Potter Valley: <https://tinyurl.com/tlc67bw>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Alaska Huts seeking an executive director: <https://tinyurl.com/rk9326j>
- Alaska's changing winters means the need for a bigger toy box: <https://tinyurl.com/vje25sb>
- State of Alaska, Municipality of Anchorage issue joint statement: Campbell Lake is a public lake: <https://tinyurl.com/r9uoekq>
- Mat Su Trails and Parks Foundation seeking full-time Donor Relations Officer: <https://matsutrails.org/news-and-events/>
- REI Anchorage classes and events: <https://tinyurl.com/yxz7x26k>

INTERIORWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

BORO PARKS AND REC AGAIN HOLDING WINTER TRAILS CHALLENGE

The Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks and Recreation Department is hosting another Winter Trails Challenge.

The sign list was revealed in late December for this popular ongoing event, which is free and open to anyone. Participants have until April 1 to find at least 10 Trails Challenge signs hidden around local trail systems and share their photos with each sign.

This winter's challenge features trails at local recreation areas including Birch Hill, Tanana Lakes, Chena Lake, Skyline Ridge Park, Pearl Creek Nordic Ski Park and more. The farthest flung trails are in Salcha and the Chena River State Recreation Area. Three of the trails are ski only, and several are non-motorized, but four are motorized, multi-use, so there is something for everyone. There's even an indoors sign at the Big Dipper Ice Arena.

(The Colorado Creek Trail sign in the Chena River State Recreation Area was not installed at the same time as the others due to frigid temperatures. Plans were to install it in January or when weather allows.)

The first person to post a photo the Trails Challenge Facebook Page was Jennifer Wright, who



posted on December 21: "12/21 Skyline Ridge left the house at -28 thinking this was a crazy idea 🤪. It was a balmy -18 at the trail head... the color through the trees was beautiful and taking the Secret Trail back made for a fun walk."

Anyone can participate by finding the Trails Challenge signs and sharing their photos on social media using the hashtag "#fnsbtrails" or by emailing their photos to parks@fnsb.us. Anyone who finds at least 10 signs will receive the Trailblazer Award and be entered in a prize

drawing. Participants under age 10 need to find at least 5 signs to win the Junior Trailblazer Award.

For more information on this year's challenge, see:

- Trails Challenge page at <https://tinyurl.com/wgwlza>
- Facebook Event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/463758124331854/>
- List of trails and directions to trailheads: <https://tinyurl.com/yx7r3zbb>

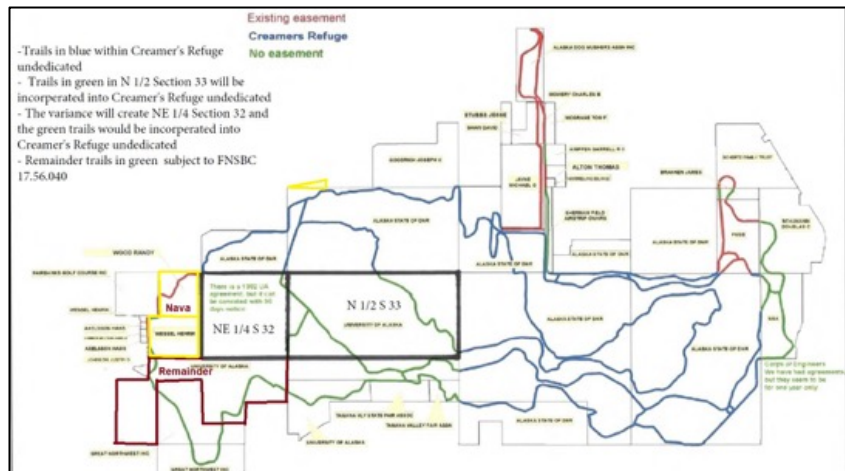
The Fairbanks Daily News-Miner had a story on the challenge: <https://tinyurl.com/snkebyl>

(Photo of Jennifer Wright from Winter Trails Challenge Facebook page.)

BOARD DENIES TRAILS PLAN VARIANCE AFFECTING ADMA TRAILS

A request for a variance from dedicated trail easements as part of a subdivision process was denied in December by the Fairbanks North Star Borough Platting Board. Local trail advocates disagree on whether that decision is a good outcome.

Those in favor of the board's decision believe allowing the variance would have unnecessarily put the trails at risk and would have set a bad precedence for trails involved in future subdivisions. Those who supported the variance believe it would have ultimately protected the trails involved as well as large chunks of land from development. The issue is highly complicated and was outlined in this Interior Alaska Trails blog post from mid-December: <https://tinyurl.com/r29c5vx> (The editor of this newsletter also wrote the blog post.)



