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**PLANNING COMMISSION AND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

**SPECIAL JOINT MEETING AGENDA  
WASILLA CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Wasilla City Hall, 290 E. Herning Avenue, Wasilla, AK 99654 (907) 373-9090

**SPECIAL JOINT MEETING**

**6 P.M.**

**AUGUST 9, 2011**

- I. CALL TO ORDER**
- II. ROLL CALL**
- III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
- V. PUBLIC HEARING** (Three minutes per person)
- VI. PERSONS TO BE HEARD**
- VII. NEW BUSINESS**
  - A. Committee of the Whole
    - 1. Draft Parks and Trails Master Plan
- VIII. COMMUNICATION ITEMS**
- IX. STAFF COMMENTS**
- X. COMMISSION COMMENTS**
- XI. ADJOURNMENT**



# CITY OF WASILLA

• Planning Office •

290 East Herning Avenue • Wasilla • Alaska • 99654-7091

• Telephone 907-373-9020 •

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## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** August 3, 2011

**TO:** Planning Commission  
Parks and Recreation Commission

**FROM:** Tina Crawford, City Planner *TC*

**RE:** Draft Parks and Trails Master Plan

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Included in this packet is a copy of the initial draft of the Parks Master Plan (prepared January 2008), an updated Parks and Trails Master Plan that contains updated information, and a copy of the Parks and Recreation Commission minutes from June 29, 2011.

The significant changes between the initial draft and the revised draft are outlined below:

- Updated Census information
- Updated Project Facility Requirement information (using population projects adopted in 2011 City of Wasilla Comprehensive Plan)
- Revised map reflecting only City parks
- Streamlined park data into table format
- Substitution of 1999 Trails Plan for trail information in Appendix D
- Removal of non-City owned facility information
- Reduction in size from 11"x17" to 8 ½"x11"
- Reorientation from landscape to portrait

Staff is requesting that the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Planning Commission review the updated draft at their joint meeting on August 9, 2011 and provide staff with any recommended changes. Once these changes have been incorporated into the draft Parks and Trails Master Plan, staff will schedule the required Planning Commission and City Council adoption public hearings.



# WASILLA CULTURAL RESOURCE PLAN

including City parks, trails, libraries and museums

Prepared for THE CITY OF WASILLA Wasilla, Alaska



**Project Team:**

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**“As Needed” Members**

Pete Powell  
Barbara Peryam  
Janice Williams  
Jim Hayes  
Brenda Carr  
John Luster

**“Resource” Parties**

Diane Keller



## **Table of Contents**

### **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 Background
- 1.2 Scope and Objectives

### **2.0 Methods**

- 2.1 Inventory and Assessment
  - 2.1.1 Project Website
  - 2.1.2 Public Questionnaire
  - 2.1.3 Public Meetings
- 2.2 Review of Existing Information

### **3.0 Findings**

- 3.1 Public Questionnaire Results
- 3.2 Existing Athletic Facilities
- 3.3 Proposed Athletic Facilities
- 3.4 Projected Facility Requirements
- 3.5 Recommended Classification System for Local and Regional Recreational Open Space
- 3.6 Park Area Analysis

### **4.0 Conclusions and Recommendations**

- 4.1 Program for Parks and Recreation facilities
- 4.2 Trails / Greenways
- 4.3 Recommended Classification System for Local and Recreational Open Space
- 4.4 Trail Descriptions in order of Importance
- 4.5 Greenways

### **5.0 Bibliography**

**6.0 Appendix A**

- Project Website
- Project Questionnaire
- Citizen Advisory Group Meeting Agenda
- Public Welcoming Event Agenda

**7.0 Appendix B**

- List of Sites
- City of Wasilla Context Map
- Park Inventory Checklists

**8.0 Appendix C**

- Questionnaire Results
- Questionnaire Comments
- Existing Athletic Facilities
- Proposed Athletic Facilities
- Projected Facility Requirements
- Recommended Classification System for Local & Regional Recreational Open Space
- Park Area Analysis

**9.0 Appendix D**

- City of Wasilla Trails Map
- Recommended Classification System for Local & Regional Recreational Trails
- Trail Descriptions

## **1.0 Introduction**

### **1.1 Background**

The City of Wasilla contracted with Tryck Nyman Hayes, Inc. landscape architects to prepare a comprehensive master plan that will create a long term plan for existing and future citywide parks, greenbelts and trails. This plan serves as a long range vision (5 to 20 year time frame) for future development and programming.

### **1.2 Scope and Objectives**

The objective of this project is to inventory existing facilities within the City of Wasilla limits and engage the public in developing the future needs of the community.

- Conduct an inventory of the City of Wasilla parks and trails
  - Develop, distribute and summarize a Wasilla parks questionnaire
  - Organize a Citizen Advisory Group (CAG) and conduct meetings to discuss the project
  - Develop a project website informing the public about the project and the public process
  - Organize a public welcoming event to gather public information about parks and trails
- Prepare a needs assessment for the City of Wasilla parks and trails
  - Consult National Recreation and Park Association Guidelines for Parks and Recreation Facilities
  - Consult City of Wasilla census information for estimated population counts
- Prepare a program for the City of Wasilla parks and trails
  - Consult the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Asset Management Plan - "Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan"
  - Consult the Wasilla Trails Plan 1999 City Amendment and the Wasilla Comprehensive Plan 1996
- Prepare schematic designs for future parks and greenbelts (ongoing)
- Prepare a comprehensive citywide master plan
  - Prepare a concept level cost analysis (will happen after the schematic designs are prepared)
  - Recommend an implementation plan (will happen after the schematic designs are prepared)

## 2.0 Methods

### 2.1 Inventory and Assessment

During this inventory and assessment, the design team used a variety of methods, which are highlighted below.

- Project website
- Project questionnaire
- Field observation
- Collection of approved master plans: Iditapark, Multi-Use Sports Complex (MUSC) and Bumpus Recreational Area
- Aerial photography and topography
- Site parcel / platting information within the City of Wasilla limits

Recognizing that the public was an essential part of the needs and assessment, a Citizen Advisory Group (CAG) was organized. Several CAG meetings were held throughout the process. A public welcoming event at the MUSC included the public in the planning effort. A project questionnaire was mailed to all of the residents within the City of Wasilla limits to gather input on the current use of the existing parks and trails and future needs for park and trail facilities. The project website was updated to maintain public awareness of the project status and contact information.

A list of twenty sites within the City of Wasilla limits was developed and approved by the CAG. A check list identifying existing facilities at these sites was developed prior to the field observations. Each site was photographed to document the current conditions of the existing facilities. These checklists are included in Appendix B.

The design team and CAG recognized a number of existing recreational facilities and Matanuska-Susitna Borough schools just outside of the City limits needed to be accounted for in the assessment. These schools and Matanuska-Susitna Borough recreational facilities within two miles of the City limits were surveyed by interviewing school personnel and utilizing plans and aerial photography to identify existing facilities. These facilities have been listed in the chart titled "Existing Athletic Facilities," but have not been included in the "Projected Facility Requirement" chart because they are not currently owned by the City of Wasilla.

The latest park, recreation, open space and greenway guidelines released by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) appear to have been based on a new philosophy, with a "systems approach" to community facility planning. The new approach reconsiders the old notion of a national standard of 10 acres of park land for every 1,000 people, which has been in place since 1981 and is generally recognized as deficient in today's recreation and open space environment. The new NRPA "systems approach" addresses the following trends:

- Need to accommodate different cultures
- Need to include public opinion
- Identification of the wellness movement
- Establishment of level of service standards
- Recognition that the residents of each community should be given the right to determine the size and use of land set aside for parks and recreation facilities.

#### 2.1.1 Project Website

A project web page was established at the beginning of the project. This web page was linked to the City of Wasilla website under the heading of "What's Up Today". The link to the web page was posted on the public questionnaire and handed out at the public meetings. Throughout the project, the web page was updated with the most current project data and meeting dates. The project website has been included in Appendix A.

### **2.1.2 Public Questionnaire**

The public questionnaire included the project goal, the project team, and eight questions about citywide parks, trails and right of way acquisition. A copy of the project questionnaire is in Appendix A. There was also a place for respondents to write in their comments. It was mailed to all residents living within the City of Wasilla limits. All completed questionnaires were returned to the City of Wasilla by June 30, 2007. There were 101 questionnaires returned to the City of Wasilla and the responses are included in Appendix C.

### **2.1.3 Public meetings**

The initial CAG meeting was held on June 25, 2007, and Dave Tuttle was elected as the chairperson. The CAG approved the list of sites to be inventoried by the design team. They also gave the design team their input as to what was needed within the City of Wasilla.

The public welcoming event on September 5, 2007, was advertised in the Frontiersman. The sports user groups were invited to attend. The design team had two interactive tables at the event; one for parks, and one for trails and greenbelts. The public was invited to move back and forth between the two tables and provide input. The CAG meeting agenda and the public welcoming event agenda are in Appendix A.

