



NEWSLETTER

**FEB
2025**

PO Box 100627; Anchorage, AK 99510-0264

907/334-8049

www.alaska-trails.org

ALASKA TRAILS NEWS AND NOTICES

REPORT SHOWS HOW WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE WITH YOUR HELP

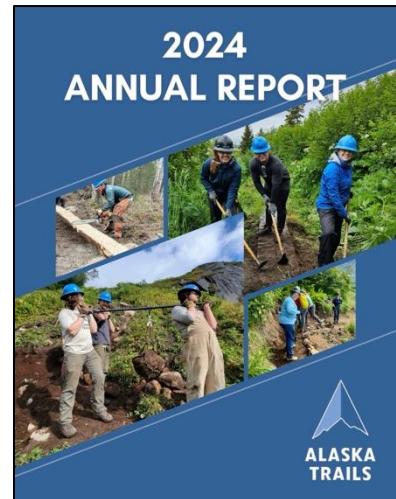
Yes, 2024 was a terrific year for our trails. We made great progress in ensuring our Alaskan trails are well-maintained and in building more sustainable trails for all.

Our 2024 Annual Report is out now, highlighting some exciting trail projects from last year and how community support can help us achieve our vision of Alaska connected by sustainable trails.

We could not have done this work without you. We hope you will take a moment to read about what we have accomplished in 2024 and how your support is making an impact on the trails we all love.

To read about trail projects our paid trail crews and volunteers completed in 2024, check out pages 3, 4, and 5. For an update on the Alaska Long Trail progress, head to pages 6 and 7. To see the amazing community support that makes our work possible, visit pages 10 through 12.

Read the 2024 Annual Report here: <https://tinyurl.com/5dpm7ja6>



ALASKA LONG TRAIL GETS NEW LOGO FOR BRANDING, WAYFINDING



Alaska Long Trail now has its own logo! It was created by a talented graphic designer, Sebastian Garber, and represents key characteristics of the AKLT route: mountains, rivers, trails, and a sense of adventure (compass).

The logo will be very important for wayfinding along the AKLT. Alaska Trails is now working with the Muni of Anchorage and Chugach State Park to put trail markers along the route on their lands this summer.

Find out more about the AKLT here: <https://www.alaska-trails.org/alaska-long-trail>

ALASKA TRAILS WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBER DEBRA PERALA

Board Treasurer Debra grew up in Seattle, and her first big purchase with her baby-sitting money was a pair of all leather boots from REI, with which she started exploring the mountains. She moved to Anchorage in 1981 after earning a degree in Economics from Whitman College. Her career was spent in accounting/finance positions in the oil and gas industry. Currently she is treasurer for the William H Seward Yacht club and is also a volunteer AARP Tax Aide. Debra enjoys hiking, biking, and skiing in the Chugach, Anchorage, and around the State. She also is a sailor in the summer, doing coastal cruising out of Seward.



TRAIL TALES BRINGS YOU ENTERTAINING STORIES FROM THE TRAIL

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



This edition of Trail Tales will benefit both Alaska Trails and Bike Anchorage. Our spring 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 2025 Trail Tales events will be 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 here: <https://www.alaska-trails.org/trail-tales>

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



SEEKING IDEAS FOR UPCOMING APRIL TRAILS CONFERENCE

ATTEND Please mark your calendar for our annual Statewide Trails Conference, which will be held April 23-25 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. **If you would like to present a conference session or have an idea for a session you would like to see, please contact us via this email address:** office@alaska-trails.org

More information on the conference, including how to access it virtually, is coming soon. It will be posted on our Trails Conference page: www.alaska-trails.org/trails-conference

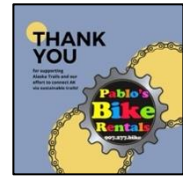
To view recorded sessions and presentation slides from past conferences see our archives at: www.alaska-trails.org/conference-archive-links.

SEEN RECENTLY ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

January 24

Today we are thankful for the generosity of Alaska Pablo's Bike Rentals, our newest business donor! We couldn't do the work we do without the support of community members and businesses, so thank you!

