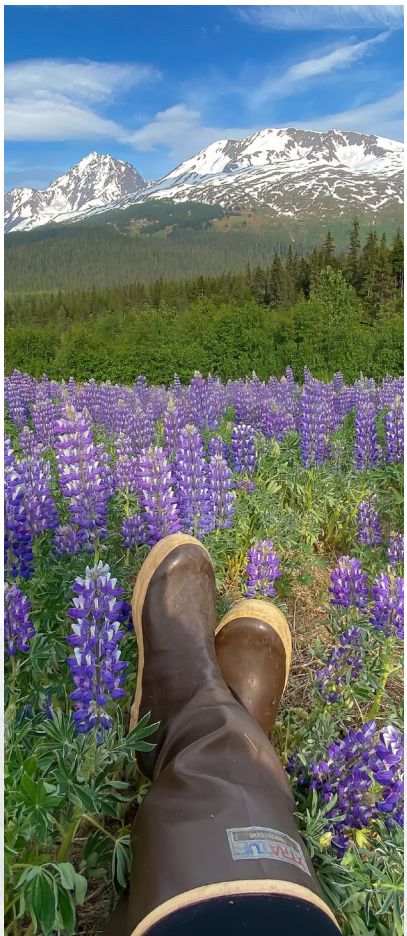
KENAI MOUNTAINS–TURNAGAIN ARM
NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

2022 ANNUAL REPORT










FOSTERING PRIDE OF PLACE AND AN ENDURING STEWARDSHIP ETHIC

WWW.KMTACORRIDOR.ORG

WELCOME NEW STAFF & BOARD MEMBERS



JESSA WEST
DEVELOPMENT & GRANTS MANAGER



JILLIAN JABLONSKI
BOARD MEMBER



MADDIE HALLORAN
BOARD MEMBER



THEO LEXMOND
BOARD MEMBER

AS ALASKA'S ONLY NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA, OUR MISSION IS TO PRESERVE AND SHARE THE HISTORIC, NATURAL, AND CULTURAL RESOURCES OF THE KMTA REGION.



SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS, VOLUNTEERS, AND SUPPORTERS!

This includes, but is not limited to the following major contributors, Outdoor School partners, and both sponsors and partners of our key events.

MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS:

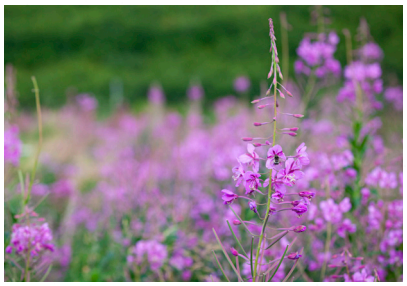
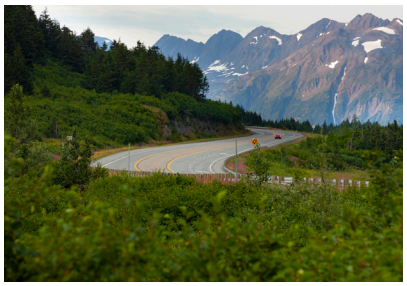
Vincent Francis Huebsch Charitable Foundation, Eric Syzmoniak, US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service

OUTDOOR SCHOOL PARTNERS:

US Forest Service, US Park Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Anchorage Park Foundation, Anchorage Museum, University of Alaska Anchorage, GeocacheAlaska!, Alaska Botanical Garden, Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Alaska State Parks, Anchorage School District

EVENT PARTNERS AND SPONSORS:

Girdwood Nordic Ski Club, Chugach Adventures, Alaska Railroad, Seaview Café, Alaska Bike Adventures, Seward Bike Shop, Creekbend Company, Turnagain Kayak and Coffeehouse, Trek Anchorage, Alaska Cycle Chic, Hope School, Hope EMS, Max Romey Productions, Alaska Trails, Bear Tooth Theatre, Alyeska Resort, The Bake Shop, Girdwood Brewing, The Ice Cream Shop, Powder Hound Ski, Zip Kombucha, KMTA Board of Directors


