

ACTION UPDATE

January 2019

INTERIORWIDE

UAF USING SURVEY TO GATHER PUBLIC COMMENT ON NEW TRAIL

A new bike/pedestrian path is being considered along the ridge between the Wood Center and West Ridge on the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) campus.

As part of the project's planning, a survey on trail feature preferences has been created to help gauge public opinion. Both UAF-affiliated people and outside community members interested in such a trail are being asked to complete the survey, which will be open until January 14.

The survey takes about five minutes. Participants can enter a drawing to win their choice of a \$50 Lavelle's Bistro gift card or a T-shirt donated by the campus bookstore. To access the survey use the QR code or go to:

<https://goo.gl/forms/qztrPSsi2wEoJww22>



(From emails by Eli Sonafrank)

FAIRBANKS BOROUGH TRAILS CHALLENGE RUNS THROUGH APRIL 1

How many trails can you explore this winter? Take the Fairbanks Trails Challenge!



Scattered around the Fairbanks North Star Borough Trails System are 13 Fairbanks Trails Challenge signs. Challenge yourself, your friends and family to find as many as you can. (Keep an eye out for orange reflective markers near each sign.)

This year's Winter Challenge will take place from December 2018 to April 1, 2019 and is free for anyone who wants to participate. No registration required: just find each sign, and photograph yourself with the sign in the background. Then share your "selfie" photo on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram by typing "#FNSBtrails" in your post, OR post your picture on our FNSB Parks & Rec Facebook page, OR email parks@fnsb.us your photos.

If you can prove you made it to at least 10 Winter Challenge Trails you will earn the elusive "Trailblazer Award" and be placed in a drawing for awesome prizes from our sponsors! Questions? Contact Bryant Wright at bwright@fnsb.us or 907-459-7401.

For more info see: <https://www.facebook.com/events/2244031172477807/>

(Photo: Jeanne Laurencelle finds the Smith Lake Loop sign in this winter's trail challenge.)

FIRST DAY OUTINGS INCLUDE QUARTZ LAKE NEAR DELTA JUNCTION

Alaska State Parks encourages Alaskans to celebrate the New Year by enjoying the great outdoors in their state parks. Local volunteer groups will host hike/ski excursions in several Alaska state park units on New Year's Day. Below are a list of planned events, including the nearest town and a link for more information. These free, guided events are part of the national First Day Hikes initiative sponsored by state park systems throughout the United States. See more about First Day Hikes at: <http://www.naspd.org/>



- Delta Junction, Quartz Lake State Recreation Area: www.stateparks.org/hike-event/?hike_id=1859
- Anchorage, Chugach State Park: https://www.stateparks.org/hike-event/?hike_id=2217
- Homer, Eveline State Recreation Area: www.stateparks.org/hike-event/?hike_id=1963
- Juneau, Eagle Beach State Recreation Area: www.stateparks.org/hike-event/?hike_id=1793
- Sitka, Old Sitka State Historical Park: www.stateparks.org/hike-event/?hike_id=1961
- Ketchikan, Settlers Cove State Recreation Site: www.stateparks.org/hike-event/?hike_id=1952

ANYONE CAN APPLY TO HELP GET ALASKA'S TRAILS ON GOOGLE

Here's a suggestion. Help put interior Alaska's trails on a world stage.

Google has a backpack-mounted, 360-degree camera that helps Google map and capture places where its Street View cars can't—like trails. The company recently came out with a new version of its camera, called the Street View Trekker, which will be easier for wearers to lug around due to its sleeker, smaller and lighter design. Besides being worn by a person, Trekker can be attached to cars, boats and other vehicles. (What about snowmachines? Dog sleds?) Read about the new Trekker here: <http://tinyurl.com/ybv2x2lu>



Anyone can apply to use the new version of the backpack through the Trekker loan program. It's also aimed at Google's partners, such as tourism boards. Sounds like the perfect thing to take out on the trails! Find out more about the loan program here: <https://www.google.com/streetview/loan/>

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(From story on [ZDNet](#); photo from [The Verge](#))

FAIRBANKSANS SHOULD REMIND MAYOR OF TRAIL BENEFITS

Borough Mayor Bryce Ward and his administration are in the process of developing a budget for the next year. Please remind the mayor how important trails are to our community.

