



# NEWSLETTER

JUNE  
2022

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

## ALASKA TRAILS NEWS AND NOTICES

### JOIN US IN GIVING BACK TO TRAILS ON NATIONAL TRAILS DAY



**VOLUNTEER** Come celebrate trails by volunteering with Alaska Trails at one of three different locations. Volunteers will be doing a variety of tasks at each location – all with the goal of making our trails safer and more fun to use.

Moose Pass - Iditarod National Historic Trail; Whittier – Horse Tail Falls Connector Trail; and Glen Alps – Powerline Trails. Come give back to the trail you enjoy all year-round! For more information on this and other volunteer events, go to: [https://www.alaska-trails.org/current-volunteer-](https://www.alaska-trails.org/current-volunteer-opportunities)

[opportunities.](https://www.alaska-trails.org/current-volunteer-opportunities)

### ALASKA LONG TRAIL PROJECTS PASSED BY LEGISLATURE

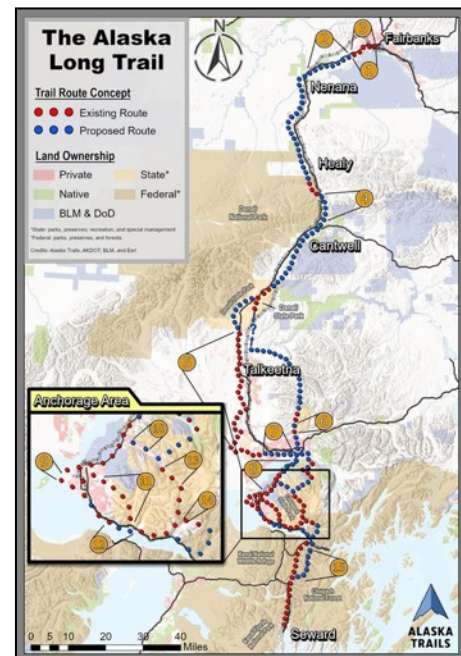
Alaska Trails is thrilled that 15 Alaska Long Trails projects were included in the budget passed by the State Legislature last week. This joint effort by the bipartisan group of legislators and trails advocates clearly demonstrates that trails are for everyone, a good investment, and something we can all agree on. Such investment in public health and the outdoor recreation economy would be a huge step forward for the State of Alaska. Next stop, the Governor's desk for budget approval.

- More about funding for the ALT: <https://www.alaska-trails.org/funding-for-the-alaska-long-trail>
- HB 281: AK Long Trail funding: <http://www.akleg.gov/basis/Bill/Text/32?Hsid=HB0281F>

#### **DONATIONS NEEDED FOR 2022 WORK**

While some other long trails are hiking-only footpaths, the Alaska Long Trail seeks to embrace the multi-use spirit of Alaska's trails. Different sections of the proposed trail will be open to hikers, bikers, ATV-ers, skiers, snowmachiners, skijorers, equestrians and others.

We're raising \$100,000 to facilitate trail planning work in 2022, and we're only \$10,000 away from reaching our goal! Support the Alaska Long Trail and make a donation that's truly an enduring contribution to outdoor recreation, helping make Alaska an even better place to live, to make a living, and to get out and enjoy our beautiful state: <https://www.alaska-trails.org/alt-donations>



## KAUP JOINS US AS VOLUNTEER, COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

We would like to welcome our new Volunteer and Communications Coordinator Maya Kaup!

Maya replaces Lindsay Garrod, who is leaving our team to spend more time with her young family. We are grateful for all she has done to develop our volunteer program and so many other aspects of the Alaska Trails operations. We are sad to see Lindsay go, but happy to welcome Maya.

Maya was born and raised in Arcata, California, where she developed an appreciation for nature and outdoor recreation. Maya is a seasoned traveler and is always seeking her next adventure. She has been a community organizer and leader, starting two organizations: one to reduce food waste and feed the hungry and another to plant and preserve trees. She has a wide variety of experience in environmental activism, research, and public speaking, ranging from an Environmental Protection Agency Fellowship to being a TEDx talk speaker.

Having received her Master's degree in Biology in 2020, Maya has since worked in wildlife rehabilitation and animal welfare as a technician, animal care specialist, and administrative assistant. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, hiking with her dog, bird watching, and practicing wildlife photography.

Maya has a passion for connecting people with beautiful places and wildlife, and has always dreamed of living in Alaska. Maya is excited to join the Alaska Trails team so she can help share the wonders of Alaska and the joy of hiking and connecting with nature through trails.



## ALASKA TRAILS HAS TOOL TRAILERS READY FOR TRAIL PROJECTS



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

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

**We on the lookout for a tool trailer for one of our crews - a smaller version of the one that you see below.** Please e-mail us at [office@alaska-trails.org](mailto:office@alaska-trails.org) if you know of one for sale, rent, borrow or barter.

## SEEN RECENTLY ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE



May 26: #ThankfulThursday Thank you to Delta Leasing for donating a portion of two vehicles to Alaska Trails for our paid crew to use in Chugach State Park and for our partnership with the Anchorage Park Foundation and Youth Employment in Parks.

The trucks have been enjoying some great views this week as our crew brushes the Turnagain Arm Trail!

