



NEWSLETTER

DEC
2024

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www.alaska-trails.org

ALASKA TRAILS NEWS AND NOTICES

ALASKA TRAILS BENEFITS FROM RACE ACROSS ALASKA CHALLENGE

PARTICIPATE The Virtual Race Across Alaska Winter Challenge registration is now OPEN, and Alaska Trails is grateful to once again be a non-profit beneficiary!

This race begins December 21, and lasts for the three months of winter, challenging you to exercise through the dark winter months and run, bike, hike, cross-country ski or any other mode of exercise you'd like that collects miles.



Find out more and sign up here: <https://runsignup.com/Race/AK/Anchorage/AlaskaChallenge>

TRAIL TALES BRINGS YOU MORE GREAT STORIES FROM THE TRAIL

ATTEND Our final Trail Tales will be held on Tuesday, December 10.



This edition of Trail Tales will benefit both Alaska Trails and Wilderness Adventures for Kids Everywhere, Inc. (WAKE). This 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 2024 Trail Tales events will be held at the Anchorage Museum and tickets cost \$20.

SEEN RECENTLY ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

Nov 22

Did you miss Trail Tales with Singletrack Advocates last week? Don't fret! It was recorded! Big thanks to Cary Bolling for making this recording that we can now share with you. Visit our website to view the full recording:

<https://www.alaska-trails.org/trail-tales>

Our December Trail Tales with Wilderness Adventures for Kids Everywhere, Inc. will be in-person only on December 10th, so be sure to get your tickets soon!



Nov 13

We had such a wonderful time at Trail Tales with Singletrack Advocates last night! A sincere thank you goes out to all our amazing storytellers, prize donors, and everyone who came out to support Alaska Trails and STA!

We hope you can join us at our final Trail Tales of 2024 on December 10th with Wilderness Adventures for Kids Everywhere, Inc.. Get your tickets here: <https://www.alaska-trails.org/trail-tales>



Nov 12



We're excited to share that we've been selected as a recipient of Athletic Brewing Company's Two for the Trails grant! Through their Two for the Trails program, Athletic Brewing contributes up to \$2 million annually to help protect, preserve, and maintain local trails. With this grant, we're planning to finish the Middle Fork Trail reroute in Chugach State Park next summer. One week of paid trail work and two volunteer events will finally complete this project that has been ongoing for many years, and we hope you are as thrilled about it as we are!

Nov 8

It was great to see everyone on Wednesday at our Land Manager Forum and share our 2024 trail season successes and challenges and our hopes for 2025. In case you weren't able to attend or would like to revisit a presentation, the slides and recordings have now been posted to our website: <https://www.alaska-trails.org/land-manager-forum-2024>



Nov 4

Alaska Trails is grateful to be a National Forest Foundation grantee in the U.S. Forest Service - Chugach National Forest! These funds have been used to make essential improvements to the Iditarod National Historic Trail.



This past summer, an Alaska Trails crew greatly improved sections of the Lost Lake Trail by brushing 28,178 feet (5.34 miles) of trail. They also widened and retreaded two sections of trail, cleared 30 drains, and created five more drains.

This section of trail will be more fun for mountain bikers and hikers alike since the drainage structures that were cleared and added give water someplace other than the trail surface to run to, reducing mud. Since the corridor was cleared of brush, debris, and hazard trees, trail users have better sightlines, allowing for a safer experience on the trail by avoiding potential close-up wildlife encounters or fast-moving mountain bikes.

The Lost Lake Trail is part of the Iditarod National Historic Trail (INHT). By keeping this trail open, clear, dry, and sustainable to trail users, it preserves a part of Alaskan history. When trail users walk the INHT, they're walking in the footsteps of Alaska's indigenous people, and its gold miners, pioneers, and dogsled mushers.



Looking Back: Great Progress Looking Ahead: Great Plans

As we look back on a successful 2024, Alaska Trails is planning for a bright future for trails in 2025 and beyond.

Alaska Long Trail

We are making significant and steady progress on the Alaska Long Trail and many other projects for land managers across the state, and we will keep that momentum going in the new year. Alaska Trails worked together with partners to secure more funding for the Alaska Long Trail in the FY2025 state capital budget while completing work on the Eklutna Lakeside Trail and making great strides in Indian Valley and the Ram Valley access project – all three of which received funding in FY2024.