Trails bring many benefits that we sometimes take for granted, such as:

- Providing access to natural resources, such as game, berries, and the great outdoors.
- Improving the physical, mental, and social health of our citizens by helping to get people exercising outdoors, alone and with other people.
- Increasing tourism by providing a place for tourist-friendly events, such as the North American Sled Dog Championships and the Iron Dog Snowmachine Race, as well as giving visitors a place to enjoy the wild expanse of Alaska.
- Encouraging human-powered transportation, improving health and reducing car traffic.

Later in the year, the Fairbanks Borough Assembly will be presented with the budget and the public will have a chance to comment. However, it's beneficial to have the mayor provide a budget that recognizes the importance of trails. One way to do that is to make sure the Parks and Recreation Department has a healthy budget, especially one that continues to include a full-time trails coordinator. Contact the mayor by email (<http://tinyurl.com/ybvd4kpv>), phone (459-1300) or mail (PO Box 71267-1267; Fbx, AK 99701

INTERIORWIDE LINKS

- Warmer weather causing winter trail problems: <http://tinyurl.com/ybtacfh3>
- Shutdown: White Mountains visitors urged to use caution: <http://tinyurl.com/ybh5snsh>

LINKS TO INTERIOR TRAIL INFORMATION

The web and other sources have lots of information about trails in Interior Alaska (and statewide), but it's often hard to find. Here is a collection of trail-related resources:

<https://www.interioralaskatrails.org/resources/>

(If you find any broken links or other problems please send an email to fbxtrails@gmail.com)

STATEWIDE

STATE OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL BOARD TO MEET IN JANUARY

The Outdoor Recreational Trails Advisory Board (ORTAB) will meet from 9am to 4pm on January 22 and 23 to consider and discuss funding for grant applications. The board meets in Room 1270 of the Atwood Building, 550 W. 7th Avenue.

During the meeting, the ORTAB will evaluate grant proposals for trail-related projects through the Recreational Trails Program. The board will provide recommendations to the Director of the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation who will make decisions on funding for those applications. To join the meeting via teleconference, please dial 866-918- 8374,

conference code 5569714090. For more information, contact Darcy Harris at 907-269-8699 or email darcy.harris@alaska.gov or go to <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/grants/trails.htm>.

(From What's Up? by Peg Tileston)

SUPPORT STATE, NATIONAL TRAILS BY PURCHASING PARK PASSES

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. Permits are \$50 and, 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 for \$100: <https://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/passes>
- National Park Service annual passes: The park service offers general passes for \$80. 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>

GROUPS THAT JOIN HIKING SOCIETY CAN APPLY FOR MICRO-GRANTS

Do you have a trail maintenance backlog? Do you need help funding small trail projects? If so, Join American Hiking Society's Alliance Organization today (<http://tinyurl.com/ybn8p6s2>). Once you join as a new member or renew your Alliance membership, you will qualify to apply for a micro-grant up to \$3,000 from the National Trail Fund. The application process opens in January. More information can be found about the program here: <https://americanhiking.org/national-trails-fund/>



KEEP TRAILS IN THE PUBLIC EYE DURING TOUGH BUDGET TIMES

The Alaska State Legislature will be meeting soon and the budget outlook is bleak. More cuts are being called for, as well as more revenues, such as taxes. Trail advocates need to speak loudly if trails are to be treated fairly. There are several ways trails could be affected.

- Staffing for the Recreational Trails Program could be cut, This would be a huge mistake as \$200,000 in state funding brings in more than \$1 million from the federal government, but that \$200,000 has been considered for the budget axe before.
- Staffing for the Department of Natural Resources could be cut. Very few people in state government work solely on trails, but many deal with trails as part of their jobs. If positions are cut, other duties may take precedence over trails.
- Pullouts along roads that offer parking for access to trailheads could see less maintenance, including snowplowing, as the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities focuses on keeping high-traffic roads clear.
- Direct state grants for trail projects could dry up.
- General grants to local governments could be reduced or cut altogether. That will have a ripple effect on all local government operations, including any that deal with trails. So,

what can trail advocates do? Let your voice be heard.

