



NEWSLETTER

**AUG
2024**

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www.alaska-trails.org

ALASKA TRAILS NEWS AND NOTICES

GRANT HELPS ALASKA TRAILS WITH IMPORTANT TRAILS TRAINING

Alaska Trails is grateful to have received a Trails Capacity Grant from the American Trails 2024 Trails Capacity Fund. The Trails Capacity Program is primarily funded by Bronco Wild Fund, a Ford Motor



Company program dedicated to connecting people to the outdoors, responsibly. The goal of the Trails Capacity Program is to invest in building trails community capacity nationwide through research, education and stewardship.

With this funding, we were able to hold a Wilderness First Aid Course, a Trail Maintenance Assessment Course, and a Trail Structure Construction Course for our volunteers! They were able to learn how to construct running plank on the Hidden Lake Trail project. We are grateful to American Trails and Bronco Wild Fund for providing funding to help train our volunteers and increase the number of trail stewards in Alaska!

By building the skills and capacity of volunteers, these trainings have helped create a network of knowledgeable and experienced trail advocates.

Trails Capacity Program: <https://www.americantrails.org/the-trails-capacity-program>

Bronco Wild Fund: <https://www.ford.com/bronco-wild-fund/>

Alaska Trails Photo: Alaska Trail Stewards training session.

FOUNDATION CONTRIBUTES \$5,000 TO PIONEER PEAK TRAIL PROJECT

The Matanuska Electric Association recently granted Alaska Trails \$5,000 for trail improvements on Pioneer Peak.

MEA's Operation RoundUp program allows members to round up their monthly electric bills to the nearest dollar and donate the extra change to the MEA Charitable Foundation. The funds raised through Operation RoundUp support local organizations, like Alaska Trails, that serve the MEA's service territory. We are grateful for their support of our work.

Our trail crew is working on this amazing trail for the next several weeks and there is a volunteer event on Saturday, August 3rd.

More details at: www.alaska-trails.org/event-details/pioneer-peak-trail

The bulk of the funding for our trail crew on this project has come from the Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation.



\$1.1 MILLION FOR ALASKA LONG TRAIL IN STATE CAPITAL BUDGET



The recently passed state capital budget includes \$1.1M for four projects related to the Alaska Long Trail. All four projects are in the Anchorage area and range from new construction to planning. Alaska Trails and partners are grateful to the Governor and the state legislature for including these trail projects in the budget, for the third year in a row now. We are particularly grateful to Senator Wielechowski, Senator Merrick and Senator Giessel for their role in securing this funding. See state funding for the AKLT here:

www.alaska-trails.org/state-budget-funding-for-aklt

Photo from Chugach State Park by Chris Beck

ALASKA TRAIL STEWARDS RELIES ON VOLUNTEERS LIKE YOU

VOLUNTEER Have you been having fun getting out on the trails this summer? Would you like to help take care of those trails? Alaska Trail Stewards has several upcoming volunteer events. We'd love for you to join us!

The mission of the Alaska Trail Stewards Program is to provide volunteer-based trail maintenance services to public land managers and others who have responsibility for safely and sustainably maintaining trails throughout Alaska.

New to trail work? Not a problem. No experience is necessary, just sturdy boots, a good attitude, and a willingness to learn what it takes to keep our trails great. We can't wait to get out there with you!



Learn more and sign up on our website: <https://www.alaska-trails.org/volunteer-opportunities>

And check the "Current Volunteer Opportunities" for our planned events: <https://tinyurl.com/yc7ac53y>

SEEN RECENTLY ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

July 30



Our volunteers worked hard on the Hemlock Knob Trail last week! They deconstructed 60 feet of dilapidated boardwalk, constructed drainage features on 1,100 feet of trail, and brushed 600 feet of trail. Thanks to Chugach Park Fund for sponsoring this event and our hardworking volunteers for improving this trail!

Join us at an upcoming volunteer event to make a difference on your trails!

We need people like you to help us continue making necessary improvements on the trails we love. Learn more and sign up here: www.alaska-trails.org/current-volunteer-opportunities

July 19

A recent story by ADN highlights the new plastic wood product Grizzly Wood, including how it can be used for trail work. Alaska Plastic Recovery, which makes Grizzly Wood, participated in the Alaska Trails Statewide Trails Conference this past April.



The Homer Trails Alliance has purchased hundreds of pieces of Grizzly Wood to build such things as a trail boardwalk near the Kenai Peninsula town, he said. The Grizzly Wood is extremely hardy and does not break down, said Billy Day, a board member with the Homer Trails Alliance. "We are extremely happy with it, and we will be doing more business with him in the future," Day said.

Read the story here: <https://tinyurl.com/2zdp2udc>

Photo credit: Sandy Cronland of Homer Trails Alliance

July 18

Earlier this summer, our paid trail crews worked on constructing a new trail in BLM Campbell Tract. They constructed 1200 feet of new tread, two 3 ft. x 16 ft. puncheons, completed 815 feet of ditch and crown construction, and built a new 10-foot radius switchback platform for a two way multi-use trail. We are proud of the work they accomplished and excited for all the trail improvements they are still working on this summer! If you see them out on the trails, give them a smile, wave, and a big thanks for all the hard work they are doing!



July 17



Have you received your free Parks For All Hydro Flask water bottle yet? Volunteer at any of our events this season and receive this sweet water bottle for free! No experience is necessary and all tools and protective equipment will be provided.

Join us for another of our events! Learn more and sign up here: www.alaska-trails.org/current-volunteer-opportunities

July 16

Rain doesn't stop our hardworking volunteers! 14 people braved the heavy rain on Saturday to make some significant progress on the Horsetail Falls Connector Trail in Whittier. THANK YOU! We cannot build and maintain trails without our volunteers, and we appreciate your efforts, rain or shine!