May 23: Our Alaska Trails Crew Leaders spent the weekend training to get ready for our AWESOME volunteer events this summer. We are posting more every day at: <https://www.alaska-trails.org/current-volunteer-opportunities>

Hope to see you at one or more of our events!

May 18: Alaska Trails is a grateful recipient of an Anchorage Park Foundation Community Challenge grant and we are excited to be building some new mountain bike trails at Russian Jack!



May 16: We're grateful for the support of the Chugach Park Fund (CPF) and Matson for our June 4th National Trails Day at Glen Alps!

Matson is a generous financial sponsor through CPF and CPF has also added some treats to sweeten the deal!

You can find more info on this and our other volunteer events at:  
<https://www.alaska-trails.org/current-volunteer-opportunities>

May 16: Our friends at the National Forest Foundation are hiring a Chugach Stewardship Coordinator to conduct community engagement, fundraising and project management for recreation improvement and watershed restoration activities on the Chugach National Forest.

See full information at:

<https://nationalforestfoundation.applytojob.com/apply/CRsrNtkcND/Chugach-Stewardship-Coordinator>

May 10: Imagine a world-class trail system, connecting 500+ miles of Alaska's iconic terrain and diverse communities from Seward to Fairbanks. The Alaska Long Trail will embrace the many ways Alaskans recreate outdoors and bolster the Alaska economy. We're raising \$100,000 to facilitate trail planning work in 2022, and we're only \$10,000 away from reaching our goal. Help us complete the critical next step of identifying routes that will complete the remaining Long Trail gaps:

<https://www.alaska-trails.org/alt-donations>



 Hiker on the Crow Pass Trail, part of the proposed Alaska Long Trail. Photo Credit: Alaska NPS



May 9: Our super volunteers - Mark Spano and Blaine Smith - were out on the Bird to Gird trail this Saturday. An injury necessitated that the Girdwood Fire Department rescue someone from the trail with their wheel-based stretcher. The rescue crew was unable to navigate through all the downed trees. Blaine and Mark were able to clear a path for the rescuers.

(Thanks to Paul Fussey for the photos)

May 5: Congrats to Jenny Neyman for winning a \$100 gift card to REI for filling out the after Conference Survey!

If you have not had a chance to check out the conference sessions, please see our archive at:

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

## ALASKA TRAILS LINKS

- OPINION: National Trails Day kicks off a return to trail volunteering (ADN): <https://tinyurl.com/5763x2tt>

## EXECUTIVE BOARD HAS OPENINGS FOR INTERESTED PEOPLE

**SERVE** Alaska Trails is always interested in hearing from people who might want to serve as board members. By serving on the board you help guide our group in its mission "to enhance the Alaska trail experience by supporting sustainable, world-renowned trails through advocacy and education." If you would like to run for the board some time in the future please contact us (info on masthead).

**DIRECTOR'S CORNER**  
Steve Cleary, Executive Director



## Looking Forward to a Great Summer Season in 2022

Summer is coming fast, and Alaska Trails is ready! We kicked off the summer season with our annual trails conference in April and have been keeping the momentum going ever since. Here are some of the exciting highlights:

### **New Crews!**

Alaska Trails will have two paid crews again this year. They both started in mid-May with a week of training, including chainsaw training thanks to our partnership with the US Forest Service. One crew headed to Cordova on May 29 and will spend the summer there working on two different projects on the McKinley Lake Trail and at Child's Glacier. The other crew will split its time between Chugach State Park and USFS trails in the road accessible portions of Chugach National Forest.



### **Youth Employment in Parks**

We are grateful that Ben Ervin is returning to lead the Youth Employment in Parks (YEP) program again this year. Alaska Trails is honored to be part of this innovative collaboration with the Anchorage Park Foundation and the City of Anchorage. Through a 10-week summer program, Anchorage teens complete park improvement projects. Teens learn natural resource management job skills by building trails and restoring stream banks while increasing civic engagement, environmental awareness, and leadership skills. Ben will be leading the teens on some great projects this summer.

### **Volunteer Crew Leader Training**

Alaska Trails is fortunate to have a core group of super volunteers who continue to lead the Alaska Trail Stewards volunteer program. Those volunteers stepped up again in May to conduct a volunteer crew leader training to pass on their knowledge and skills to others who will lead volunteers during our events this summer. With one day in the classroom (mostly an outdoor classroom) and one day in the field, this training sought to teach leaders how to do good work while keeping it both safe and fun.

Those leaders will get to hone their skills soon as the volunteer events begin on **National Trails Day – June 4<sup>th</sup>**! (See story on page 1.) We have many other volunteer opportunities throughout the summer.

Trails have been so important for all of us through the Covid-19 pandemic. Alaska's trails improve our physical and mental health, boost and diversify our economy in ways that we need to further foster. Trails strengthen our community and give us ways, close to home, to get exercise and recharge.