### **2.2 Review of Existing Information**

The following items were reviewed prior to this event and assessment.

- "Wasilla Parks and Recreation Commission, Survey 1, April 1995", prepared by City of Wasilla Parks & Recreation Commission
- *Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines*, James D. Mertes, Ph.D., CLP and James R. Hall, CLP
- *Matanuska-Susitna Borough Asset Management Plan*, assembly adopted June 2001, prepared by Land Design North
- *Wasilla Trails Plan 1999 City Amendment*, prepared by Trails advisory subcommittee, parks and recreation commission, City of Wasilla
- *Wasilla Comprehensive Plan Chapter 5- Parks and Recreation Plan*, April 1996
- Site visits to all twenty sites listed

## 3.0 Findings

### 3.1 Public Questionnaire Results

The public questionnaire was mailed to each property owner within the City of Wasilla limits, and a total of 101 questionnaires were returned. The data was recorded to show the actual number of people responding to each question. A summary of comments shows additional comments that were written in to the eight questions on the questionnaire. The design team has posted the total comments provided by the respondents. These results are included in Appendix C. The results show 57 percent of respondents use city trails, 81 percent support government funding of parks, and 24 percent regularly use park and recreation facilities.

### 3.2 Existing Athletic Facilities

The City owns 30 athletic facilities ranging from indoor ice rink to outdoor MBX track for bicycles. The twenty existing sites specific to the parks master plan were inventoried to review the number of existing fields and courts. Sites owned by the City of Wasilla and sites not owned by the City of Wasilla were noted. The ten schools in the surrounding area were inventoried by phone to develop a list of facilities provided at each school. Because this information was taken over the phone, the information was included without field verification. The existing athletic facilities chart can be found in Appendix C.

### 3.3 Proposed Athletic Facilities

The City plans on adding 16 new athletic facilities over the next 20 years as funding becomes available that includes soccer and softball fields. Several approved master plans illustrating proposed facilities have not been constructed. These proposed facilities are listed and categorized by parks owned and parks not owned by the City of Wasilla. The proposed athletic facilities chart can be found in Appendix C.

### 3.4 Projected Facility Requirements

The results show in general that the number of existing facilities is adequate to serve the greater Wasilla area, but as the population grows additional facilities will be needed. The projected facility requirements chart uses the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) Standards and the revised local standards from the South Davis master plan for the Fairbanks North Star Borough completed by PDC, Inc. in June, 1999. Both sets of standards can be used as a guide for determining the number of facilities that are needed based on population counts for an area. Using a 5 percent growth factor, the future growth for the City of Wasilla was projected. This factor was determined by taking the median of the past 2000 and 2005 growth, which was 6 to 8 percent, and the standard projected growth factor of 3 to 3.5 percent. This chart is included in Appendix C.

### 3.5 Recommended Classification System for Local and Recreational Open Space

A classification system for local and recreational open space from the *Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines*, written by James D. Wertes and James R. Hall has been included in Appendix C. This classification system includes a description, location criteria, and size criteria for each open space classification.

### 3.6 Park Area Analysis

This chart includes the classification and acreage for each of the twenty sites that were inventoried and the ten schools that were analyzed in our study. The sites are separated into two categories: parks owned by the City of Wasilla and parks not owned by the City of Wasilla. The chart also recommends the total acres of park area required for the City of Wasilla based on the original NRP A standard of 6.25 to 10.5 acres per 1,000 people. This chart can be found in Appendix C.

#### **4.0 Conclusions and Recommendations**

A prioritized list of recommendations for parks, trails and greenways was developed for the City of Wasilla to implement.

##### **4.1 Program for Parks and Recreation facilities**

The Wasilla Parks master plan questionnaire reported that people believe city government should provide money for community parks, but the average person visited the existing parks one to five times within the last year. TNH recommends the City of Wasilla establish a design vocabulary for site furnishings for its parks to promote continuity. We also recommend the City develop a volunteer system to help with maintenance of the parks and trails. Excellent examples are the "Adopt a Park" and "Adopt a Trail" volunteer programs.

A "Welcome to the City of Wasilla" sign at four locations within the City limits should be created. The City of Wasilla already owns the Gateway site at the northeast corner of Wasilla Fishhook Road. This site would be an ideal location for a decorative sign. A second recommended location for a decorative "Welcome to the City of Wasilla" sign would be at the western entrance on the Parks Highway. It appears this corner parcel is currently owned by the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities. A third location would be on a private parcel at the eastern entrance of the Parks Highway. This parcel is indicated on the City of Wasilla context map in Appendix C. The fourth location would be on Knik Goose Bay Road within the ADOT & PF right-of-way at the southwest entrance into the City.

We propose that new conceptual site plans be created for Nunley and Newcomb Parks. The second future opportunity would be the acquisition of adjacent lands to the Lake Lucille Camper Park for development into a Sports Complex park focusing more on fields that accommodate the specific needs of user groups; for example, soccer, softball and Little League. The third opportunity would be the acquisition of a privately owned greenbelt in the southeast corner of the City limits. This greenbelt connects Cottonwood Creek and Fairview Loop Road providing open space for residents in the southeast quadrant of the City. Acquisition of lands adjacent to Cottonwood Creek and Lucille Creek would allow for a continuous trail for cross country skiing, biking, walking and running - similar to the Coastal Trail in Anchorage.

##### **4.2 Trails / Greenways**

A network of city trails has been designed to link existing and future neighborhoods, parks, and common open spaces. This trail system aims to separate vehicular and pedestrian traffic promoting safe pedestrian movement. In formulating this network, the *Matanuska-Susitna Borough Asset Management Plan- Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan* was analyzed. Existing trails from this plan, as well as proposed trails and pathways specifically linking the City of Wasilla to other outlying areas, were recorded. The *Wasilla Trails Plan 1999 City Amendment* and the *Wasilla Comprehensive Plan 1996* were also reviewed. The trails inventory, conducted as part of this plan, noted the existing trails as well as proposed trails throughout the City of Wasilla limits.

From the Wasilla parks master plan questionnaire it was determined that 57 of 92 people currently use the city trails and want the trails to be designed for multi-modal use. A public welcoming event gathered public opinion for future trail connections throughout the city limits. Thirteen future connecting trail opportunities are listed below, and are ranked in order of importance. These trails are also on the Trails Map in Appendix D.

1. Downtown Trails
2. Lucas Road Trail
3. Southwest Wasilla Trails
4. Lake to Lake Trail
5. West Holiday Drive Trail
6. North Beck Street Trail
7. Denali Street Trail
8. Riley Avenue Trail
9. Cottonwood Creek Greenbelt Trail
10. Lucille Creek Greenbelt Trail
11. Bumpus Connector Trail
12. South Thomas Street Trail
13. Bumpus Equestrian Trail

#### **4.3 Recommended Classification System for Local and Recreational Open Space**

The design team has included a classification system for Local and Regional Recreational Trails from the *Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines* by James D. Mertes, Ph.D., CLP and James R. Hall, CLP. This classification system can be found in Appendix D.

#### **4.4 Trail Descriptions in order of importance**

The design team has made recommendations for twelve new trails within the City of Wasilla limits. The descriptions for these trails can be found in Appendix D and are listed in order of importance.

#### **4.5 Greenways**

A separate recommendation by the design team is for the City to acquire property adjacent to the Cottonwood Creek, Lucille Creek and the greenbelt in the southeast corner of the City. This acquisition should begin immediately, but generally should be contained within the current 75 foot setback for clearing adjacent to these creeks.

### **5.0 Bibliography**

- "Wasilla Parks and Recreation Commission, Survey 1, April 1995", prepared by City of Wasilla Parks & Recreation Commission
- Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines*, James D. Mertes, Ph.D., CLP and James R. Hall, CLP
- Matanuska-Susitna Borough Asset Management Plan*, assembly adopted June 2001, prepared by Land Design North
- Wasilla Trails Plan 1999 City Amendment*, prepared by Trails advisory subcommittee, parks and recreation commission, City of Wasilla
- Wasilla Comprehensive Plan Chapter 5- Parks and Recreation Plan*, April 1996





# APPENDIX A





City of Wasilla



City of Wasilla



Contact Us

**Tryck Nyman Hayes, Inc.**

Anchorage and Wasilla Offices

- [Home](#)
- [About Us](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Public Questionnaire](#)
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**Tryck Nyman Hayes, Inc.**  
851 East West Point Drive  
Suite 309  
Wasilla, AK 99654

**Public Questionnaire**

- [Home](#)
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1. What age groups live in your household?

- Preschool (0-5 years)
- Elementary (6-11 years)
- Middle / High School (12-18 years)
- Young Adult (18-25 years)
- Adult

2. Do you hike the trails inside the City Limits?

- Yes
- No

3. How can we make the trail system better?

- International Map Boards at trailheads
- Markers / numbering on each trailhead
- Dedicated R.O.W.

Design for multi-modal use: Walk, Bike, etc.