July 11

The Alaska Long Trail was the topic of conversation at the Alaska Wild Project podcast recently! Tune in to listen here: https://youtu.be/raDkQs_hWFg?si=Dv3raKZvN-M4bRKS

July 10

Huge thanks to our volunteers who donated their time and hard work this past Saturday on the Near Point trail! They accomplished a lot: brushed alder and cow-parsnip off 1227 feet of trail, installed drainage on 112 feet of trail, cleared out 60 feet of boardwalk and restored drainage under that boardwalk, and uncovered 18 feet of that boardwalk under 12" - 18" soil. And shoutout to Wayne Todd for these wonderful photos!

Join us at a future event for more fun trail work: www.alaska-trails.org/current-volunteer-opportunities



July 10

We're very excited about the new trails at Russian Jack! Big thanks to all the partners and volunteers who made these trails a reality. Go check them out and let us know what you think.

Russian Jack singletrack trails bring easy access to biking enthusiasts in East Anchorage:

<https://tinyurl.com/52yucea2>

July 3

While we are disappointed about the Governor's vetoes of many trail projects, we look forward to working on the ones that did get funded. We believe investing in trails is a way to keep our communities healthy and happy, to build and diversify our economy and to attract and retain the workforce our state needs.

<https://alaskabeacon.com/briefs/governors-vetoes-whittle-list-of-funded-alaska-long-trail-projects-to-four/>

July 2

Some of our black hat volunteers (who have volunteered at 5 events in one season with us) got together this weekend to do some necessary maintenance on the Little O'Malley Trail! All trails require some level of regular maintenance, and while Little O'Malley was recently constructed, it still needs a little love to keep it safe, sustainable, and fun for all trail users. They brushed the trail, re-established hinge points, and repaired tread. A big thanks goes out to these dedicated volunteers who give their time and hard work to improving our trails!



Interested in volunteering with us this season? Visit: www.alaska-trails.org/current-volunteer-opportunities

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.



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.



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 are shown and you can choose Alaska Trails from the list.



STATEWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

APPLICATIONS FOR LWCF AVAILABLE STARTING AUGUST 1

APPLY Applications for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) will be available starting August 1.



This joint federal/state program is not specifically a trails program, but many trail projects have been funded by this program. It provides grants for projects that feature "close-to-home" outdoor recreational opportunities for the public.

Applicants are limited to state, regional or local governments, and federally recognized tribal governments, with the legal authority to provide park and recreation services on public lands are eligible to apply for LWCF assistance. However, nonprofit can also partner with eligible applicants to get projects funded.

The application period runs from August 1 to October 31 (noon). For more information see: <https://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/grants/lwcf.htm>

TAKE CARE ON TRAILS AS HUNTING SEASON APPROACHES

As we get into hunting season, please take care while using trails and while hunting and target practicing. This is not just a hunting season issue, but there is typically more gun activity this time of year.

The vast majority of gun owners are responsible with shooting. Unfortunately, some are less responsible, such a target practicing without a proper backstop or along a trail.

The chances of something happening are low. However, the consequences could be very high: death or wounding. Don't worry unnecessarily but do take care. Here are some resources:

- Information for Hunters and Non-Hunters (US Forest Service): <https://tinyurl.com/muw8n58d>
- Hike Safely During Hunting Season (American Hiking Society): <https://tinyurl.com/yr6cd8f3>
- Info about hunting seasons in Alaska: <https://tinyurl.com/2ux3jkvp>
 - For specifics see the Alaska Hunting Regulations: <https://tinyurl.com/mjbrn9j3>



SEEN RECENTLY ON STATEWIDE FACEBOOK PAGES

ALASKA STATE PARKS

July 22

🌲🌲 Last week, Alaska State Park employees participated in the latest Leave No Trace Hot Spot training. 🌲🌲

🔥 The Hot Spot program addresses the environmental impacts of high-traffic recreational areas. Through a nationwide nomination process, Alaska was identified as a potential Hot Spot due to increased popularity from visitors and residents.

Over the next few days, Alaska State Parks will be promoting the 7 Principles of Leave No Trace:

- 1 ☐ Plan Ahead & Prepare ☒
- 2 ☐ Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces ☒

- 3 ☐ Dispose of Waste Properly ☒
- 4 ☐ Leave What You Find ☒
- 5 ☐ Minimize Campfire Impacts ☒
- 6 ☐ Respect Wildlife ☒
- 7 ☐ Be Considerate of Others ☒

For more information on Leave No Trace 7 Principles, please visit:

<https://lnt.org/>

Stay tuned for more tips on how you can help preserve our beautiful parks! 🌲 🍄 🐻 🗑️



FAIRBANKS TRAIL AND WATERWAY USERS

July 19

The trailhead provides access to the Oxbow and Triple Lake Trails and the newly constructed portion of the Nenana River Hiking trail.

--The new Nenana River Hiking Trail follows the Nenana River north. The first three miles, nearing the confluence with the Yanert River, have been constructed for this year. The trail will be closed north of there, as trail construction continues.—

>>Shared from Fairbanks Daily News-Miner



July 19

DENALI NATIONAL PARK — The new wayside at Mile 231 Parks Highway is open for public use, just six miles south of the entrance to Denali National Park.

<https://tinyurl.com/4pmej7u>

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME - OFFICIAL

July 2

🔥🔥Wildlife Incident - ASP2404371 🔥🔥

✓✓ On 6/24/2024 at approx. 1230 hours State Park Rangers followed up with reports of two to three black bears in Eklutna Campground getting into campers tents, food and other gear. Bear deterrent measures (bean bag rounds) had previously been used on the bears by a State Park Ranger a few days prior. Upon arrival at Eklutna Campground the State Park Rangers were directed to a campsite that had two black bears in it, actively eating the camper's food and getting into his gear. The State Park Rangers determined that the bears had become too habituated and were put down. The bears were donated and salvaged to charity via AF&G.



