



NEWSLETTER

MAR
2025

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www.alaska-trails.org

ALASKA TRAILS NEWS AND NOTICES

VIDEO EXPLAINS NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL DESIGNATION FOR AKLT

SHARE Have you heard that the Alaska Long Trail is being considered for a National Scenic Trail designation? Watch this video which addresses frequently asked questions to learn more: www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rh4QW1hUQil&t=7s

In March, the BLM is releasing the draft of the feasibility study for public comment, so watch for our announcements about that on our social media and website. Find out more about the study, including the video and FAQs, here: www.alaska-trails.org/national-scenic-trail-study

And please share this! There is a lot of misinformation being spread about the Alaska Long Trail and the National Scenic Trail designation. We would like your help to spread the facts.

What does National Scenic Trail Designation mean?

- YES** Motorized use where already permitted
- YES** Hunting, fishing, trapping where already permitted
- YES** Funding for trail maintenance
- YES** Current land managers retain management power

TRAIL TALES BRINGS YOU ENTERTAINING STORIES FROM THE TRAIL

ATTEND Our next Trail Tales will be held on Tuesday, March 18.



This edition of Trail Tales will benefit both Alaska Trails and the Alaska Huts Association. Our storytelling series is sure to bring you lots of laughs, moments of contemplation, and a great time with good company. Trail Tales starts at 7 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. **For more information and to purchase tickets visit:** www.alaska-trails.org/trail-tales

Alaska Trails runs the Trail Tales storytelling series as a fundraiser for itself while also partnering with a different community organization for each event. In the spirit of Arctic Entries, storytellers share seven-minute stories about their trail experiences, adventures, and life in general. Our Trail Tales events are held at the Anchorage Museum and tickets cost \$20.

We've got more Trail Tales scheduled through April. Put them on your calendar! See the dates (and listen to past shows) here: <https://www.alaska-trails.org/trail-tales>

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR UPCOMING APRIL TRAILS CONFERENCE

ATTEND Registration is now open for our annual Statewide Trails Conference, which will be held April 24-25 at the BP Energy Center in Anchorage.

We will have both in-person and virtual options for attendance. We hope you can join us, and we welcome your ideas and feedback on how to make the most of this gathering.



More information on the conference and registration for both in-person and virtual attendance can be found on our Trails Conference page: www.alaska-trails.org/trails-conference

To view recorded sessions and presentation slides from past conferences see our archives at: www.alaska-trails.org/conference-archive-links.

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

DONATE Giving back to the trails you love is easy! Help maintain, improve, and build new trails for you and your fellow Alaskans by choosing Alaska Trails for your annual Pick. Click. Give. donations. When you file for your PFD, choose Alaska Trails to ensure the trails in our backyards are safe, sustainable, and fun for all and that we can complete the Alaska Long Trail, a world-class trail system connecting Seward to Fairbanks!

Giving through your PFD is a secure and easy way to make a donation.

When you file for your PFD online, you will be given the opportunity to select a non-profit to receive a portion of your PFD. If you do, please remember Alaska Trails. If you use “Pick. Click. Give” you will be able to check a box that authorizes the state to send your name, contact information, and the amount you give when it sends contributions to an organization. We want to

acknowledge and recognize your generous support, and this is the only way we will know it's you making the gift. For more information on “Pick. Click. Give.” visit: www.pickclickgive.org/

Link to the Alaska Trails “PCG” page: www.pickclickgive.org/index.cfm/pfdorgs.info/Alaska-Trails



SEEN RECENTLY ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

February 24

Big thanks to Kirk Gallagher and his Collision Repair and Refinishing class at Anchorage's King Tech High School. They transformed the truck that we use for the Youth Employment in Parks program (YEP) each summer. The 1999 GMC was donated to Alaska Trails by Thomas Pease. We are excited to keep this truck going and continue our great partnership with YEP!



February 20



Wow, what a great group of storytellers we had on Tuesday for Trail Tales with Bike Anchorage! Thank you all for sharing your stories, and a big thanks to our volunteers and prize donors as well! We'll be returning to the stage on March 18th with Alaska Huts Association, so be sure to get your tickets here: www.alaska-trails.org/trail-tales

EXECUTIVE BOARD HAS OPENINGS FOR INTERESTED PEOPLE

JOIN 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 sometime in the future, please contact us (info on masthead).