4. Why do you use the trail system in the city?

- Recreation / Exercise
- Transportation to / from work
- Bird watching / nature viewing

**Please return the questionnaires to:**  
**The City of Wasilla**  
**290 East Herring Ave.**  
**Wasilla, AK 99654-7091**

5. I would like to participate in a volunteer trails clean up maintenance committee?

- Yes
- No

6. What do you believe City government should provide money for?

- Community Programs
- Athletic Fields
- Community Parks
- Trails

7. What are the best ways to approach R.O.W. acquisition from private property interests?

- Conservation Easement
- Land Trust Purchase
- Public Dedication
- Donation / Tax Write Off

8. In the last 12 months, how often have you or other household members visited a city park or city recreation facility?

- 1-5 times
- 11-15 times
- 6-10 times
- more than 15 times

9. Other Comments: \_\_\_\_\_





City of Wasilla



### Calendar

- [Home](#)
- [About Us](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Public Questionnaire](#)
- [Calendar](#)

## September 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

### Schedule of Events

09.05.07 - Public Welcoming Event at the MUSC  
7-9 pm

1. What age groups live in your household?
  - Preschool (0-5 years)
  - Elementary (6-11 years)
  - Middle/High School (12-18 years)
  - Young Adult (18-25 years)
  - Adult
2. Do you hike the trails inside the City Limits?
  - Yes
  - No
3. How can we make the trail system better?
  - Informational Map Boards at trailheads?
  - Markers/numbering on each trail head
  - Dedicated R.O.W.
  - Design for multi-modal use: Walk, Bike, etc.
4. Why do you use the trail system in the city?
  - Recreation / exercise
  - Transportation to/from work
  - Bird watching / nature viewing
5. I would participate in a volunteer trails clean up maintenance committee
  - Yes
  - No
6. What do you believe City government should provide money for?
 

Community Programs	Athletic Fields
Community Parks	Trails
7. What are the best ways to approach R.O.W. acquisition from private property interests?
  - Conservation Easement
  - Land Trust Purchase
  - Public Dedication
  - Donation / Tax Write Off
8. In the last 12 months, how often have you or other household members visited a city park or city recreation facility?
 

1-5 times	11-15 times
6-10	more than 15
9. Other Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

## Project Goal:

To develop a masterplan for both citywide park and open space and for outdoor recreation facilities at the Multi Use Sports Complex .

## Project Team:

Recreation and Cultural Services Dept.  
 Community and Economic Dev.  
 Public Works Department  
 Citizen Advisory Group  
 TNH Eng. / Landscape Architects



# Wasilla Parks Masterplan

## Questionnaire

Please take a minute to fill out the attached postcard and return to The City of Wasilla



Please take a moment to  
**Tell Us...**  
 what you think!  
[www.cityofwasilla.com](http://www.cityofwasilla.com)

## **Citizen's Advisory Group Meeting Agenda**

Wasilla Parks and Trails Master Plan  
Wasilla Multi-Use Sports Complex 7:00 PM, June 26, 2007

1. Introductions
  - Citizen's Advisory Group (CAG) Organization
  - Select Chairperson
2. Description of Project
  - Intent
  - Scope of Services
3. Distribute Handout – Binder-Notebook Containing:
  - Minutes, Start-Up Meetings
  - Public Involvement Plan
  - Project Web Page
  - Questionnaire
  - List of Sites and Site Inventories
4. Update of Activities to date:
  - 2 Initial Kick-off Meetings
  - Inventories/Photography
  - Questionnaire
  - Web Page
  - Data Base Map(s), (these are to be mounted on wall):
    - Aerial Map including vegetation and existing conditions
    - Lots and Roadway Rights of Way
    - Topography
5. Questions and Input from the CAG Members
6. Future Events: Public Welcoming Event (September 5, 2007)
7. Input from Audience – 3 minute limit
8. Adjournment

## **Public Welcoming Event Agenda**

Wasilla Parks and Trails Master Plan  
Wasilla Multi-Use Sports Complex 7:00 PM, September 5, 2007

### **1. Introductions**

Project Description and Goal of tonight's meeting  
Project Website: [www.cityofwasilla.com](http://www.cityofwasilla.com)  
Project E-mail: [LA@trnh-inc.com](mailto:LA@trnh-inc.com)

### **2. Progress to date**

Public Questionnaire  
First CAG Meeting  
Inventory of Existing Park Sites  
Assessment Charts including Matsus Schools:  
Cottonwood Creek Elementary  
Iditarod Elementary  
Larson Elementary  
Snowshoe Elementary  
Tanaina Elementary  
Teeland Middle School  
Wasilla Jr. Middle School  
Burchell High School  
Wasilla High School  
Mat-Su Career & Technical High School

### **3. Two Interactive Tables**

Parks Masterplan                      Randy Lyons  
Trails Map                                      Eric Morey

Invite the public to stop by each table and designate areas where additional parks and trails are necessary.

### **4. What's Next:**

Project Assessment  
Project Program  
Second CAG meeting  
Public Open House-- develop a preferred alternative

## **Citizen's Advisory Group Meeting Agenda**

Wasilla Parks and Trails Master Plan  
Wasilla Multi-Use Sports Complex 6:30 PM, December 13, 2007

### 1. Purpose of tonight's meeting:

Review and Comment on the Wasilla Parks Master Plan Draft Report

### 2. Distribute Handout – Draft Report: dated 11-12-2007

### 3. Review Report Findings:

4 "Welcome to the City of Wasilla" signs  
New Schematic Concept Plans for Nunley, Newcomb and Carter Parks  
Twelve future connecting trail opportunities

### 4. Questions and Input from the CAG Members

### 5. Future Events: Third CAG meeting, mid February

### 6. Adjournment





# APPENDIX B

## List of Sites: Wasilla Parks Master Plan

Updated June 25, 2007

### Area Wide Plan:

Included in the request for proposals:

- |  |            |
|--|------------|
| 1. Bumpus Recreation Area                  | 120 acres  |
| 2. Carter Park at Lake Lucille             | .65 acres  |
| 3. Iditapark                               | 30 acres   |
| 4. Newcomb Park at Wasilla Lake            | 5.4 acres  |
| 5. Nunley Park opposite City Hall          | 2.25 acres |
| 6. Ten miles of trails throughout the City |            |
| 7. Multi Use Sports Complex Trails         |            |

### Additional Sites:

- |   |             |
|---|-------------|
| 8. Aurora Cemetary                              | 11.25 acres |
| 9. Downtown Historic Area                       | 1.6 acres   |
| 10. Susitna Avenue Boat Launch                  | 1.25 acres  |
| 11. Lacy Loop Park                              | .45 acres   |
| 12. Alaska Museum of Transportation & Industry* | 15 acres    |
| 13. Snyder Park at Lake Lucille                 | 3.9 acres   |
| 14. Cottonwood Creek Greenbelt*                 |             |
| 15. Lucille Creek Greenbelt*                    | 7 acres     |
| 16. Lucille Creek Trailhead                     | 29 acres    |
| 17. Smith Little League Ball Fields**           | 2.3 acres   |
| 18. Railroad Park**                             | 76 acres    |
| 19. Lake Lucille Camper Park***                 | 1.22 acres  |
| 20. Gateway Site *                              |             |

\* Sites not presently owned by the City but adjacent to or within City limits

\*\* Sites not owned but maintained by the City, also within City limits

\*\*\* Sites owned and maintained by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, but within the City limits



**Park Inventory Checklist – Wasilla**

**Park Name: AK Museum of Transportation and Industry**

1. Is there a Site Plan available for reference: **No**
2. Number of Parking spaces currently provided: **Paved : 4 paved ADA accessible spaces and 8 standard paved spaces**
3. How is park accessed? **Paved road**  
**Gravel loop road on site**
4. Number of existing: **N/A**  
Basketball Courts  
Tennis Courts  
Baseball Fields  
Soccer Fields  
Multi Use Courts
5. Existing Play Equipment: **Stationary wood snowmobile toy**  
**Pipe crawl through**
6. Are there any trails? If so, how many? Easily Accessible? Trail Markers?
7. Park Signage- **Yes** Interpretive Panels- **Yes**
8. Public Facilities: **Restrooms – In Museum**  
**Picnic Shelters / Gazebo- 2**  
**Picnic Tables - 14**  
**Informational / Ticket booth building**
9. Site Furnishings: **Benches**  
**Garbage Cans**
10. Identify Existing Tree Line / Vegetation: **Nice existing vegetation in park area & perimeter**
11. Site Analysis: **View of mountains behind building**
12. Other: **Private park, Atwood Park Sign on picnic shelter in open lawn area.**

**Park Inventory Checklist – Wasilla**

**Park Name: Bumpus Recreation Area**

1. Is there a Site Plan available for reference: **Yes**
2. Number of Parking spaces currently provided: **Gravel**
3. How is park accessed? **Accessed by paved road**  
**Paved trail**
4. Number of fields:
 