Happy Trails,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Cleary". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

## STATEWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

### ALASKANS TO CELEBRATE NATIONAL TRAILS DAY IN JUNE



**VOLUNTEER, JOIN IN** Several events will be held across Alaska in celebration of National Trails Day, Saturday, June 4. For information on specific events see the Southcentral, Interior and Southeast regional news sections. Or you can check out the National Trails Day website: <https://americanhiking.org/national-trails-day/find-an-event/>

National Trails Day is the American Hiking Society's signature trail awareness program. It inspires the public and trail enthusiasts nationwide to seek out their favorite trails to discover, learn about, and celebrate trails while participating in educational exhibits, trail dedications, gear demonstrations, instructional workshops and trail work projects. For more info see: [www.americanhiking.org/national-trails-day/](http://www.americanhiking.org/national-trails-day/)

### ALASKA STATE PARKS POSITIONS CAN INCLUDE TRAIL WORK

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



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

### SEEN RECENTLY ON STATEWIDE FACEBOOK PAGES

#### ALASKA STATE PARKS

May 6: As summer grows ever near, please keep in mind that fire season is already upon us. There are wildfires currently burning throughout the state and the number is growing, so make sure to be responsible with campfires and other open flames this year. For information on fire safety, you can check out Smokey Bear and the US Forest Service website on wildfire prevention: <https://smokeybear.com/>

May 2: If you haven't purchased your annual Alaska State Parks parking decal yet, now is the time! Save yourself the hassle at the trailhead, and having to rummage through your vehicle for random sticky change 😬: <https://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/passes>

You can also purchase at these locations throughout the state:

- 🕶️ Anchorage at: the PIC, REI, The Hoarding Marmot, APLIC, and Paramount Cycles.
- 🕶️ Fairbanks at: the PIC, REI, Beaver Sports, and APLIC.
- 🕶️ Seward at: the Seward Chamber of Commerce.
- 🕶️ Homer at: the Homer Chamber of Commerce.
- 🕶️ Soldotna at: the Soldotna Chamber of Commerce and Sportsman's Warehouse Soldotna.
- 🕶️ Kodiak at: the Discover Kodiak Visitor Center.

## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

April 29: It's getting to be that season again...

National parks offer a unique experience for watching wildlife. But with that privilege comes great responsibility. Visitors are responsible for their own safety and for the safety of the animals, too. Simply



put, leave animals alone—no touching, no feeding, no harassing. Do not feed any animals from your car and keep an eye on the road for any wildlife that may decide to cross at any time.

Now this message is not for those who know what's up and would never dream of getting too close to wildlife on purpose. Thanks for leading by example! Think of this as a message to share with others you may know heading out to a park. "Vacation brain" sometimes makes an appearance, and people may let their guard down, or get taken in by a bear's fluffy ears, only to have a less than pleasant experience in nature. With nature? Nature doesn't care about your vacation. It happens. Every year.

In conclusion, remember to keep your distance from wild animals, and enjoy your experience watching wildlife. Find more tips at: <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/watchingwildlife/>

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT - ALASKA

May 10: 🗺️ Want better access to trails on BLM managed lands?

So do our Resource Advisory Council (RAC) Members!

BLM experts are working to improve trail marking, mapping, and access.

👍 #GetInvolved and learn more at a virtual RAC meeting next week! (Or contact BLM to get involved for future meetings.)

See the agenda and register! 🗳️ <http://ow.ly/7vu150J4zT3>

📷 A marker guides people along an Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) 17 (b) easement that goes across private land to the Jack River near Cantwell. In Alaska, easements are sometimes reserved when lands are conveyed from the Bureau of Land Management to private owners like Alaska Native corporations under section 17(b) of ANCSA. People can use The Jack Creek Trail for hiking, horseback riding, and off highway vehicles weighing up to 3,000 lbs. to pass through private property and reach public lands on the other side. BLM photo by Glennallen Field Office staff.



## STATEWIDE LINKS

### SLIGHTLY OFF TRAIL

- 5 Best Hiking Apps To Use in Alaska in 2022: <https://tinyurl.com/5d7psxru>
- The Race to Alaska is back, both in film and on the water: <https://tinyurl.com/bdhtx2u8>
- Your Guide to Alaska Parks Parking Passes: <https://tinyurl.com/58c6mfzz>
- Outdoor Explorer radio show/podcast
  - Denali National Park and Preserve: <https://tinyurl.com/mspdapda>

## SOUTHCENTRAL NEWS AND NOTICES

### TRAILS DAY EVENTS TO BE HELD ACROSS SOUTHCENTRAL



**VOLUNTEER, JOIN IN** The following events are being held as part of National Trails Day in communities around southcentral Alaska. RSVP is needed where indicated. The events will be held on Saturday, June 4, unless otherwise noted. More information can be found at: <https://americanhiking.org/national-trails-day/find-an-event/>

#### ANCHORAGE

- Alaska Trails will be leading volunteers to brush the trails that begin at Glen Alps and lead to the powerline trail. Volunteers will use hand tools – loppers and hand saws – to remove the brush that impedes this popular trail. Start time 9 a.m. For more info: <https://tinyurl.com/yc2rtd4d>

#### MAT-SU

- Susitna Rotary will host our annual Little Su Classic, a multiple-mile float of the Little Susitna River through Meadow Lakes and Houston, Alaska. This float is performed to clear out trash, debris, and snag hazards along the river to make it safer for future users of the river. For more info: <https://tinyurl.com/2essfyxt>