HIGH LEVEL IMPACTS BY THE NUMBERS

VOLUNTEERS
264

VOLUNTEER HOURS
2661

VALUE OF VOLUNTEER HOURS
$83,396

TRAILS MAINTAINED
3

PARTICIPANTS IN KMTA PROJECTS & PROGRAMS
2641

YOUTH SERVED
1,192

PARTNERS ENGAGED
110

203
SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

84 %
NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIBERS

OLD WEBPAGES UPDATED
1

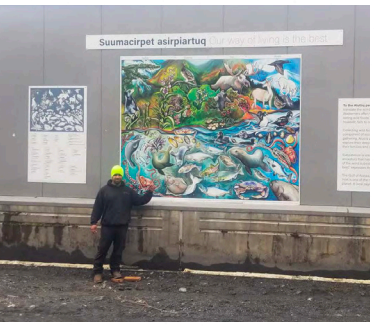
NEW WEBPAGES CREATED
7

WEBSITE USERS
11,922

WEBSITE PAGEVIEWS
26,452

30%
30%
SOCIAL MEDIA AWARENESS INCREASE

GRANTS





CHUGACH REGIONAL RESOURCES COMMISSION MURALS

We were thrilled to support the CRRC's efforts to commemorate the history and culture of the Alutiiq people through a mural installation project at the Alutiiq Pride Marine Institute– their long-standing Seward-based marine research facility. This project includeds the installation of two distinct but complementary murals. The first showcases an aerial view of the Resurrection Bay Watershed which extends from the outer bay past Cooper Landing and Moose Pass. This map depicts the historical villages of the Unegkurmiut people– the First Peoples of Qutekcak (Seward) and ancestors of today's Sugpiaq Pacific Eskimo. The second mural features traditional subsistence foods for the native people of Southcentral Alaska and highlights the cultural importance of subsistence harvesting in the region. The CRRC views this art as a perfect complement to their native land acknowledgement efforts in Seward.









FINISHED GRANTS BY THE NUMBERS

GRANTS COMPLETED BY COMMUNITY

COOPER LANDING: 1 | GIRDWOOD: 4
HOPE: 3 | MOOSE PASS: 2 | SEWARD: 5
WHITTIER: 1 | REGIONAL: 1

VOLUNTEERS
127

VOLUNTEER HOURS
1,122

VALUE OF VOLUNTEER HOURS
$35,163.48

GRANT FUNDING DISBURSED TO COMPLETED GRANT PROJECTS

$92,291

GRANTS COMPLETED

17

MATCH GENERATED FROM COMPLETED GRANT PROJECTS

$152,567

"OUR YOUTH PROGRAMS FOSTER OUTDOOR SKILLS AND CULMINATE IN EXPEDITIONS THAT COMBINE WILDERNESS EXPERIENCE WITH STEWARDSHIP WORK. BEST OF ALL, THEY'RE FREE TO ALASKAN YOUTH, THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS LIKE KMTA."

-CAITLYN TETTERTON, ALASKA GEOGRAPHIC STAFF











OUTDOOR RECREATION YOUTH STEWARDSHIP

Alaska Geographic provided four immersive and educational outdoor experiences in the KMTA National Heritage Area for thirty Alaska youth from underserved communities during the summer of 2022. Trips took place on the Iditarod National Historic Trail, Johnson Pass, Resurrection Pass, and Lost Lake & Exit Glacier.

These expeditions connect Alaskan teens to Alaska communities and their public lands while learning fundamental backpacking skills, trail building skills, and stewardship ethics through direct experience. The focus of these trips is to give youth an enjoyable, fun experience that provides space for them to develop a relationship within the KMTA Heritage Area and discover how they can engage with public lands.