So Long and Happy Trails from ED Steve Cleary!



“This agreement will begin on 18 June 2012” – that’s when it all started for me at Alaska Trails.

I was a stay-at-home parent at the time and my son Liam was just starting part-time pre-school. I ran into one of the Alaska Trails founders, Jack Mosby, at a bicycle and pedestrian safety training. Jack asked if I would like to work at Alaska Trails. So, I signed up for 15 hours a week and began figuring out what was next for me and for Alaska Trails.

I was mostly keeping the lights on at the time, with the help of a small board of directors. We staged a robust conference in 2014, with too many breakouts. Some of the sessions had more speakers than attendees. But we hit our stride with the conference, even after COVID shut it down, and it is now an annual April event. Through the support of the BLM, we added the Land Manager Forum in November to bookend the trail season.

With the help of the National Park Service – Rivers Trails and Conservation Assistance program, we launched the Alaska Trail Stewards (ATS) program in 2015. One of the first events led by Blaine Smith had us using a bathroom scale to weigh boardwalk pieces that were going to be removed by helicopter. From those humble beginnings, and a lot of help from a dedicated cadre of volunteers, the program now hosts 25 events a summer and contributes significantly to the maintenance backlog for many land managers.

In 2018, we were fortunate enough to partner with the Anchorage Park Foundation and the Municipality of Anchorage on the Youth Employment in Parks (YEP) program – and that continues to this day. YEP employs nearly 30 young people a summer to work on parks and trails project in the Anchorage area, and Alaska Trails is proud to be a part of that vital effort.

Trail Tales began as a copy of the popular Arctic Entries storytelling series. In the month we started in 2016, there were four other non-profits trying to put on a similar event. We made it over the hump, and now during the winter months 150-200 people gather at the Museum to hear stories about adventures and connections. We have split over \$30,000 with our partners while bringing the community together.



Steve and Liam out on the trails over the years.

The Alaska Long Trail has galvanized the organization and given solid focus on connecting trails from Seward to Fairbanks. There have been many advocates and partners pushing for the projects and planning that will keep connecting the many dots across this beautiful strip of Alaska. Alaska Trails is poised to continue this great work, and I can assure you that we have a solid base upon which to do so – thanks to the generous support of the Rasmuson Foundation, the Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation, and the Race Across Alaska Winter Challenge.

I will be leaving Alaska Trails to take a position with the Renewable Energy Alaska Project (REAP). I was on the founding board of REAP nearly 20 years ago in my position with AkPIRG. I have long supported and admired their work and am passionate about bringing more renewable energy to Alaska. It was a difficult decision to leave Alaska Trails after more than a decade, and I am committed to completing my remaining time with Alaska Trails as well as planning for and executing a smooth transition for the organization.

While I am sad to leave Alaska Trails, I am pleased with the position that the organization now occupies – with both a sustainable financial outlook and a growing presence as a committed voice for the many benefits of trails. I look forward to more great work in the coming decades for Alaska Trails and its partners.

Thank you for all your support,

Happy Trails!



*Steve at an REI open house
in November 2013*

STATEWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

FEDERAL CHANGES CAUSE CONCERN AMONG GROUPS, BUSINESSES

Recent actions by the Trump administration regarding grants and probationary employees have trail-related groups moving cautiously and assessing the impacts that have already happened.

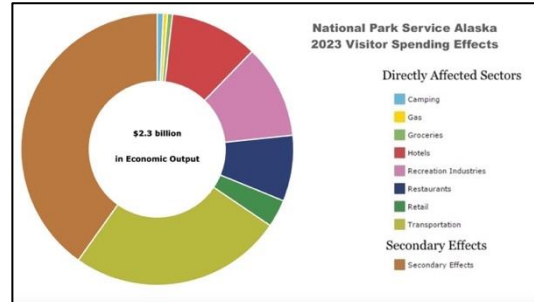
One big concern is what, if anything, will happen to the Recreational Trails Program grants, a federal-funded, state-administered program that brings about \$1.5 million dollars a year to Alaska specifically for trails. While the program is administered by the state, it requires oversight from the Federal Highway Administration. A recent Anchorage Daily News story reported: "Four of 17 employees from the Federal Highway Administration in Juneau were laid off Friday afternoon, according to someone familiar with the situation who was not authorized to speak publicly." (See the full story here:

<https://tinyurl.com/5epayuzn>)

Other impacts on trails include the firing of staff from the U.S. Forest Service, the National Park Service, and the Bureau of Land Management. It is unclear how and if these changes will affect trail groups and access to trails by the public.