#### WILLOW

- Join the Willow Trail Committee on two guided hikes. We will walk the one mile, ADA accessible Shem Pete Trail at 10 am and a longer 4 mile hike at 11am. Both trails are on gravel/dirt and easy walking. The event is free. For more info: <https://tinyurl.com/2ywaha38c>

#### SEWARD

- We will be constructing a new section of the Iditarod National Historic Trail beginning at Mile 21 and working towards Ptarmigan Creek. The work will be strenuous and the terrain steep using hand tools such as pulaskis and shovels. Volunteers should be aware of their own abilities. For more info: <https://tinyurl.com/4dbpyxp8>

#### VALDEZ

- Join us for a giant community hug to Shoup Bay Trail. Come and go any time between 9:30-3:30. We will provide everything you need: bug spray, sun screen, water, snacks, and everyone gets a free t-shirt! For more information email [lanette@valdezadventure.com](mailto:lanette@valdezadventure.com) or see: <https://tinyurl.com/mtzp9nkk>

#### CORDOVA

- Come join the USFS in exploring the Cordova trails with a scavenger hunt! It's free to participants and will provide lots of fun! We will be exploring the alaganik trail, power creek trail, and the harbor. Suggested items to bring along with you are the scavenger hunt form, pen, binoculars, water. For more info: <https://tinyurl.com/2hamx3ct>

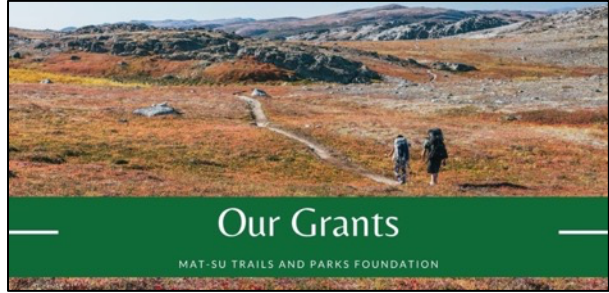
## MAT-SU TRAILS, PARKS FOUNDATION Q3 GRANT CYCLE NOW OPEN

**APPLY** The Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation partners with organizations and local governments on projects and efforts that expand and enhance the valley's network of trails and parks. The foundation considers grant applications for financial assistance on a competitive basis each quarter as funding availability allows.

Before submitting an application, potential partners are encouraged to learn more about the foundation's priorities by reviewing its grant guidelines or contacting staff directly to discuss their project.

Grant applications are due June 17.

For more on the grants see: <https://matsutrails.org/ourgrants/>



*From Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation May newsletter*

## ANCHORAGE PARK FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES GRANT WINNERS

The Anchorage Park Foundation announced this year's winners for the organization's Community Challenge Grants. Among the winners were several trail-related projects including:

- Winchester Park Trail Development
- Tikishla Park/Chester Creek Trail Prunus Padus Chokecherry Challenge
- Fish Creek Tunnel Art
- Far North Bicentennial Park Trails
- Kincaid Park Singletrack Trail Improvements
- Russian Jack Springs Park Singletrack Trails

To find out more about the program: <https://anchorageparkfoundation.org/programs/challenge-grants/>

*From Anchorage Park Foundation newsletter*

## MAT-SU BOROUGH BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN PLANNING

**PARTICIPATE** Now is the time to get involved in the borough's bike and pedestrian planning process. In a still-young but ever-expanding community, infrastructure creating more active transportation is critical. And we are guessing that you know where the gaps and problems exist now. The borough has developed a tool



where you can add your ideas about better infrastructure and log concerns about existing designs. Check out the comment map here:

<https://tinyurl.com/6cnu934u>. This is a borough-wide project.

Several communities within the borough will be the primary focus of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan which are: Chickaloon, Houston, Palmer, Sutton, Talkeetna, Wasilla, and Willow. Within these communities, the bike and pedestrian network will be evaluated, and recommendations will be provided.

The plan will also look for opportunities to connect communities with the existing recreation and backcountry trail systems in the surrounding area. The areas between the communities that are along state highways will require Alaska Department of Transportation to be ultimately responsible for creating and maintaining trails.

For additional information visit the project website here: <https://www.matsubikeandped.com/>.

*From Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation May newsletter*



## SEEN RECENTLY ON SOUTHCENTRAL FACEBOOK PAGES

### ANCHORAGE PARK FOUNDATION

May 18: Last Friday we celebrated the 15 organizations that will receive \$200,000 to improve Anchorage parks and trails through our 2022 Community Challenge Grant Program in partnership with Rasmuson Foundation and Anchorage Parks and Recreation.

Since its inception in 2005, the program has awarded \$2 million in funding to 120 volunteer-led projects that have leveraged nearly \$5 million in cash and volunteer match to improve parks and trails. Three cheers for O'Malley elementary students, teachers and parents who will be improving Forsythe Park!



We were also able to celebrate more than 15 years of friendship and support from Rasmuson CEO Diane Kaplan, who is retiring this year. She was with us from the start and we are grateful for her talent and vast contributions to Alaska. We can't wait to see what she does next!