If your business would like to donate, please contact us: <https://www.alaska-trails.org/contact>



January 2



Do you enjoy working outside, digging in the dirt and making a lasting impact on our trail systems? Well we are hiring, and we might just have the job for you! We have a variety of seasonal trail crew positions available for this upcoming season. Learn more and apply here: <https://www.alaska-trails.org/jobs>

SEVERAL EASY WAYS TO HELP FUND ALASKA TRAILS

With the help of other organizations, you can support Alaska Trails' efforts to 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.



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).

STATEWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

FUNDING FREEZE ORDER, THEN LIFT CAUSES CONFUSION

A federal funding freeze on grants and loans ordered – and then rescinded – by a Trump administration executive order left many trail groups in Alaska concerned.

The administration has since rescinded the order, but other orders and the administration's efforts to "end the egregious waste of federal funding" will continue, according to National Public Radio.

According to the story: The administration "expects that rescinding the memo will end the court case against it, but that executive orders on funding reviews issued by President Trump 'remain in full force and effect and will be rigorously implemented by all agencies and departments.'"

See the story here: <https://tinyurl.com/3ry4phrs>

Before the freeze was rescinded, officials in Alaska were struggling to figure out what was happening. While the lifting of the order offers some respite, the drastic move, other executive orders, and comments from the administration are still causing concern.

Steve Cleary, executive director of Alaska Trails, is trying to sort out the situation.

"The information we have been getting keeps changing, so it has been difficult to figure out what is really happening. We are trying to find the best people to keep us updated with accurate information so that we know how to proceed best."

Lee Hart, executive director of the Alaska Outdoor Alliance, is monitoring the situation. She pointed out that the recently passed EXPLORE Act passed the House and Senate unanimously making it more likely to be safe. (See more about the act here: <https://tinyurl.com/3a638svu>).

Two of the biggest federal trail funding programs in Alaska are the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) and the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF).

"It's too early to know how programs with generous match requirements like RTP and LWCF will fare since those are cash grants," Hart wrote in an email before the freeze order was rescinded.

Before the freeze was lifted, even Senator Lisa Murkowski was uncertain which programs were included and how long it was supposed to last.

"The big challenge right now is finding people in the administration who are in a position to help us facilitate some of the answers to these things," Murkowski told the Alaska Public Media Tuesday afternoon.

See the full APM story here: <https://tinyurl.com/4wfwv98j>



SUPPORT STATE, NATIONAL TRAILS BY PURCHASING PARK PASSES

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

- Alaska State Parks annual pass: Support state parks during a time of tight state budgets. Of course, your parking is then paid for when you park at a state parks trailhead that requires a fee. Passes are good for the calendar year. Annual boat launch passes are also available: <https://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/passes>



- 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: www.nps.gov/planyourvisit/passes.htm

JOIN GROUP, IMPROVE HOME EFFICIENCY, SLOW CLIMATE CHANGE

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

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.

Here is something you can do right now to help make a difference.

Join Winter Wildlands Alliance

<https://winterwildlands.org/>

Winter Wildlands Alliance is a national nonprofit organization working to fight to protect America's snowscapes.



One of the group's ambassadors is Luc Mehl, an Alaskan cross-country skier, wild ice skater, and all-around outdoors adventurer. Mehl is just one of many winter athletes who are ambassadors for the group. See Mehl's profile and all the other Winter Wildlands Alliance (WWA) ambassadors here:

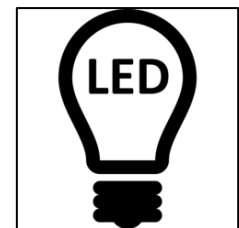
<https://winterwildlands.org/ambassadors>

Climate change is just one of the issues the group fights for, but it's a big one. Climate change affects everyone, especially winter enthusiasts. 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.

Take a personal action

Improve energy efficiency of your house. There are many steps you can take to improve your home's energy efficiency. Some are as easy as screwing in a light bulb, while others are more complicated, such as adding insulation. Ideas abound on the internet. Here are two articles with some good ideas from:

- Earthwatch: <https://tinyurl.com/yb4ysb6y>
- This Old House: <https://tinyurl.com/5xdxfuty>



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.

Photo courtesy of Luc Mehl: Mehl shows off a field repair he did on a ski binding while out on a long ski.

