

INTERIOR TRAILS NEWSLETTER

Dedicated to the preservation and maintenance of trails in interior Alaska

SEPT 2023

JACOBS TAKES OVER AS FAIRBANKS BORO TRAILS COORDINATOR

The Fairbanks North Star Borough has a new Trails Coordinator.

Andrea Jacobs was hired to replace Bryant Wright, who left earlier this year to take a job as a planner with a consulting firm. Fortunately for Jacobs, the contentious Fairbanks Comprehensive Trails Plan update was passed in June. (See a story about that here: <https://tinyurl.com/24kzvw6r>.) Jacobs sent this photo and short biography. You can send her an email welcome at: andrea.jacobs@fnsb.gov

My current professional path began with a broad interest in exploring connections between people and landscapes and has since evolved into a desire to advocate for quality outdoor recreation experiences at the community level.



I've held a variety of positions related to outdoor recreation from guiding to researching backpacker's perceptions of wilderness during a summer in Yosemite National Park. In 2021, I received my undergraduate degree from Oregon State University studying Natural Resources with a Public Lands Management and Adventure Leadership focus. I then entered Utah State University's Master of Science in Recreation Resource Management program and studied how visitation patterns shift when changes are introduced in the recreation and tourism system of Moab, Utah.

I also volunteer as an Event Coordinator with SheJumps, a non-profit which aims to increase the participation of women and girls in outdoor activities.

Aside from the professional parts of my life, my favorite way to recreate is by spending long days running trails or climbing mountains with my dog, Jovie – and skiing with my two kids who are 11 and 8. I also enjoy reading, creating art, playing board games, and keeping a collection of over 40 and counting houseplants alive. I believe trails are one of the most valuable aspects of a healthy community, and I look forward to serving the trail users of Fairbanks North Star Borough through this position.

TWO TRAIL-RELATED ITEMS COMING BEFORE FAIRBANKS ASSEMBLY

TESTIFY/COMMENT The public should have a chance to comment on two trail-related items coming before the Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly in September. Both are expected to come before the Assembly at its regular meeting on Sept. 14.

- Ordinance 2023-50: This will codify all the recommendations from the borough Platting Board. You can read about those here: <https://tinyurl.com/37r693td>. You can see the ordinance here: <https://tinyurl.com/2ja8fkc7>

LINKS TO INTERIOR TRAIL INFORMATION

- List of apps that have many interior Alaska trails: www.interioralaskatrails.org/resources/web-sites/
- Interior Alaska Trails (a collection of trail-related resources): www.interioralaskatrails.org/resources/. (If you find any broken links or other problems please send an email to fbxtrails@gmail.com)

- A resolution (not given a number yet): This would allow funds from the Public Community Trails Improvement Program (aka Trail-a-Year) to be used for acquiring trail easements.

These are reasonable changes that would benefit from support by the public. **You can attend the meeting (virtually or in-person) and testify or contact Assembly members via email and/or phone before the meeting.**

- Attend and/or testify: <https://fnsb.gov/415/Stay-Connected-with-the-Assembly>
- Contact Assembly Members: <https://fnsb.gov/Directory.aspx?DID=64>

BOROUGH CAPITAL PROJECTS LIST COULD INCLUDE TRAILS

NOMINATE Consider adding a trails project to the borough's project list.

The Fairbanks North Star Borough is accepting nominations for its Capital Improvement Project list. Several projects already on the list are trail-focused or have trail components, including the Public Community Trails Improvement Program (aka Trail-a-Year), Chena Lake Area Revitalization, Peede Road Recreation Development, Isberg Recreation Area Master Plan Implementation, Tanana Lakes Master Plan Implementation, Equinox Trail Extension and Completion, and Skyline Ridge Park Trail System Development.

While the trails improvement program is funded for each year, most of the rest are scheduled far out in the funding cycles. Still, having trail projects on the plan is important. Sometimes state or federal funds become available for specific projects, such as trail projects, and so a project can get bumped up the list.