We are ready to continue the work of securing the rest of the funding to connect 500+ miles of Alaska via a sustainable and exceptional trail system. Alaska Trails will continue to work with its partners to highlight the great trails on the Long Trail route that already exist and to connect the dots to make this expansive vision a reality.

Race Across Alaska

In addition, the Race Across Alaska Winter Challenge (RAAWC) continues to raise both awareness and funding for the Long Trail, with over \$150,000 to date. We hope you will join in on this fun event that encourages healthy recreation all winter while helping us keep the momentum going on the AK Long Trail. Staying healthy, both mentally and physically, can be challenging during this dark time of the year. Recreating on trails is a great way for Alaskans to bolster both physical and mental health.

The RAAWC is a multi-sport, multi-distance winter challenge with the goal to log as many miles as you can over 3 months. It's a great way to stay active during the winter as you can walk, run, fat tire bike, trainer bike, cross-country ski or swim. This year, two other non-profits are also beneficiaries – the Anchorage Park Foundation and the Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation. We are excited and honored to be partnering with them.

Volunteers and Staff

In 2024, our amazing volunteers accomplished an astounding amount of trail work. Through 25 events, over 230 individual volunteer efforts contributed nearly 1500 hours, which equates to nearly \$50,000 in donated labor. Alaska Trail Stewards volunteers built and maintained over 25,000 feet of trail – all by hand!

We are prepping for a great 2025. Alaska Trails staff have been meeting with land managers to plan projects both for our paid trail crews and our volunteer events. Our staff has been writing grants and scoping projects so we can hit the ground running (once the snow melts). We are excited to continue building and maintaining sustainable trails.





This work is due to your support. We are grateful to all our financial donors – especially our Pick.Click.Give donors; nearly 300 donors contributed over \$18,000. We know there are lots of great non-profits in Alaska, which is why your support means so much to us.

We are grateful for your support and look forward to making more strides for more trails in 2025 and into the future. Thanks again.

Photo #1 of paid trail crew, photo #2 of volunteers. We need both!

Happy Trails!

Steve Cleary

STATEWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

TANANA FOREST PLAN COMMENT CAN HELP ALASKA LONG TRAIL

COMMENT Here's an opportunity to help the Alaska Long Trail. If you haven't already commented on the Tanana Valley State Forest Management Plan Revision, the public comment period has been extended until December 20. If the Alaska Long Trail is to be completed through to Fairbanks, it needs to go through the Tanana Valley State Forest. This is an opportunity to advocate for trail connections between forestry roads that will be a huge step in completing the Nenana to Fairbanks section of the Alaska Long Trail.



To find out more, including how to submit your comments, including a letter from Alaska Trails, see this Interior Alaska Trails blog post: <https://tinyurl.com/2rfhh5wh>

To see the public notice extending the comment period go here: <http://notice.alaska.gov/217551>

Photo of Tanana Valley State Forest by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources

SUPPORT PARKS AS PART OF YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

BUY A PASS The holiday shopping season is here. You can use it to encourage people to get outside AND support some of our greatest recreational assets. Buy a pass for yourself or someone else.

- **Alaska State Parks annual pass:** Support state parks during a time of tight state budgets. Buy a day-use pass and your parking is paid for when you park at a state parks trailhead that requires a fee. Passes are good for the calendar year.

Annual boat launch passes are also available:

<https://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/passes> (Passes are also available to purchase in person. See the webpage for available locations.

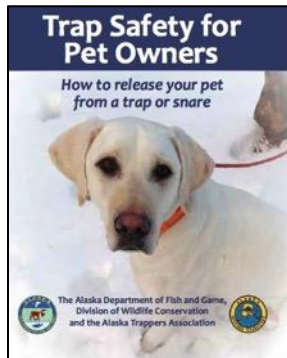


- **National Park Service annual passes:** The park service offers general passes. It also has a variety of other discounted or free passes for seniors, fourth-graders, people with disabilities, some volunteers, and members of the military: <https://www.nps.gov/planyourvisit/passes.htm>



RESOURCES HELP REDUCE PET/TRAPPING CONFLICTS

Trapping season opens November 1, so trail users who let their dogs run loose should make sure they know some basic information about traps and trap lines. A pamphlet and videos are available.