SEEN RECENTLY ON STATEWIDE FACEBOOK PAGES

ALASKA STATE PARKS

January 24

📌 Hey photographers! 📷

Alaska State Parks are an absolute dream for capturing jaw-dropping shots—from golden sunsets to epic mountain views. Whether you're snapping senior portraits, family sessions, or stunning landscapes for your portfolio, let's talk permits! If your photography is part of a business or involves paid clients, you may need a permit from the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (DPOR).

Why? It's all about protecting these magical places while keeping them accessible for everyone to enjoy!

Here's the scoop:

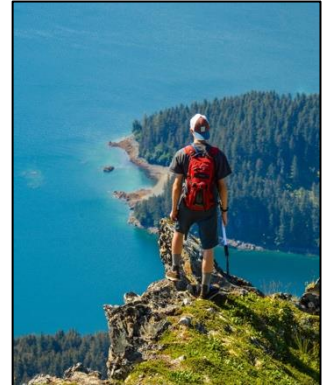
- 📷 Commercial filming = anything for a market audience.
- 📰 News coverage? You're in the clear!
- 🌊 Covers all state park lands, waters, shorelands, and even those serene tidelands.

So, whether you're chasing northern lights or filming a bear's snack break 🐻 🍌, let's make sure the process runs as smooth as glacial ice.

Reach out to DPOR for your permit and let the creativity flow responsibly at parkpermitting@alaska.gov

Tag your filmmaker friends and spread the word! Alaska's beauty is worth doing it right.

📷 Photo Credit: Beth Holiman



ALASKA OUTDOOR ALLIANCE

January 28

Koniag and Island Trails Network Welcome Confluence to Kodiak for 10th Anniversary Summit Sept. 23 - 25. <https://tinyurl.com/yb5c3t9j>

SOUTHCENTRAL NEWS AND NOTICES

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

GROUP OBJECTS TO SIGNS ON STEWART PUBLIC TRAIL

If you use the Stewart Public Trail, you will be interested in this message from Friends of the Stewart Public Trail:

In 2019, Friends of the Stewart Public Trail (FOST) litigated the public status of the Stewart Trail against two landowners. In September of 2022, FOST prevailed on its status as a 15-foot-wide public trail by prescription. The Stewart Trail across these two property segments (Pugh and Cavanaugh) was declared to be a prescriptive easement, to be held by the Municipality of Anchorage on behalf of the public.



At the time of the FOST litigation, there were four separate, sequential land ownerships along the Trail: Frank Pugh, Christopher M. Cavanaugh (Mattanaw), Donald Waddell, and the Oro Stewart estate, now owned by the Zoo and the Anchorage Botanical Garden.

(After the litigation against Pugh and Mattanaw had concluded in late 2022, Brandy Pennington purchased the Waddell tract, in July of 2023).

Pugh and Mattanaw, the two landowners whose lands lie at the beginning of the Trail (starting from Steamboat Drive), had physically gated and blocked public access, and had intimidated against continued public use, by installing game cameras and threatening, "trespassing"; signage. This led to the subject litigation.

The Waddell Tract was not included in the FOST lawsuit. Waddell had not physically intimidated the public or impeded public use of the trail across his property. There was another reason the Waddell tract was not included, one which was unique to his property alone: the Trail had been formally platted as a "temporary roadway easement"; before Waddell had purchased the tract in 1999, in subdivision plat 88-106.

Under Alaska Statutes 40.15.030, the depiction on Plat No. 88-106 of this "20' temporary roadway easement" has caused this roadway to become dedicated to public use, as a matter of law. That statute declares that by operation of law, platted streets, thoroughfares, parks, etc. are deemed to be dedicated to public use. The landowner dedication of "easements" in Plat 88-106, and the municipal acceptance of that easement dedication, reinforce the application of this statute to the Waddell segment of the Stewart Trail.

AS 40.15.030 states:

Dedication of streets, alleys, and thoroughfares. When an area is subdivided and a plat of the subdivision is approved, filed, and recorded, all streets, alleys, thoroughfares, parks and other areas shown on the plat are considered to be dedicated to public use.

The Office of the Municipal Attorney has indicated to the parties that it concurs with FOST's interpretation of the statute.