Find out more about the borough's Capital Improvement Project process, **including how to nominate a project**, here: <https://www.fnsb.gov/CIP>

See a Fairbanks Daily News-Miner story about the process opening to nominations here: <https://tinyurl.com/4pyh5pcp>

NEW ENTRANCE FOR CHENA LAKE RECREATION AREA PLANNED

The Chena Lake Recreation Area (CLRA) will have a new public entrance thanks to an ordinance passed on August 10 by the Fairbanks Borough Assembly.

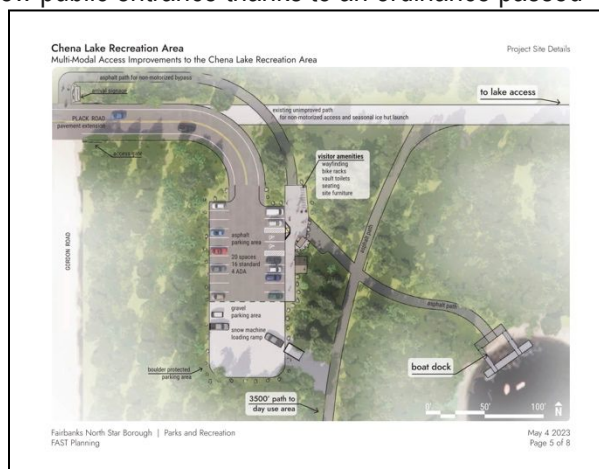
The new entrance will include a boat dock, a parking area – including snowmachine loading ramp – and a path that connects to the park's existing infrastructure.

The ordinance appropriates \$366,984 from the general fund to be used as a required match for the Chena Lake Bike/Ped Path Project. That amount is about 10 percent of the total cost of the project.

This project will create a second entrance into CLRA via Plack Road providing improved and direct access to the rec area for locals and non-local visitors. This project should encourage people to do a variety of activities, non-motorized in summer, multi-use motorized in winter. It should also help residents drive less to access the recreation area.

The planning and design phase for this project will take a couple of years, according to Trisha Levasseur, Fairbanks borough parks project coordinator.

"There will be some public meetings along the way for that surrounding neighborhood and I'm sure



anyone that would like to join,” she said.

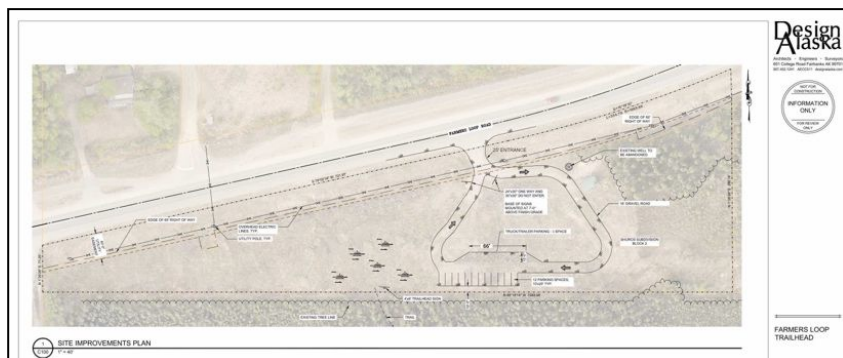
To see more graphics showing plans for this project see: <https://tinyurl.com/yp953kbd>

Read more about the project in this Fairbanks Daily News-Miner story: <https://tinyurl.com/tzb3rdnv>

TRAILHEAD WOULD ALLOW NEW ACCESS TO CREAMER’S REFUGE

A project to create a new trailhead for the Creamer’s Field Migratory Wildlife Refuge has been given approval by the Fairbanks borough.

The Fairbanks borough Planning Commission approved a Conditional Use Permit to the Interior Alaska Land Trust. The trust plans to build the trailhead, with parking, just off Farmer’s Loop Road on the south side, just to the east of Shuros Drive. The commission has required that the trust to install a gate and bollards to prevent motorized access. (Another trailhead, with poorer access and parking, exists just to the west on the south side across from Shuros Drive. Snowmachine access is permitted from there.)