### ALASKA STATE PARKS

May 20: **\*\*Kachemak Bay Notice\*\***

The Grewingk Tram is open for public use. We recommend at least 2 people to operate the tram. Depending upon individual upper body strength, pulling the cart across can be strenuous. Gloves are also recommended. Enjoy! 🤙🤙🤙

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



May 12: **\*\*Bird to Girdwood Bike Trail Update\*\***

A HUGE thank you 🤙🤙🤙 to Paul Bertholl and the Girdwood DOT for removing the avalanche debris from the trail.

Trail users should be aware of loose dirt, gravel, sticks, standing water, and other obstacles along the trail. Enjoy! ASP

### ISLAND TRAILS NETWORK

May 21: "The physical and mental health benefits of getting outdoors cannot be understated." So true!

If you are interested in volunteering to help maintain Kodiak trails this season or our Adopt-A-Trail program, please reach out to us on Facebook or email [travis@islandtrails.org](mailto:travis@islandtrails.org)

## SOUTHCENTRAL LINKS

### SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Alaska Huts newsletter (Woodstock, Lars Spurkland Hut Update): <https://tinyurl.com/4dtx55ww>
- Outdoor Explorer show: 55 Ways to Alaska adventures: <https://tinyurl.com/dfscekyb>
- Spring Woodstock, June 5, Manitoba Cabin: [www.alaskahuts.org/spring-woodstock-2022/](http://www.alaskahuts.org/spring-woodstock-2022/)

## INTERIORWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

### TRAILS DAY EVENTS TO BE HELD ACROSS INTERIOR



**VOLUNTEER, JOIN IN** The following events are being held as part of National Trails Day in communities around interior Alaska. RSVP is needed where indicated. The events will be held on Saturday, June 4, unless otherwise noted. More information can be found at: <https://americanhiking.org/national-trails-day/find-an-event/>

#### FAIRBANKS

- Ester Dome Singletrack trails volunteer work party. We will ask families (or people living together) to work in small teams on the trail to maintain social distance. Please dress for the weather and wear appropriate shoes. Bring drink, gloves & eye protection. The party starts at 1 pm. Please be a little early so you can get a tool before the truck is locked. Meet at Mile 1.6 Ester Dome Road, , rendezvous at the pull-out. Please RSVP so we can provide sufficient tools: Geoff Orth: [gcorth@straydogs.us](mailto:gcorth@straydogs.us); 907.479.0049

#### STEESE HIGHWAY

- Pinnell Mountain Trail work party. Join the Steese National Conservation Area on June 4 for a volunteer work day to help maintain the Pinnell Mountain National Recreation Trail near the Eagle Summit Wayside (Steese Highway mile 107). Volunteers are asked to arrive anytime before noon to start work. For more info: <https://tinyurl.com/2p8p97ad>

#### DELTA JUNCTION

- Join the Delta Junction Trails Association for a hike up Donnelly Dome. The hike starts at 11 a.m. with hikers proceeding at their own pace. This event is open to the public. Everyone 16 and over is required to have a military Recreation Access Permit (RAP) and sign out either the day before or the day of the hike. Check the DJTA Facebook page for updates. For more info: <https://tinyurl.com/yuc3ajjf>

#### DENALI NATIONAL PARK

- Mt. Healy Trailhead Construction. Come and help us kickoff construction of the new Mt. Healy Trailhead on the Parks Highway. Volunteers will cut brush, move rocks and begin the trailhead construction. The day starts at 9 a.m. RSVP required: 907-683-9504. For more info: <https://tinyurl.com/ped6bmvm>

### COMMENTS FOR FAIRBANKS TRAIL PLAN DRAFT DUE IN JUNE

**COMMENT** The comment period for the Fairbanks Comprehensive Recreational Trail Plan Draft will run through June 26.

The process has already had several public meetings and notices with lots of opportunities to comment, but if you haven't had a chance yet to comment (or you've thought of something new to add), please comment soon. The planning team will need time to incorporate your input where appropriate into the Final Plan. Please submit your comments on the draft Plan via Email or the form on the Contact Page: <https://www.fnsbtrailsplan.com/contact>.

The Fairbanks Borough Trails Advisory Commission will review the final plan at its regular July meeting.

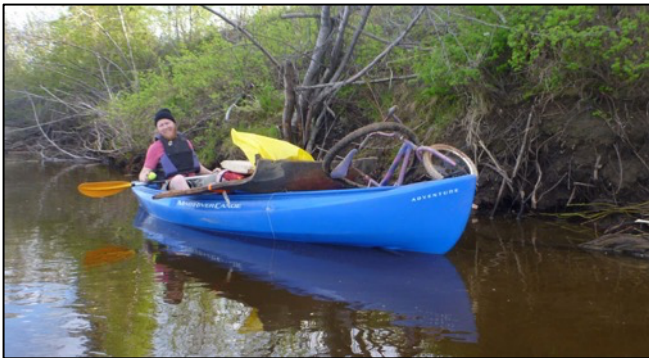
Stan Justice, a local trail advocate, would like to see list of reasons ideas were rejected from the plan, such as a trail crossing private property without a public easement. Justice knows many ideas will not be on the plan, so at minimum a list of reasons why an idea might have been rejected would be helpful. A list of trail ideas that were rejected and why would also be helpful. Better to know the reasons rather than let imaginations go in wrong directions.