✓✓ On 6/27/2024 State Park Rangers received another report of a black bear in the Eklutna Campground. The State Park Ranger responded and located the bear, he deployed three bean bag shotgun rounds on the bear, but the bear returned. The bear ultimately had to also be put down. The bear was additionally donated and salvaged to charity via ADF&G.

✓✓ Alaska State Park Rangers would like to remind park visitors that all of Alaska is bear country. Please keep all food and scented items in a bear resistant container or hard-sided vehicle. Violators are subject to a \$300 fine under 11 AAC12.230(j), Food accessible to bears, and/or a \$300 fine under 5AAC 92.230(a)(1) Feeding game.

- Keep Bears Wild 🐻
- Keep a Clean Camp!
- Manage food and garbage responsibly! 🍕🍷
- Coolers, grills, stoves, food items and food containers may not be left out UNATTENDED at ANY time.
- Secure in vehicle or bear box.
- A Fed Bear is a Dangerous Bear

Thank you!

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC FACILITIES

July 11

Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF) 2024-2027 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Amendment #1 is available for public review and comment.

DOT&PF's STIP is a vital framework that directly impacts the transportation infrastructure of our state. The STIP encompasses a wide range of activities, including highway improvements, bridge repairs, waterways projects, public transportation enhancements, and more.

The STIP is a valuable tool for the public. It offers a clear and concise overview of planned transportation projects, providing visibility and transparency to the residents of Alaska.

The documents and public comment portal are here: <https://publicinput.com/stip/>

The comment period for STIP Amendment #1 is open through Monday, August 5, 2024.

4 ways to comment:

- ONLINE at <https://publicinput.com/stip/>
- TEXT STIP to 855-925-2801
- EMAIL stip@publicinput.com
- CALL 855-925-2801 & use PIN 2191 to leave a message

Tip from the editor: The 2024-2027 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Amendment #1 is out for public comment. This plan includes DOT bike/pedestrian paths. For trails-related projects do a search for "trail" and "path." Several projects from across the state come up.

ALASKA MOUNTAIN BIKE GROUP

July 23

Update: we tried to ride from Glacier Gap to Sevenmile Lake on the Denali Highway. We turned back after 1.25 miles because the trail was a solid ATV mud hole. We turned around when even the ATV trail ended in a bog. See picture. This was the fairly passable trail. Not sure this will ever dry out. River crossings were easy.

--Breena Apgar-Kurtz

Update: after looking at google maps, we may have chosen the wrong trail. Both trails are unmarked. We started at the marked Glacier Gap trailhead, but there were several ATV trails that started at the trailhead. They crossed the creek so I picked the one next to the information signs. Apparently, that was the wrong trail.



STATEWIDE LINKS

- Governor's vetoes whittle list of funded Alaska Long Trail projects to four: <https://tinyurl.com/498myhj6>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- The Spell of the Yukon (a trails-heavy trip): <https://tinyurl.com/ye26heb6>

SOUTHCENTRAL NEWS AND NOTICES

SURVEY SEEKS INPUT ON ANCHORAGE-AREA TRAIL PLAN UPDATE

TAKE SURVEY Do you love hitting the trails in Anchorage, Eagle River, or Chugiak, or have you experienced some bumps along the way? Either way, your feedback is sought.



The Anchorage Metropolitan Area Transportation Solutions in partnership with the Municipality of Anchorage Parks & Recreation Department is updating the 1997 Areawide Recreational Trails Plan for the Anchorage, Chugiak and Eagle River communities.

Anyone who lives in these communities or uses the trails is encouraged to participate by taking a Trail Use survey. The plan encompasses municipal trails like Campbell Creek Trail, Kincaid Park, and Mirror Lake trails, but does not include trails in Chugach State Park. The survey only takes about 10 minutes and gathers information about how people use these trails, why they are important, and about trail issues and priorities. Results will help guide the planning process to make sure reflect modern trail needs and plan for the years ahead.

You can take the survey online or grab a paper copy at the Fairview Recreation Center (Monday - Friday, Noon – 7 PM). **See the online survey here:** <https://www.publicinput.com/rectrails>

From Anchorage Parks & Recreation Department

MAT-SU TRAILS GROUP OPENS 16-MILE TRAIL, NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

The following updates come from a recent edition of Trail Post, an e-newsletter of the Valley Mountain Bikers & Hikers. Find out more about the group here: <https://vmbah.wildapricot.org>

16 Mile Trail is Cleared and Ready to Ride!

The 16 Mile Trail has been reclaimed! Thank you to all the VMBaH volunteers who worked through June cutting back alders and brush, raking away debris, and making this downhill trail in Hatcher Pass a joy to ride again! Grab some friends, shuttle on up, and enjoy those views. Pre-ride, re-ride, free ride! If you weren't able to donate some time helping us, please consider donating some \$\$ to help cover our gas, trimmer blades, and equipment maintenance and repair.



Moose Range & Jonesville Plan Adopted

The 2024 Matanuska Valley Moose Range and Jonesville Public Use Area Management Plan has been adopted. For details, see the DNR website.

VMBaH Monthly Meeting

Our next board meeting is Tuesday, Aug. 6, at 6pm at the Turkey Red meeting room. Members are welcome to attend. For more information email trailhead@vmbah.org.

Volunteer with VMBaH

We need volunteers for trail maintenance, leading hiking and biking outings, special events, and more. Email trailhead@vmbah.org for details.