The new parking lot would hold about cars 10-12 cars. Users will have direct and better access to the trailhead than the existing trailhead.

The trust plans to get as much work done as possible before winter sets in. For more information, see this story that was written before the Planning Commission meeting: <https://tinyurl.com/mrx7zbnv>

CHALLENGE OFFERS OPPORTUNITIES TO FIND TRAILS IN INTERIOR

The Fairbanks Summer Trails Challenge is live with 20 signs up and ready to find all over the borough.

The challenge started June 20 and lasts until September 30. There are again three award categories: Trailblazer, Junior Trailblazer, and Sourdough Trailblazer. Trailblazers are 10 years old and up and must find at least 10 signs. Junior Trailblazers are up to 9 years old and must find five signs. Sourdough Trailblazers are at least 60 years old and must find five signs.

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

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

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



To register, find out more and see a list of signs, see the Fairbanks Borough Trails Office webpage: <https://tinyurl.com/mscu47zu>

And check out the Trails Challenge Facebook Event here: <https://tinyurl.com/3tumm6am>

Get your Trails Challenge Guide here: <https://tinyurl.com/2s48thep>

Photo from Trails Challenge Facebook Event page.

CONFLUENCE CONFERENCE TO BE IN FAIRBANKS IN SEPTEMBER

The 8th Annual Confluence: Summit on the Outdoors heads to Fairbanks, Sept. 26 – 28, where the focus will be on co-creating a vision for a regenerative future and the action steps to make it happen.



Confluence attracts innovative thinkers and doers from public and tribal for-profits, governmental organizations, and non-profit allies involved in outdoor businesses, tourism, culture & heritage, economic development, public health, transportation, and land relationship planning.

This year's conversations will be focused on the intersection of outdoor recreation and regenerative tourism. Confluence helps you get connected, informed, and inspired to co-create a regenerative and equitable outdoor recreation economy.

Locals can save on registering for the Confluence Summit.

- UAF faculty and students: \$89 includes all three days and lunches each day. On your own for breakfast and dinner. Direct link to UAF tickets online.
- Fairbanks Locals: \$99 includes all three days: lunches included; breakfast and dinner on your own. Purchase a regular or scholarship ticket and use discount code goldenheart23. Also online, just buy a "regular" ticket and apply the code.

Complete details are online at <http://alaskaoutdooralliance.org/confluence-ak>

ENDURANCE RACE ORGANIZATION SEEKS NEW LEADERSHIP

Endurance North -- which oversees the White Mountains 100, Chena River to Ridge, and Tanana River Challenge -- is looking for someone with the time and dedication to take over as president. At minimum, the



board, paperwork, and finances just need to be kept up. Through Endurance North the races share things like a trailer, gear, insurance, etc.

But if you're interested, this organization has a lot more potential to help further endurance racing in Interior Alaska. It could organize winter trail grooming so that racers have a place to practice and race. It could help anyone else who wants to start another winter race. Heck, it could help

someone start a summer endurance race.

Are you interested in helping make any of that happen? Are you interested but a bit daunted by the task? You could always bring on more interested folks to help the team!

Endurance North has a ton of potential, but if someone doesn't step up, the organization could dissolve.

Are you interested in helping? If so, contact Nikki Potter at nikki.m.phillips@gmail.com

Photo of Tanana River Challenge by Eric Troyer

RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM APPLICATIONS DUE IN OCTOBER

APPLY It's time to get your Recreational Trails Program grant application started.

RTP grants provide reimbursable, matching funds to develop and repair recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both non-motorized and motorized recreational trail uses. Grants are also available for trail-related environmental protection, safety, and educational projects. The grants are administered through the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation. The timeline is below. Questions? Contact the State Trails Coordinator at (907) 269-8699.