To find out more about the trail plan and the update process see: <https://www.fnsbtrailsplan.com/>

## FAIRBANKS PADDLERS SEEK HELP FOR CHENA RIVER CLEANUP

**VOLUNTEER** Fairbanks Paddlers are helping to clean up the Chena River, our main water trail through Fairbanks. Here's an story they posted:

This year we are a sponsor of the Fairbanks Stream Cleanup Day. It is June 11th, and we hope you'll join in. Take a look at the flyer below for details.



It would be good to let us know if you are planning on joining. RSVP both: [Cynthia.nelson@alaska.gov](mailto:Cynthia.nelson@alaska.gov) and [Fpboard@googlegroups.com](mailto:Fpboard@googlegroups.com)

The Fairbanks Paddlers "normal section" is on the Chena between Graehl Landing and Pioneer Park. That's what we'll concentrate on, but we want to help wherever we're needed. Bring your boat if you can, we'll work out the shuttle at Lion's Park, as you see the city and borough will provide all the cleanup supplies.

Here's our chance to shine!

Download the flyer mentioned here: <https://www.fairbankspaddlers.org/news/chena-clean-up-6-11-22/>

*Photo from Fairbanks Paddlers website*

## SPRING TRAIL REPORTS HELP PROTECT VULNERABLE TRAILS

Trails in Interior Alaska are vulnerable this time of year. As the snow melts it uncovers trails that are soft and muddy. We can create ruts and other damage that will last the rest of the season (or longer). Let's try to stay off fragile trails as long as we can and use well-drained trails that are ready for use. To see which trails are ready for use, check out the 2022 Spring Trail Reports, which are updated at least weekly:

<https://tinyurl.com/2n74wvpr>

## INTERIORWIDE LINKS

- A Family Tour of the White Mountains (Jay Cable - winter biking): <https://tinyurl.com/2p8w4rmn>

### SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Alaska Canoe School – Moving and Flatwater Rescue Class. June 12: <https://tinyurl.com/bdze2972>

### TRAILS DAY EVENT TO BE HELD IN JUNEAU



**VOLUNTEER, JOIN IN** The following event is being held as part of National Trails Day in Southeast Alaska. RSVP is needed where indicated. The event will be held on Saturday, June 4,. More information can be found at: <https://americanhiking.org/national-trails-day/find-an-event/>

#### JUNEAU

- Trail Mix, Inc. will spend the day celebrating trails by completing some much needed maintenance on the Lemon Creek trail followed by an open house at our new shop. Come meet us at the Lemon Creek Trailhead at 11am on June 4th! We'll be improving the Lemon Creek trail by brushing back vegetation and improving the tread. For more info: <https://tinyurl.com/2p8j5v4u>

#### SITKA

- Sitka Trail Works to host maintenance work party on Mosquito Cove Trail. Volunteers should meet at 9 a.m. at the Mosquito Cove Trail trailhead, with gloves, water, and snacks. The trailhead is located seven miles from downtown Sitka on Halibut Point Road. Be ready to work until noon. For more info: <https://tinyurl.com/3p87cte9>

### SEEN RECENTLY ON SOUTHEAST FACEBOOK PAGES

#### TRAIL MIX, INC.

May 27: We're back on Perseverance! 😊



As most of you know, Perseverance took a beating this winter with both an avalanche and a landslide at the beginning of the trail. That was after a storm last year damaged bridges and caused a section of trail to erode into Gold Creek.

We've got our work cut for ourselves, but the good news is that we had already planned to have a dedicated crew on Persy all season. Thanks for your patience as we start to get one of Juneau's most iconic trails back into shape!

May 24: 100 trees and a 100 ft washout! 🌲 🌊 🪓

With all the snow melted on Herbert Glacier trail, members of the Volunteer Trail Maintenance Team chainsawed through approximately 100 downed trees blocking the trail (yes, that's in addition to the 27 earlier this winter 😊) and fixed a washout below one of the bridges.

To fix the washout, they first had to unblock the bridge underpass as an obstruction had caused the water to divert down the trail and erode the path for ~100 ft. After water was flowing freely again, they set about moving all the material deposited at the bottom of the incline back to the top in order to bring the trail level with the bridge again.

Now it's a smoooth experience whether you're riding, hiking, or walking your dog. Shoutout to Marc, Mark, Greg, Tom, Chris, Jack, Dave and everyone else who pitched in.



May 19: Trail Mix won Best Nonprofit! 🏆

Thank you to everyone who voted for us for Best of Juneau. We love taking care of our trail system and serving our community. [bit.ly/38IX6No](https://bit.ly/38IX6No)

May 17: 🐾 We're beaver believers here at Trail Mix 🐾

How can we work with the beavers instead of against them? We install beaver deceivers! 🐾 We spent



a week out at Southeast Alaska Land Trust's Very Beary Berry Patch learning how to install a beaver deceiver. Beaver deceivers help protect important ecosystems. 🌲🦆 Beavers are able to remain in their own space, and the ponds they create provide habitat for migrating birds.