ACCESSIBLE TRAIL IN MAT-SU GETS MAJOR FACELIFT

The following update comes from the Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation e-newsletter. Find out more about the group here: <https://matsutrails.org>

Trail crews from the Student Conservation Association (SCA) have been working with the Mat-Su Borough to give the Pink Wild Rose Trail some much needed love and attention. Crews have been hard at work clearing the trail of vegetation that has encroached onto the trail corridor, creating drainage, as well as leveling and compacting gravel to ensure the trail is Universally Accessible.

Thanks to donors like YOU, a \$20,000 grant from the Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation funded this project.

Head on up to Government Peak Recreation Area to check out the progress on the Pink Wild Rose Trail. And while you're enjoying the view, you can play a round of checkers at the picnic table provided along the trail.

Check out this trail on Outerspatial: www.outerspatial.com/trails/pink-wild-rose-69114-69114



HIKE THE SAND DUNES IN KINCAID PARK

The Kincaid Sand Dunes offer a unique and breathtaking natural experience worth exploring.

The dunes provide a stunning backdrop for outdoor adventures in a coastal wilderness. Whether you're a geology enthusiast, a photographer, or a champion at playing with beach toys, the Kincaid Sand Dunes offer a way to let loose and explore.



A few access trails will get you to different parts of the dunes. The main walking path is a roughly half-mile mostly flat, unpaved, but wide trail that follows the outside of the motocross fence. Singletrack trails wind through the forest to the backside of the dunes, where visitors can see firsthand how the dunes are overtaking the forest. A steep single-person track has been carved into the bluff down to the mud beach area, however, this trail can be dangerous. Another bluff trail runs from the edge of the dunes all the way to the

Kincaid Beach Access trail and then connects with the Tony Knowles Coastal Trail. Depending on your route, as there are a few branches, this bluff trail is roughly 2-3 miles and can be narrow and slick in spots.

Nearby is the Kincaid Motocross Track, which can be noisy but can also be interesting to watch or try out for yourself. Motocross Hours: 10:00am - 8:30pm Wednesday through Sunday, April 1 - November 1 (conditions permitting). The Kincaid Motocross track is maintained and managed by the Anchorage Racing Lions.

Getting there: Access the sand dunes / motocross area from Jodhpur Street, off of Kincaid Road (8200 Jodhpur St). There are two parking areas, for the sand dunes park in the first parking area on the right. The motocross parking area is behind a locking gate.

Be cautious of moose and other wildlife while exploring parks and trails in Anchorage.

From Anchorage Park Foundation e-newsletter

SEEN RECENTLY ON SOUTHCENTRAL FACEBOOK PAGES

ANCHORAGE PARKS AND RECREATION

July 16

Want to feel UPLIFTED? Well, it's official—we're BRIDGING the gap to smoother trail experiences in Russian Jack Springs Park! This new bridge is part of our trail improvement project, which includes upgrading 2,100 feet of trail and replacing the aging timber bridge with this new one. 🚲🌲

Learn more about this project at: <https://tinyurl.com/mus3jndb>



July 15

Who doesn't love some MOOSE TRACKS? While it may not be as tasty as ice cream, the new wayfinding signs going in along our trails, roads, and right-of-ways will help you stay on TRACK on the 32-mile MOOSE LOOP! Thanks to a partnership with the Anchorage Park Foundation, these exciting new signs are popping up all over town, making it easier to navigate our beautiful trails. Whether you're on the Campbell Creek Trail, Coastal Trail, or any of our other multi-use paths, these signs will help guide your way! 🚲👤



Want to learn more about this project? Check out: <https://tinyurl.com/bdejyeps>

ANCHORAGE PARK FOUNDATION

July 10

Where to Wander Wednesdays: Westchester Lagoon Nature Trail

This 0.5-mile, paved, flat loop trail offers unique flora, fauna, and wetlands where creek flow slacks and water begins to pool in the Westchester reservoir. Ducks, geese, swans, and moose are frequent visitors, and songbirds abound during summer. You may also be able to spot salmon and trout at various times of the year from the bridge that crosses over Chester Creek. The trail was originally built in 1978 and revamped in 2019 to include interpretive signs and features for an outdoor classroom as part of the Anchorage Park Foundation Schools on Trails program.

Getting there: The parking area for the nature trail is near the intersection of Spenard and 19th Ave. (1051 W. 19th Ave) When traveling north along Spenard Rd drop down the hill and take a right onto 19th Ave. The parking



lot will be on your left. The nature trail is also accessible by way of the Chester Creek Trail. (6 parking spots are available; other parking is available at Valley of the Moon or Westchester Lagoon Disk Golf)

Be cautious of moose and other wildlife while exploring parks and trails in Anchorage.

EAGLE RIVER/CHUGIAK PARKS AND RECREATION

July 20

Attention Beach Lake Park Users.

Work is starting on the new Beach Lake Multiuse Trail! When the project is completed, there will be a new four-season multiuse trail running from Chugiak High School to Knik Arm, west of Beach Lake and Beach Lake Road. This first phase, starting now, will be completed next year and will run from the Bible Camp road to Knik Arm.

We don't expect a great deal of inconvenience to park users but there will be equipment on site and work taking place until the fall. This equipment includes chainsaws and trail-sized heavy equipment. There will also be some gravel being hauled to staging areas along Beach Lake Road.

Please contact us with any questions or concerns. We are excited to be bringing the community this new park amenity.