	<u>Existing</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
<b>Baseball Fields-</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Soccer Fields-</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Softball Fields-</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Little League Fields</b>		<b>2</b>
5. Existing Play Equipment: **N/A**  
Slides  
Swings  
Sand Box
6. Are there any trails? **Yes – Multi Use and Equestrian**
7. Park Signage- **No** Interpretive Panels- **No**
8. Public Facilities: **Restrooms – 1**  
**Picnic Shelters**  
**Picnic Tables**  
**Grills**  
**Showers**  
**Drinking Fountain**  
**Vending Machines**
9. Site Furnishings: **Benches**  
**Garbage Cans**  
**Lights**  
**Bollards**  
**Flagpoles**
10. Identify Existing Tree Line / Vegetation
11. Site Analysis: **Large area, good trail and road, also the park needs better signage**
12. Other:

**Park Inventory Checklist – Wasilla**

**Park Name: Carter Park**

1. Is there a Site Plan available for reference: **No**
2. Number of Parking spaces currently provided: **Gravel – 24 spaces**
3. How is park accessed? **Gravel road**
4. Number of existing: **N/A**  
 Ballfields  
 Basketball Courts  
 Tennis Courts  
 Baseball Fields  
 Soccer Fields  
 Multi Use Courts
5. Existing Play Equipment: **New Equipment**  
 Slides  
 Swings  
 Sand Box
6. Are there any trails: **Lake to Lake Trail- gravel**
7. Park Signage -**Yes** Interpretive Panels- **No**
8. Public Facilities:  
**Restrooms**  
 Picnic Shelters / Gazebo  
**Picnic Tables - 2**  
 Grills  
 Showers  
 Drinking Fountain  
 Vending Machines  
 Benches
9. Site Furnishings:  
 Garbage Cans  
 Lights  
 Bollards  
 Flagpoles
10. Identify Existing Tree Line / Vegetation **Not much, two trees**
11. Site Analysis:  
**Fronts on the lake**  
**Nice open lawn**  
**Good View of Sleeping Lady**  
**Need to pave parking**
12. Other:

**Park Inventory Checklist – Wasilla**

**Park Name: “Gateway Site”**

1. Is there a Site Plan available for reference: **No**
2. Number of Parking spaces currently provided: Paved / gravel?
3. How is park accessed? Paved Road? **2 paved roads: Spruce Ave., Wasilla Fishhook Rd.**
4. Number of existing: **N/A**  
 Ballfields  
 Basketball Courts  
 Tennis Courts  
 Baseball Fields  
 Soccer Fields  
 Multi Use Courts
5. Existing Play Equipment: **N/A**  
 Slides  
 Swings  
 Sand Box
6. Are there any trails? If so, how many? **Easily Accessible? Trail Markers?**  
 Both paved roads have trails
7. Park Signage? Interpretive Panels? **N/A**
8. Public Facilities:  
 Restrooms  
 Picnic Shelters / Gazebo  
**N/A**  
 Picnic Tables  
 Grills  
 Showers  
 Drinking Fountain  
 Vending Machines
9. Site Furnishings: **N/A**  
 Benches  
 Garbage Cans  
 Lights  
 Bollards  
 Flagpoles
10. Identify Existing Tree Line / Vegetation **Combination of existing trees & newly planted shrubs and trees.**
11. Site Analysis:
12. Other: **Need City welcoming sign**

**Park Inventory Checklist – Wasilla**

**Park Name: Cottonwood Creek Greenbelt**

1. Is there a Site Plan available for reference: **No**
2. Number of Parking spaces currently provided: Paved / gravel?  
**Two small gravel spaces**
3. How is park accessed? **Paved road**  
**Paved trail**
4. Number of existing: **N/A**
  - Batfields
  - Basketball Courts
  - Tennis Courts
  - Baseball Fields
  - Soccer Fields
  - Multi Use Courts
5. Existing Play Equipment: **N/A**
  - Slides
  - Swings
  - Sand Box
6. Are there any trails? If so, how many? Easily Accessible? Trail Markers?  
**The Palmer-Wasilla Bike Path runs past the viewing deck at Wasilla Lake**
7. Park Signage? Interpretive Panels?  
**There are two that need updating- One on Big Rock, One on Deck**
8. Public Facilities: **None**
  - Restrooms
  - Picnic Shelters / Gazebo
  - Picnic Tables
  - Grills
  - Showers
  - Drinking Fountain
  - Vending Machines
9. Site Furnishings:  
**Benches at Viewing Deck**
  - Garbage Cans
  - Lights
  - Bollards
  - Flagpoles

10. Identify Existing Tree Line / Vegetation
11. Site Analysis: **Wind Direction**  
**Steep Slope**  
**Views**  
**Neighboring Properties**
12. Other: **Good opportunity for trail along creek, need to acquire property.**  
**Four Separated Crossings needed at the following locations:**
  - Palmer – Wasilla Highway**
  - Parks Highway**
  - Creekside Plaza**
  - Near Knik Goose Bay Road**

**Park Inventory Checklist – Wasilla**

**Park Name: Nunley Park**

1. Is there a Site Plan available for reference: **No**
2. Number of Parking spaces currently provided: **Paved**
3. How is park accessed? **Accessed by paved road**  
**Trail / Sidewalks**
4. Number of existing: Ballfields  
Basketball Courts  
**Tennis Courts – needs net, resurfacing**  
Baseball Fields  
Soccer Fields  
Multi Use Courts
5. Existing Play Equipment: **Slides**    **See photos**  
**Swings**  
**Sand Box**
6. Are there any trails? **One gravel trail, no trail markers**
7. Park Signage- **Yes** Interpretive Panels- **No**
8. Public Facilities:  
**Restrooms**  
Picnic Shelters / Gazebo  
**Picnic Tables**  
**Grills**  
Showers  
Drinking Fountain  
Vending Machines
9. Site Furnishings:  
**Benches**  
Garbage Cans- **summer**  
Lights- **street**  
Bollards  
Flagpoles
10. Identify Existing Tree Line / Vegetation    **Mature Vegetation**
11. Site Analysis:  
**Trail needs work**
12. Other:  
**Opportunity to combine Basketball & Tennis**  
**Adjacent Lot might be available**  
**Change in grade between park spaces**

**Park Inventory Checklist – Wasilla**

**Park Name: Sustina Avenue Boat Launch**

1. Is there a Site Plan available for reference: **No**
2. Number of Parking spaces currently provided: **Separate gravel parking lot**
3. How is park accessed? **Gravel road, paved to launch parking**
4. Number of existing: Ballfields  
Basketball Courts  
**N/A**  
Tennis Courts  
Baseball Fields  
Soccer Fields  
Multi Use Courts
5. Existing Play Equipment: **Slides**    **N/A**  
**Swings**  
**Sand Box**
6. Park Signage? **Instructional signage only** Interpretive Panels- **No**
7. Are there any trails? **One gravel trail on Park Avenue, no trail markers**
8. Public Facilities:    Restrooms – **Portable Potty**
9. Site Furnishings: **Fence**  
**Kiosk**
10. Identify Existing Tree Line / Vegetation
11. Site Analysis:
12. Other: **Small space**  
**Adjacent lot for sale**

Park Inventory Checklist – Wasilla

Park Name: Synder Park

- 1. Is there a Site Plan available for reference: **No**
- 2. Number of Parking spaces currently provided: **Gravel / Grass**  
**Parking is along the road and separated parking area**
- 3. How is park accessed? **Gravel Road**
- 4. Number of existing: **Ballfields** **N/A**  
Basketball Courts  
Tennis Courts  
Baseball Fields  
Soccer Fields  
Multi Use Courts
- 5. Existing Play Equipment: **Slides** **N/A**  
Swings  
Sand Box
- 6. Are there any trails? **No**
- 7. Park Signage- **Yes, nice** Interpretive Panel- **On rock**
- 8. Public Facilities: **Restrooms**  
**Picnic Shelter**  
**Picnic Tables**  
**Grills**
- 9. Site Furnishings: **Benches**  
Garbage Cans- **probably**  
Lights  
Bollards  
Flagpoles
- 10. Identify Existing Tree Line / Vegetation **Nice, open lawn**
- 11. Site Analysis:  
12. Other: **Awesome view of mountains**  
**Lake Access**  
**Very clean**  
**Midwest feel**  
**Maybe acquire land against lake to the east**

Park Inventory Checklist – Wasilla

Park Name: Smith Ballfields

- 1. Is there a Site Plan available for reference: **No**
- 2. Number of Parking spaces currently provided: **Gravel**  
**One small lot, one large lot**
- 3. How is park accessed? **Paved, Access is off of Knik Goose Bay Road**
- 4. Number of existing: **Ballfields**  
**5 Regular**  
**2 Minor**
- 5. Existing Play Equipment: **Slides** **N/A**  
Swings  
Sand Box
- 6. Are there any trails? **Paved trail along highway**
- 7. Park Signage- **Yes** Interpretive Panels- **No**
- 8. Public Facilities: **Restrooms**  
**Concession Building**
- 9. Site Furnishings: **Benches** **Maybe in the summer**  
Garbage Cans  
Lights  
Bollards  
Flagpoles
- 10. Identify Existing Tree Line / Vegetation
- 11. Site Analysis:  
12. Other: **Privately owned**  
**Northeast end is large usable open space/ undeveloped**  
**Views of mountains**