NEW GRANTS BY THE NUMBERS

GRANT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

12

NEW GRANTS AWARDED
PROJECTS KMTA COMMITTED TO REIMBURSE ONCE COMPLETED

7

COMMITED FUNDING
FOR NEW GRANTS AWARDED

$95,862

ESTIMATED MATCH
FROM NEW GRANTS AWARDED

$165,965

EDUCATION

OUTDOOR SCHOOL BY THE NUMBERS

PARTICIPANTS
511

YOUTH SERVED
418

SCHOOLS SERVED
9

COMMUNITIES SERVED
4

PROGRAM WEEKS
7

PROGRAM DAYS
16







THE RETURN OF OUTDOOR SCHOOL

KMTA's Outdoor School was created to extend multidisciplinary instruction beyond the classroom and provide meaningful opportunities for students to engage with their public lands. We operate this program in partnership with a diverse coalition of federal agencies, state organizations and local non-profits. Our goal is to lower many of the barriers to outdoor education. This past year has shown us that it's more important than ever for students to have high-quality outdoor education that benefits their social, emotional, and academic well-being. As resources and opportunities for students continue to shrink, we remain committed to making our Outdoor School and new education programs accessible and engaging. We are proud to share the progress we've made over the past year and our plans for future program implementation and growth.

This past 2021-2022 school year, we welcomed nearly 420 students to our fall and spring Outdoor School programs. These students came from 9 schools across the Anchorage School District (ASD)—the largest district in Alaska and the most diverse in the nation. Their backgrounds and identities reflected the diversity of the district itself. Over 20 schools applied for 6 slots in our spring 2022 application cycle, a clear indication of the appetite for outdoor learning opportunities. 53% of the selected schools were Title I whose students attended our Outdoor School at no cost. Student responses from our post-Outdoor School survey prove the program's positive impact on student learning, skills, and behaviors.











"THE OUTDOOR SCHOOL IS A WONDERFUL PLACE AND IT MADE ME FEEL MORE CONNECTED AND I HOPE MY LITTLE BROTHER CAN FEEL THE SAME."

-OUTDOOR SCHOOL STUDENT

VOLUNTEERS
39

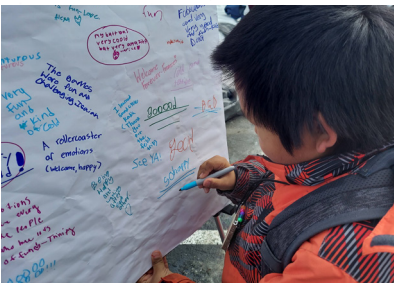
VOLUNTEER HOURS
1009

VALUE OF VOLUNTEER HOURS
$31,178

PARTNERS
12

















EVENTS

KMTA CLASSIC

In partnership with the Girdwood Nordic Ski Club (GNSC), KMTA hosted the inaugural KMTA Classic—a family friendly ski event on the Girdwood 5K Nordic Loop that celebrated the history of the trail and its users. KMTA helped fund interpretative signage for the 5K Loop that highlights the legacy of the 1969 Junior National Ski Race and the 10K trail that was constructed for it and maintained for a decade thereafter. This trail—the first recreational-purpose trail built in Girdwood—helped bring tourism and ski racing to Alaska. In fact, the 1969 Junior National Ski Race was the first national race held by the Nordic Ski Club of Alaska. The remarkable Shirley Firth from Inuvik championed that race and became one of the first Indigenous women to compete in international ski racing, eventually as an Olympian. The Nordic 5K Loop we know and love today is actually built over a portion of that historic 10K trail, and boasts small handmade signs throughout the forest that show the original route. The KMTA Classic drew close to 90 competitors to the trail, and was supported by 29 volunteers, 220 volunteer hours, and many local businesses.