SINGLETRACK ADVOCATES

July 16

ATTEND Buy your tickets today to join @singletrackadvocates at Bear Tooth on Thursday, September 26 to watch two awesome biking movies and to support STA! Part of the proceeds will benefit Singletrack Advocates

a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. <https://tinyurl.com/bdhtkrps>

In ANYTIME, a new generation of riders set out to conquer almost impossible terrains. Featuring previously unriden terrain, awe-inspiring nature and progressive mountain bike athletes pushing the boundaries of their sport. See the preview here:

<https://tinyurl.com/3tukzb23>

"Ride to Endure" uplifts the voices of those impacted by ALS through ultra-endurance cycling by raising funds and awareness to support meaningful impact for the community. Ride to Endure features Anchorage's own Miron Golfman, twice winner of the Iditarod Trail Invitational to Nome, FKT record holder of the Baja Divide, and winner of the 2023 Colorado Trail Race. [See more details here:](#)

<https://www.ridetoendure.com/>

*Stay tuned for raffle details for the chance to win the new Corvus Akio fatbike



ALASKA STATE PARKS

July 23



Exciting News! The Homer Cycling Club has teamed up with State Parks to offer a charming yurt at



the Diamond Creek State Recreation Site. Perfect for your next outdoor adventure, this cozy getaway provides easy access to hiking and biking trails, with breathtaking views of Kachemak Bay, Cook Inlet, and surrounding mountains. All proceeds support trail and park maintenance. Plan your visit and experience the rustic beauty today!

To book your next adventure visit: <https://www.homercyclingclub.org/yurt>

More information about other yurt rentals: <https://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/aspcabins/index.htm>

July 17



🌟🌟Chugach Update- Indian Valley Trail 🌟🌟

Initial trail rerouting is beginning in Indian Valley this week. The current trail has been heavily damaged by several seasons of high water. The new alignment will be more sustainable, easier to maintain, and consistent with the designed/managed use of the area, 🙌

July 11

🌟Crow Pass Trail - Raven Gorge Bridge Damage 🌟

⚠️ Located roughly 6 miles from the Girdwood Trailhead. Winter storms have damaged the railing causing it to fail in several sections. Trail users should exercise extreme caution when crossing. Staff will be working to repair the damaged sections.

⚠️ Numerous hazards exist along the entire trail corridor including route finding through overgrown brush, high water at the river crossings, and washed-out bridges at Thunder and Icicle creeks.

✅ State Park's staff recently was clearing deadfall on the Eagle River Nature Center side of the trail.

🏃 Crow Pass Crossing racers for the weekend of July 20th, please be advised and use caution while on the trail.



July 9

★★★Eklutna Lakeside Trail Update★★★



Beginning Thursday July 11th, Alaska Trails and Happy Trails, our amazing trail building partners, will begin repairs on the heavily eroded sections of the Eklutna Lakeside Trail. 🤔

Time of completion for the trail crew should be approximately 5 weeks. There will be trail detours and some intermittent closures during this time. Thanks for your patience as we make these improvements! 🙌🙌

FRIENDS OF KACHEMAK BAY STATE PARKS

July 2

Brush is growing faster than a few volunteers can keep up. We need a long term plan like a paid maintenance crew. **Got any ideas for trails in perpetuity? Contact us kbspstrails@gmail.com.**

June 29

Volunteers cleared some of the brush on (south) Grace Ridge this week! Project led by Kathy & Jane, each with 2 swampers.

We are seeking more volunteers who would like to be approved to use a gas brusher and lead a team of 2 to clear trails for a day (or more). Friends provides tools and rides and can find your 2 swampers (helpers). please reach out if you want to learn more: kbspstrails@gmail.com.



HOMER TRAILS ALLIANCE

July 7

The new easement on the Canyon Rim Trail has been cleared creating a nice loop at the top. The entire loop section of the trail has been brushed. This is a 2-mile trail climbing 717ft. Views are spectacular with lots of roses, lupines, geraniums and other wildflowers. The trailhead is very clear with parking at the end of Bear Creek Court off Bear Creek Drive. Now that the work has been done, helpers will be needed to keep the trail open.

Please contact HTA if you are willing to help.



ALYESKA PIPELINE SERVICE COMPANY

July 2

Hey neighbors! This summer, our crews are working on the Trans-Alaska Pipeline Right Of Way (ROW) near two popular Valdez-area hiking trails: the Trail of '98 and the TAPS access road at Richardson Highway Mileposts 25.5 and 25.8. Both trails remain open! For your safety, we ask that adventurers stay on the trail when near the work, approximately a mile down from the trailheads. And keep alert to vehicles and other equipment on the trails!



We're anticipating starting the work in the next couple of weeks. For

more information, see the graphics below or contact AlyeskaMail@alyeska-pipeline.com.

SOUTHCENTRAL LINKS

- New East Anchorage mountain bike trails open: <https://tinyurl.com/52yucea2>
- Register for the Moose Loop Trail Challenge (Sept): <https://tinyurl.com/4wndmvfj>
- The Best Mountain Bike Rides In Southcentral Alaska: <https://tinyurl.com/3r7bhjc7>
- New 300-acre park near Potter Marsh aims to preserve crucial wetlands: <https://tinyurl.com/43m8hvfvm>
- Parks+Trails Recreational Fair (Sept 21): <https://tinyurl.com/bdese3a8>
- Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation July newsletter: <https://tinyurl.com/4emndtu7>
- City jumps on board Kodiak Short Trail: <https://tinyurl.com/ey7rvvmw>
- Kodiak Short Trail picks up more funding: <https://tinyurl.com/3zkjbpbp>

INTERIORWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

TRAILS CHALLENGE SIGNS THREATENED BY FIRE AVAILABLE AGAIN

Two signs of the Fairbanks Summer Trails Challenge are again accessible to challenge participants.

The Grapefruit Rocks and Wickersham Dome signs had been in an area threatened by wildfires. However, the recent rains greatly dampened the fires and BLM has reopened the area, so the signs are again accessible.