FOST strenuously objects to any implication, as indicated by Brandy Pennington's present signs, that public use of the 20-foot width of the Trail across her property is somehow unlawful, and is subject to criminal trespass.

SEEN RECENTLY ON SOUTHCENTRAL FACEBOOK PAGES

ANCHORAGE PARKS AND RECREATION

January 13

Hey, Anchorage! We hope you WEATHERED the wind better than some of our trees did! 🌬️ 🌲

If you come across any downed or dangerous trees while exploring Anchorage Municipal parks or trails, please let us know by using our Hazard Tree Reporting Tool. Your reports help us track down trees that didn't survive the storm and helps to keep our green spaces safe and clear!

Learn more and report at: <https://tinyurl.com/5bnsz5c3>



ANCHORAGE PARK FOUNDATION

January 15



The Anchorage Park Foundation supports the Chugach Mountain Bike Riders (CMBR) as they build two small trail segments at Mirror Lake Park. One segment will complete the loop of beginner trails near the trailhead, which currently dead ends into a non-accessible road. The other segment creates challenging jumps for experienced riders.

The Anchorage Park Foundation proudly supports community-driven park improvements throughout the wider Anchorage Area. **With donations from generous supporters like you**, we can continue to advocate for and induce projects

like this one.

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

January 9

Try Winter Thursday: Walking

Getting out and walking on local trails is a fantastic way to immerse oneself in nature while reaping the health benefits of physical activity. Walking on local trails provides an opportunity to disconnect from the hustle and bustle of daily life and reconnect with your neighborhood and the natural world. It's a great way to destress, clear one's mind, and enjoy the beauty of the outdoors. Get out and about with friends and family, as a simple and accessible way to stay active.

Be sure to bring the appropriate footwear for the trail conditions. Traction Cleats are lightweight, affordable, and easy to put on and take off, making them a simple solution for reducing the risk of falls when walking on slick surfaces. <https://anchorageparkfoundation.org/wellness-maps/>



CHUGACH MOUNTAIN BIKE RIDERS

January 26

More and better trails are coming to Mirror Lake! Can you help CMBR raise \$10k to unlock \$100k in funding? **Every \$100 you donate means \$1000 in trail projects.** THANK YOU!

<https://tinyurl.com/bdzm5tjd>

VALLEY MOUNTAIN BIKERS AND HIKERS

January 16

A proposal for 50-yard trapping setbacks on multiple trails in the Mat-Su by the Alaska Wildlife Alliance with the help of VMBAH, passed with the Board of Game yesterday! Traps not included are underwater traps and traps above 3' off the ground- both highly unlikely to trap a dog. This will not be in effect until next winter.

Here is the list:

Talkeetna Lakes Park Trail system (XYZ Lakes Trails)

Dorothy Jones Trail System

Matanuska Lakes State Recreation Area

Scout Ridge Loop

Reflections Lake Trail

Nelson Road

Rabbit Slough Boat Launch

Wasilla Creek Boardwalk

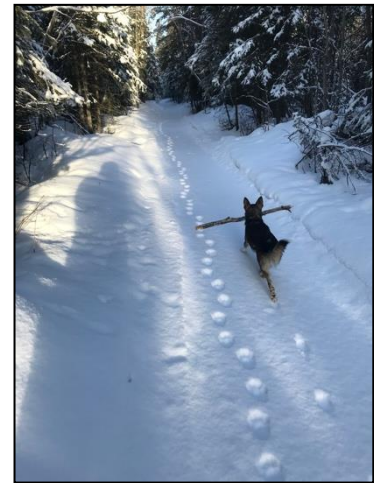
Government Peak Recreation Area

Independence Mine Ski trails

Gold Mint Trail to the Mint Glacier

Reed Lakes trails to Lower Reed lake

Archangel Road to the gate



MAT-SU TRAILS AND PARKS FOUNDATION

January 16



Mark your calendars for Jan 30th for the Mat-Su Transportation Fair!

We are looking forward to making connections with attendees and cultivating partnerships at the Mat-Su Transportation Fair on Jan. 30th from 4-7pm at Raven Hall, AK State Fairgrounds. Learn about road, rail, pedestrian, air and safety projects and programs going on near you!