**Park Inventory Checklist – Wasilla**

**Park Name: Railroad Park**

1. Is there a Site Plan available for reference: **No**
2. Number of Parking spaces currently provided: **9 paved spaces + 1 ADA accessible paved space**
3. How is park accessed? **Paved Road**
4. Number of existing: **N/A**  
 Basketball Courts  
 Tennis Courts  
 Baseball Fields  
 Soccer Fields  
 Multi Use Courts
5. Existing Play Equipment: **N/A**  
 Slides  
 Swings  
 Sand Box
6. Are there any trails? **No**
7. Park Signage: **Nothing that has park name- 2 Interpretive Signs**
8. Public Facilities:  
 Restrooms  
 Picnic Shelters  
**Picnic Tables**  
 Grills  
 Showers  
 Drinking Fountain  
 Vending Machines
9. Site Furnishings:  
 Benches  
 Garbage Cans  
**Lights – some damaged**  
 Bollards  
 Flagpoles
10. Identify Existing Tree Line / Vegetation **Limited vegetation**
11. Site Analysis:
12. Other: **Next to railroad and Park Highway, busy & noisy**  
**Use area not utilized, large sight triangles required by railroad**  
**Nice historic building in original location, people get on & off train**

**Park Inventory Checklist – Wasilla**

**Park Name: Multi Use Sports Complex (MUSC)**

1. Is there a Site Plan available for reference: **Yes**
2. Number of Parking spaces currently provided: **755 paved spaces from plan, partially developed**
3. How is park accessed? **Accessed by paved road**  
**Paved trail**
4. Number of existing: **Proposed Fields- outside Track / Skating Oval - 1**  
**Baseball Fields- 1**  
**Soccer Fields - 1**  
**Football Field - 1**
5. Existing Play Equipment: **None**  
 Slides  
 Swings  
 Sand Box
6. Are there any trails? **One trail from the Parks Highway**
7. Park Signage- **Yes Interpretive Panels- No**
8. Public Facilities:  
**Restrooms**  
 Picnic Shelters / Gazebo  
**Picnic Tables**  
 Grills  
 Showers  
 Drinking Fountain  
 Vending Machines
9. Site Furnishings:  
 Benches  
 Garbage Cans  
**Lights**  
 Bollards  
**Flagpoles**
10. Identify Existing Tree Line / Vegetation
11. Site Analysis:
12. Other: **Iditarod and Iron Dog Staging**

**Park Inventory Checklist – Wasilla**

**Park Name: Newcomb Park**

1. Is there a Site Plan available for reference: **No**
2. Number of Parking spaces currently provided: **68 paved spaces, 3 ADA accessible spaces**
3. How is park accessed? **Paved road – Parks Highway / Crusey Street  
Paved trail / bike path**
4. Number of existing: **Ballfields  
Basketball Courts  
Tennis Courts  
Baseball Fields  
Soccer Fields  
Multi Use Courts**      **Open Green Space**
5. Existing Play Equipment: **Slides  
Swings  
Sand Box    Climber**
6. Are there any trails **Yes – Parks Highway trail, Crusey Street trail, and trail from parking lot, Tunnel under Parks Highway – Lake to Lake Trail**
7. Park Signage **No** Interpretive **Sign on rock**
8. Public Facilities: **Restrooms 1  
Picnic Shelter  
Picnic Tables  
Grills  
Pay Phone**
9. Site Furnishings: **Benches  
Garbage Cans- put out this summer  
Decorative Lights on end by parking lot**
10. Identify Existing Tree Line / Vegetation – **Not a lot of existing vegetation, but has a nice green lawn**
11. Site Analysis: **Wind Direction  
Steep Slope  
Views- Great View  
Neighboring Properties**
12. Other: **Trail leading form parking lot dead ends in the park  
Beach erosion apparent      Crusey trail extension  
Wasilla Gateway Sign      Heavy winter use**

**Park Inventory Checklist – Wasilla**

**Park Name: Lucille Creek Trailhead**

1. Is there a Site Plan available for reference: **No**
2. Number of Parking spaces currently provided: **Lucille Creek Trailhead- Gravel**
3. How is park accessed? **Paved road  
Paved trail**
4. Number of existing: **Ballfields  
Basketball Courts  
Tennis Courts  
Baseball Fields  
Soccer Fields  
Multi Use Courts**
5. Existing Play Equipment: **Slides  
Swings  
Sand Box**      **None**
6. Are there any trails? **One trail from the Parks Highway**
7. Park Signage- **Yes** Interpretive Panels- **No**
8. Public Facilities: **Restrooms  
Picnic Shelters / Gazebo  
Picnic Tables  
Grills  
Showers  
Drinking Fountain  
Vending Machines**
9. Site Furnishings: **Benches  
Garbage Cans  
Lights  
Bollards  
Flagpoles**
10. Identify Existing Tree Line / Vegetation
11. Site Analysis:
12. Other:

**Park Inventory Checklist – Wasilla**

**Park Name: Lake Lucille Camper Park**

1. Is there a Site Plan available for reference: **No**
2. Number of Parking spaces currently provided: **One parking space for every campsite**
3. How is park accessed? **Gravel road, needs upgrade**
4. Number of existing:  
Ballfields  
Basketball Courts  
Tennis Courts  
Baseball Fields  
**Soccer Fields - 2**  
Multi Use Courts
5. Existing Play Equipment: **Play structure at Pavilion B**
6. Are there any trails? **Yes, could not find a designated trailhead**
7. Park Signage- **Yes, small, welcome sign - could use signage closer to Knik Goose Bay Road**
8. Public Facilities:  
Restrooms  
Picnic Shelters / Gazebo  
**Picnic Tables – 6 at each Pavilion A & B**  
**Grills – 2 at each pavilion**  
Showers  
**Drinking Fountain – old one, not working at Pavilion B**  
Vending Machines
9. Site Furnishings:  
Benches  
**Garbage Cans**  
Lights  
**Bollards**  
Flagpoles
10. Identify Existing Tree Line / Vegetation
11. Site Analysis:
12. Other: **1 picnic table at each campsite**  
**1 fire pit at each campsite**

**Park Inventory Checklist – Wasilla**

**Park Name: Lucille Creek Greenbelt**

1. Is there a Site Plan available for reference: **No**
2. Number of Parking spaces currently provided:
3. How is park accessed? **Gravel road**
4. Number of existing: Ballfields  
Basketball Courts  
Tennis Courts  
Baseball Fields  
Soccer Fields  
Multi Use Courts  
**N/A**
5. Existing Play Equipment: Slides  
Swings  
Sand Box  
**None**
6. Are there any trails?
7. Park Signage- **No Interpretive Panels- No**
8. Public Facilities:  
Restrooms  
Picnic Shelters / Gazebo  
Picnic Tables  
Grills  
Showers  
Drinking Fountain  
Vending Machines
9. Site Furnishings:  
Benches  
Garbage Cans  
Lights  
Bollards  
Flagpoles
10. Identify Existing Tree Line / Vegetation
11. Site Analysis:
12. Other:

**Park Inventory Checklist – Wasilla**

**Park Name: Lacy Loop**

1. Is there a Site Plan available for reference: **No**
2. Number of Parking spaces currently provided: Paved / gravel? **None**
3. How is park accessed? **Paved Road and Paved Trail**  
Trail?
4. Number of existing: **N/A**  
Ballfields  
Basketball Courts  
Tennis Courts  
Baseball Fields  
Soccer Fields  
Multi Use Courts
5. Existing Play Equipment: **N/A**  
Slides  
Swings  
Sand Box
6. Are there any trails? If so, how many? Easily Accessible? Trail Markers?  
**Paved bike path on Spruce Avenue**
7. Park Signage? Interpretive Panels?
8. Public Facilities: **N/A**  
Restrooms  
Picnic Shelters / Gazebo  
Picnic Tables  
Grills  
Showers  
Drinking Fountain  
Vending Machines
9. Site Furnishings: **N/A**  
Benches  
Garbage Cans  
Lights  
Bollards  
Flagpoles
10. Identify Existing Tree Line / Vegetation **Edge of site boundary**
12. Other: **No above ground park facilities  
Drain field for subdivision in park  
Design is complete by Group III Design, never built**