The Grapefruit Rocks sign appears to have survived the fire (or maybe it was reinstalled). In any case, it is there (see photo).

The challenge has 20, which has signs up and ready to



find all over the borough, started June and lasts until September 30.

There are three categories: Trailblazer, Junior Trailblazer, and Sourdough Trailblazer. Trailblazers are 10 years old and up and must find at least 10 signs. Junior Trailblazers are up to 9 years old and must find five signs. Sourdough Trailblazers are 60 years and up and must find at least five signs.

This event, put on by the Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks and Recreation Department, is an all-ages, all-abilities, outdoor scavenger hunt. The challenge is designed to get you out with your friends and family to explore our wonderful local trails, both new and familiar.

Anyone is allowed to participate in the search. When you find a sign, mark it off on your checklist, which you get when you register. You no longer need to prove you nabbed a sign by taking a selfie, but participants are still encouraged to take the photos and post them on social media with the hashtag “#FNSBTrails”. Putting it on the Trails Challenge Facebook Event (under the Discussion tab) is a great way to share. And of course, leave the sign to be found by the next trail challenge participant.

Participants who find the minimum number of signs for their category get their official award and can win prizes. Whether you find one or find them all, challenge yourself to get outside and enjoy nature!

To register, find out more and see a list of signs, see the Fairbanks Borough Trails Office webpage: <https://tinyurl.com/ut7wxkew>

Check out the Trails Challenge Facebook Event here: <https://tinyurl.com/ypm3cy7k>

Get your Trails Challenge Guide here: <https://tinyurl.com/mu59k2s3>

Photo of Grapefruit Rocks sign by Lisa Stuby from Fairbanks Trail and Waterway Users Facebook page.

SEEN RECENTLY ON INTERIOR FACEBOOK PAGES

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH PARKS & REC

July 8

Beginning the week of July 15th, construction along the Laurance road bike path in Chena Lake Recreation will begin and last through late-August. The bike path from the entrance up past Lake Park Rd will be closed and under construction. The Pipeline Access parking lot will be open with walking/biking available in the floodplain and atop the dam. In addition, please be advised of the dam closure near the entrance kiosk.

BLM-WHITE MOUNTAINS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

July 10

The Bureau of Land Management’s (BLM) Eastern Interior Field Office rescinded the fire closure for the western portion of the White Mountains National Recreation Area near the Wickersham Dome Trailhead at mile 28 of the Elliott Highway due to reduced wildland fire activity associated with the Globe Fire (253).

The area will reopen at 12:00 p.m. today. There are no remaining public access closures for the White Mountains.

Cooler, wet weather helped control fire activity, but visitors should remain alert for changes.

- Visitors are encouraged to practice these outdoor fire safety principles:
- Make a fire only if you have sufficient water to put it out completely.
- Never leave a fire unattended.
- Keep fires small and manageable.
- Extinguish fires completely using the water, stir, water, repeat method. If it is too hot to touch, it is too hot to leave. Every campfire should be cold before leaving it.



Visitors should stay tuned to fire activity at akfireinfo.com and check for BLM Alaska fire restrictions website for current orders: www.blm.gov/programs/fire-and-aviation/regional-info/alaska-fire-service/fire-restrictions

Photo of a White Mountain Recreation Area ridgeline. Photo by BLM.

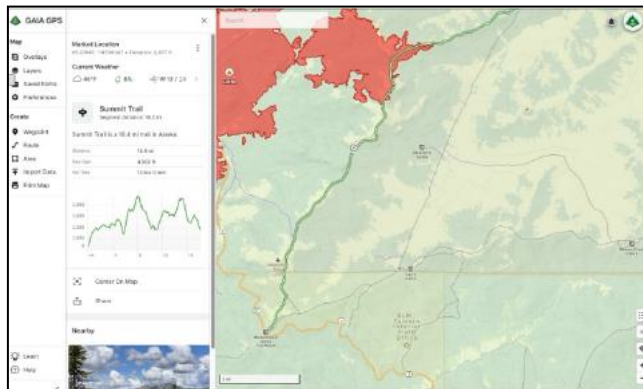
FAIRBANKS TRAIL AND WATERWAY USERS

July 29

Stan Justice sent me a map of how the Grapefruit Fire Complex impacted the Grapefruit Rocks area. He wanted to show how the fire affected the Summit Trail, but he couldn't figure out how to overlay the trail on the map he had. That got me to wondering if GaiaGPS has a fire overlay. It does! So I did a couple of maps. One shows the Wickersham Dome area and one highlights the Summit Trail.

Grapefruit Rocks, which is a popular rock climbing area and has a couple of trails, got slammed. Looks like a bit of the Summit Trail got hit, too, but the fire didn't reach Eleazar's Cabin. Cautionary note: This is digital information and doesn't necessarily translate directly to what actually happened on the ground, but it does give you an idea of what happened.

Also, in the GaiaGPS maps, the blue trail heading west off the Summit Trail appears to be some sort of historical trail or something. Neither Stan nor I have ever seen a trail in that area.



--Eric Troyer

Screenshot of the Summit Trail and how it was affected by the Grapefruit Fire Complex

July 19

The trailhead provides access to the Oxbow and Triple Lake Trails and the newly constructed portion of the Nenana River Hiking trail.

--The new Nenana River Hiking Trail follows the Nenana River north. The first three miles, nearing the confluence with the Yanert River, have been constructed for this year. The trail will be closed north of there, as trail construction continues.—

>>Shared from Fairbanks Daily News-Miner

July 19

DENALI NATIONAL PARK — The new wayside at Mile 231 Parks Highway is open for public use, just six miles south of the entrance to Denali National Park.