Learn more at: <https://www.mat-su-transportation-fair.com>

January 16

We're so excited about our 2nd annual Winter Discovery Day! Join us on March 8 for a day outdoors ❄️

What to expect?

- * Free gear demonstrations 🚲 🚴
- * Info about local clubs, outdoor businesses, and nonprofits ⓘ
- * Hot drinks and warm fires 🔥

Interested in getting involved? Know a group who should have a stations at the event? Our friends at Revel are coordinating the event. Reach out at info@revelak.com.



January 15

Connection is Essential - - -

- - - A personal reflection post from MSTPF staff Heather Fernstrom.



Last fall I joined a group of backpackers for a trip in the Talkeetna Mountains. I thought I had a pretty good idea of what I would take away from the trip...

What I discovered along the way was quite a bit more than that...

**Spoiler alert: this trip was more than just pretty places and overcoming challenges...Connection is essential, and this trip was full of it....Sharing this experience was like a great big hug from my community.

Read more at <https://matsutrails.org/news-and-events/>

FRIENDS OF KACHEMAK BAY STATE PARKS

January 14

Friends sells firewood all year long and the money helps supports trails. When you go across the Bay this winter you can find bundles located at the top of ramp #2 in the Homer Harbor.

Pay a Mako's Water Taxi Captain and let them know it's for Friends of Kachemak Bay State Parks

HOMER TRAILS ALLIANCE

January 16

HTA would like to extend a giant thank you for the charitable grant of \$5000 from the donor advised

Madrone Fund and also thank the board of Trustees at the Homer Foundation for their continuing support. All donations we receive go directly toward materials we use for maintaining and improving trails in the great Homer area.

In appreciation, Sandy Cronland, President HTA



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>
- Could a push to expand winter trails boost a controversial road?: <https://tinyurl.com/mud6cm8c>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Mat Su Trails and Parks Foundation January newsletter: <https://tinyurl.com/4nvfpp5r>
- Homer To Receive \$2 Mil From DOT For Non-Motorized Infrastructure: <https://tinyurl.com/3c8atkxi>
- (Kodiak) Island Trails Network letter – changes in leadership: <https://tinyurl.com/3p33a9ff>
- Winter Activities: Try Winter (Anchorage): <https://tinyurl.com/mwb3pb4y>
- Citizen Advisory Board Recruitment on the Kenai Peninsula: <https://tinyurl.com/bdz22a8m>

INTERIORWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

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 Mushers (ADMA) Jeff Studdert Trail System that championship races, including the 79th running of the Open North American Championship, will also be held on February 15 and 16 and 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

FAIRBANKS TRAIL AND WATERWAY USERS

January 28

Please spread the word: Think hard about using really soft snow trails. Either don't use them or use them in a way that makes the least impact, such as using snowshoes. Putting holes and ruts in soft snow trails make the trails difficult to use for almost everyone, especially after they refreeze.



Shared from Ester Dome Single Track group:

Conditions are pretty rough around the yellow and red loops near ester dome road trail head. Lots of crusted post holes. Removed a couple fallen trees. Yellow loop is mostly cleared of brush.

January 26

--A Fairbanks North Star Borough resolution to pursue a federal grant for design of a segment of the proposed Alaska Long Trail passed the Assembly in a 7-1 vote on Thursday, but not without some tough questions.

"Absolutely no construction is included in this grant," she said. "This is purely planning and designing."--

Shared from Fairbanks Daily News-Miner

January 26

The Alaska Long Trail has been a sought-after ambition that would create a nationally-designated, 500-mile trail route from Seward to Fairbanks.

<https://tinyurl.com/2mmfan25>



You can see the resolution here: <https://tinyurl.com/ye29kkeb>

January 28

The Fairbanks Borough is in the early stages of updating its Regional Comprehensive Plan. The last update was done in 2005.

This plan helps guide the borough in making decisions regarding community land use decisions, especially as the borough population grows. Ordinances and development programs will use the comprehensive plan for guidance.



All members of the public get a say in how the plan is updated. The update process will take many years and there will be a lot of chances to comment. For now the borough has a survey. It takes about 10 minutes to complete and will be available through February 10.