Briefly, the University of Alaska and The Conservation Fund are trying to make a land deal that would expand Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge by 160 acres to the west. Both entities asked for the trail easement variance. That land deal would allow another, smaller, plot of land to be added to the refuge. (And possibly another one as well.) A few of the westernmost Alaska Dog Musher's Association trails cross the lands involved. A majority of the ADMA trails are on refuge land already. The UA-Conservation Fund land deal required subdividing a larger piece of land. With any subdivision, borough code requires dedicated easements for trails included in the FNSB Comprehensive Recreational Trails Plan. The ADMA trails are included in that plan.

The platting board's decision means that the UA-Conservation Fund land deal is on hold. But it also means that the board voted to protect the requirement for trail easements during the subdivision process, which is one of the strongest trail protections the borough can offer. (Another related UA-Conservation Fund land deal involving 320 acres to be added to the refuge is unaffected by the board's decision.)

The platting board's decision can be found here (<https://tinyurl.com/r37sz7s>). That document does not include the board's reasoning or vote tally. However, local trails advocate Stan Justice, who supported the variance, said the vote was 3-2.

John Wros of The Conservation Fund has filed an appeal to the Planning Commission, which is the appeal body for Platting Board decisions. It is scheduled for the Feb 11 Planning Commission agenda.

TRAIL PROJECTS INCLUDED IN BORO PUBLIC WORKS RANKING LIST

COMMENT Several trail-related projects are included in borough public works list being considered by the administration and assembly.

The borough is forming a capital improvement plan and must decide which projects to include on the plan. The borough administration has selected a list of projects. The assembly is now reviewing those projects and wants to hear from the public.

Plans are for a public hearing to be held on January 16 on which projects to include and how to rank them. If you can't make the public hearing, please consider submitting comments to the Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly at: <http://co.fairbanks.ak.us/assembly/Pages/Assembly-Members.aspx>

The trail-related projects include:

- Equinox Trail Extension and Completion
- Peede Trail Head and Trail Development
- Isberg Recreation Area Master Plan Implementation
- Tanana Lakes Master Plan Implementation (several phases)
- Chena Lake Area Revitalization
- Fairbanks Lions Recreation Area (FLRA) Revitalization

For more information

- The resolution with the complete list of projects being considered can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/spaefus>
- A page on the process for ranking the projects can be found here: <http://co.fairbanks.ak.us/CIP/Pages/default.aspx>

Also, the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner has done a couple of stories on the process:

- Assembly to review 66 potential building projects: <https://tinyurl.com/uwb5v72>
- Fairbanks North Star Borough seeks comments on public works projects: <https://tinyurl.com/tbt7g6k>

ADMA TRAILS OFFER MILES OF WINTER MULTI-USE RECREATION

Recent stories involved the Alaska Dog Musers Association trails have brought attention to this nearly 30-mile winter trail network on the edge of the Fairbanks urban area.

The Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly recently exempted ADMA property (Musers Hall and the Jeff Studdert Trails trailhead and parking) from borough property tax. (Read more on that here: <https://tinyurl.com/rb44w8x>). ADMA trails have also been involved in an attempted land deal between the University of Alaska and The Conservation Fund. (Read more above and here: <https://tinyurl.com/r29c5vx>.)



The trail network, also called the Jeff Studdert trail system, officially starts at the Musers' Hall on Farmer's Loop Road. Most of the trails in the network are on the Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge, but trails in the outer part of the network also run across a patchwork of public and private lots.

The ADMA trails also connect to two smaller networks: the Creamer's Field trails (open to skiing, ski-joring and walking) and the Fairbanks Golf Course trails (open to skiing and ski-joring). (Note: to access

the ADMA trails from the golf course you have to squeeze through a chained gate.) Stan Justice also grooms a ski trail loop that starts and ends at the golf course and crisscrosses the ADMA trails. See a map here: <https://tinyurl.com/ugo2cbf>. Besides Musers' Hall, the golf course, and Creamer's Field, trailheads are also located off Henrik Court (closer to Ballaine Road), and Echo Acres Drive (closer to the Steese Highway). There is also an official refuge trailhead off Midnight Sun Street, where the street meets Farmers Loop Road at mile 6. It has a small parking area suitable for 4-6 cars. A narrow trail starts of the east side of Midnight Sun.