- Call or write your legislators. Our legislators will have many things vying for their attention this session. If they don't hear from trail advocates they may think that trails are not important to Alaskans. Contact information for senators and representatives can be found at: <http://w3.legis.state.ak.us/>
- Call or write the governor: <https://gov.alaska.gov/contact/>
- Write an editorial or letter to the editor for your local newspaper.
- Have your trail-related group pass a resolution, then send that to your legislators, the governor, and the local newspaper.

USE "PICK. CLICK. GIVE." TO DONATE TO ALASKA TRAILS



Alaska Trails is included in the Permanent Fund Dividend's "Pick. Click. Give" charitable contributions program. It's a secure and easy way to make a donation. When you file for your PFD online, you will be given an opportunity to donate using money from 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" (<http://www.pickclickgive.org>). To go directly to the Alaska Trails "Pick. Click. Give." page <http://www.pickclickgive.org/index.cfm/pfdorgs.info/Alaska-Trails>

FORAKER GROUP OFFERS CLASSES FOR NON-PROFITS STATEWIDE

The Foraker Group, which is dedicated to strengthening Alaska's non-profits, offers classes about the proper workings of non-profit groups, which include many trail and trail user groups. If you are a member or employee of a non-profit group consider taking one of the classes, which are offered in several communities and statewide by teleconference. For more information visit the Foraker Group website (www.forakergroup.org/) or call 907/743-1200 or (toll free) 877/834-5003.



ALASKA STUDENT CONSERVATION GROUP SEEKING APPLICANTS

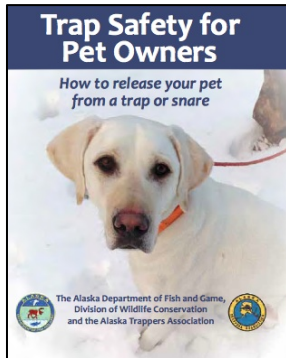
Applications are being accepted for the 2019 AK Corps Teams for the Student Conservation Association (SCA) to work with multiple state and federal partners throughout Alaska. Work projects will be a mix of trail construction and maintenance, invasive species removal and fuels reduction for wildfire management. Project schedules will vary throughout the summer depending on partner's needs. Members can expect to use basic hand tools, power tools, and chainsaws. Teams consist of 5 members and 1 leader and this group of 6 will remain together for the entirety of the season. Season begins on May 13 with Corps Member Training. To see

the full position and application information, go to
<https://www.thesca.org/serve/position/2019-ak-corps-teams/po-00726989>.

(From What's Up? by Peg Tileston)

RESOURCES HELP REDUCE PET/TRAPPING CONFLICTS

Trapping season is here, 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), and on the ATA website (www.alaskatrappers.org).

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).

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.

STATEWIDE LINKS

SOUTHCENTRAL LINKS

- Turns out running on a trail isn’t a bad place to be when the Earth moves:
<http://tinyurl.com/yb22ct4v>
- Winter Daycation in the Moose Range (Jan 5 Mat-Su ski outing): <http://tinyurl.com/ybljhsna>

SOUTHEAST LINKS

- Rasmuson Foundation awards over \$750,000 to Sitka nonprofits (incl Sitka Trail Works):
<http://tinyurl.com/y7fxebzx>
- New healthy walking trail available on SEARHC campus in Sitka:
<http://tinyurl.com/ydf9wcd3>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Breathe deeply, parents. Then get the kids outside: <http://tinyurl.com/ycqf85pw>
- Determination Issued Related to the Kachemak Bay State Park Plan and Kachemak Bay State Wilderness Park Management Plan: <http://notice.alaska.gov/192337>
- Wes Hoskins: new ED of the Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation: <http://tinyurl.com/yalqvm3g>
- Alaskans make 'Roadless Rule' revision recommendations: <http://tinyurl.com/y9mktwhq>
- Unethical trapping hurts Alaskans and their pets (opinion): <http://tinyurl.com/y9lzb6e>
- Trump administration moves to slash federal protection for waterways: <http://tinyurl.com/y8s2e2kh>
- Roadside trappers give real trappers a bad name (opinion): <http://tinyurl.com/yb5ms7h7>
- Maybe spending time outside is the cure for the holiday flus and colds: <http://tinyurl.com/yav9xjsw>
- BLM Frontiers news journal (Fall 2018, #130): <http://tinyurl.com/y9zew2g8>
- Good snow, bad snow: Here's to the friends who make skiing fun either way: <http://tinyurl.com/yazsfa79>
- Outdoor Explorer radio show
 - Horseback riding and a trip across the Americas: <http://tinyurl.com/y967gdcs>
 - "Arctic Solitaire" book and adverse weather gear: <http://tinyurl.com/y7et43go>