EVENTS BY THE NUMBERS

PARTICIPANTS IN HERITAGE AREA EVENTS
938

KMTA EVENTS
5

VOLUNTEERS
98

VOLUNTEER HOURS
527

VALUE OF VOLUNTEER HOURS
$16,516









SPENCER GLACIER 5M DASH

KMTA hosted our 2nd Annual Spencer Dash 5 mile running race in June 2022. Organized in partnership with Chugach Adventures and the Alaska Railroad, the race followed the Spencer Glacier Overlook Trail and the path of the glacier's recession over the last 100 years. With the weather in our favor, the glacier's beauty was on full display throughout the event, leaving a lasting impression on everyone there. We had a crowd of 75+ participants as diverse as the heritage area itself. We're are so grateful for the 24 volunteers who invested 100 hours of volunteer time to make this event happen, along with the dedication of KMTA's staff.

MINESHAFT GRINDER

We wrapped up the summer by hosting our third annual Mineshaft Grinder in August 2022, and we are still riding high from all the fun. This running and gravel bike race of various distances of the Palmer Creek Road in Hope celebrated the unique mining history of the town. The event had an incredible turnout, with a 63% increase in the number of athletes compared to last year. Despite some gnarly weather, 65 athletes ranging in age from 15-79 came out in full force to compete in one of three races: the Gold Grinder Bike Race, Silver Grinder Half-Marathon, or Quartz Grinder 8.5 mile run. A big highlight this year was the addition of ParaSport Alaska athletes from Challenge Alaska who compete in a new paracycle division of the Gold Grinder. It was a joy working with Challenge Alaska to make the Mineshaft Grinder more accessible and inclusive, and we're looking forward to doing the same for all of our events. Collectively our volunteers contributed 150 hours of volunteer time to help bring this event to life.













SCHEDULED KMTA EVENTS IN 2023

MARCH

KMTA CLASSIC
GIRDWOOD

MAY

KMTA GEOTRAIL KICKOFF
GIRDWOOD

JUNE

SPENCER GLACIER 5M DASH
PORTAGE

AUGUST

MINESHAFT GRINDER
HOPE











To ANCHORAGE
Seward Hwy
INDIAN
BIRD
GIRDWOOD
TURNAGAIN ARM
HOPE
Point Comfort Cemetery
SUNRISE
PORTAGE
Portage Pass
WHITTIER
The Forks
Wible Camp Overlook
Resurrection Trail
Resurrection Pass
Devil's Pass Trail
Devil's Pass
Johnson Pass Trail
GRANDVIEW
KMTA NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA
To HOMER
Sterling Hwy
Langille Mtn.
COOPER LANDING
Cecil Rhode Mtn.
MOOSE PASS
KENAI LAKE
Andy Simons Mnt.
Mt. Benson
Mt. Marathon
SEWARD
IDITAROD NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL
KMTA AREA
HIGHWAY
HIKING PATHS
RAILROAD


Goon






The Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm National Heritage Area (KMTA) exists to protect and share the history, culture, and wild landscape of a historic part of Southcentral Alaska – in essence, our heritage. To us, this means removing barriers to access and enjoyment of the region, supporting grassroots projects that uplift and instill pride in our small, vibrant communities, and facilitating public education about the importance of KMTA's past, present, and future.

A donation to KMTA could help expand equitable access to outdoor learning opportunities for Alaskan youth, or fund a community trail project. It could help restore natural habitat, foster inclusive outdoor recreation, or even support the preservation of a historical building. No matter who you are, where you live, or what you can contribute, when you give a gift to KMTA, you help us preserve this remarkable place for all and become a part of our living heritage.

SUPPORT US TODAY AT THE QR CODE BELOW!









CONTACT

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MINESHAFT GRINDER PHOTO CREDITS: Goon Gallery
SPENCER GLACIER 5M DASH PHOTO CREDITS: Corey Johnson
FRONT & BACK COVER PHOTO CREDITS: Janessa Anderson, Amy Bragg, Heather Johnson, Lindsay DeLevante, Nicole Lawrence, Marissa Beck, Tina Heikkla, Simon Evans, Christian Nafzger