PAMPHLET: A pocket-sized pamphlet titled “Trap Safety for Pet Owners” describes the types of traps and snares that may be encountered and provides illustrated instructions on how to free pets swiftly and safely. It is produced by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and the Alaska Trappers Association (ATA). Copies are available free of charge at department offices or may be viewed on the website at: <http://tinyurl.com/m6oulhk>. More information, including video footage featuring trap removal instructions, is found on the department’s website at www.adfg.alaska.gov (see “Sharing the Trails” under the

“Hunting > Trapping” dropdown menu).

VIDEO: The ATA also sells a 30-minute video, "Sharing Alaska's Trails," that includes information such as how to know if you are on a trap line, trap line safety, the physics of handling and opening traps and



snares, and tips for first-aid for pets accidentally caught in traps. The video doesn't promote trapping but deals with the practicalities of sharing the trails. A three-minute excerpt of the DVD can be found on YouTube (www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jk242jZwEAQ). To order a copy of the DVD check the ATA store (www.alaskatrappers.org). NOTE: The ATA is working on an updated version of this video and will have it for sale on the website soon.

Most trapping seasons run from November 1 to the end of February, but the season for a few species lasts longer. Wolf traps could be active well into April.

WINTER TRAIL GROOMING PROGRAMS NEED YOUR HELP

DONATE/SERVE Winter is upon us and if there is no snow on the ground in your area, there soon will be.

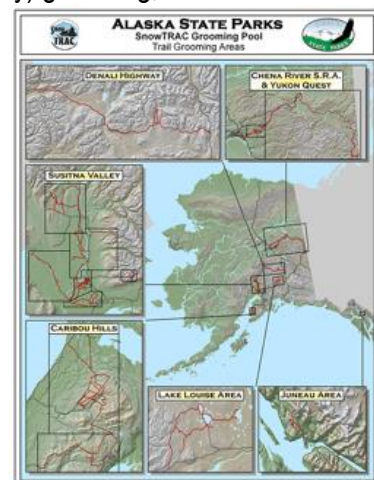
Many winter trail activities require (or at least are much improved by) grooming, such as snowmachining, skiing, mushing, and fatbiking. If you engage in an activity that is improved by grooming, please remember to support those efforts. There are several ways you can help.

If you use an area that is clearly groomed and has a grooming fund, make sure to donate. Not all trails that are groomed have a specific grooming fund, but you can also join or donate to the group that is doing the grooming. Look for signs that tell you how you can help.

You can also support the Alaska Snowtrail Grant Program, which provides funds for grooming in several areas of the state. The grooming this program provides benefits more than snowmachiners. Anyone who uses the groomed trails benefits, including fatbikers, skiers, mushers, and hikers. You can't donate to the Snowmachine Trails Program, but you can help it by making sure to register your snowmachine, which is what funds the program. You can also serve on

the SnowTRAC board, which advises the state administration on how the funds are spent. Finally, you can advocate for the program. In years past, administrations have tried to cut the program as part of budget cutting measures. However, strong advocacy has kept the program alive.

To find out more about the program see: <https://dot.alaska.gov/snowtrails/program.shtml>
Most importantly, get out there and enjoy all the great winter trails we have in Alaska!



ACTION NEEDED TO HELP SLOW CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change affects everyone, especially winter sports enthusiasts like snowmachiners, mushers, cross-country skiers, and fatbikers.

A warming climate can mean shorter winter 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.

But can the actions of one or two people make a difference? They sure can. Especially if more people are doing the same. Here are two things you can do right now to help make a difference.

Join “Fix My Funds” <https://fixmyfunds.org/>



Fix My Funds is a group of climate and financial experts working to help you take control of your investment power and shift the economy toward a sustainable future. This group regularly has sign-on letters and petitions urging investment businesses to make more sustainable choices.

