

# PATHS & PADDLEWAYS

the quarterly newsletter of Island Trails Network



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## Work Continues on area ATV Trails

Last summer, Island Trails Network went to work hardening two major ATV trails, the Portage Trail connecting the village of Larsen Bay to the Karluk river and the Summit Lake trail originating at Kalsin Bay.

Working in the remote Karluk river valley, we assembled and installed a quarter mile of Geoblock, a porous paving system made of recycled plastics, across some of the most severely impacted soils.

The improved trail may enable some village elders, who would be otherwise unable to cross the bogs, to return to the Karluk river valley where they have subsisted on its salmon resource, wild game and upland berries for generations.

Volunteers from the Coast Guard's Eco-Challenge race helped us build five bridges on the Summit Lake trail, as we embarked upon a multi-year project to re-route the trail from the lake bed to higher ground on the opposite side of the lake. This re-route spans several miles and is funded by a grant from the NRCS.

At both sites, the Geoblock panels provide a hardened, stable riding surface over unstable soils, reduce erosion and sedimentation, and allow the trail surface to support vegetation.

## Welcome to ITN

This is the first newsletter of Island Trails Network. We are a member-driven 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated developing, maintaining, and promoting sustainable land and water trail systems and access throughout the Kodiak Island Archipelago.

Beginning with three board members, a volunteer executive director and a small handful of members, ITN had a phenomenally successful year in 2007, expanding our board to seven voting members, our membership to 61 and advance our executive director position to a paid contract.

In the field, we ITN took on and completed four major trail projects during the summer of 2007 including two trail hardening and re-route projects in remote areas, a marine debris survey and clean-up of a local beach.

Studies show that Kodiak exceeds the national average for trail users per capita, and recreation consistently ranks as a high priority among Kodiak residents. Our membership is a diverse group of hikers, bikers, runners and riders who enjoy Kodiak's trail system enough to make a difference.

As our inaugural year gives way to a new season, we will be adding urban trail planning, consulting, and construction to our list of ongoing trail projects.

Learn more about Island Trails Network, become a member or renew your membership at our website. [www.islandtrails.org](http://www.islandtrails.org)

Happy Trails!



## Volunteers clean Marine Debris from Pillar Creek

Through a grant from the Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies, our team of over 60 volunteers collected 75 bags of trash and were responsible for the removal 4700 pounds of marine debris from Pillar Creek on May 12th. Our bounty included two derelict vehicles and over 400 pounds of pallet nails.

The Pillar Creek CoastWalk project improved the habitat for local wildlife, improved the quality of experience for recreational users, restored a site of cultural history, promoted awareness of the hazards of marine debris to the environment, and built volunteer experience throughout the Kodiak community.

Thank you to all our volunteers who took part.

## Marine Debris Survey under way

Fueled by the energy surrounding the Pillar Creek CoastWalk, we wondered what other beaches might be plagued by marine debris. Thus began a partnership with the Marine Conservation Alliance Foundation (MCAF) to conduct a survey of marine debris deposits across the Kodiak archipelago.

Through aerial surveillance, 1639 data points covering 629.5 miles of coastline were evaluated for marine debris deposits. This comprises about 45% of the archipelago.

The results of the survey may be used for the purposes of designing, planning, and funding marine debris clean-ups. The survey will continue in 2008 and results from 2007 are available on our website.



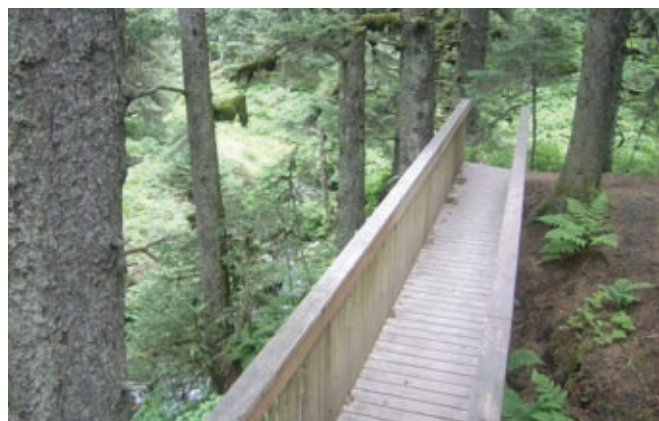
## ITN's vision

To be an acknowledged expert resource on trails and open spaces advocacy, action and education on Kodiak

## Improvements Slated for Island Lake Trail

During fall of 2007, we were approached by the Kodiak Island Borough to improve the Island Lake Trail connecting Mill Bay to the Island Lake neighborhood by replacing a foot bridge that had recently collapsed.

Using donated services and volunteer labor, we plan to replace the fallen bridge, as well as add 250 feet of boardwalk to some of the low-lying areas of the trail near the lily pond. In addition, by working with neighbors, community leaders, and others whom the trail serves, we hope to identify and potential improvements to the trail this winter and spring.



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