**Park Inventory Checklist – Wasilla**

**Park Name: Iditapark**

1. Is there a Site Plan available for reference: **Yes**
2. Number of Parking spaces currently provided: **Paved**
3. How is park accessed? **Paved road**  
**Paved trail**
4. Number of existing: **Skateboard Park  
Basketball Courts  
BMX Park  
Tennis Courts  
Volleyball**
5. Existing Play Equipment: **Slides  
Playground  
Swings  
Sand Box**
6. Are there any trails? **Yes – complete paved bike loop, no trail markers**
7. Park Signage- **Yes, needs attention** Interpretive Panels- **No**
8. Public Facilities: **Restrooms  
Picnic Shelters / Gazebo  
Picnic Tables**
9. Site Furnishings: **Benches  
Garbage Cans  
Lights  
Bollards  
Flagpoles**
10. Identify Existing Tree Line / Vegetation **Mixed variety of young vegetation**
11. Site Analysis:
12. Other: **Nice park  
Band shelter at amphitheater has not been constructed  
Kiosk missing near Performing Arts Center  
Garden of Reflection  
2<sup>nd</sup> Restroom has not been constructed**

Park Inventory Checklist – Wasilla

**Park Name: Wasilla Aurora Cemetery**

1. Is there a Site Plan available for reference: **No**
2. Number of Parking spaces currently provided: Paved / gravel? **0**
3. How is park accessed? **Paved road**  
**Paved trail on the other side of road**
4. Number of existing: Ballfields **N/A**  
Basketball Courts  
Tennis Courts  
Baseball Fields  
Soccer Fields  
Multi Use Courts
5. Existing Play Equipment: Slides **N/A**  
Swings  
Sand Box
6. Are there any trails? If so, how many? Easily Accessible? Trail Markers? **0**
7. Park Signage: **Columns**
8. Public Facilities: Restrooms  
Picnic Shelters / **Gazebo**  
Picnic Tables  
Grills  
Showers  
Drinking Fountain  
Vending Machines
9. Site Furnishings: Benches  
Garbage Cans  
Lights  
Bollards  
Flagpoles
10. Identify Existing Tree Line / Vegetation
11. Site Analysis: Wind Direction  
Steep Slope  
Views  
Neighboring Properties
12. Other: **Nice, small cemetery**

Park Inventory Checklist – Wasilla

**Park Name: General Trails**

1. Is there a Site Plan available for reference: **No**
2. Number of Parking spaces currently provided: Paved / gravel? **N/A**
3. How is park accessed? Paved Road?  
Trail?
4. Number of existing: Ballfields  
Basketball Courts  
Tennis Courts  
Baseball Fields  
Soccer Fields  
Multi Use Courts
5. Existing Play Equipment: Slides  
Swings  
Sand Box
6. Are there any trails? **Paved and Gravel Trails**
7. Park Signage **One trail sign at the end of Lake to Lake Trail next to Carter Park**
7. Public Facilities: Restrooms  
Picnic Shelters / Gazebo  
Picnic Tables  
Grills  
Showers  
Drinking Fountain  
Vending Machines
8. Site Furnishings: Benches  
Garbage Cans  
Lights  
Bollards  
Flagpoles
9. Identify Existing Tree Line / Vegetation
10. Site Analysis: **Trails needs to be upgraded, poorly defined**  
**Need signage and upgrade existing lighting to 24 hr. lighting with security cameras for tunnel under Parks Highway at Newcomb Park**
11. Other: **Trail linkage missing between Bumpus/Mystery & Iditapark/Nelson along Lucus**



# APPENDIX C



# Masilla Parks Masterplan

## Questionnaire - Results

There were a 101 questionnaires returned. Not all were filled out in their entirety. The data is broken down by the actual number of people responding to each item.

	<u>Actual #</u>
<b>1. What are the age groups that live in your household?</b>	
Preschool (0-5 years)	12
Elementary (6-11 years)	12
Middle/High School (12-18 years)	24
Young Adult (18-25 years)	14
Adult	94
<b>2. Do you hike the Trails inside the City Limits?</b>	
Yes	57
No	35
<b>3. How can we make the trail system better?</b>	
Informational Map Boards at trailheads	36
Markers/numbering on each trailhead	23
Dedicated R.O.W.	20
Design for multi-model use: Walk, Bike, etc.	58
<b>4. Why do you use the trail system in the city?</b>	
Recreation/exercise	71
Transportation to/from work	8
Bird watching/nature viewing	21
<b>5. I would participate in a volunteer trails clean up maintenance committee?</b>	
Yes	34
No	48
<b>6. What do you believe City government should provide money for?</b>	
City Buildings	64
Community Parks	81
Ballfields	56
Trails	62
<b>7. What are the best ways to approach R.O.W. acquisition from private property interests?</b>	
Conservation Easements	21
Land Trust Purchase	40
Public Dedication	28
Donation/Tax Write Off	37
<b>8. In the last 12 months, how often have you or other household member visited a city park or city recreation facility?</b>	
1-5 Times	38
6-10 Times	19
11-15 Times	11
more than 15	24



## Masilla Parks Masterplan Questionnaire - Comments

The following is a summary of comments from the questionnaires. They are in no particular order.

### 1. What are the age groups that live in your household?

No Comments

### 2. Do you hike the Trails inside the City Limits?

- 2 people said - Sometimes
- Historic trails only
- A little

### 3. How can we make the trail system better?

- Design for Multi-use is very important.
- Exclude vehicle/ORVs/Motorcycles, etc.
- ATV Trails
- They are good now
- Give 'miles between' info on signs
- Design for snow machine/ATV/motorcycle uses

### 4. Why do you use the trail system in the city?

- Haven't used trails!
- I haven't used them
- Bike Trails

### 5. I would participate in a volunteer trails clean up maintenance committee?

- Already do!
- I'm handicapped
- Educate high school age kids - I pick up as I can.
- We do this already as volunteers on our own time.

### 6. What do you believe City government should provide money for?

- Sports complexes should be private enterprises.
- Enforce laws already in place.
- 2 people said - Library
- Not the sports complex, it's too expensive.
- Masilla needs water and sewer before anything else.
- Bus System
- ROADS
- Use vacant buildings
- NONE
- Within the city

### 7. What are the best ways to approach R.O.W. acquisition from private property interests?

- Buy it!
- Whatever it takes
- Need more info to make a good decision
- Each area has different requirements
- Some of each
- Purchase in lieu of Taxes (ask Duffy)
- 3 people said - Don't know
- Offer fair market value
- DO NOT DO THIS!
- Unsure

### 8. In the last 12 months, how often have you or other household member visited a city park or city recreation facility?

- 7 people said - They have visited 0 times.

The following is a summary of comments from the questionnaires. They are in no particular order.

### 9. Other Comments

- We need more green park and trail space.
- Trails are great. Keep up the good work. Keeps kids and families fit. Saves Fuel, traffic, etc.
- Adopt a program of land acquisition/upgrade landscape guidelines to preserve natural landscape in the city and adjacent to the lake.
- Don't waste our money
- Thanks for the great maintenance. City parks are for all citizens, especially families. More tables, roof covering and lighting needed to prevent parties and crime. Please add children's equipment.
- Seismic clearing could make possible trails
- Need to information about where city trails are and where they go.
- There needs to be a place for kids to play and a plan to keep them safe.
- We use the Bumpus trails almost daily. I have much more to say. Call if interested - Norm Fuller 373-4602.
- Purchase R.O.W. at appraised value.
- Still need 2 more picnic tables at Carter Park.
- Lake Lucille Trail is a mess.
- More restrooms around parks and trails.
- Please make the city more pedestrian friendly.
- Run an efficient municipal government. Keep costs at a minimum!
- Need to spend more money on traffic control ( signs, lights, enforcement).
- Parks and trails are great.
- We may not use them often, but I like having them here.
- We are Katrina refugees and still working in our house.
- We need a trail system for motorized vehicles desperately. With no trail to use, the users go elsewhere.
- Pave roadside trails - acquire domain.
- 4-wheelers are ruining our trails.
- FIX THE STREETS!
- Need a bypass route of city streets.
- I do not believe in acquisition of personal property for anything especially a bike trail or park!! Period!
- We are in our late 70's and have no need for the above.
- We're currently out of town.
- Please develop city trails for biking and walking.
- I don't feel safe on trails due to dirt bikes, 4-wheelers, and unrestrained dogs.
- What does R.O.W mean?
- Regular police patrol at trailheads.
- Increase patrol to keep motorized vehicle off!
- Get the motorized vehicles off the bike trails and out of the parks!! One warning and then impound them.
- How do we address the distrust/intrusion by irresponsible ATV users?
- You need to provide a second access to the sports complex!
- This is a poorly worded and designed questionnaire.
- Contact and work with landowners.
- DOT property on Parks Highway next door to us needs landscaping and care.
- Please join trails together and give cross walks more.
- Concentrate on less spending.
- Need a picnic area with open shelters for tables to stay out of the weather, more picnic tables.
- We need to have a trail corridor for motorized vehicles.
- Please pack or plow a few trails in the winter.
- Why don't you explain what R.O.W. is?
- I own property on Lake Lucille drive. I am concerned about increased traffic/road widening if Lake Lucille drive is extended.