Take a personal action

Turn down the thermostat. Heck, you already know how to deal with the cold when you're outside. Do the same when you're inside! Turn down the heat in your house and put on another layer or two. Turning down the heat helps reduce the amount of fossil fuels we are using. And maybe it'll make you be able to handle those outside winter temps just a little better!



Climate change may seem like an overwhelming problem, but we humans created it one step at a time, and we can solve it that way, too. Let's do what we can to ensure that future winters still have usable snow for us and for our children, grandchildren, and beyond.

SEEN RECENTLY ON STATEWIDE FACEBOOK PAGES

ALASKA STATE PARKS

Nov 15

Get ready, Alaska adventurers! 🌲 ✨



The brand-new 2025 Alaska State Parks Day-Use Parking Pass is dropping Monday, November 18th! Be among the first to snag yours and unlock a year of incredible access to Alaska's stunning state parks.

Wondering where to pick up your pass? Order online through the Anchorage or Fairbanks Public Information Centers or click the link for a full list of locations and start planning your next adventure!

Annual Parking Pass \$60

Annual Boat Launch Parking Pass \$150

Visit: <https://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/passes>

STATEWIDE LINKS

- BLM approves Castner Glacier recreation area management plan: <https://tinyurl.com/5bcvnkpf>
- Stats Show Importance of Outdoor Rec to AK Economy (webinar Dec. 4): <https://tinyurl.com/4nhpem8s>
- Digging Deeper with Windy.com (Luc Mehl): <https://tinyurl.com/3rxhsr94>

SOUTHCENTRAL NEWS AND NOTICES

PETITION TO SUPPORT FISH CREEK TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS

SIGN PETITION The Anchorage Park Foundation had this notice in a recent email newsletter:



The Fish Creek Trail Connection provides a safe and accessible link between the Spenard, Midtown, and Turnagain neighborhoods to the Coastal Trail.

Residents have been pushing for this project since the 1997 Anchorage Areawide Trails Plan. Since then, Anchorage voters approved four municipal park bonds totaling \$500,000 in 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024.

Now, the trail connection is in peril, and there is worry about its completion.

Sign the Petition: <https://form.jotform.com/243036269036152>

STEWART PUBLIC TRAIL

Friends of the Stewart Public Trail issued this letter in November alerting users of the Stewart Public Trail about a new issue with a new landowner:

Dear Friends of the Stewart Public Trail:

Subsequent to the ruling two years ago confirming the prescriptive easement, there is a new landowner on the third parcel from the trailhead. In recent weeks this landowner has posted notices indicating no trespassing, no legal public trail easement, no legal public access, and please turn back.

The Assembly, as well as the Municipal Attorney have been notified about this, and official action may be forthcoming.

Our lawyer has advised us that the trail is public, and to use the trail as if it were public. If confronted by the landowner, he suggests we turn around and contact our Assembly members and FOST.



Please contact us if you have any questions. We will continue to update you as things progress.

Sincerely,
Friends of the Stewart Public Trail,
friendsofthestewarttrail@gmail.com

Photo from Friends of Stewart Public Trail Facebook page

KODIAK BOROUGH SEEKING INPUT ON PARKS SURVEY

TAKE SURVEY The Kodiak Island Borough's Parks and Recreation Committee is interested in hearing your thoughts about the parks that you visit, so we can make them even more welcoming and incredible. This survey should take around five to ten minutes to complete.

Note that this survey does not cover any parks managed by the City of Kodiak.

If you have any questions or encounter any technical glitches while completing your survey, please feel free to reach out to KIB Community Development Department staff at plan2045@kodiakak.us
<https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/f96c341f1175408b95785fbf760f3bdd>

SEEN RECENTLY ON SOUTHCENTRAL FACEBOOK PAGES

ANCHORAGE PARK FOUNDATION

November 25

The unique landscape in Earthquake Park offers rare examples of the remnant impacts of the 1964 quake as well as the opportunity to observe wildlife and many bird species that frequent the area. It's a rare gem in our city, with a labyrinth of frequently used social trails that suffer from poor drainage and muddy quagmires. Anchorage Park Foundation is supporting a group of Turnagain neighbors who are building bridges and improving trails for year-round biking, skiing, walking, and rolling. This summer, the volunteers will be joined by Youth Employment in Parks (YEP) crews to finalize the project.