NATIONWIDE/WORLDWIDE

NATIONWIDE / INTERNATIONAL LINKS**WEBINARS, MEETINGS, CONFERENCES, TRAINING, ETC.**

- For a listing of upcoming trail webinars workshops, conferences, and other meetings, see the American Trails calendar at: www.americantrails.org/Calendar.html

TRAILS-RELATED NEWSLETTERS

- American Trails news publications: <http://www.americantrails.org/trailtracks/index.html>

TRAIL GUIDES

- Bike trails near Cleveland - 5 great bikeways for long rides: <http://tinyurl.com/yackhj94>
- Best Fall Trails Around Lake Tahoe: <http://tinyurl.com/y9bxbxp3>
- 5 Hiking Trails For People Who Are Truly Brave (15 Anyone Can Do): <http://tinyurl.com/ycq2v3yg>
- 5 Off-the-Beaten-Path Hiking Trails to Tackle in 2019: <http://tinyurl.com/y77yclrm>

ADVOCACY

- People for Bikes: Take Action For Public Lands web-letter: <http://tinyurl.com/ybyu4328>

FUNDING

- National Forest Foundation Matching Awards Program (deadline Jan 23): <http://tinyurl.com/px7y6ke>
- IMBA Trail Accelerator Grants (deadline Jan 30): <http://tinyurl.com/y78jnrw7>
- Doppelt Family Trail Development Fund (deadline Jan 31): <http://tinyurl.com/yaq7szxe>

VOLUNTEERING

- 2019 Alternative (Spring) Break by American Hiking Society: <http://tinyurl.com/y7kvwvzg>

STUDIES

- Just 6 months of walking may reverse cognitive decline, study says: <http://tinyurl.com/y8wsb6gs>

OTHER NATIONAL LINKS:

- They created a 2,600-mile trail across the Northwest: <http://tinyurl.com/y88halz9>
- Celebrating trails across America / Stories from trail enthusiasts of all ages: <http://tinyurl.com/ydxtggk3>
- Breaking Down the Silos, Part Two: <http://tinyurl.com/y9d462al>
- Guy Hikes From Mexico to Canada, Films One Second of Every Day: <http://tinyurl.com/ybhgo4qv>

INTERNATIONAL LINKS:

- The 10 best skating paths and trails in and around Toronto: <http://tinyurl.com/y9ln4y9o>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- 6 Winter Workouts That Burn An Insane Amount Of Calories: <http://tinyurl.com/ycnmu4wx>
- A Rare Disease Won't Keep This Mountain Man Off the Trails: <http://tinyurl.com/y82ahbc5>
- Potential for 100,000-Plus Jobs If We Fix Our Parks: <http://tinyurl.com/ycj2hw4b>
- Selena Gomez Hits the Trails for a Hike in L.A.: <http://tinyurl.com/yagrhf57>

Interior Trails Quarterly is a free email newsletter that comes out four times a year: March, June, September, and December. ITQ Action Updates come out once a month in between regular editions of the ITQ. Both are written and distributed by Eric Troyer, a lifelong Alaskan and trail user. To submit items, get on or off the mailing list, report problems, or anything else email Eric at fbxtrails@gmail.com. Note: submissions may be also be used in the statewide Alaska Trails newsletter.

DISCLAIMER: Interior Trails Quarterly and ITQ Action Updates are not products of any organization. However, I am a board member of the Interior Trails Preservation Coalition, a member of several Interior trail user groups, and a member of Alaska Trails and editor of its newsletter.