- Week of August 21, 2023: The current application becomes available online at: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/grants/trails.htm>
- September 30, 2023: The mandatory public notices must be posted by this date.
- October 31, 2023: Applicants must submit their application electronically and/or by mail on a USB flash drive. All applications must be received electronically or postmarked by this date.

For more information see: <https://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/grants/trails.htm>

BUY AMERICA WAIVER ISSUED FOR SMALL RTP GRANTS, OTHERS

American Trails sent out the following email in August. The waiver affects projects below \$500,000, so that should cover most, if not all, grants issued in Alaska. The maximum Recreational Trails Program grants given out in Alaska are \$300,000: <https://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/grants/trails.htm>

A long-standing impediment to effective implementation of the Recreational Trails Program (and other federal funding of trail projects) has been addressed by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

FHWA published the Waiver of Buy America Requirements for De Minimis Costs and Small Grants. This notice is the waiver: <https://tinyurl.com/4d9wbu4k>. There is no need for waiver applications for projects that meet the criteria of this waiver.

The waiver is applicable only to awards that are obligated or subawards that are made on or after the effective date of the waiver, August 16, 2023. The waiver is applicable to subawards only if the subawards are made by a pass-through entity for a specific project. Electric Vehicle (EV) chargers continue to be subject to the FHWA Buy America EV Charger Waiver.

PLEASE NOTE: If the total amount of the project is below \$500,000, the Buy America requirements for iron, steel, manufactured product, and construction materials is waived. If the total amount of the project is over \$500,000, the allowable threshold for noncompliant products is the lesser of \$1,000,000 or 5% of total applicable costs for the project. However, if the noncompliant products include iron, steel, manufactured products, the FHWA's threshold amount of 0.1% of the total contract amount or \$2,500 applies.

For questions, email Edwin Okonkwo (Edwin.Okonkwo@dot.gov) or Brian Hogge (Brian.Hogge@dot.gov) with the Federal Highway Administration Office of Infrastructure.

LWCF GRANT APPLICATIONS DUE BY END OF OCTOBER

APPLY Application packets for Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) 2024 grants were available starting August 1.

The Alaska Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (DPOR) administers this competitive reimbursable grant program in partnership with the National Park Service. LWCF can provide up to 50% of costs for eligible outdoor recreation projects. An estimated \$1 million in LWCF federal funding will be available in this grant round. Eligible applicants include state, regional, local and tribal governments with the legal authority to



provide park and recreation services on public lands. Applications will be accepted by DPOR from August 1 through noon on October 31. For more information, contact the Grants Section Manager Danette Berkovitz (Danette.Berkovitz@alaska.gov; 907-269-8706).

HELP CLEAN UP TRAILS, MORE DURING NATIONAL CLEAN UP MONTH

VOLUNTEER Want to help clean trails with a nationwide effort?

September is CleanUp Month, an effort hosted by the group Clean Trails. The group encourages cleanups to occur on the third Saturday in September, there are many cleanups occurring during the rest of CleanUp Month. Religious celebrations, desire to schedule on a weekday, tides, weather, pandemics, or events like Public Lands Day create the opportunity to hold your cleanup at a day/time that is convenient.



For 2023, National Clean Up Day is scheduled for September 16. The effort also includes parks, beaches, mountains, and open spaces.

It's easy to create an event. All Clean Trails needs to start is your name, an email address, and zip code to keep in touch. You decide what activities best suit you. To find out more check out the Clean Trails page: www.nationalcleanupday.org/

ALASKA MOUNTAIN BIKE SUMMIT TO BE HELD IN OCTOBER

REGISTER Please save the date and join Chugach Mountain Bike Riders, Alaska Trails, Arctic Bicycle Club, and Valley Mountain Bikers and Hikers on Saturday and Sunday October 14 and 15 at the scenic Government Peak Chalet, for the second Alaska Mountain Bike Summit.

The Alaska Mountain Bike Summit seeks to bring together nonprofits, clubs, and mountain biking advocates from across the state to share information and plan a way to maximize the knowledge and expertise in the state to build, maintain, and ride more mountain biking trails.