<https://tinyurl.com/y43n4n7u>

July 16

--The Riley Creek Campground and popular nearby hiking trails opened in Denali National Park and Preserve Monday after the Riley Fire was declared 100% contained.—

>>Shared from Fairbanks Daily News-Miner

July 16

So far this year, 335 fires have burned 589,973 acres in Alaska.

Denali reopens hiking trails, crews demobilize Gold Creek King Fire
<https://tinyurl.com/2fndbzjt>

July 20

Angel Creek Hillside Trail is great for a bike, run, hike, or ATV trip. It's a motorized multi-use trail.



>>Shared from Fairbanks Cycle Club

July 17

Angel Creek Hillside trail in the Chena River State Recreation Area is a great place for a bike -- even on a rigid single-speed:

<https://armstrong1986.blogspot.com/2024/07/going-outside-angel-creek-hillside.html>

SKARLAND & PEARL CREEK PARK TRAIL USERS

Stan Justice

July 28

I have had a hunk of plastic culvert in my yard, left over from a UAF project. Ditch work where the Equinox Trail crosses Sandpiper Rd. was the perfect spot to use it. A Fairbanks Trails Inc project. It is the time of year to get the Equinox Trail ready for the marathon Sept. 21. Let us know if you see trail issues - brush, ponding, erosion, fallen trees, wasp nests, sink holes, etc.



TWO RIVERS DOG MUSHERS

Trail Maintenance Event: Jenny M

Saturday, August 24; Duration: 8 hr

Sounds like folks would like to see trail work done connecting trails back to Jenny M where you can go under the bridge. I am not familiar with this spot but there were several votes to make this the first trail work spot. Bring chain saws, axes, clippers and your bug dope and help us clear the trail!

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1001433967853651/>

FAIRBANKS CYCLE CLUB

July 4

There are some interesting trails to be explored out the Steese, but maybe exploring them by bike isn't the best option. Then again, with a little more time....

<https://tinyurl.com/566c3c89>



July 3

Thanks to Fairbanks Trails Inc. for doing repair work on the Skarland Trail. **The group is planning another work party on August 1.** Follow the group's Facebook page to get more info:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2197150330677276/>

June 29

An Act naming the Matt Glover Bike Path (SB129) has been signed into law by Governor Dunleavy! The path has not yet been constructed but is scheduled to be finished this fall. It will connect the west end of Badger Road to the new Airport/Steese junction. We will let everyone know once it is completed and open for use.

Find out more about bill's background from this January post: <https://tinyurl.com/mrxhmtxi>

SALCHA SKI CLUB

July 20

Hi Salcha Ski Trail users. Last weekend we had a total of 24 volunteers over two days mow, brush back, cut trees, clear downed trees and remove debris from the Salcha Ski Trails!! We'll have a final work party in August but the trails are beautiful for walking, running, hiking and finding the FNSB Trails Challenge sign! A huge "Thanks" to the following individuals who were in "Beast Mode" last Saturday and Sunday! Josh Beckley, Chena and their dog Hatcher, Ryder Marshall, Mike Hannah and Ben Beifuss, John Savage, Mark Plummer, Dave St. Laurent, Elliot St. Laurent, Justin Johnson, Naomi Averitt, Josh and Rachael Crawford, Bob Holmes, Brandon and Tuck Hoover, Kevin Salus, Lorna Fischer, Bev O'Donnell, Kendall Brehm, Luke Viltrakis, Rob and Valerie Weathers.

Thanks so very much!!

INTERIORWIDE LINKS

- Fairbanks Trails Inc work party Aug 1: <https://www.facebook.com/events/2142763356105724/>
- Immersive walk through the Yankovich Road Fire opens at UAF: <https://tinyurl.com/5n7p3zpe>
- Wildfire Walk opens to the public: www.webcenterfairbanks.com/2024/07/18/wildfire-walk-opens-public/

SOUTHEAST NEWS AND NOTICES

JUNEAU TRAIL GROUP STAYS BUSY WITH TRAIL PROJECTS

Trail Mix had these trail updates in a recent issue of "The Dirt," the group's e-newsletter. Find out more about the group here: <https://trailmixinc.org>

With July officially here and fireweed in bloom, it's hard to believe we're already at the midpoint of the field season. This month's theme has been building bridges, and we've experienced both the joys and frustrations of these projects in the shop. We've been working on three bridges: Treadwell, Black Bear in Lower Montana Creek, Perseverance, and Amalga, which leads to Eagle Glacier. We're also still working on Peterson Creek and are about to begin work on the 35 Mile project. Our YEP crew has been working on the Kingfisher Loop Trail, Floyd Dryden and Adair Kennedy Trail, and the Jumbo Reroute. Additionally, we've held volunteer events this month with Trout Unlimited, Team Rubicon, Aukeman Triathlon, and SEAGLA. It's been a month of moving and grooving!



This month, we carried in girders and built a new bridge on Black Bear. We also flew in materials for Gold Creek bridge along the Perseverance Trail corridor, which is expected to be completed later this month. On Treadwell, key pieces of the bridge have been flown in and work will resume shortly. At Peterson Creek, we've been working from the trailhead to clear, grub, and rebuild the trail and we're about two miles in. Our Eagle Glacier (Amalga) crew has gotten about a half mile into the trail and are in the midst of building a bridge and beginning work on a reroute. Lastly, it's brushing season, and you can find our crew with brushers at Perseverance right now.

SEEN RECENTLY ON SOUTHEAST FACEBOOK PAGES

SITKA TRAIL WORKS, INC.