These moves may also be affecting some businesses. The Alaska Outdoor Alliance (www.alaskaoutdooralliance.org/) has been collecting information from businesses. The following is from a Facebook post by the group:

DOGE layoffs in federal land management agencies have begun. If the success of your business is tied to functioning federal lands or your community benefits from seasonal workers and visitors to those lands . . . unless there's a reversal or slowdown of this train wreck, there could be a very challenging summer ahead. AOA is collecting stories of impacts real and perceived. If you have already lost your job, if your community borders public lands, comment below or keep your message private by sending your story to "Director @ AlaskaOutdoorAlliance [dot] org"



SLOW CLIMATE CHANGE: STAY INFORMED, REDUCE SINGLE CAR TRIPS

ACT Climate change affects everyone, especially those who enjoy winter sports.

A warming climate can mean shorter snow seasons, and more extreme events like snow droughts and rain-on-snow events. These will just get worse unless we slow climate change, which means we need to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.



One way you can help is to stay informed. Save Our Snow, established in 2004, is an impartial compiler and publisher of data on what the ski industry and ski resorts are doing to combat climate change.

The site and the "Green Resort Database" were first conceived by snow sports writer and researcher Patrick Thorne, who has spent the past several decades collecting information on ski resorts around the world. Increasingly aware of climate change's effects on ski areas, and what ski resorts were doing to combat it, Thorne felt uniquely placed to bridge the information gap that was apparent in the general media and ski industry reporting.

Check out Save Our Snow here: <https://saveoursnow.com/>

Take a personal action

Carpool, bike, or take public transportation for your commute or to do errands. Each of these actions help reduce the number of trips taken by a single person in a car. While taking a car might be convenient, transportation adds almost 30 percent to greenhouse gases.



ALASKA STATE PARKS POSITIONS CAN INCLUDE TRAIL WORK

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

FAIRBANKS TRAIL AND WATERWAY USERS

February 27

While not directly trail-related, Senate Bill 105, introduced by Gov. Dunleavy, could impact trails and trail users across the state.

The bill would allow for an eligible applicant to nominate up to ten acres of available state land for a cabin site if that land is not included in the state schedule of land offerings.

You can see a news story about the bill here: <https://tinyurl.com/mrx83cmr>

And here is Gov. Dunleavy's press release about it: <https://tinyurl.com/53yuwcuk>

Of note, the Alaska Outdoor Council opposes the bill.

Shared from Alaska Outdoor Council

February 26

My fellow Alaskans,

We ask your help in opposing Senate Bill 105 Recreation Cabins Bill. We should not sell off the 20% of Alaska that belongs to and is managed by the Alaskan People. If passed we could see effects such as.

1. **Loss of Public Access**: Selling public land can lead to restricted access for residents who use these areas for recreation, hunting, and fishing.

2. **Conservation and Wildlife**: Public lands often serve as vital habitats for wildlife. Privatization can threaten conservation efforts and disrupt ecosystems.

3. **Economic Impacts**: Public land supports tourism and local economies. Privatization might prioritize industrial or commercial development over sustainable practices.

4. **Long-term Sustainability**: Public lands managed by state authorities aim for balanced use and protection. Privatization may prioritize short-term profits over long-term sustainability.

Full Bill text: <https://legiscan.com/AK/bill/SB105/2025>



STATEWIDE LINKS

- State park trail conditions reports: <https://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/asp/curevnts.htm>
- New trapping ban looks to protect dogs near some Mat-Su trails: <https://tinyurl.com/yc362juz>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Anchorage's Eric Packer creates a forecasting app for winter adventurers: <https://tinyurl.com/wdk2d8ye>
- Phishing Email More Sophisticated than Most: <https://tinyurl.com/3atcdsjc>
- Firings hit U.S. Forest Service in Alaska, with at least 30 jobs cut: <https://tinyurl.com/473nvvnx>
- 'An outsized impact': Federal layoffs begin in Alaska on Trump orders: <https://tinyurl.com/5epayuzn>

SOUTHCENTRAL NEWS AND NOTICES

MAT-SU WINTER DISCOVERY DAY CELEBRATES WINTER ADVENTURE

Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 8, as Winter Discovery Day returns for a second year of outdoor fun at Government Peak Recreation Area in Palmer. From 11 AM to 4 PM, this free community event is your chance to embrace winter like never before.