## Projected Facility Requirements

Facility	NRPA Facility Standards**	South Davis Master Plan Facility Standards**	Existing facilities owned by the City	Existing facilities not owned by the City	Existing School Facilities ^	Proposed Facilities owned by the City	Proposed Facilities not owned by the City	Proposed School Facilities	2006 Needs Est. Population 9,236 ^^	2008 Needs Est. Population 10,182 ^^	2013 Needs Est. Population 12,994 ^^	2028 Needs Est. Population 27,007 ^^	2006 Needs Est. Population 9,236 ^^	2008 Needs Est. Population 10,182 ^^	2013 Needs Est. Population 12,994 ^^	2028 Needs Est. Population 27,007 ^^
Major League Baseball- 90'	1/5,000	1/20,000	0	1	1	1	0	0	1.85	2.04	2.6	5.4	0.46	0.51	0.66	1.4
Little League Baseball- 60'	1/5,000	1/4,000	1	7	2	2	0	0	1.85	2.04	2.6	5.4	2.31	2.55	3.25	6.75
Softball	1/5,000	1/3,500	4	0	1	4	0	0	1.85	2.04	2.6	5.4	2.63	2.91	3.71	7.7
Soccer	1/10,000	1/4,000	1	6	3	5	0	0	0.92	1.02	1.3	2.7	2.31	2.55	3.25	6.75
Football	1/20,000	1/15,000	0	0	2	1	0	0	0.46	0.51	0.65	1.35	0.62	0.68	0.87	1.8
Multi- Purpose Fields	No Req.	No Req.	4	0	3	0	0	0								
Tennis	1/2,000	1/6,500	3	0	0	0	4	0	4.62	5.09	6.5	13.5	1.42	1.57	1.99	4.15
Volleyball	1/5,000	No Req.	3	0	0	0	0	0	1.85	2.04	2.6	5.4				
Full Basketball Court	1/5,000	No Req.	4	0	5	0	2	0	1.85	2.04	2.6	5.4				
Ice Hockey, Indoors	No Req.	1/20,000	1	0	0	0	0	0					0.46	0.51	0.65	1.4
Ice Hockey / Skating Rink, Outdoors	No Req.	1/3,000	1	0	2	0	0	0					3.08	3.39	4.33	9
Children's Play Equipment *	No Req.	No Req.	4	1	5	1	0	0								
Rope Course	No Req.	No Req.	0	0	1	0	0	0								
Community Center *	No Req.	No Req.	2	0	0	0	0	0								
Skateboard Park	No Req.	No Req.	1	0	0	0	0	0					0.31	0.34	0.43	
BMX Track	No Req.	1/30,000	1	0	0	0	0	0					0.62	0.68	0.87	
Running Track / Skating Oval	No Req.	1/15,000	0	0	1	1	0	0				1.4				
Swimming Pool	1/20,000	No Req.	0	0	1	0	0	0	0.46	0.51	0.65					

\* Children's Play Equipment: Typical playground area; may consist of multiple pieces of play equipment.  
 \* Community Center : A meeting place used by members of a community for social, cultural, or recreational purposes.

\*\* National Recreation and Park Association "Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines" (The standards should be used as a guide for short and long term facility planning. The actual quantity of facilities will vary as the needs of the community change.)

^ Schools facilities were inventoried by phone. Actual sizes of the facilities listed may not meet NRPA standards.

^^ Projected population rates are based on a 5% factor. Census information was provided by the City of Wasilla which was obtained from <http://factfinder.census.gov>.



## *Recommended Classification System for Local & Regional Recreational Open Space*

<b>Classification</b>	<b>General Description</b>	<b>Location Criteria</b>	<b>Size Criteria</b>
<b>Mini-Park</b>	Used to address limited, isolated or unique recreational needs.	Less than 1/4 mile distance in residential setting.	Between 2500sq. ft. and one acre in size.
<b>Neighborhood Park</b>	Neighborhood park remains the basic unit of the park system and serves as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood. Focus is on informal active and passive recreation. Depending on circumstances, combining parks with school sites can fulfill the space requirements for other classes of parks, such as neighborhood, community, sports complex and special use.	1/4 to 1/2 mile distance and uninterrupted by non-residential roads and other physical barriers.	5 acres is considered minimum size. 5-10 acres is optimal.
<b>School-Park</b>		Determined by location of school district property.	variable-depends on function
<b>Community Park</b>	Serves broader purpose than neighborhood park. Focus is on meeting community-based recreation needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces.	Determined by the quality and suitability of the site. Usually serves two or more neighborhoods and 1/2 to 3/4 mile distance.	As needed to accommodate desired uses. Usually between 30 and 50 acres.
<b>Large Urban Park</b>	Large urban parks serve a broader purpose than community parks and are used when community and neighborhood parks are not adequate to serve the needs of the community. Focus is on meeting community-based recreational needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces.	Determined by the quality and suitability of the site usually serves the entire community	As needed to accommodate desired uses. Usually a minimum of 50 acres, with 75 or more acres being optimal.
<b>Natural Resource Areas</b>	Lands set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space and visual aesthetics/differring.	Resource availability and opportunity.	variable
<b>Greenways</b>	Effectively the park system components together to form a continuous park environment.	Resource availability and opportunity.	variable
<b>Sports Complex</b>	Consolidates heavily programmed athletic fields and associated facilities to larger and fewer sites strategically located throughout the community.	Strategically located community-wide facilities.	Determined by projected demand. Usually a minimum of 25 acre being optimal.
<b>Special Use</b>	Cover a broad range of parks and recreation facilities oriented toward single-purpose use.	Variable-dependent on specific use.	variable
<b>Private Park/Recreation Facility</b>	Parks and recreation facilities that are privately owned yet contribute to the public park and recreation system	Variable-dependent on specific use.	Variable

## *Park Area Analysis*

Parks owned by the City of Wasilla	Parks not owned by the City of Wasilla	Schools	Park Classification	Existing Acreage-2008
Bumpus Recreation Area			Sports Complex	120.00 +/-
Carter Park			Mini Park	0.65 +/-
Iditarok			Community Park	30.00 +/-
Newcomb Park			Neighborhood Park	5.40 +/-
Nunley Park			Mini Park	2.25 +/-
Aurora Cemetery			Cemetery	11.25 +/-
Downtown Historic Area, Museum, & Library			Mini Park	1.60 +/-
Sustina Avenue Boat Launch & Parking Lot			Mini Park	1.25 +/-
Lacy Loop Park			Mini Park	0.45 +/-
Lucille Creek Trailhead			Neighborhood Park	7.00 +/-
Gateway Site			Mini Park	1.22 +/-
Multi Use Sports Complex			Sports Complex	61.07 +/-
	Alaska Museum of Transportation & Industry		Private Neighborhood Park	15.00 +/-
	Snyder Park		Private Neighborhood Park	3.90 +/-
	Smith Little League Ball Fields		Private Community Park	29.00 +/-
	Railroad Park		Private Mini Park	2.30 +/-
	Lake Lucille Campground		Mini-Su Community Park	76.00 +/-
	Aleutna Recreational Area		Mini-Su Sports Complex	95.37 +/-
		Cottonwood Creek Elementary	School	29.26 +/-
		Infrared Elementary	School	19.52 +/-
		Larson Elementary	School	36.66 +/-
		Showshoe Elementary	School	20.04 +/-
		Tanana Elementary	School	77.54 +/-
		Teeland Middle School	School	46.43 +/-
		Wasilla Jr. - Middle School	School	22.91 +/-
		Burchell High School	School	6.03 +/-
		Wasilla High School	School	60.58 +/-
		Mar-Su Career & Technical High School	School	46.43 +/-
<b>Total Acreage</b>	<b>Total Acreage</b>	<b>Total Acreage</b>		<b>Total Acreage</b>
242.14 +/-	221.57 +/-	365.59 +/-		829.10 +/-

City of Wasilla Population	Recommended Total Park Area ** (Acres)
9,248 (2006)	58 to 97 acres
10,181 (2008)	64 to 107 acres
12,994 (2013)	81 to 136 acres
27,007 (2028)	169 to 284 acres

Projected Population uses a 5% growth factor  
 \* Acreages are approximate  
 \*\* National Recreation and Park Association "Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines" recommends 6.29 to 10.5 acres per 1,000 population. In 1996, NRPA guidelines were revised to include a Level of Service Standard.