Beaver deceivers provide a way for water to flow through a beaver dam without the beavers noticing. 🌊 For this project, we removed an old beaver deceiver that had gone awry and reinstalled it. While the end result doesn't look like much, that's the point. 😊 Beaver deceivers are made to be incognito and blend into the surroundings.

! Stay tuned: tomorrow we'll be covering all the details of the installation in our stories.

As beavers continue to make their home in Southeast Alaska, we're happy to add "beaver deceiver installation" to our toolkit to protect our trails and important ecosystems.

📍 Áak'w Kwáan lands

May 16: 🎉 Let's hear it for the girls! 🎉

On Saturday we had a wonderful time with the Girl Scouts of Alaska - Juneau at our first Trail Stewards workday. 💪 These incredible girls have chosen to work on the Deishú Áak'w-Outer Point Trail throughout the field season.

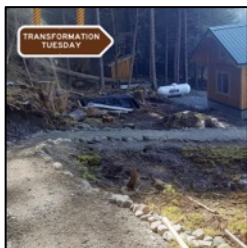
At the start of the loop on Outer Point Trail, there was a large rotting stump that was constricting the access to the trail. The Girl Scouts helped excavate dirt and debris from the area and clipped back the stump. Once the trail was widened, gravel was wheelbarrowed in and added to the trail.



✨ What a great start to the Trail Steward's season! ✨ We can't wait to see the Girl Scouts again next month!

May 10: Improved access to Amalga Cabin! 🏠🌲🌅

This Juneau Parks & Recreation cabin is one of our favorites (have you seen the outhouse? It's truly stunning 🤩🚽😍), so when we heard the trail needed a little sprucing up, we headed right over.



Winter precipitation had eroded the trail right before the beach, so a crew reshaped that section with shovels and rakes and put the gravel back where it belonged. The new tread was then compacted using tampers. The edges of the trail were also lined with big rocks, which will help hold everything in place, which is called turnpiking.

To prevent future erosion, crew members widened trenches on either side of the trail to allow water to easily drain off the surface of the trail and checked on the culverts that allow water to flow underneath the trail rather than over it.

Thank you to Sage, Hunter, Sarah, Liam, Dane, and Ambrose for fixing up the trail. 🙌

📍 Áak'w Kwáan lands

May 5: Big news for off-roading in Juneau!

With legal riding areas on the decline since the 1970s despite continued demand, a proposal for Juneau's first off-road vehicle park received a T.R.A.I.L.S. grant from Polaris Inc. Located at the 35 mile marker out the road, the park is being developed by Juneau Parks & Recreation in partnership with the Juneau Off-Road Association and with support from Trail Mix. The \$10,000 award will fund design plans.

We believe everyone should be able to access and enjoy the outdoors in a responsible manner, and that's why we're grateful to Polaris for helping us move one step closer to addressing this park system gap.



May 3: Week two and it's already time for a #transformationtuesday?! Yeah, our crew is just THAT good. 😊

Last week, our crews started the field season with some hands-on training. We headed out to Rainforest trail, where a section of turnpike (logs that hold gravel in place) had been shoved up against a tree and the trail had started to erode.



Crew members rebuilt the turnpike and got it back to its proper place. Then, large rocks were sourced from the surrounding area to fill in muddy and sunken spots on the trail. Once the trail was solidified, crew members compacted gravel back onto the trail and added drainage.

🌟 Thank you Julio, Jesse, Dane, Liam, Ambrose, Hunter, Toni, Mary, Duncan, Sage, Sam, and Sarah for all your hard work. 🌟 We

can't wait to keep the transformations rolling. 🌱

## JUNEAU MOUNTAIN BIKE ALLIANCE

May 27: JMBA is working with CBJ to expand the mountain bike trail system at Under Thunder into a fully-fledged bike park! This project would improve the original trails, add three new trails, and add a jump line to the area. JMBA will be speaking at the next Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC) on June 7th at 5:30pm over zoom. We need member input before the meeting as part of the public process. **Please send your comments to [jmba@juneaucyclingclubs.org](mailto:jmba@juneaucyclingclubs.org) prior to June 5th!**



## SITKA TRAIL WORKS, INC.

May 27: The Chix'i Héen (No Name Creek) bridge is built!

While not fully complete, the Cross Trail now spans from Indian River to Starrigavan. Work remains to add surfacing gravel, and we're currently seeking funds to finish the Connector Trail to Halibut Point Road.

The idea for this trail across town dates to the 1970s and was formalized in the 2003 Sitka Trail Plan. Since then, Sitka Trail Works has doggedly pursued funding to construct the multi-modal trail, raising over \$5 million mostly from federal sources. Following former executive director Deborah Lyons, Lynne Brandon has led the way with dedicated project management and grant writing acumen. Every step of the way, the City & Borough of Sitka has been a key partner and will assume management of the trail once constructed.