Experience the magic of the season with hands-on gear demonstrations, engaging winter activities, and a chance to connect with the incredible organizations that make outdoor recreation in Alaska



accessible for all. Whether you're interested in trying fat biking, snowshoeing, or learning about avalanche safety, there's something for everyone. Local experts will be on hand to answer your questions about cross-country skiing, backcountry exploration, and winter safety, ensuring you leave feeling more confident in your cold-weather adventures.

Warm up by a cozy fire pit with a cup of hot cocoa, enjoy a sled ride, and explore the many ways to make winter recreation part of your lifestyle. With participation from organizations like Revel Treks and Tours, Mat-Su Ski Club, Alaska State Parks, and more, this event is the perfect way to discover new activities, meet fellow outdoor enthusiasts, and celebrate the season together. This is also a great opportunity to purchase Alaska State Park gear!

Parking fees apply at the trailhead, so plan accordingly. Thanks to the support of the Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation, Mat-Su Health Foundation, and local sponsors, this event is open to all. Whether you're a seasoned adventurer or just starting to explore the outdoors, Winter Discovery Day is the perfect opportunity to try something new and enjoy the beauty of winter in Alaska.

For full event details, visit: <https://www.reveltreksandtours.com/events/winter-discovery-day>

From Alaska State Parks Facebook post

ANCHORAGE YOUTH EMPLOYMENT IN PARKS APPLICATIONS OPEN

APPLY Are you super stoked to get outside and work hard this summer? Do you want to get involved in bettering your parks and community? Or are you a person hoping for an excellent job experience? Well, Youth Employment in Parks (YEP) is currently accepting applications for all positions. If you are a teen, ages 16-19, a past 2024 YEP crew member, or an adult with experience working with teens, explore the group's open positions now.

YEP is a 10-week summer program that hires Anchorage teens to 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. YEP is designed to positively engage a new generation of diverse young leaders as conservation stewards of public lands through meaningful job training, employment and education.

To become a YEP crew member you must meet the following qualifications:

- A resident of the Municipality of Anchorage
- 16-19 years old
- Completed or pursuing your high school or GED education

Find out more here: www.muni.org/Departments/parks/Pages/YEP.aspx

Applications are open until March 31.

From Anchorage Park Foundation newsletter and YEP Facebook post

SEEN RECENTLY ON SOUTHCENTRAL FACEBOOK PAGES

SINGLETRACK ADVOCATES

February 6

Join Singletrack Advocates and your friends to celebrate another great year and raise money for upcoming trail projects! Dress up in your snazziest neon and sparkles! **Friday, April 25th from 7-11:30pm at 49th State Brewing**

- Try your luck with our amazing raffle prizes
- Get your fresh STA merchandise
- Enjoy food and drinks for purchase
- Rock out to DJ Spencer Lee!

Sponsorships: Corporate and Family & Friends sponsorships are available at the Trailblazer level (\$2,000) and the Visionary level (\$5,000). Email singletrackadvocates@gmail.com for more information.

Raffle Prizes: Help make this fundraiser a success by donating an item or experience to include in the raffle! Email singletrackadvocates@gmail.com for more information.

Stay tuned as we tease awesome raffle prizes that will be available at the event. This event sold out last year, so don't wait to buy your tickets!

<https://tinyurl.com/4s9w9e43>



MAT-SU TRAILS AND PARKS FOUNDATION

February 7

Calling all Mat-Su trail and park users! MSTPF is excited to announce the "Best in Snow" Winter Photo Challenge!

How does it work?

- Send us your favorite winter photos taken in the Mat-Su
- You'll get entered for prizes
- Challenge goes through the end of March

Please include the following in your photo submission:

- Name
- Email
- Location of activity
- Type of activity
- Date of activity



Send photos to info@matsutrails.org

Before submitting your photo, please read through full details of photo challenge:

<https://matsutrails.org/2025/02/06/best-in-snow-photo-challenge/>

We can't wait to see your photos!

Happy wintering!