More information including registration, agenda and other pertinent news will be coming soon. For questions contact: Will Taygan will@ChugachMTB.org

Also, listen to this Outdoor Explorer podcast, which has information on the summit and more: <https://tinyurl.com/4y7ushps>



TAKE CARE ON TRAILS DURING HUNTING SEASON

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

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

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

Hunting Safety: Information for Hunters and Non-Hunters (US Forest Service)
https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5330495.pdf

Hike Safely During Hunting Season (American Hiking Society)

<https://americanhiking.org/families-on-foot/hike-safely-hunting-season/>

To find out more about when and where hunting seasons are happening in Alaska see this AK Dept of Fish and Game page:

<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=hunting.whenwhere>

For specifics you'll need to refer to the Alaska Hunting Regulations:

<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=wildliferegulations.main>



ALASKA TRAILS HAS TOOL TRAILER READY FOR TRAIL PROJECTS

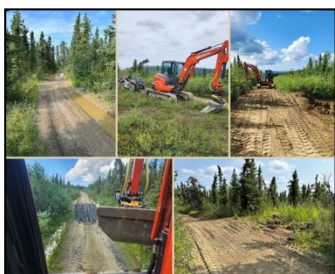


As you start planning trail building and maintenance projects, remember that Alaska Trails has a mobile tool cache available in the Fairbanks area to loan to organized trail groups in the Interior. The trailers were upgraded recently and have many trail tools including mcleods, Pulaskis, rakes, gloves, and much, much more. If you would like to borrow one of the caches, please contact Geoffrey Orth (gcorth@straydogs.us).

SEEN RECENTLY ON INTERIOR FACEBOOK PAGES

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT - ALASKA

Bureau of Land Management - Alaska



Aug 30: #TrailUpdate.

The Bureau of Land Management collaborated with Tread Lightly! to restore the first six miles of the Wickersham Creek Trail. Seventy-three drainage features were modified or rebuilt to improve water flow, allowing the trail to drain.

Find a good trail for you in the White Mountains here:

<https://ow.ly/goCk50PG5mi>

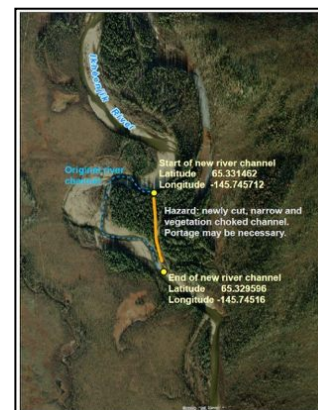
Photos courtesy of Tread Lightly!

Aug 9: ⚠️ New river hazard on upper Birch Creek Wild and Scenic River! We received a report that the river has cut a new channel just a few miles downriver from the put-in at the Upper Birch Creek Wayside.

🌿 At the current, low flow river levels, the entire river flows into the new, debris-choked channel. A ¼ mile portage around the bend may be necessary, starting at Latitude N 65.331462, Longitude W -145.745712.

👁️ New river channels can take years to clear debris and become safe to float through. Boaters should plan to scout the hazard and be prepared to portage gear around it.

? If you have questions, contact the BLM Public Room in Fairbanks at (907) 474-2200 or toll-free at 1 (800) 437-7021.



Aug 9: Unit 25C hunters should be aware of significant changes to motor vehicle limitations in the White Mountains National Recreation Area's Nome Creek Valley and throughout much of the Steese National Conservation Area to protect sensitive resources during the summer, May 1 – October 14.



Motor vehicles must remain on BLM routes designated for their use unless traveling in an area designated open to cross-country motorized travel. Many of the BLM's georeferenced PDF maps include information about motor vehicle limitations.

#KnowBeforeYouGo - OHVs are permitted in some places and not in others as you cross between federal and state lands. Many of the BLM's georeferenced PDF maps for the area include information about the motor vehicle limitations, including the new summer recreation map:

<https://tinyurl.com/y9rwzaky>

Browse the entire collection here: <https://www.blm.gov/maps/georeferenced-PDFs>

Photo by Jim Herriges, BLM.