Donating to the Anchorage Park Foundation can help ensure projects like this one continue in our community. Even small donations can go a long way toward improving our parks and trails.

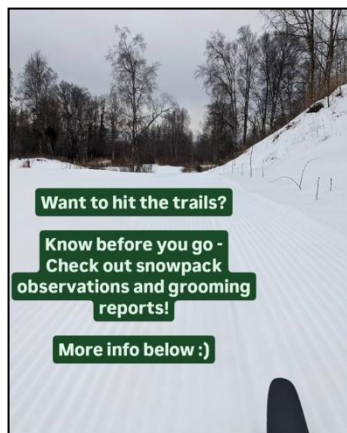
<https://anchorageparkfoundation.org/donate/>



MAT-SU TRAILS AND PARKS FOUNDATION

November 15

Curious about snowpack conditions in the Hatcher Pass? And what trails have most recently been groomed?



Want to learn more about how to safely recreate in the mountains in winter?

Check out these great resources:

***Hatcher Pass Avalanche Center - hpavalanche.org - for snowpack observations and avalanche forecasts

***Mat-Su Ski Club - matsuski.org - for grooming reports for Government Peak Recreation Area, Archangel Road, Independence Mine State Historical Park, and Moose Range

***Alaska Avalanche School - alaskaavalanche.org - AND Alaska Safe Riders - alaskasaferiders.org for snowmachine classes, avalanche rescue clinics and winter backcountry skills courses

October 31

Trail expansion at Newman Memorial Park in Willow!

The new Billy Pete Loop is now open to users! Grant funding from Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation helped support this exciting addition and extension of the Shem Pete Interpretive Trail at Newman Park.

Volunteers with the Willow Area Community Organization have contributed countless hours to this area and its trails. Thank you especially to the Youth Forum Committee, for their work on the Billy Pete Loop project, which adds 3/4 of a mile trail to the network of trails to be enjoyed in all seasons at Newman Park.



Newman Park has something for everyone - in addition to multi-use nature trails, the park also features a one-of-a-kind fenced-in wilderness dog park, a new bike park, a stunning viewing deck, and delightful covered pavilion.

Getting there: Turn west on the Willow Creek Parkway (near mile 71 of the Parks Highway). Travel approximately 1 mile down Parkway and then turn left to enter Newman Memorial Park.

See you on the trails!

SINGLETRACK ADVOCATES

November 20

Thank you to all of our supporters! It's not too late to make your 2024 tax-deductible membership donation to STA!



Your donation supports STA's mission to preserve, maintain and create singletrack trails in Anchorage. This includes maintaining and improving our existing 40 miles of trails AND building new projects like the Service Singletrack!

Did you know we aren't even halfway done with the Service Singletrack trail? We're still fundraising to build the next three miles of awesome singletrack. Make your donation today!

<https://www.singletrackadvocates.org/take-action>

VALDEZ ADVENTURE ALLIANCE

November 7

Thanks to a Two-for-the-Trails grant from Athletic Brewing Company, VAA staff and volunteers were able to take the Valdez Water Taxi to Gold Creek to brush cut the campground area and trail section there!

Current trail work is also sponsored by Alyeska Pipeline Service Company and a Community Service Grant from City of Valdez, Alaska!



FRIENDS OF KACHEMAK BAY STATE PARKS

November 2

Annual Friends Membership Meeting & Potluck Dec 4th, 2024, at Islands and Ocean Visitor Center 5-7 pm.

Renew your membership or donate here:

<https://www.friendsofkachemakbay.org/membership/vsai62p17r3ef3lwdvnn0kmeb156oi>

For full meeting agenda & details email kbspstrails@gmail.com AND We'll forward you the invite.

Event link: <https://www.facebook.com/events/2018092848614526/>

ISLAND TRAILS NETWORK

November 11



11/11/24. Marcus Dunbar and Steve Paulson of ITN completed replacement of an old and failing bridge on the Selief Loop trail today. Marcus also benched a new trail on approach to a small bridge nearby. Thanks Marcus and Steve! You guys are always doing amazing trail work for our community!