EAGLE RIVER FAT TIRE RIDES

February 7

Save the date (April 3)! Seating is limited so grab your tickets now for The CMBR 10yr Anniversary Film Festival/Silent Auction/Party! Tickets include one beer or nonalcoholic beverage!

<https://www.facebook.com/events/565197432905444/>

ISLAND TRAILS NETWORK (KODIAK)

February 19

Island Trails Network is looking for your outdoor films! we're getting ready for our biggest fundraiser of the year, our Fifteenth Annual Kodiak Outdoor Film Festival! please feel free to send us the goods!

Submissions are due April 4. Either email info@islandtrails.org or drop it off at 326 Center Ave, Suite 206. The Kodiak Outdoor Film Festival will be April 12.

SOUTHCENTRAL LINKS

- Anchorage Trail and Ice status: www.muni.org/Departments/parks/Pages/IceTrailStatus.aspx
- Petition for Fish Creek Trail to Coastal Trail Connection (**April 1 deadline**): <https://tinyurl.com/5h48sfst>
- \$8M Anchorage parks bond includes money for safety improvements to Town Square Park: <https://tinyurl.com/43zbasm9>
 - Other big items on the proposed parks bond include \$1.3 million for a project to connect Fish Creek Trail to the Coastal Trail
- **YES on PROP 3** – Anchorage Parks, Trails and Recreation Bond: <https://tinyurl.com/mv75ky5r>
 - Vote by Mail Begins: March 11, 2025
 - Last Day to Vote: Tuesday, April 1, 2025, 7am-8pm
- Trapping Setbacks Secured For The Mat-Su!: <https://www.akwildlife.org/news/matsutrapsetbacks>
- Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation February newsletter: <https://tinyurl.com/y23ww4zz>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Portage glacier calved during peak ice-skating season, a near miss: <https://tinyurl.com/2r27zy5h>
- Alaska State Parks upgrades on the Kenai Peninsula in 2025: <https://tinyurl.com/y3fm82nm>
- Alaska State Parks Introduces Two New Cabins in Kodiak: <https://tinyurl.com/4erca3nz>
- Anchorage Park Foundation's \$2M Grant Frozen, putting programs at risk: <https://tinyurl.com/4ucyka9e>
- Winter Discovery Day, March 8, Government Peak Recreation Area: <https://tinyurl.com/3rxk2k4r>
- Federal Funding Pause Impacts Anchorage Economy: <https://tinyurl.com/3t5ezht3>

INTERIORWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

GOLDSTREAM VALLEY WINTER TRAILS LOST TO MINING ACTIVITY

Fans of the winter trails on the east side of Ballaine Road may have noticed that some trails, especially the eastern end of the Tanana Valley Railroad Trail, have been lost to the Goldstream Creek Mine.

Eric Troyer (editor of this newsletter) and other trail advocates have researched the situation, but options for protecting any of the trails are limited. The most significant and long-standing trail is the Tanana Valley Railroad Trail, so the post focuses on that. Other trails in that area have less history and/or have changed course from year to year. If you've been on the trail with the old wooden bridge, that's the railroad trail.



Read more about the situation in this post: <https://tinyurl.com/z4pke7mu>

Eric Troyer photo of wooden bridge on TVRR Trail from 2017

FAIRBANKS PARKS AND REC WINTER TRAILS CHALLENGE IS LIVE

The Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks and Recreation Department is again hosting its Winter Trails Challenge with a new award category.

The sign list was revealed in late December for this popular ongoing event, which is free and open to anyone. Registration is required to be eligible for prizes and awards. However, FNSB Parks and



Recreation will be switching software systems on January 6 from MyRec to CivicRec. Registration for this challenge will only be accepted through CivicRec once it is launched on January 6. Also, as of press time, trail signs 5, 9, and 10 were reportedly not out yet but were expected to be installed by or shortly after December 30.

And for the first time there will be a Pawblazer Award for furry companions. More details to come.

The Fairbanks Trails Challenge is an all-ages, all-abilities, outdoor scavenger hunt designed to get you out with your friends and family to explore our wonderful local trails, both new and familiar. Each summer and winter season, Parks Department staff temporarily installs special signs in secret locations along a dozen or so local trails. While the signs are up, the public is invited to visit the trails and try and find the signs. Along the way hopefully you have a chance to learn new skills, see new places, and make positive memories.