FAIRBANKS TRAIL AND WATERWAY USERS

Aug 29: Ester Dome trail users: Remember that the Equinox Marathon will be held on September 16. People should avoid using the top of Ester Dome Road because of the marathon. Driving to the top of Ester Dome will be difficult until late afternoon due all the activity.

<https://www.equinoxmarathon.org/>

Aug 26: Even though the Aurora Bridge Project has been delayed and will not be finished until next summer, Noyes Slough will be open for travel when frozen this winter. The state Department of Transportation does not intend to block it off, except for the time when it is placing the girders in October.



Aug 17: DOT is out fixing the bike/ped path along Ballaine Road out in Goldstream. Filling the flooded parts of the path with gravel. Probably calls from the public brought it to their attention. Thanks to everyone who called or emailed. And thanks to DOT for getting it done.

Aug 17: From Ruth Henry of the Copper Country Alliance:

The University of Alaska has selected 7,000 acres of public land near Tangle Lakes as part of its land grant entitlement. If transferred to UA, those lands would be used to raise funds and would no longer be public.

Yes, the University is vital for higher education, the arts, and northern research, but it can find other lands that are less scenic, less important to wildlife, and less treasured by Alaskans. Right now, is the time to tell the University, DNR, and BLM how much the Denali Highway means to you...just the way it is.

Please contact: University of Alaska Land Management:

Adrienne K. Stolpe, Director, 907-

7866, akstolpe@alaska.edu and cc: lacy.hamner@alaska.gov For more information:

<https://tinyurl.com/2mj92yew>

Photo of Upper Tangle Lake by Eric Troyer



NORDIC SKI CLUB OF FAIRBANKS

August 1: As Birch Hill Rec Area summer trails users know, the grass can get a bit on the long side on some of the trails before the FNSB Parks & Rec Department does the fall mowing before ski season starts.



Last winter the Nordic Ski Club of Fairbanks got a 2010 Kubota mower from the Borough that was going to be surplus. Thank you to Mayor Ward and the Borough Assembly for making it happen! The NSCF groomers have been putting it to good use mowing the trails at Birch Hill. Since the first of July most trails have been mowed. The groomers are currently working their way out the White Bear.

If you are enjoying the club's mowing efforts, please **consider making a donation** to the Birch Hill Trail fund to help cover the cost of fuel, maintenance of the mower, and wages for the groomers. Thank you! <https://nordicskicluboffairbanks.wildapricot.org/Donate/>

FAIRBANKS CYCLE CLUB

Aug 15: If you like to use the Chinook and Blackhawk singletrack trails on Birch Hill, **consider a donation** to the Nordic Ski Club of Fairbanks trails fund. The ski club recently brushed the trails and smoothed out the ruts that have been in those trails for years. If you don't know these dirt trails, they are fun rolling trails off the Sonot Connector. You can find them on Trail Forks.

<https://www.trailforks.com/trails/chinook-303344/>
<https://www.trailforks.com/trails/blackhawk-loop-303343/>
<https://nordicskicluboffairbanks.wildapricot.org/Donate/>



DELTA JUNCTION TRAILS ASSOCIATION



Aug 24: Come brush off at the newly installed "Clean Play Go" Boot Brush Stations at the Liewer and River Walk Park trails. Thank you, Summer Nay, Invasive Plants Program Coordinator, Salcha-Delta Delta Soil and Water Conservation District, for helping us manage our trails! Plus a big thanks to Mrs. Kovalenko's Delta Junction High School class for their help with the install.

