



# Alaska News



RTCA and Alaska State Park staff working together on Denali State Park sustainable trails.

## ABOUT US

The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. RTCA staff provides technical assistance to community groups and local, state, and federal government agencies working to protect natural areas and water resources and enhance close-to-home outdoor recreation opportunities. We help communities plan, organize partnerships, and achieve on-the-ground success on projects they initiate.

### 2010 Nationwide Partnership Success

1,251	Miles of Trail Developed
1,694	Miles of River Conserved
25,370	Acres of Open Space and Parkland Protected
94%	Percentage of Community Partners Satisfied
100%	Percentage of Alaska Community Partners Satisfied

## Recent Successes

### Ester Dome Singletrack Project

Thanks to a partnership between Alaska Trails, Goldstream Sports, RTCA, and many others, Alaska's mountain bikers now have a new 10-mile system of singletrack loops to ride. The loop system, located on Ester Dome near Fairbanks, includes a smaller, hand-built, tight and technical inner loop, as well as a number of outer loops constructed with mini-mechanized trail equipment under contract with Happy Trails Incorporated.

*In forming partnerships, leveraging available resources, and finding solutions, RTCA shows us how it's done. "*

- Geoff Orth  
Board President, Alaska Trails

RTCA provided technical assistance from start to finish on the project by helping our partners: work through agency permitting processes, discuss strategies for resolving user group conflicts, locate potential funding sources, review ideas for trail design, review input on trail signage and ethics brochures and maps, and coordinate a three-day International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA)

trail care crew training in Fairbanks. Currently, RTCA is wrapping up the GPS trail easement diagram that's needed for Alaska Trails to obtain a legal easement from the Alaska Department of Natural Resources for the trail on state land.

Check out the finished trails at:  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=AoYwpLlDEqW](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AoYwpLlDEqW)

# Current Projects

## 1 Alaska Trails Sustainable Trail Training

Alaska (Statewide)

Partners: Alaska Trails

RTCA Contact: Lisa Holzapfel

**Project Goal:** Educate Alaskans statewide in sustainable trail planning, design, and construction techniques.

**RTCA Role:** Help coordinate and teach course modules in both bush Alaska and along the railbelt.



Volunteers work hard to build the new Ester Dome singletrack mountain bike trail.

## 2. Tununak-Toksook Bay ATV Trail Crew Training

Tununak-Toksook Bay, Alaska

Partners: Native Village of Tununak, the Western Federal Lands Highway Division, the Denali Commission

RTCA Contact: Lisa Holzapfel

**Project Goal:** Develop a single defined, low-maintenance, 5-mile ATV trail between Tununak and Toksook Bay that minimizes environmental impacts and improves motorized and non-motorized transportation to the regional health clinic, the airport, and to recreational opportunities and subsistence resources.

**RTCA Role:** Assist the team with review of porous pavement material choices and logistics; help the village select the proper trail location; provide guidance for on-the-ground ATV trail installation methods and village trail

crew training.

## 3. Alaska Trails Statewide Rendezvous

Palmer, Alaska

Partners: Alaska Trails, Alaska State Parks, and trail-related businesses and community trail advocacy/education organizations from across the state

RTCA Contact: Heather Rice

**Project Goal:** Gather a multitude of trail enthusiasts and professionals for three days of energizing trail training, discussions, and vendors focused on the needs of Alaska's trail community.

**RTCA Role:** Build partner support and serve on the planning committee, with a focus on outreach and marketing, agenda, and logistics.

## 4. Chena State Recreation Area Mastodon Trail

Fairbanks, Alaska

Partners: Fairbanks Hiking Club, Northern Area State Parks Advisory Board, Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks and Recreation Department and Planning Committee, Alaska Trails and the Interior Trails Preservation Coalition

RTCA Contact: Lisa Holzapfel

**Project Goal:** Construct the new Mastodon hiking trail to provide safe, sustainable, year-round access to the Nugget Creek Cabin.

**RTCA Role:** Assist trail crew in preliminary trail flagging, layout of turns, and assist in evaluation of trail construction methods.

## 5. Copper River Country Stories Map Guide

Chitina and Copper River Corridor, Alaska

Partners: Copper River Watershed Project, Copper Valley Development Association, Prince William Sound Community College, Wrangell Institute for Science and Education, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve

RTCA Contact: Heather Rice

**Project Goal:** Publish an artistically rendered map for visitors and area residents, with information on trails and other recreation amenities and stories of the region's rich culture and history.

**RTCA Role:** Help facilitate commu-



RTCA trails specialists and Alaska State Parks staff flag the new Mastodon Trail in the Chena River State Recreation Area.

# Current Projects

nity dialogue and networking; and identify funding sources.

## 6. Denali State Park Trail System

Denali State Park, Alaska  
Partners: Alaska State Parks  
RTCA Contact: Heather Rice

**Project Goal:** Develop and maintain a trail system that allows for optimum outdoor recreational use of the area while protecting the natural and cultural resources of the park.

**RTCA Role:** Assist in developing a trail management plan that engages local residents and the general public in the process; provide recommendations for trail management and design (including field reconnaissance and conceptual trail layout); and identify funding sources.

## 7. Fairbanks Lion's Club Bike Skills and Pump Park

Goldstream Valley, Alaska  
Partners: Lions Club Members; Goldstream Sports; Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks and Recreation Department; Fairbanks Public Health Center; Fairbanks Soil and Water Conservation District; Alaska Trails  
RTCA Contact: Lisa Holzapfel



RTCA teaches Alaska State Park staff how to determine a sustainable grade in Denali State Park.

**Project Goal:** Design, build and construct a safe pump park and bike skills course for youth.

**RTCA Role:** Help bring technical trail feature experts to Alaska; locate funding; address liability concerns; and develop a process and strategy to get the pump park and skills course built.

**Project Goal:** Plan and construct safe, accessible and diverse trails for non-motorized and motorized users that provide recreational opportunities, safer streets, and promote wellness through physical activity.

**RTCA Role:** Assist in developing a trail management plan that engages local residents and the general public in the process; provide recommendations for trail management and design; and help identify funding sources.

## 8. Willow Community Summer Trails

Willow, Alaska  
Partners: Willow Health Organization; Willow Trails Committee  
RTCA Contact: Heather Rice

*“RTCA has been an essential partner in development of a trail management plan for Denali State Park. [We] are a small organization with no full-time planners on staff, the time and expertise provided by RTCA has more than doubled the division’s capacity on this project.”*

- Claire Holland LeClair

Chief of Field Operations/Deputy Director  
AK Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation



Willow residents sign up to learn more about the Willow Summer Trails Master Plan.

## We're Here For You!

Could your project benefit  
from RTCA Staff Assistance?  
Contact us to find out.



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

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## PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2011

### Rivers, Trails, & Conservation Assistance Program NPS RTCA Alaska Projects, FY2011

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



For more information on these and  
other projects, please phone RTCA  
at (907) 644-3586