Participants who find at least ten signs during the event can win prizes from local sponsors and the coveted Trailblazer Award. Participants under the age of 10 can find at least five signs to win the Junior Trailblazer Award.

- Facebook Event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1071705541370332/1071705551370331/>

ADMA TRAIL WARNING: 2024-25 RACING SEASON UNDERWAY

This is to notify users of the Alaska Dog Musher's (ADMA) Jeff Studdert Trail System that championship races, including the 79th running of the Open North American Championship, will be held on March 7,8,9, and 14,15, and 16. Other races may be conducted on the trail system by other groups such as the Fairbanks Skijoring and Pulk Association and the Fairbanks Cycle Club.



ADMA races generally are held between 10 AM and 4 PM, but certain trail turns or access points may be blocked before or after that when the ADMA grooms and prepares the trail. The specific trails that will be utilized in the races can be found on the ADMA website (<https://alaskadogmushers.com/>) or Facebook page. A map of the Jeff Studdert Race Trail can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/bdruskeb>. (The trails are also on Trail Forks here: www.trailforks.com/region/alaska-dog-mushers-trails-33292/.)

See more here: <https://tinyurl.com/49vwcm6a>

By Jeff Conn, ADMA Race Marshal; photo from ADMA website

SEEN RECENTLY ON INTERIOR FACEBOOK PAGES

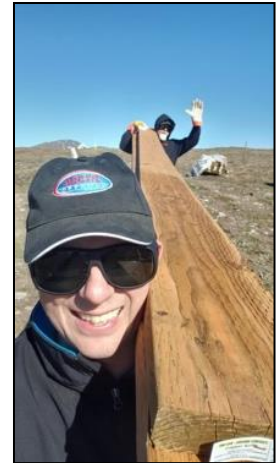
INTERIOR ALASKA TRAILS AND PARKS FOUNDATION

February 10

Looking for an AWESOME way to spend some free time? **Join our all-volunteer board to guide trail work throughout the interior!** Contact us: IATPFoundation@gmail.com

Need

- outdoors person
- no experience with boards needed
- willingness to meet monthly
- willingness to help with financial decisions to support trails maintenance and construction
- optional is the FUN stuff to actually work on trails projects



February 10

Have some TRAIL WORK that you want to do? Apply for funds to cover some or even all of the work. **SEE OUR 2025 GRANT APPLICATION on our website!!!!** <https://www.iatpf.org/project-grants>

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH PARKS & REC

February 24

☀️ We're celebrating spring break with a Spring Fest! Join us at Tanana Lakes on March 13th from 11am - 3pm for this fun community event. 😎 Stop by for fat biking, ice skating, campfires, hot cocoa, and more! See you there! ❄️ 🏠 🔥 🍵

February 11

We want to hear from YOU! Our FNSB Parks & Recreation Community Survey is open now and your feedback could help us improve programs, facilities, and our outdoor spaces. **Take the survey now through March 31st!** <https://arcg.is/1Dav0S3>

SOUTHEAST NEWS AND NOTICES

SEEN RECENTLY ON SOUTHEAST FACEBOOK PAGES

TRAIL MIX, INC.

February 19

We're looking for passionate, trail-loving community members to join the Trail Mix board! **Applications are open through March 3rd at the link below and on our website.** We especially welcome those with experience in investing, finance, budgeting, and systems management/organization to apply.

Apply: <https://tinyurl.com/tmboardapp>



January 30

Snow's out, smiles out!! 😊 Get out and enjoy! ❄️

Did you know you can link your Fred Meyer Shopper's Card to Trail Mix and Fred Meyer will make a donation based on a percentage of your spending to support our work improving Juneau's trails?

Link your shopper's card: <https://tinyurl.com/y4jah7y8>

SITKA TRAIL WORKS, INC.

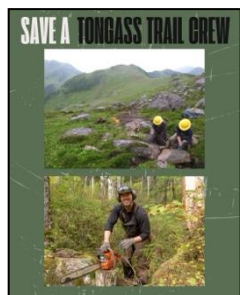
February 25

Thank you to everyone who came out to our first Volunteer Work Party of the year! With almost 30 volunteers helping for two hours, we made a big impact by clearing brush on the SMC Pathway. By widening the usable portion of the trail, we hope everyone will have a safer and more enjoyable experience while walking, rolling, or biking the trail. Want to join in on the fun? **Our next volunteer work party will be March 15th, stay tuned for details!**



February 20

Two days ago, the entire US Forest Service cabins and trails crew in Sitka was terminated. We're launching a campaign to put them back to work keeping our trails accessible. **Will you pitch in?**



<https://tinyurl.com/saveacrew>

Can't give? Help by sharing the fundraiser!