INTERIOR LINKS

- Escaping the Smoke (biking, hiking along Richardson Highway): <https://tinyurl.com/3dy2ztv4>
- White Mountains Nat Rec Area reopens due to reduced wildfire activity: <https://tinyurl.com/486vnx5>

STATEWIDE

ALASKA TRAVERSE: NEW NAME FOR ALASKA LONG TRAIL

Alaska Trails has exciting news to share about the Alaska Long Trail. Since the inception of the current long trail concept in 2021, the name "Alaska Long Trail" has served as a placeholder. For the past year, Alaska Trails and our partners have actively gathered ideas and feedback to choose the name for the trail.

At the most recent meeting of the Alaska Long Trail Coalition, a decision was made to formally name the trail as the Alaska Traverse (AKT)!

Below is more information about the naming process. If you would like more information on this change, please contact Alaska Long Trail Project Coordinator Mariyam Medovaya (mariyam.medovaya@alaska-trails.org/ 907.360.9950). Thank you for your support for this project!

Frequently Asked Questions About the Alaska Traverse, Formerly the Alaska Long Trail

What is the Alaska Traverse (AKT)? A work-in-progress world-class trail system connecting 500+ miles of Alaska's iconic terrain and diverse communities from the Pacific to the Interior, embracing the many ways Alaskans recreate outdoors and attracting visitors from all over the world.

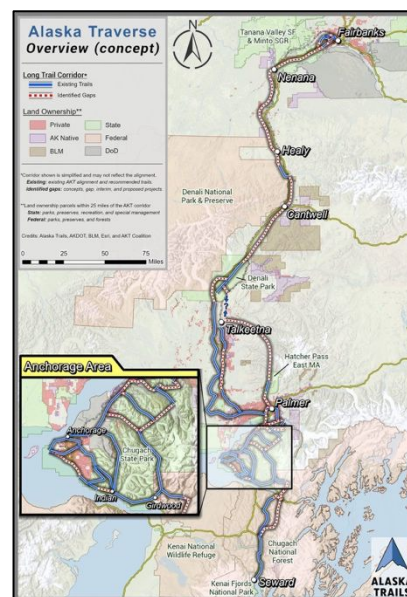
Wait - isn't this the same as the Alaska Long Trail? Yes! "The Alaska Long Trail" was the original working name of this concept.

Why did the name change? "The Alaska Long Trail" was a placeholder name that was never formally adopted. Throughout 2022 and 2023, Alaska Trails led a process to weigh options for making an official route name, deciding on the Alaska Traverse (AKT) in August 2023.

Who named the AKT? Alaska Trails and the coalition of organizations and individuals working on the concept and route, based on extensive input and feedback from stakeholders and the public.

Why is it called the Alaska Traverse (AKT)? Alaska Trails, coalition partners, and stakeholders created and weighed a series of criteria when it came to finalizing the name, taking into consideration the following factors:

- Ease and recognizability
- No conflicts with existing long trail names or concepts
- No conflicts with existing organizational names
- Broad support from stakeholders, partners, members, volunteers, and supporters
- A good acronym
- A name that built on existing and/or generated new excitement, both for stakeholders and coalition members, and general supporters
- Reflects the whole of Alaska and its diversity of history, culture and terrain



Ultimately, the Alaska Traverse (AKT) best met these criteria. For more information on the Alaska Traverse, see this opinion piece in the Anchorage Daily News: <https://tinyurl.com/3arm4ynd>

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE LAND MANAGER FORUM IN NOVEMBER

ATTEND The annual Alaska Trails Land Manager Forum will happen on Wednesday, November 15, at the BP Energy Center in Anchorage.

More details including agenda, speakers and more will be forthcoming. We hope you can join us to wrap up the trail season and begin planning for next year. You can find out more and view previous years' presentations here: <https://www.alaska-trails.org/land-manager-forum>

We are excited to bring land managers, trails groups, pro trail builders and trail enthusiasts together to highlight the many successes we have had and share what's worked and what hasn't.

SEEN RECENTLY ON STATEWIDE FACEBOOK PAGES

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT - ALASKA



Aug 23: Downloads maps for free to your phone before heading out! These maps will work with your phone's satellite feature, so you know where you are.