October 31

After the big wind storm on Tuesday, 10/29/24: Thursday's completed work on the path leading to the Coastal Trail along Trident Basin. It was a mess. Some rerouting was required.

October 31

Wednesday, 10/30/24

Tuesday's windstorm blew down over 100 trees on the south end of Near Island causing much trail damage. An ITN crew was on site Wednesday clearing downed trees. By Thursday afternoon most trails were made passable. It's what we do.



SOUTHCENTRAL LINKS

- RTP Application: Iditarod Trail: Waterfall to Ptarmigan Trail: <http://notice.alaska.gov/217271>
- Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation November Newsletter: <https://tinyurl.com/yahf3ef2>
- Anchorage Parks and Recreation Ice and Trail Status: <https://tinyurl.com/44ru83b8>
- Eklutna upgrades complete, Ram Valley access emerges as a park priority: <https://tinyurl.com/csdvjj3x>
- Valley Mountain Bikers and Hikers 20th Anniversary Party (Dec 7): <https://tinyurl.com/227x43eb>
- Friends of State Parks, Mat-Su Annual Meeting (Dec 2): <https://tinyurl.com/3saptb3j>
- Friends of Kachemak Bay State Parks Annual Meeting (Dec 4): <https://tinyurl.com/49e378ts>

INTERIORWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

TANANA FOREST PLAN COMMENT EXTENDED TO DECEMBER 20

COMMENT The public comment period for the Tanana Valley State Forest Management Plan Revision has been extended until December 20. If you care about trail connections between Nenana and Fairbanks, please send in your comments. This this blog post for more information and suggestions from Interior Alaska Trails and Alaska Trails on writing the comments:

<https://tinyurl.com/2rfhh5wh>

To see the public notice extending the comment period go here: <http://notice.alaska.gov/217551>

Photo by Eric Troyer of Rosie Creek area trails in the Tanana Valley State Forest



SEEN RECENTLY ON INTERIOR FACEBOOK PAGES

FAIRBANKS TRAIL AND WATERWAY USERS

Nov 29

Hope everyone is having a great T-Day weekend.

This will be the last time I distribute this trail clearing report. People have done a great job of making our area trails passable from the October storm. Thank you!

While some trails are passable, many still require a lot of dodging, ducking, and weaving to get around trees and brush leaning into the trail. And some other overleaning trees will probably become a problem with future snowfalls.

So please, consider doing a little work whenever you get out on the trails. If you're not planning to do a bunch of trail clearing, please take along an axe or folding saw and spend a couple of minutes clearing out some problem areas.

Feel free to update this local trail clearing spreadsheet or use it to find trails that clear or ones that still need a little work.

<https://tinyurl.com/579yd2zz>



Photo from Fairbanks Trail and Waterway Users Facebook page

Nov 5

The Fairbanks Borough Trails Advisory Commission had a good discussion on what's next for the panel now that the Fairbanks Comprehensive Recreational Trails Plan has passed. Below is excerpted from the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner.

The commission's tasks include inventory and review of the borough's current trails, review borough and state land disposals for potential trail needs and routing, encourage voluntary public and private subdivision efforts to incorporate new trails and review borough policy on recreational trails.

All recommendations to the borough mayor's office for review.

Short-term "low-hanging fruit" could include developing minimum trail sign standards and developing a trail education program.

See the full News-Miner story here: <https://tinyurl.com/y6ncdpsn>

INTERIOR ALASKA LAND TRUST

November 23

Hope you are all having a wonderful Saturday. The IALT's Muskrat Trailhead is plowed and open for business this winter!

A reminder that these local recreation opportunities would not be possible without the dedicated effort of volunteer trail groomers, state agencies, and non-profits.

If you use the groomed ADMA trails consider purchasing a trail pass, it funds grooming efforts:

<https://alaskadogmushers.com/trail-pass-and-membership/>

If you like the new trailhead and want to support local conservation, consider becoming an IALT member: <https://interioraklandtrust.org/donate/>



Comments:

Fairbanks Trails Inc sets track on Rat Ponds loop and flat drags the ADMA 19.8/Ride and Glide loop. Donations to FTI are by sending a check to FTI, 1750 Reed Cir. Fairbanks AK 99709. Someday we will get online donations going. Thanks! And ADMA and IALT are also great organizations to support.