The hardworking members of the trail crew are skilled professionals who care about maintaining access to public lands. Sitka Trail Works is hearkening back to our roots of employing displaced mill workers in the '90s by attempting to help our neighbors in need now. The crew's work benefits all who use Sitka's Trails. If we can raise the funds to hire them on, they'll be taking care of city, state, and National Forest trails across our community. Thank you for any amount you can give or sharing you can do!

SOUTHEAST LINKS

- Sitka Trailworks Trailblazer Bulletin (February): <https://tinyurl.com/3hwy2mmw>
- Trail Mix's "The Dirt" newsletter (February): <https://tinyurl.com/4jfccca>
- **Save a Trail Crew (Trail Mix, Juneau):** <https://tinyurl.com/2b779kdz>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Forest Service warns residents to stay away from Mendenhall Glacier: <https://tinyurl.com/2zpyxym6>
- State Parks combining Citizen Advisory Boards in Southeast Alaska: <https://tinyurl.com/4yc4mcpt>

NATIONWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

PLAN TO HOST AN EVENT FOR NATIONAL TRAILS DAY

PLAN AN EVENT Why host a National Trails Day® event? So your community can come together to hug trees, join a trail stewardship project, clean up a trail or waterway, or hit the trails for a hike (maybe even with an adoptable pup!).

National Trails Day® is all about celebrating our love for the outdoors and giving back to the trails that connect us. Whether you've hosted events before or this is something new for your group, we'd love for you to be part of the movement!

The best part? There's no wrong way to celebrate! Host a group hike, organize a clean-up, plan a trail run, lead an educational walk, or get creative with activities like a scavenger hunt, park BBQ, or sunset hike with post-hike stargazing.

Ready to make an impact? **Learn more about hosting and register your event today** <https://buff.ly/4hcZdHI> and bring your community together for National Trails Day® this year on Saturday, June 7th!



National Trails Day® is made possible by our generous partners. Thank you to GORE-TEX Brand, Fjällräven, and our federal partners National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Federal Highway Administration.

From American Hiking Society Facebook post

AMERICAN TRAILS SEEKS APPLICATIONS FOR BOARD MEMBERSHIP

JOIN American Trails is seeking passionate and committed individuals who resonate with its mission to connect and transform communities through the power of trails and our vision to connect organizations, agencies, and communities with the education, data, and people they need to build better trails.

The group's board of directors has chosen to make this broad, open call for interested individuals because it is actively seeking to broaden the diversity of people, interests, and industries that can join the organization.

To find out more see: <https://form.jotform.com/242774196584167>

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 2025 Volunteer Vacations: <https://americanhiking.org/volunteer-vacation-trips/>
- Conservation Volunteers VIP (February newsletter): <https://tinyurl.com/mpuuk58>

FUNDING

- FOX Factory Trail Trust (applications reviewed quarterly): <https://trailtrust.com/>
- Yamaha Outdoor Access Initiative (OHVs, quarterly deadlines): <https://yamahaoai.com/>

OTHER LINKS:

- Where would we be without trails?: <https://www.americantrails.org/why-trails>
- Longest Trails: Longest Paved Trail and Longest Ice Skating Trail: <https://tinyurl.com/p96fvyfs>
- Meet the Canadian who conquered the world's longest hiking trail: <https://tinyurl.com/2fbu5ams>
- Legal Issues Associated with Trails: An Introduction: <https://tinyurl.com/3rctbw4w>
- A Path to Moving Forward with Trail Work in 2025: <https://www.nohvcc.org/FocusonthePositives/>
- Economic Potential of the Great American Rail-Trail: <https://tinyurl.com/4rcsdm4y>
- Understanding and Managing the Effects of Trail Use on Wildlife: <https://tinyurl.com/yu88m7mf>

The Alaska Trails board meets via teleconference the first Monday of every other month. 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 website. 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