For trail issues, there isn't much specific in the questions, but you do have an opportunity to add your own comments in a couple of places.

This plan will guide us for many years into the future. **Please consider taking the survey.**

Copy of the current plan: <https://tinyurl.com/393mxspu>

Survey: <https://tinyurl.com/mt3k6ej9>

January 20

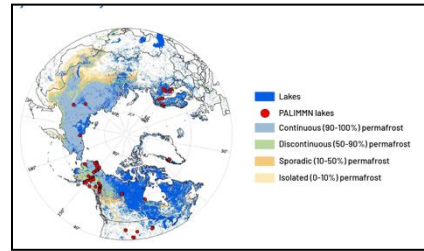
If you missed the presentation about lake ice safety due to methane emissions in the Fairbanks area, it was recorded, and you can watch it here (1 hour):

<https://tinyurl.com/mw8ejyme>

The presentation was done by University of Alaska Fairbanks researchers. They have also put together a handy map:

<https://ine.uaf.edu/werc/werc-projects/palimmn/>

According to Don Kiely, one of the attendees, during the presentation the researchers talked about the causes of all the methane and its effects and the development of the map. It's well worth a watch if you travel outside around Fairbanks.



January 17

BLM (Bureau of Land Management) will be hosting a presentation at the Morris Thompson Cultural and Visitor Center in February. These will be about trips mainly in the White Mountains National Recreation Area.

On February 12 Jay Cable will talk about float and hike trips on Beaver Creek Wild and Scenic River and hiking the Summit Trail, plus some more epic longer White Mountain National Recreation Area adventures: <https://tinyurl.com/y39ba329>

January 17

Help build the next new cabin in the White Mountain Recreation Area!



The Folk School is holding a class on log cabin building and the class project will be the new cabin. There are still a few spots left. The class will be held in the Goldstream Valley March 21 – April 6 (with opportunistic days off depending on weather). If you can't attend every class but want to attend some, please inquire with the Folk School.

The cabin will be placed between the Lee's and Moose Creek cabins. on Trail Creek Trail.

For more information <https://folk.school/events/event/log-cabin-construction-3/>

January 16

Bummer! Chena River Walk expansion stalled!

--FAST Planning Executive Director Jackson Fox said restrictions on either DOT or AARC side caused negotiations talks to stall.--

--Fox said the borough's Chena Riverfront Commission intends to draft a letter to the borough Assembly and Fairbanks City Council to "encourage all to work on a path forward."



Read the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner story here: <https://tinyurl.com/ycy48r8w>

January 14

KUAC has a story on the Tanana Valley State Forest management plan revision and the effort to include trails, especially a section of the Alaska Long Trail between Fairbanks and Nenana. The story starts the 01/13/2025 newscast: <https://fm.kuac.org/KUAC%20Newscasts/2025-01-12/01-13-25-kuac-morning-news>

January 15

The Fairbanks Daily News-Miner has a story about the proposed Ridge View Heights Subdivision.

--About 67 acres would be rezoned as rural estates; another 140 acres would be preserved for outdoor recreation and trail use.

"This subdivision will include the reservation of public trails and an outdoor recreation area," Welch said. "Although it is not everyone's cup of tea, being able to access a protected trail system from your backyard has been described as appealing by many residents.—

--The concept also includes two proposed trails that are recommended in the borough's updated comprehensive recreational trails plan. The recommended trails include the long-sought-after Alaska Long Trail and the Alder Creek Hillside Trail, a motorized winter route.

"Although the plan includes trail easements, we are not constructing the trails at the time of development," Welch said.—

Read the full story here: <https://tinyurl.com/mu73mwpr>

Access the borough's online open house about the project here: <https://tinyurl.com/mr39six8>



January 10

If you like to bike on the ADMA trails at Creamer's Field wildlife refuge, mushing season is starting to ramp up. It's a good idea to check on the ADMA FB page for races and other activities.