Here's a Google Maps link: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/66RsCqswvogiRhPB9>

INTERIORWIDE LINKS

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Fairbanks Borough 2024 Winter Activity Guide: <https://tinyurl.com/8j3ppn5a>

SOUTHEAST NEWS AND NOTICES

SEEN RECENTLY ON SOUTHEAST FACEBOOK PAGES

TRAIL MIX, INC.

November 27

Giving Tuesday is almost here! 🌲 This Tuesday, every dollar you donate helps fund vital trail improvements, pay staff, keep our trucks running, and replace worn-out tools. Your support makes it possible for us to continue to set more ambitious trail maintenance goals and champion our local trails. Everyone who donates \$100 or more will receive a 2025 Trail Mix calendar! Each month highlights a different trail, showcasing the work we've done, plans for future improvements, and insights from our amazing partners, including the Forest Service, CBJ, and our amazing team of volunteers.

Thank you for supporting Trail Mix! Donate directly on our website or through the link below, and help us keep our trails thriving! 🗑️ 🛠️

<https://trailmixinc.app.neoncrm.com/forms/donate>



November 7



VTMT has been working with @u.s.forests-service to repair the river bank and abutment of the first large bridge on the Windfall Lake trail.

The trail transformation here was moving a crib piece into place as a temporary protection wall at the bridge and digging a borrow pit to back fill the new crib wall protecting the bridge.

Thank you so much for all the work of the dedicated trail stewards of

VTMT!!! 🙌

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC FACILITIES

Nov 1

#Juneau - The Kaxdigoowu Héen Dei (Brotherhood Bridge Trail) Bridge and north section is complete and open for your outdoor enjoyment!

JUNEAU MOUNTAIN BIKE ALLIANCE PUBLIC FORUM

November 1



Our Volunteer Trail Maintenance Team has still been hard at work on Treadwell this week, see photos. They replaced a rotting 20-foot bridge about half a mile toward EC from the Emerson trail junction with a gabion basket and culvert structure that will last a long time. The team also worked with our paid Trail Mix crew in September to build a stout log crib ramp for the new 55-foot Treadwell bridge (photo with blue tarp). We still need to fly in a few bags of gravel next spring to cap the locally mined fill to finish off the ramp, but it is rideable now.

JUNEAU PARKS & RECREATION

November 27

The Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC) will review the final draft of the Commercial Recreation Use Analysis during their meeting on Tuesday, December 3, at 5:30 p.m. in the Assembly Chambers and via Zoom.

CBJ Parks & Recreation has partnered with Corvus Design to develop a strategic approach to managing commercial recreation on lands and trails overseen by Parks & Recreation. This comprehensive process has included months of evaluation, five neighborhood meetings, a public open house, and extensive community input.

The PRAC will review the final draft plan and provide a recommendation to the Department and Assembly regarding next steps.

For more information about the project and to view the final plan, visit the Commercial Recreation Use Analysis project page at bit.ly/CRUA24



SITKA TRAIL WORKS, INC.

November 26

There is only one week until Giving Tuesday! This Giving Tuesday, give the gift of trails! When you support Sitka Trail Works, you support the health of our community. Donations go directly to keeping trails accessible, promoting outdoor lifestyles through our programs, and teaching volunteers key work skills to help maintain our public lands. We love bringing our community together outside, help us keep our trails great! Donate below to support. Happy hiking!



<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/donation-form/8842865e-30f2-412c-9aba-b22e0b435af4>

November 25

Our crew lead got out during the week of sunshine to clear some blowdown before more snow comes! This one was on the Herring Cove Trail producing quite the roadblock for hikers. We learned about this one through a community report, let us know if you're on the trails and see an issue we can solve! Happy winter hiking



November 12

At Sitka Trail Works we're always looking to improve our programs and hear from the community on what's important. Let us know your thoughts on potential outdoor programs in the survey below!