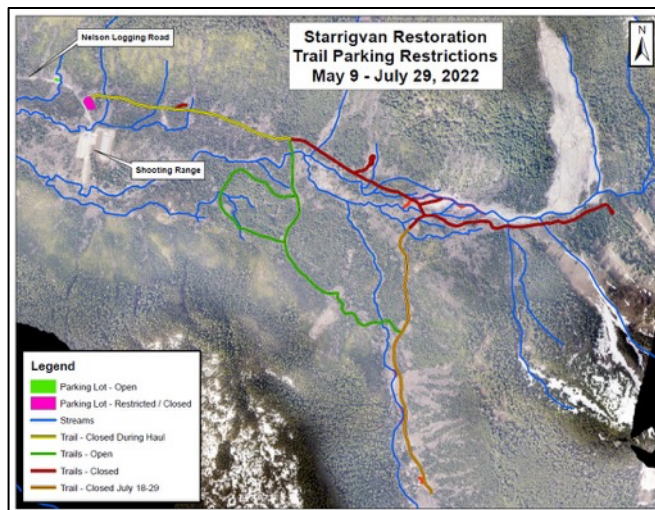
Sitka Trail Works foreman Troy Bayne and crew have dedicated thousands of hours of clearing, excavation, hauling, and artful trail construction. Their work continues, so you may use the trail, but please give a wide berth to any machinery you encounter.

None of this would be possible without the Sitka Trail Works volunteers, members, and donors who support our local nonprofit. If you want to chip in for more trail maintenance and development, you can make a contribution on our website.

We're not done yet, but it's a worthwhile moment to pause and celebrate a major milestone.

May 5: A PSA from our partners at the Forest Service about a closure at Starrigavan:

The Forest Service, Tongass National Forest, Sitka Ranger District with funding from the State of



Alaska DOT and the ADF&G – Hunter Access Program, will begin stream and trail restoration work within the Starrigavan watershed to benefit fisheries, wildlife and user access impacted from a large landslide that occurred in 2014.

Work will begin May 9th, 2022 and lasting through approximately July 29, 2022. Access to the main OHV parking lot and all or portions of the OHV trail will be limited during certain timeframes of these dates due to equipment and supply staging (parking lot) and haul access to the work area (trail system).

Users of the area are encouraged to use the available parking lot at the small rock pit along the Nelson Logging Road to avoid interfering with construction activities and operations. Please watch for and respect signage during this construction window for your own and contractor's safety.

Weekly project information on status of the trail, parking lot closures and allowable uses are available at the Sitka Ranger District office (2108 HPR) or by calling 907-747-6671.

Additional specific information regarding this project can be obtained from:

Martin Becker –

Watershed Program Coordinator; USDA Forest Service; Sitka Ranger District

2108 Halibut Point Road; Sitka, AK 99835

907-747-6671

[martin.becker@usda.gov](mailto:martin.becker@usda.gov)

## SOUTHEAST LINKS

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- **Help build more single-track mountain bike trails in Sitka:** <https://tinyurl.com/yckhnx8c>

## SLIGHTLY OFF TRAIL

- Growing need for skilled leadership in outdoor and adventure settings: <https://tinyurl.com/uw7kzc3p>

## NATIONWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

### 2022 TRAIL FUND RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED BY AMERICAN TRAILS

American Trails announced the first recipients from its new Trail Fund:

Thank you to all of the great organizations and agencies that applied for the Trail Fund this year. We are excited to announce the winners of our 2022 Trail Fund grants. In its inaugural year, we funded a total of \$50,424 directly to seven projects. These projects will be returning a 5 to 1 investment through matching funds.

View more details of the winners: <https://tinyurl.com/yckv9fyd>

The Trail Fund was created to assist the trails community with funding to support maintenance, research, and stewardship training needs all across the country. In our inaugural year, we received a total of 291 applications requesting over \$3 million in project funding for the Trail Fund, with only a little more than \$50,000 available. We were blown away by the interest but also knew this type of funding was very much needed for the trails community!

As anticipated, it was an extremely competitive award round and we appreciate the interest in the funding from everyone that applied and the time commitment required by the application process. Rest assured, we will use this amazing response in our efforts to significantly ramp up the funding levels in the future.

*From American Trails Facebook post*

## 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

- Conservation Volunteers International Program newsletter (May): <https://tinyurl.com/msd9crpn>
- American Hiking Society Volunteer Vacations: <https://americanhiking.org/volunteer-vacation-trips/>
- American Hiking Society Volunteer Vacation myths: <https://tinyurl.com/2p87b29p>

### FUNDING

- National Forest Foundation awards (**deadline Jun 22**): <http://tinyurl.com/px7y6ke>
- FOX Factory Trail Trust (**applications reviewed quarterly**): <https://tinyurl.com/bdfjevrd>



- Yamaha Outdoor Access Initiative (OHVs, **quarterly deadlines**): <https://yamahaoai.com/>
- Clif Bar Family Foundation grants (for groups, projects; **ddline June 1**): <http://tinyurl.com/y5es3wjc>

#### *ADVOCACY*

- American Hiking Society - Support of America's Outdoor Recreation Act: <https://tinyurl.com/2p98jpw>

#### *OTHER NATIONAL LINKS:*

- Great American Outdoors Act Making a Difference Across America: <https://tinyurl.com/bfkfw75e>

#### *INTERNATIONAL LINKS:*

- Building a new Trail to The Towers (Chile): <https://tinyurl.com/5diyca73>

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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)