While the ADMA trails are considered primarily mushing trails, they are open to all non-motorized users. However, non-musers on the trail system should always be on the lookout for dog teams and pull over if necessary. They should also be aware of the ADMA race schedule (which can be found at: <http://alaskadogmusers.com/>) and try to avoid the trails on those days, especially during the North American Championships in March.



Fatbikers, runners, and hikers should also avoid making trenches or foot holes, which can hurt dogs. Fatbikers in a group can help by not riding single file, as this spreads out their tracks. Runners and hikers should use snowshoes unless the trail is very hard.

Anyone who uses the trail system should either donate to the ADMA (<https://tinyurl.com/tyeyk7e>) or buy a membership/trail pass (<https://tinyurl.com/rjipzvb>).

Because many of the trails are in wetlands, quite a bit of snow is needed in order to bring the trails into prime condition. Check the ADMA trail reports here: <http://alaskadogmusers.com/trail-report>

For more information on the ADMA trails, check the flyer (<https://tinyurl.com/rj7oxnz>), the ADMA trail map page (<http://alaskadogmusers.com/trail-maps>), or this webpage (<https://tinyurl.com/uvksy7p>).

Mushing photo from ADMA website; fatbike photo by Heath Sandall from FCC website

SEEN RECENTLY ON THE INTERIOR FACEBOOK PAGES

ALASKA STATE PARKS

December 23: The Compeau Cabin! We have a new Public Use Cabin in the northern region, and it is available to book on Reserve America.



This cabin was funded through the Federal Recreational Trail Grant Program and is located at mile 2 of the Compeau Trail. Access the cabin from the Compeau Trailhead located at 29.8 mile Chena Hot Springs Road.

Start planning your adventure! For more info on this cabin and a link to book in Reserve America, visit our website:

<http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/aspcabins/compeaucabin.htm>

December 6: Looking to get out into the TRUE Alaska Wilderness? We have the deal for you.

Stay at the Olnes Pond Cabin in the Lower Chatanika State Recreation Area for \$10 off per night on from now through January 31!

It's a great place to cross-country ski, snowshoe, snow machine, and see the stars and Northern Lights! Make sure to bring plenty of your own wood for the wood stove, and bundle up nice:

<http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/aspcabins/olnespondcabin.htm>



December 3: Northern region update: The Colorado Creek Trail in Chena River State Recreation Area has been re-opened. The bridge across Colorado Creek has been replaced. Happy Trails to you.

INTERIORWIDE LINKS

- Loose dogs on Creamer's trails (News-Miner letter): <https://tinyurl.com/wh3mqhy>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Fairbanks REI classes and events: <https://www.rei.com/events/p/us-ak-fairbanks>
- Outdoor Adventures OLLI Class (for those at least 50 years old) starts in March: <https://tinyurl.com/umchkmr>
- Fairbanks North Star Borough Winter 2020 Activity Guide: <https://tinyurl.com/rhn4vv9>
- Assembly allows Parks and Rec Commission to select parks for ban on smoking, vaping: <https://tinyurl.com/wxzh4ey>
- Mushing club gets tax break: <https://tinyurl.com/wcfap8g>

SOUTHEAST NEWS AND NOTICES

JUNEAU'S TRAIL MIX LOOKS FOR DIRECTOR, BOARD MEMBERS

The Trail Mix board thanks Erik Boraas for his time as Executive Director, and introduces Ryan O'Shaunessy as Interim Director, effective Dec. 12, 2019. Ryan will serve in this position until the Board appoints a new Executive Director sometime within the next two months. The Board will also be looking to fill a few of its vacancies soon.

From Trail Mix, Inc., website

SEEN RECENTLY ON THE SOUTHEAST FACEBOOK PAGES

SITKA TRAIL WORKS, INC.

December 23: The Phase 6 Cross Trail project is currently under construction! Phase 6 of the Cross Trail, the final section, will extend the trail from Harbor Mountain Road to the Old Sitka boat launch, the Old Sitka cruise ship dock, and the facilities and trails at Starrigavan Recreation Area.

After a long process of contract development with the City, contract documents were signed the first week in December and construction began that week. Construction of the last 2.6 miles will take two years to complete.

Read more about the project here: <http://sitkatrailworks.org/current-projects/>



JUNEAU PARKS & RECREATION

December 3: The Parks & Recreation Department is considering changes to regulations that govern the commercial use of parks and recreation facilities. Existing regulations were written nearly 25 years ago, and a number of changes are proposed to provide Parks & Recreation with a better framework to

manage commercial use of these public facilities. The deadline for public comment is January 15, 2020.

