



PRESS RELEASE September 6, 2018
For Immediate Release

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Community Support and Partnerships Breathe Life into the Treadwell Ditch Trail

JUNEAU, Alaska — Trail Mix, Inc. in partnership with the City & Borough of Juneau, USDA Forest Service, Alaska Dept. of Natural Resources, National Forest Foundation, and the Juneau Community Foundation, along with tremendous community support, has taken on the Treadwell Ditch Trail Renovation Project as its top priority. When completed the Treadwell Ditch Trail will once again become a premiere trail in Juneau and a destination trail for outdoor recreation enthusiasts who live here year round and those who are visiting.

This celebration of the progress being made by Trail Mix on the Treadwell Ditch Trail Renovation Project will include recognition of the National Forest Foundation/Juneau Community Foundation grant award that is supporting significant trail work this field season. The Juneau Community Foundation's first *Parks, Trails & Recreation Fund* grant of \$50,000 was awarded in support of the Treadwell Ditch Trail project. It was matched by the National Forest Foundation, bringing the total to \$85,000. These funds were used primarily for purchase and installation of bridges this field season. Representatives from Trail Mix, National Forest Foundation, and the Juneau Community Foundation will share brief remarks on the project and the partnership that has formed to see the project through to completion.

"The Treadwell Ditch has been Trail Mix, Inc.'s top priority for years," said Erik Boraas, Executive Director of Trail Mix. "We have accomplished a lot, but there is a lot more to do, and thanks to our partners and overwhelming community support we'll get it done!"

In 2018, two timber frame bridges were funded through a partnership with the National Forest Foundation and the Juneau Community Foundation which helped connect the Blueberry Hills access trail to the Bonnie Brae trail.

EVENT DETAILS

The public and media are invited to attend this event to celebrate the accomplishments, recognize the partnership and community support, and learn more about what is on the horizon for this endeavor.

Where: Amalga Distillery, 134 N. Franklin St.

When: Tuesday, September 11th 5:15pm-6:00 pm

*Presentation will begin at 5:30-5:45pm

"We use our trails, and we care about our trails," said Reed Stoops, Juneau Community Foundation, Board Member. "The Juneau Community Foundation seeks to turn that high level of participation and sense of ownership into support for projects that improve and expand our recreational trails – enhancing these community assets for years to come."

Since 2010, four timber frame bridges over 35' have been installed; twenty native timber bridges between 6' and 20' were installed; and thousands of pounds of gravel have been spread to harden the surface of miles of trails. In 2017 alone, Trail Mix, Inc. documented over 1000 hours of volunteer hours, 3000 hours of grant funded trail crew hours, and \$250,000 in material and transportation costs.

The Treadwell Ditch Trail follows the Treadwell Ditch, a 14-mile-long aqueduct constructed between 1882 and 1889 to supply power and water for the Treadwell Mines, at the time the largest gold mining complex in the world. The trail has been used by recreation enthusiasts since its creation. Over the decades, it has fallen into a state of severe disrepair. With the support of this partnership and the community, the trail is taking on a new life as part of Juneau's world-class trail system.

"We are excited to be a partner and provide funding to create a world-class recreation trail for the residents of Juneau," said Patrick Shannon, Pacific Northwest Director of the National Forest Foundation. "Through our Alaska Forest Fund we have been able to support this work and make a significant impact in 2018."

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