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063543311230>

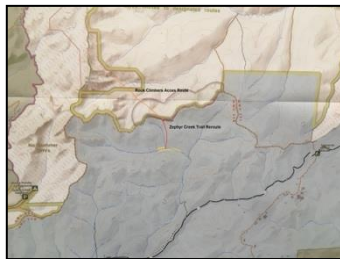
You can find general information about dog racing for the season here:

<https://www.interioralaskatrails.org/2024/12/30/adma-trail-warning-2024-25-racing-season-starting/>

FAIRBANKS TRAILS INC

January 22

We met with Garret Jones and Levi Lewellyn of BLM today to discuss access to Mt Prindle Rock Climbing area. They are the strong guys that groom the White Mountain trails and are willing to help with making a reroute for the Zephyr Creek portion of the route climbers use. Levi has explored many of the trails in the area looking for access routes.



On the image I marked a red line where the Zephyr Creek Trail would be rerouted out of the creek bed to a dozed bench on the hill side. The orange line is the route climbers use to get to the rock climbing area.

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT - ALASKA

January 10


A 30-day public comment period opened today.

The BLM is doing long-term planning for stream restoration work on Wade Creek in the Fortymile Wild and Scenic River and is looking for input to help analyze a suite of aquatic and riparian habitat

restoration and rehabilitation activities that may occur over the next five years or more. Plans also include development and installation of information kiosks to enhance visitor enjoyment of the area.

Help identify issues, impacts and information to include in the assessment.

 Comment deadline is February 10.

 To learn more and provide input about the work planned for the Fortymile Wild and Scenic River go to the project webpage: <https://ow.ly/4jrV50UBt1b>

 Wade Creek after reclamation 2024



DELTA JUNCTION TRAILS ASSOCIATION

January 26

It's membership time - [join or renew and help DJTA build and maintain trails in the Delta area](#). We are an all-volunteer, grass roots organization. Your annual support has contributed to the creation of the River Walk Park Trails and the Liewer Community Trail, and improvements to the Bluff Cabin Trail. We couldn't do it without you! www.deltajunctiontrails.com/get-involved.html

January 5

The DJTA Winter Trails Challenge 2025 is ready to go! Get out and explore your local trails by hiking, snowshoeing, skiing, or running. Complete the challenge by finding all 6 trail signs, or substitute one trail of your own choice. For all of the details, download the Winter Trails Challenge Guide from our website. (Pages from the guide are also attached there.) www.deltajunctiontrails.com/

INTERIORWIDE LINKS

- A White Mountains Adventure: 4 Days in Sub-Zero Splendor: <https://tinyurl.com/48fymkuw>
- Fairbanks Trails 2024 Annual Report: <https://tinyurl.com/3zy9aju6>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Consider commenting on the Ridgeview Subdivision (scroll down): <https://tinyurl.com/yc63kcdr>
- Beaver Creek - Far more than a few beavers: <https://tinyurl.com/yc666mun>
- In-Store Map & Compass Workshop; free; REI Fairbanks; Feb 21: <https://tinyurl.com/3xzbdvty>

SOUTHEAST NEWS AND NOTICES

SEEN RECENTLY ON SOUTHEAST FACEBOOK PAGES

TRAIL MIX, INC.

January 21

Winter Hike for a Pint passports are officially on sale! ❄️🏂👟🚲🌲

Grab your skis, snowshoes, hiking boots, and micro spikes- folks will have from February 18th to April 18th to hike 5 trails featured on their passport and then redeem completed passports for a pint at @devilsclubbeer or tasty hot beverage at @hotshotcoffeeco 🍷☕!!

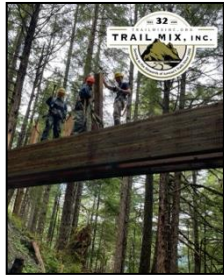


Passports will be available to purchase today - February 16th. Passport pickup begins at Devil's Club on February 17th.

Passports on sale on our website and via this link: <https://tinyurl.com/yfbkp6a7>

January 5

Trail Mix turns 32 today! 🎉 Join us in celebrating 32 incredible years of stewarding a safe and enjoyable local trail system by bringing people together!



What began as a group of passionate volunteers dedicated to improving Juneau's trails and collaborating across the mosaic of public land management has grown into a trailblazing nonprofit. Today, Trail Mix supports four trail crews and countless volunteer trail stewards who share a commitment to maintaining, enhancing, and building the trails we love.

Over three decades of Trail Mix is a testament to the passion and dedication of our community to trail stewardship.

