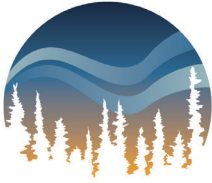


SPRING 2020



# INTERIOR ALASKA LAND TRUST



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- » Trail Thoughts
- » Chinook Park Updates
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# FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

**Owen Guthrie**

IALT Board President

Greetings! The sun is high and warm, the first signs of spring are upon us, and it feels absolutely fantastic! It has been a brisk winter, a winter like the winters of yesteryear (or at least of the late 1990s). Despite the cold, and with your wonderful support and with the help of other invaluable local partners and landowners, our all-volunteer board has used these cold, dark months to plan several major initiatives for the summer ahead.

We intend to complete the final phases of the Cripple Creek Habitat Restoration Project this summer. Look for major culvert work at Chena Spur Road, near Water Wagon. Once this has been completed, Cripple Creek will return to its historic channel, providing Chinook salmon with much needed local habitat. For supporting us in this endeavor, we would like to thank our partners, the Conservation Fund, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and DOWL Engineering, as well as the Fairbanks Soil and Water Conservation District and their Youth for Habitat Program. All of these groups have made immeasurable contributions to the success of this project. Thank you!

We also continue to have great community support for our Goldstream Greenbelt Initiative. This summer, we hope to acquire the last of three critical wetlands and trails parcels near the Blueberry Preserves. Securing title to these 120 acres means that we will be able to fill a large gap in the Goldstream Greenbelt, conserving habitat, greenspace, and recreation opportunities in perpetuity. We are very happy that this parcel is valued and enjoyed as much as it is. Look for more developments and opportunities to volunteer to help with this initiative on our Facebook page later this summer.

Thanks to you and to all our members, these achievements and many more are possible.

2020 is already looking to be a very busy year, and we need your help more than ever. If you're interested in getting involved in any of these projects, please let us know. Fairbanks is a wonderful community, and we enjoy working with you, and all of our partners.

Here's wishing you and yours a healthy, warm, and dry (but not too dry) Interior summer. ♦

## THE NUMBERS

### 2019 Financial Report

#### INCOME

Donations	\$89,467
Grants	\$203,913
Interest	\$1,569

**Total Income** **\$349,942**

#### EXPENSES

Conference & Meetings	\$6,669
Contract Services	\$117,555
Land Acquisition	\$78,514
Stewardship	\$11,153
Operations	\$4,877

**Total Expenses** **\$218,768**

**Net Income** **\$76,182**

#### ASSETS 2018

Unrestricted cash	\$13,141
Grants/Restricted	\$19,670
Stewardship	\$137,040

#### ASSETS 2019

Unrestricted Cash	\$21,740
Grants/Restricted	\$26,880
Stewardship	\$210,930

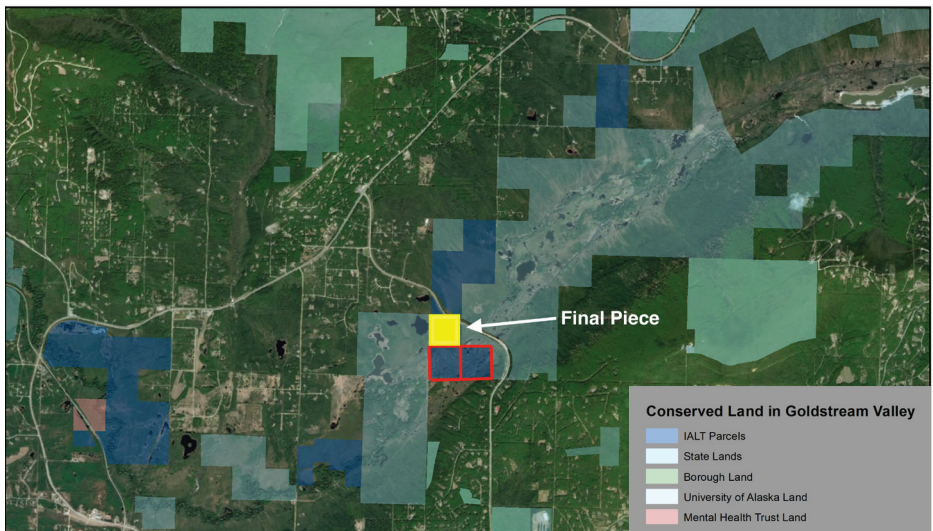
# PARCEL SPOTLIGHT: STEFFENSEN & DIX

**Dave Ruzicka**

Conservation Coordinator

Our newest acquisition is a critical 120-acre area that connects the east and west halves of conserved land in Goldstream Valley. This parcel was owned by Frank Steffensen and his sister, Christina Dix, and it contains  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile of Goldstream Creek and its buffering riparian areas. It preserves the scenic value of Ballaine Road and opens up numerous opportunities for the community to use trails, watch migratory birds, and conduct education programs and research.