Download them here: <https://www.blm.gov/maps/georeferenced-PDFs>

Aug 1: Print small-scale USGS-enriched maps at home!

- 1) Go to: https://webmaps.blm.gov/program_apps/BLM_Natl_Recreation_Opportunities/
- 2) Find your area.
- 3) Click the four squares on the top right of your screen.
- 3) Select "USGS National Map" as a layer from the options.
- 4) Center your area
- 5) Print!



STATEWIDE LINKS

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Anchorage's Heather's Choice considers relocating to grow business: <https://tinyurl.com/2uhc5wx7>
- Statewide General Permit for ROV Use on General State Lands: <http://notice.alaska.gov/211920>
- Annual visitor spending near Alaska's national parks: \$1.2B: <https://tinyurl.com/3u2swvry>

NATIONWIDE/WORLDWIDE

BREWING COMPANY OFFERS GRANTS FOR TRAILS

APPLY The deadline for the Athletic Brewing Company's "Two For The Trails" program is September 10.



Athletic Brewing, a leading producer of non-alcoholic craft beer, has committed to giving back up to \$2 million annually to protect and restore outdoor spaces across the globe through this program. Since 2018, Athletic Brewing has donated over \$2.6 million to more than 150 outdoor organizations.

"Our Two For The Trails program has blossomed into one of the most impactful of its kind over the last five years," said Athletic Brewing Co-Founder and CEO Bill Shufelt. "In 2018, we donated \$6,000 to one partner. As we've grown, we've been able to support hundreds of organizations and projects across the globe."

Each year, Athletic Brewing accepts applications to fund projects related to trail construction and maintenance, waterway protection, environmental education, and stewardship.

To find out more see a longer version of this press release: <https://tinyurl.com/mt8j3ern>

To apply for a grant, see: <https://athleticbrewing.com/pages/two-for-the-trails>

HIKING SOCIETY VOLUNTEER HOST APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

APPLY The Volunteer Vacations program is designed to send you a crew of eager volunteers, ready to assist with your trail needs. Volunteer Vacations are week-long trail building/maintaining projects organized

by American Hiking Society and hosted by BLM, NPS, USDA-FS, USFWS, state parks, trail organizations and other nonprofit partner groups across the country.

Most projects are one-week or shorter in length, consist of 6-15 crew members, and involve trail maintenance and building tasks on hiking trails on public lands. Alternative Breaks are volunteer trail stewardship projects designed specifically for college student groups and young professionals to complete during their spring breaks. **Find out more about hosting a Volunteer Vacation or Alternative Break and submit your host application now!** <https://americanhiking.org/volunteer-vacations/>

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/training/calendar

TRAILS-RELATED NEWSLETTERS

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

VOLUNTEER

- Am. Hiking Society's 2023 Volunteer Vacations: <https://americanhiking.org/volunteer-vacation-trips/>

FUNDING

- FOX Factory Trail Trust (applications reviewed quarterly): <https://trailtrust.com/>
- Yamaha Outdoor Access Initiative (OHVs, quarterly deadlines): <https://yamahaoai.com/>
- Federal Highway Admin funding chart (has trails-related categories): <https://tinyurl.com/yb7m356u>
- Clif Family Foundation grants (for groups; ddline Feb 1, June 1, Oct 1): <https://tinyurl.com/5bku286n>

OTHER LINKS:

- Why Trails Matter: Resilience to Wildfire: <https://tinyurl.com/e427vw6h>
- Report of National Trails Agenda Project By American Trails: <https://tinyurl.com/yc6jvh2z>
- Non-Motorized Trail Cost Estimator: <https://tinyurl.com/59vedhe6>

Interior Trails Newsletter is a free monthly email newsletter 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, from which this newsletter is excerpted.

DISCLAIMER: Interior Trails Newsletter is not a product of any organization. However, I am a board member of the Interior Trails Preservation Coalition and of the Fairbanks Cycle Club, a member of several Interior trail user groups, and a member of Alaska Trails and editor of its newsletter.