July 23

We are excited to share a new collaboration with Visit Sitka and the Salty Spoke! We joined together to develop this new Biking Guide for roads and trails in Sitka. The full Biking Guide reminds visitors of proper riding etiquette, including the Alaska State Law requirement to yield to pedestrians. All bicyclists, whether electrified or not, should give pedestrians the right of way when passing. We hope this guide encourages safe riding practices to keep Sitka safe. Thank you Visit Sitka for sharing!



Access the full guide in person at the Visit Sitka office or find it online here:

<https://visitsitka.org/visitor-info/maps-guides>

July 9

Sitka Trail Works is seeking a new Board Member!



If you love being outside in Sitka and want to help keep them great, apply to join the Sitka Trail Works Board of Directors. Board members meet once monthly and have opportunities to collaborate on various projects. To learn more about this volunteer opportunity, email Executive Director Ben Hughey at ben@sitkatrailworks.org for an application. Thank you!

TRAIL MIX, INC.

July 19

We are so grateful for the Youth Employment in Parks (YEP) crew!! They've been honing their skills all summer and are currently grubbing and adding gravel to the Jumbo Reroute trail 🙌🙌

The highlight of the season? Making friends!



July 9



We're excited to share our freshly completed bridge on Black Bear Trail in Lower Montana Creek!

The technique here was to take apart the older, damaged bridge and construct the abutments, sills and plates of the new bridge before adding the girders and reinforcements (which were created by felling and debarking old trees).

The crew even carried the girders out themselves 🛠️

July 2

Another exciting trail transformation at Kingfisher Loop Trail (Sit'kú Héen)!! The Youth Employment in Parks (YEP) crew spent much of June widening the tread and adding gravel to the trail.

The trail technique here was to transport the gravel, rake it out, compact it, and build retaining walls.
Gunalchéesh!!



JUNEAU MOUNTAIN BIKE ALLIANCE PUBLIC FORUM

July 9

Work on the new advanced jump line is winding down. It has been rideable for the last several weeks while we continued to fine-tune the entrance and other features.



There are several large donors and contributors to whom we (and JMBA) all owe a sincere thank you and show of appreciation for making the Under Thunder Bike Park a reality. But for the time being I'd like to personally thank a few people that helped in the best way that they could. Their help really helped move the project along.

Joe Sorenson for lending us his truck and letting Gary use it for the length of his stay. Ulla Pedersen for helping us with housing by letting Gary stay in her beautiful apt at an affordable rate.

David Leggitt of Clean Line Construction for his help on the bridge. Quinn, Liz, Mark, Kieth, Kelsey, Jesse and the rest of the Trail Mix crew for their enthusiasm, support and hard work.

And all the groms that showed up to help build and test ride the trail !!!

HAINES HUTS AND TRAILS

July 23

Public Service Announcement to Get Engaged! The Alaska Division of Forestry is amending the Haines State Forest management plan and needs your input on future recreation opportunities! This survey provides a great opportunity for our community to influence the future of outdoor recreation around Haines!
<https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/abb7fb7a3ab0415682e6f12e840f3131>

NATIONWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

THE IMPORTANCE OF MAPPING TRAILS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

As hikers and other outdoor enthusiasts in the United States (US) have come to rely on mobile applications to navigate our public lands, visitors can be led to dangerous or environmentally sensitive areas when these apps include unofficial and unmaintained trails. Many navigation applications pull this trail data from multiple sources and rely heavily on OpenStreetMap (OSM) data.

OSM is an open database of geospatial information. For park trails to render in the desired way, they must be accurately tagged so that renderers can decide which trails to show or not show, and which trails to emphasize or de-emphasize. This OSM presentation, Mapping a Path to Digital Democracy (<https://tinyurl.com/bsutsd2v>), gives a brief example of how data is presented using OSM tags.

Marking trails a certain way in OSM should not be seen as an alternative to physically marking trail access rules on the ground.

For more info: <https://www.americantrails.org/resources/mapping-trails-across-the-country>

From American Trails website

THE 2024 NATIONAL RECREATION TRAILS PHOTO CONTEST IS OPEN

ENTER American Trails sponsors the annual contest for photographs of designated National Recreation Trails across the country. Our annual contest provides awards in several categories and shows off entries (and previous winners) on the NRT website.

The goal is to highlight the diversity of the NRTs and to make more Americans familiar with these great trails. We're looking for good photos of trail users as well as special facilities, art on the trails, management issues, construction, and volunteers. We also want to see entries that cover the many types and uses of National Recreation Trails throughout America.

For more info: <https://www.americantrails.org/national-recreation-trails/photo-contest>

From American Trails website

NATIONWIDE / INTERNATIONAL LINKS

WEBINARS, MEETINGS, CONFERENCES, TRAINING, ETC.

- American Trails calendar (trail webinars workshops, etc): www.americantrails.org/training/calendar

TRAILS-RELATED NEWSLETTERS

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

VOLUNTEER

- Am. Hiking Society's 2024 Volunteer Vacations: <https://americanhiking.org/volunteer-vacation-trips/>
 - Common myths about Volunteer Vacations: <https://tinyurl.com/2s32mm8u>

FUNDING

- FOX Factory Trail Trust (applications reviewed quarterly): <https://trailtrust.com/>
- Yamaha Outdoor Access Initiative (OHVs, quarterly deadlines): <https://yamahaoai.com/>
- Polaris T.R.A.I.L.S. grants (ATV trail projects; due March 1, Sept 1): <https://tinyurl.com/y49dxbhe>

OTHER LINKS:

- AI Has Reached The Trails. Has Big Tech Gone Too Far?: <https://tinyurl.com/34eefj3p>
- Embarking on the Trail Career Journey: 5 Essential Steps to Becoming a Professional Trail Builder: <https://tinyurl.com/yc7abme2>
- Trail Maintenance: A Guide to the Future of the Trails Industry: <https://tinyurl.com/yy7wfmmt>

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