After traveling to Alaska with her family in their station wagon in 1958, Frank and Christina's mother purchased the property in the mid-1960s. They frequently visited from out of state. Between roughly 1985 and 2005, Frank lived in a dry cabin on one of the parcels, watching the forest mature while observing a steady increase in summer bird populations. Both Frank and Christina value having the parcel's wetlands and green space conserved, and they see the existing winter trail as a valuable resource for the community to enjoy. This is an extremely important area for the continuity of habitat and trails in Goldstream Valley. ♦





# TRAIL THOUGHTS

## Seth Adams

Board Member

We often take trails for granted in Fairbanks. For many of us, being able to walk out our doors and onto a neighborhood trail for our daily escape is one of the most important facets of life here. What we don't always realize is that many of these trails are not permanently protected.

One of the best examples is the trail crossing our newly-acquired parcels adjacent to Ballaine Road (Steffensen and Dix). These properties host one of the main, arterial trails crossing Goldstream Valley. Before our agreement to purchase those parcels was finalized last summer, most trail users likely didn't know they were only able to use that trail thanks to the generosity of its previous owners. If they had put up a "No Trespassing" sign, then that trail would have been immediately closed. If the property had been sold to a developer, then the trails may have been lost forever.

Thanks to the generous support of our members and sustaining donors, IALT acquired the Steffensen and Dix parcels last year and therefore preserved this vital trail corridor in Goldstream Valley. Preserving critical junctions in public green spaces is a priority for us at the Land Trust. If trails are an important part of your life in Fairbanks, please consider making a donation to IALT today.

Without your financial support, these acquisitions would not be possible. The IALT board feels a new sense of urgency related to another private property in the Cripple Creek watershed that contains a popular trail. The property is vulnerable to imminent development. We're in discussions with the owner and are beginning to fundraise. Please stay-tuned for updates. ♦



*IALT Volunteers on National Trails Day 2019*

# CHINOOK CONSERVATION PARK

**Dave Ruzicka**

Conservation Coordinator



*New 2-mile trail loop in Chinook Conservation Park*

On June 1, IALT partnered with REI and community volunteers to build a one mile walking trail along the historic Cripple Creek channel (see map). Despite the heavy rain, we loaded ourselves up with various tools and set to work. We made great time clearing a path, while also having a great time. This walking trail is to be expanded during this summer and the next, with a bridge or two for ease of access to the western half of this 90-acre parcel.

To celebrate this new trail and opt outside on Black Friday, IALT led a snowshoe hike using equipment generously donated by REI. We had around 20 participants and packed a fantastic snowshoe trail. In addition to our goals to increase the quantity of new trails and the quality of existing trails on this parcel, we also hope to increase public use and support. Park at the Justa Store, bring a dog or two, and enjoy the 2-mile loop! ♦

## VOLUNTEER SHOUT OUT

Thanks for all your help in 2019!

The IALT board would like to thank all of the volunteers that made our work in 2019 possible: Helen Adams, Sam Dashevsky, Gail Davidson, Eleanor Guthrie, Frank Keim, Cam Leonard, Klara Maisch, Teal Rogers, Betsy and Matthew Sturm, and all the neighbors who help us steward our conservation properties.

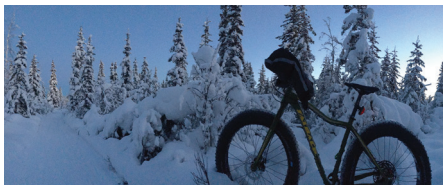
A big thank you to the team at Ivory Jacks for their generosity in hosting our annual fundraiser and silent auction on November 2nd!

Interested in volunteering with us? Check our website [interioraklandtrust.org](http://interioraklandtrust.org) for more info.



# FROM AROUND FAIRBANKS

Many thanks to all of our friends who enjoy and support conservation lands in Fairbanks



"I moved to the Goldstream Valley in summer of 2018 and love it for its solitude and network of outdoor areas and trails. I frequently run, ski, and bike on the trails I can access from the cabin I'm in or from my friends' cabins, whether sunny summer night or dark winter afternoon. It's a really special place. I've never lived anywhere like it...I hope it can remain here for me and those who come after!"

- Andrew McKnight ♦



"Conserving spaces within Fairbanks creates outdoor adventure opportunities for people who may not otherwise have the time/energy to venture off too far from home. Access to the Chinook trail just minutes from our home allows our family the opportunity to get outside without too much preparation besides water bottles and bug spray! Our hikes on this trail ground us during our busy lives and keep us connected to this small part of the Alaskan wilderness. We are thankful for IALT's conservation efforts and look forward to enjoying this trail for years to come." - Toni Nunley ♦



"Chinook Conservation Trail was my first hike with Hike It Baby, and it was the start of something amazing. Being able to connect with other people who love Alaska and enjoy the outdoors has been an invaluable resource for me as an at-home mom. We have returned to Chinook Trail, and many others, throughout the seasons and look forward to many more adventures." - Connie Plumley ♦