<https://tinyurl.com/y6bei8t6>

Nov 11

Thank you to the 20+ people who came out to the last volunteer event of the year on Saturday! We made significant improvements to the Charteris Street Cross Trail Connector. The volunteers hauled over 2 tons of rock uphill to rebuild a wet section of tread, added traction, and removed loose steps. All of the gravel for this project was donated by K&E Alaska, a local business essential to our work. The contributions from K&E and our generous volunteers are invaluable to the community members who frequent this connector. Thank you again to everyone who helped out, we can't wait to resume our volunteer work parties in 2025!



Nov 6

Looking back on our summer, one major accomplishment was a reconstruction of the very first footbridge on the Kaasda Heen Trail. This bridge came down in a bad February storm and we temporarily fixed it shortly after, but it needed a permanent redo. Thanks to the National Forest Foundation, our crew got to spend some quality time rebuilding this essential footbridge and it now stands strong, connecting our community to the outdoors. This wouldn't have been possible without their support. Thank you to NFF and to the crew for their hard work!



SOUTHEAST LINKS

- RTP Grant Application: 35-Mile ORV Riding Park (Phase II): <http://notice.alaska.gov/217268>
- Sitka Trail Works Fall 2024 newsletter: <https://sitkatrailworks.org/newsletter-2/>

NATIONWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

EXPLORE ACT MOMENTUM BUILDING, TAKE ACTION TODAY!

COMMENT Call to action from the American Hiking Society:

Congress is on the cusp of passing landmark outdoor recreation and access legislation! YOUR VOICE is needed now to get this over the finish line and to the President's desk to become law!

The House of Representatives unanimously passed the EXPLORE Act (H.R. 6492) earlier this year which will help get people outdoors by modernizing federal recreation systems and eliminate barriers of access to the outdoors. This first-of-its-kind legislation is the result of decades of work by stakeholders and Congress.

The Senate must pass this legislation immediately and send it to the President's desk to be signed into law!

Send the letter: <https://americanhiking.org/advocacy/take-action/>

AMERICAN TRAILS LOOKING FOR 500 NEW MEMBERS

JOIN American Trails is looking for more members to help keep some of its services free. See the message below.

We urgently need 500 new members by year's end to keep our vital trail programs free and accessible. Will you help?

Recent cuts by federal agencies have resulted in reduced funding for partner agreements nationwide. As a consequence of these reductions, American Trails has found that we can no longer depend on these agreements to offer our programs at no cost to the entire trails community.

You can help to sustain the programs that countless individuals, organizations, agencies, and communities rely on. It is essential that we develop a new framework. This is where your involvement becomes crucial.

What Your Membership Supports:

- Your membership ensures that these services remain available to you and 121,000 other trail enthusiasts.
- Free weekly webinars for the trails community, reaching over 121,000 people.
- Coordinate collaboration for a free Trail Core Competency Framework and workforce website.
- Established the Trail Fund for community trail resources.
- Trail Community Business Directory with 4,000+ businesses nationwide.
- Host the largest meeting of trail professionals at the International Trails Summit.



We need your support to reach 500 new members and keep our trails thriving. Will you join us?

Become a member today: https://americantrails.org/join?blm_aid=41528

LEGACY TRAILS PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION PORTAL NOW OPEN

APPLY American Trails is pleased to partner with the U.S. Forest Service in continuing the Legacy Trails Grant Program. This program is funded through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and supports partner trail projects that further the Legacy Roads and Trails criteria on National Forest System trails throughout the nine Forest Service Regions. The goal of the program is to support projects that restore, protect, and maintain watersheds on our national forests and grasslands. American Trails is administering this grant program, and is soliciting applications for funding, with awards up to \$100K per project. The application portal is now open. **The deadline for applications is December 16 at 11:59 pm Pacific.**

For more info and to apply: www.americantrails.org/resources/apply-for-the-legacy-trails-program

From American Trails email

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.

Deadline for entries is December 15

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/>
- Conservation Volunteers VIP (November): <https://tinyurl.com/by6nxefe>

FUNDING

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

OTHER LINKS:

- Resources for an Inclusive Trail Sector: <https://tinyurl.com/kpw45kee>
- Outdoor Recreation Roundtable 2023 Annual Report: <https://tinyurl.com/mt854ynw>

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