Thank you and Gunalchéesh for being part of the Trail Mix journey! Here's to the trails ahead!

SITKA TRAIL WORKS, INC.

January 28

It's #PickClickGive season in Alaska! From now until March, Alaskan Residents can apply for the Permanent Fund Dividend from the State of Alaska. For those of you who choose to donate your PFD, consider giving a portion or all of yours towards Sitka Trail Works this year. When you give to Trail Works, you not only support the maintenance of trail infrastructure in and around Sitka, but community programming with youth and adults. Support from community members like you provides broad community impacts and helps get more people outside! Happy hiking!



December 27

Sitka Trail Works: A Year In Review

In 2024 we got more Sitkans outside than ever before through programming, trail construction, and maintenance. These are just a few moments we want to celebrate with you.



BUILD

In 2024, we've been planning and seeking funding for project priorities in the updated Sitka Trail Plan. Among those is the development of a marine trail network, destinations and paddling routes that take advantage of the extraordinary coastline of Sitka Sound.

MAINTAIN

We hosted the 2nd Annual Trail Master Summit and expanded our volunteer program to equip Sitkans with the skills to care for local trails. Our 130+ volunteers completed over 1500 hours of service on local public lands from Herring Cove to Lake Eva. They have hauled and distributed almost 100,000 pounds of gravel and moved over

7000 pounds of lumber in addition to addressing drainage and blowdown across Sitka's trails.

PROMOTE

We hosted 6 weeks of summer camps with incredible partners and served over 100 youth. We also offered after school programming during the year with the Sitka Native Education Program, at Pacific High, and at Blatchley with Youth Advocates of Sitka, and more! We brought dozens of community members to Sea Lion Cove and Mt. Edgecumbe and had many more hikes with you all on island.

2024 was a great year for building community outdoors and we couldn't be more grateful. All our work is made possible because of the Sitka community. If you'd like to support our work in the coming year, head to the link in our bio to donate. Here's to a 2025 full of more time spent outdoors with our neighbors!

📍: @leeehows @cora.dow.art Maria Sakowski @alexlkelsey

SOUTHEAST LINKS

- January Dirt (Juneau Trail Mix newsletter): <https://tinyurl.com/59s9ehrv>

NATIONWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

JOIN AHS LOCALLY/VIRTUALLY TO ADVOCATE FOR TRAILS

REGISTER A message from the American Hiking Society:

Our annual Hike the Hill® Advocacy event kicks off on February 10 with virtual issue briefings and trainings to provide advocates across the country with resources and insider updates on what the new Congress and administration will work on.

More than ever, every hikers' voice is needed to advocate for public lands and trails. For just \$45 Local/Virtual registration is a great value that provides access to exclusive trainings and resources for local meetings and issue briefings from advocacy experts.

To register and find out more: <https://americanhiking.org/advocacy/hike-the-hill/>

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 (January newsletter): <https://tinyurl.com/2fbm8h2j>

FUNDING

- FOX Factory Trail Trust (applications reviewed quarterly): <https://trailtrust.com/>
- Yamaha Outdoor Access Initiative (OHVs, quarterly deadlines): <https://yamahaoai.com/>
- National Forest Foundation awards (ddln Feb 7, Round 1 MAP applications): <http://tinyurl.com/px7y6ke>
- Polaris T.R.A.I.L.S. grants (ATV trail projects; due March 1): <https://tinyurl.com/y49dxbhe>
- Clif Family Foundation grants (for groups; ddline March 1): <https://tinyurl.com/5bku286n>
- Pedestrian and Bicycle Funding Opportunities: <https://tinyurl.com/2yxv6ryy>
- National Forest Foundation awards (deadlines Feb 7, April): <http://tinyurl.com/px7y6ke>

OTHER LINKS:

- EXPLORE Act Signed into Law: <https://tinyurl.com/y4xphmij>
- BOLT Act, Here's What it Means for America's Long-Distance Bike Trails: <https://tinyurl.com/nhe7pzfk>
- 2024 NRT Photo Contest Winners Announced: <https://tinyurl.com/yr2cnbeh>

The Alaska Trails board meets via teleconference the first Monday of every other month from 5:15-7:15pm. 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