## LAND CONSERVED

### PARCELS OWNED

12 properties  
719 acres

### EASEMENTS

17 properties  
1,278 acres

**1,997**  
TOTAL  
ACRES





“Over the almost 60 years I’ve lived in Alaska, I’ve not seen a place as small yet so teeming with wildlife as the Peat Ponds, particularly bird life in the warmer months from May to the end of September. Birds are special to me, and I often enjoy watching them there. In addition to birdwatching, though, there are many other forms of recreation available for everyone at the Peat Ponds, including canoeing in summer and skating and skiing in late fall and winter. Last autumn, I was able to skate there many times before the first snow fell, and, thanks to the volunteers who cleared the ice, even after the snow remained. And when there was just enough snow on top of the ice, I took my first three cross-country ski jaunts around the periphery of the pond, since the trails by my house were still not snowy enough to ski on them. When I’m out there, I can’t say how much I enjoy seeing kids and their parents taking advantage of this special place.” - Frank Keim ♦



“I grew up in Fairbanks skiing and hiking with my family and friends. I’m so grateful to IALT for maintaining the trails around Fairbanks for decades. I am thrilled to see my children enjoying the same land that I did as a child while forming friendships and a love for the outdoors.”  
- Allie ♦

## BECOME A MEMBER

Member donations make the work we do possible. Please consider signing up or renewing your membership today on our website [interioraklandtrust.org](https://interioraklandtrust.org). Membership levels start as low as \$25.



# SPECIAL THANKS

*Thank you to our members, donors and volunteers for making the work we do possible.*

## MEMBERS

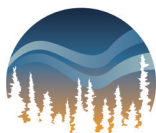
ABR, S, H Adams, Arctic Wild, A Armstrong, T Bachert, O&A Backlund, N Ballou, R Barry, A Batten, S Beck, M&D Bishop, D&S Bishop, T Booms, P&P Bowers, S Bredbenner, L&K Bright, M Buckley, S Budge, A Buetow, P&D Burns, B&L Bursiel, M Burtness, K&R Cannone, M&T Chapin, K&S Clautice, P Condon, D Costello, D&J Cowee, A Crosby, T Dahill, S Dauenhauer, G Davidson, J Davies & L Schandelmeier, J&P Delamere, J&N Dewitt, A Doeringhaus & B Witte, R Dupras, M&J Durst, C&R Everett, D Fee, C Ferree, B Flodin, L Foster, N Foster, J&J Fox, J Franz & D Mather, S Fritz, C&F Funk, T Gasbarro, H Genet & B Pignon, L&S Grage, J Groves, O, ML&D Guthrie, D Guttenberg, W Hao, F Harasack, R&A Harrington, S Hayes, M Head, S Heidorn, L Hensel, B&J Henszey, R Hompesch, G Hopkins, L Hopkins & E Guttenberg, D Huang, A Hussey, T Ignacio, J&K Irving, B Jackson, J James, R&C Johnson, T&J Jorgensen, S Justice, K Kaiser, J Kaufman & L Kamerling, C Kaynor & D Partee, F&J Keim, M Kellner, J Kidd & J Lindstrom, D Kiely, C Klopff, H Koponen, D Kovacich, A Kroeker, L Kugel, B&L LaBelle-Hamer, J Lageson, E Leistikow, C Leonard, S Lewis, C Linkswiler, J Lipka & J Schickness, S Liss, M Lockwood, C&B Loeffler, D Lokken & C Roblee, M Macander & K Garrity, J Magdanz, M Mannix, D Marshall, P&J Martin, S Masterman & S Swift, B Matthews, G Mayo, W McAmis,

B McGrath-Bernhard, B McIntosh, H Meyers, S Milkowski, M Moeller, S Moll, P Morrow & C Hensel, T Moyer, D&B Murray, G Myerchin & K Tape, J Naze, C Newberry, G Newman & C Koponen, MA Nickles, D Osborne, T Paragi, C Parker, C Parr & M Biagi, C Parr III, P&J Piersol, D&T Pendergrast, E Pettibone, J&D Pinnell-Stephens, A Plager & C Nye, M Plitcha, R&B Post, B Powell, A Pritchard & A Larson, P Raybeck, M Reynolds, P&T Reichardt, J&T Reilly, K Richardson, B&B Ritchie, W&B Robertson, A Ruggles & D Hampton, M Sales, J&M Schell, T Schlentner, E Schoen, T Seaton, M Shields, J Shook, L Silberling, M Simon, D Sims, S Singler, JR&T Smith, J Smith, E Sousa, M Spindler & P Nelson, M&G Springer, N Stewart, J Stitt, R&L Stoltzberg, M Stredny, A&D Swift, S, B&R Tabbert, K&D Taber, W Tape, S Taylor, J Taylor, R&M Teel, S Todd, D&J Triplehorn, E Troyer & C Leistikow, S Walker, M Walleri, J Walters, W Walters, J Welch, C Wentworth, M Whalen, P Wille, J Williamson & J Fitzgerald, S Winder & M Whitley, C&C Zachel, M Zalar & K Whitten

## BOARD MEMBERS

Seth Adams, Owen Guthrie, Kayde Kaiser, Martha Reynolds, Jen Schell, Brendan LaBelle-Hamer\*, Carolyn Loeffler\*

\*non-voting board member until fall election



INTERIOR  
ALASKA  
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