The public is invited to learn more about the process and the proposed changes at the Parks & Rec Commercial Use Open House on Wednesday, December 11 at 5:30 p.m. in the Senate Mall Conference Room on the third floor, 175 South Franklin Street.

Draft regulations are posted on the Parks & Recreation website. Public comments can be emailed to lauren.verrelli@juneau.org; mailed to Parks & Recreation, attention Lauren Verrelli, 155 S. Seward Street, Juneau, Alaska 99801; or faxed to 586-4589.

JUNEAU COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

December 10: Thank you Juneau Emergency Medical Associates (JEMA) for the generous \$20,000 donation to the Treadwell Ditch Trail Renovation Project! Every dollar donated to this project is being matched 3 to 1 by a trail improvement grant awarded to the Juneau Community Foundation from the Alaska Department of Fish & Game. JEMA's extraordinary donation is helping to pay the way for Trail Mix to continue their great renovation work on the historic trail on Douglas Island.



JEMA Board Certified Physicians, Physician Assistants, and Nurse Practitioners have been members of the emergency medical team at the Bartlett Regional Hospital Emergency Department since 1984. The team of highly skilled, compassionate healthcare professionals

are committed to providing excellent emergency medical care to Southeast Alaska. Please consider joining JEMA in making the Treadwell Ditch Trail accessible, safe, world class, from beginning to end!

Learn more about the community partnership that is making this trail repair possible:

<https://www.juneaucf.org/index.php/treadwell-ditch/>

Photo: A recently installed new bridge on Treadwell Ditch Trail courtesy of the grant, local donors like JEMA, and the trail crew!

NATIONWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

BUDGET AGREEMENT INCLUDES BENEFIT FOR TRAILS PROGRAM

After months of delay, the House and Senate have sent a budget to the President. The agreement raises the debt ceiling, increases defense and non-defense spending.

The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) also got a boost. Off-road motorized recreation (including snowmobiles) generates nearly \$300 million in annual revenue for the highway trust fund with approximately 33% of the revenue returned to the states for the RTP.

In an effort to return a more equitable share of these resources for recreational trails, Congress has directed the Federal Highway Administration to conduct a study to identify how much money is contributed to the Highway Trust Fund by non-highway motorized recreation. This will provide a clearer picture of how much gas tax revenue is generated by motorized recreation.

(From American Council of Snowmobile Associations 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

VOLUNTEER

- American Hiking Society’s Volunteer Vacations: <http://tinyurl.com/ydh95kp8>
- Volunteer Stewardship Tools: www.americantrails.org/resources/volunteer-stewardship-tools
- American Trails Volunteer Portal: www.americantrails.org/connect/volunteer
- Conservation International VIP newsletter (December): <https://tinyurl.com/u77ocv7>
- American Hiking Society’s 2020 Alternative Spring Break schedule: <http://tinyurl.com/yxbnlema>

FUNDING

- National Forest Foundation Matching Awards Program (deadline Jan 16): <http://tinyurl.com/px7y6ke>
- Clif Bar Family Foundation grants (for groups, projects; ddline Feb 1): <http://tinyurl.com/y5es3wjc>

TRAIL GUIDES

- 10 Trails Where You Can Find Long-Distance Solitude in 2020: <https://tinyurl.com/t4crqd7>
- 7 helpful hiking guides for Tucson trails: <https://tinyurl.com/szzbs9u>

STUDIES

- Mental Health Benefits of Trails: www.americantrails.org/mental-health-benefits
- Health Benefits of Trails: www.americantrails.org/health-benefits
- Business Owners Along Continental Divide Trail Say Trails are Vital: <https://tinyurl.com/ttowak6>
- Riding as Little As 20 Minutes a Day Can Ward Off Heart Disease in Older Adults: <https://tinyurl.com/yxxv4mee>

TRAILS AND ECONOMICS

- New Idaho Economic Impact Study Added to NOHVCC’s List of Studies: <https://tinyurl.com/rmwpk4k>

OTHER NATIONAL LINKS:

- 6 Trails with the Worst Weather—And Why You Should Go Anyway: <https://tinyurl.com/yx5qbf6m>

INTERNATIONAL LINKS:

- Opening of 10 new walking trails a win-win situation for landowners and walkers (Ireland): <https://tinyurl.com/rzp6wfr>
- Top 15 Most Beautiful Trekking Trails In Vietnam: <https://tinyurl.com/qgyy3xt>
- Lace up your skates for these top skating trails in Canada: <https://tinyurl.com/sc5e89a>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- This Artist Uses Snowshoes to Carve Massive, Ephemeral Artworks into the Snow:
<https://tinyurl.com/vaawd6g>

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