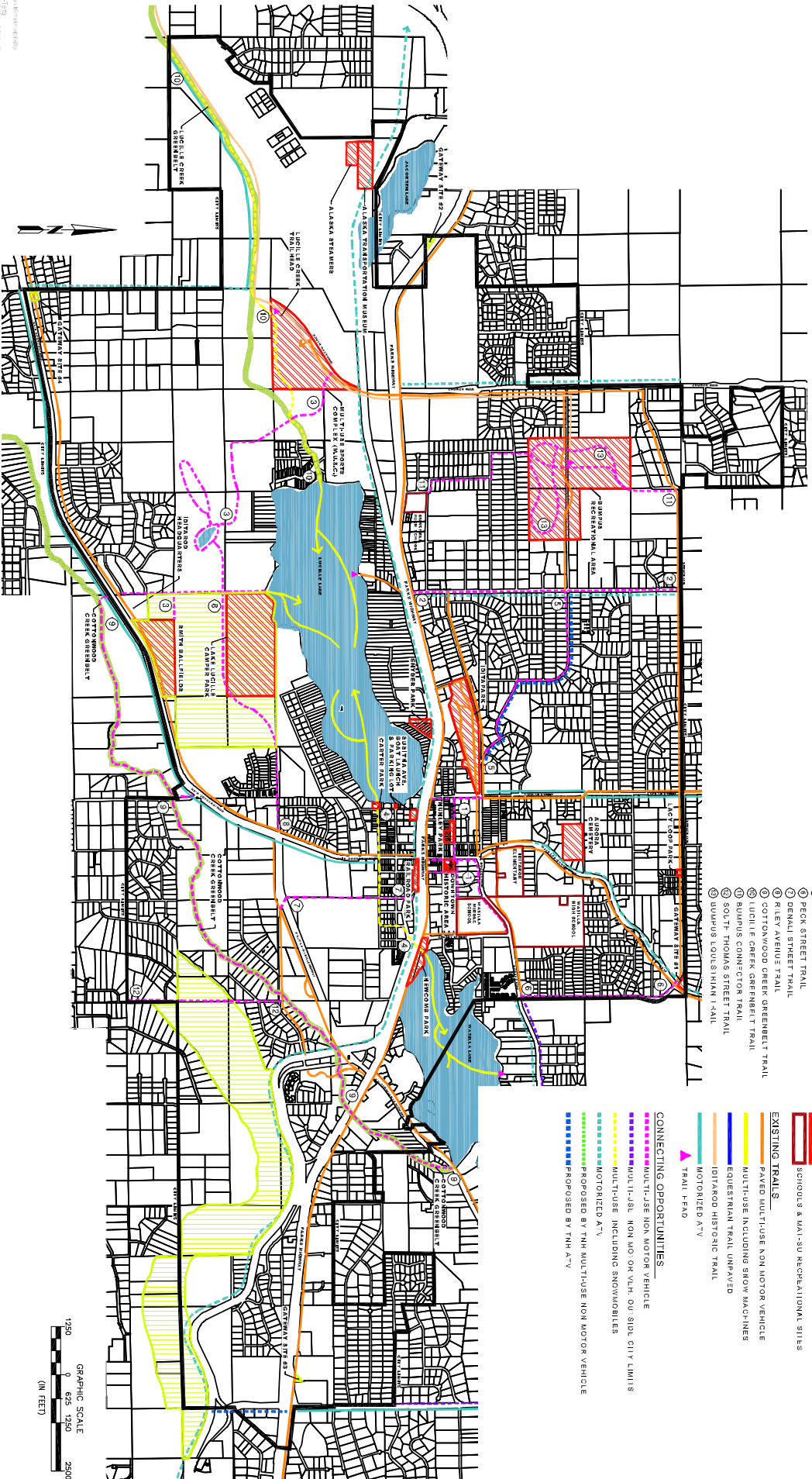




# APPENDIX D

# City of Wasilla

## TRAILS MAP

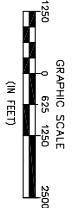


### Key

- ① DOWNTOWN TRAILS
- ② LUCAS ROAD TRAIL
- ③ SOUTH-WEST WASILLA TRAILS
- ④ LAKE TO LAKE TRAIL
- ⑤ WEST HOLLOW DRIVE TRAIL
- ⑥ PECK STREET TRAIL
- ⑦ DENALI STREET TRAIL
- ⑧ RILEY AVENUE TRAIL
- ⑨ COTTONWOOD GREER GREENBELT TRAIL
- ⑩ LUCILLE GREER GREENBELT TRAIL
- ⑪ RIJUPUS CONNECTOR TRAIL
- ⑫ SOUTH THOMAS STREET TRAIL
- ⑬ RIJUPUS LOUISIANA I-KAL

### Legend

- CITY LIMITS
  - GREENBELTS
  - PARK / GREENBELT / GATEWAY ACQUISITION
  - PARKS & RECREATION SITES
  - SCHOOLS & MAIL-SU RECREATIONAL SITES
- EXISTING TRAILS**
- PAVED MULTI-USE NON MOTOR VEHICLE
  - MULTI-USE INCLUDING SNOW MACHINES
  - EQUESTRIAN TRAIL UNPAVED
  - IDIAROD HISTORIC TRAIL
  - MOTORIZED ATV
  - ▲ TRAIL HEAD
- CONNECTING OPPORTUNITIES**
- MULTI-USE NON MOTOR VEHICLE
  - MULTI-USE NON MO OR VEH. ON SIDE CITY LIMITS
  - MULTI-USE INCLUDING SNOWMACHINES
  - MOTORIZED ATV
  - PROPOSED BY TRAIL
  - PROPOSED BY TRAIL



# WASILLA PARKS MASTER PLAN

## Recommended Classification System for Local & Regional Recreational Trails

Classification		General Description		Location Criteria		Size Criteria	
Park Trails (Types I, II, and III)	Type I	Type I trails are used in situations where use patterns dictate separate paths for pedestrians and bicyclists / in-line skaters. An example would be a trail around an intercity lake or along a riverfront.	Typically located within a greenway, park, or natural resource area (corridor width varies, with 100 feet being the recommended minimum when trail uses are separated).	Separate trails for pedestrians and bicyclists / in-line skaters. 10 foot wide bicycle and in-line skating hard surface trail. Separated by a natural landscape median strip, width varies. 8 foot wide pedestrian hard-surfaced trail.			
	Type II	Type II trails are more suited to lighter use patterns, such as from a housing subdivision to a natural resource area.	Typically located within a greenway, park, or natural resource area (corridor width varies, with 50 feet being the recommended minimum).	10 foot wide pedestrian, bicycle, and in-line skating hard-surfaced trail.			
	Type III	Type III trails are suited for areas requiring minimum impact, such as a nature preserve.	Typically located within a natural resource area or special use area such as a nature preserve.	6 to 8 foot wide soft-surface trail. Consideration should be given to augmenting soft-surfaced nature trails with hard-surfaced ones to allow universal access to all user groups.			
Connector Trails (Type I and II)	Type I	Type I trails are used in situations where use patterns dictate separate paths for pedestrians, bicyclist and, if necessary, in-line skaters. An example would be a trail within the shoulder or right of way of a collector street or parkway.	Located within the roadway right-of-way and designed to accommodate heavy use patterns.	10 foot wide hard-surfaced pedestrian, bicycle, and in-line skating trail (8 foot if pedestrian only) both side of the roadway. 10 minimum setback from roadway where space permits.			
	Type II	Type II trails are suited to lighter use patterns, such as a link between a parkway or thoroughfare and a nearby housing development.	Located within the roadway right-of-way and designed to accommodate multiple uses and/or directional use.	10 foot wide hard-surfaced pedestrian, bicycle, and in-line skating trail (8 foot if pedestrian only), 10 minimum setback from roadway where space permits.			
Bikeways	Bike Lanes	Bike lanes are designated portions of the roadway for the preferential or exclusive use of bicyclists. Bike lanes should be used in situations where traffic volumes are heavy enough to warrant clear separation between the bicycles and the vehicles.	Designated portion of the roadway	5 foot wide bike lane, both sides of the roadway if possible, and striping			
	Bike Routes	Bike routes are essentially paved shoulders or segments of the roadway that serve to separate bicyclists from traffic. Bike routes (paved shoulders) should be used in all other situations.		4 to 6 foot paved shoulder, both sides of the roadway if possible, and striping			
	All-Terrain (Mountain) Bike Trails	All-terrain bike trails are similar to park trails in that they emphasize a strong relationship to the natural environment. They are most often located within natural resource areas, greenways, community parks and special use facilities, such as golf courses.	Natural Resource areas, greenways, community parks, and special-use areas	Trail design to coincide with the standards developed by regional park agencies and state resource agencies.			
Other	Cross-Country Skiing Trails	These trails come in a variety of types and widths to accommodate two different styles: diagonal style and ski-to-ski. Similar to park trails, they should have a strong emphasis on the natural environment.	Natural Resource areas, greenways, community parks, and special-use areas	Diagonal style requires a set track, while skate-ski style requires a wider packed and groomed surface. Trail lengths vary considerably, with loops ranging from a few to 10 or more kilometers. Since quality and safety are important to all skiers, a few well groomed trails are preferable to extensive but poorly maintained ones. Trail design should coincide with the standards			
	Equestrian Trails	Equestrian trails are usually grass or woodchip. In some instances, cross-country ski trails are used for horseback riding during the summer.	Natural Resource areas, greenways, community parks, and special-use areas	Trail length varies considerably, with loops extending out 10 miles or more. There are no specific standard for how many miles of trail should be developed within a given community. Trail design should coincide with the standards developed by regional park agencies and state resource agencies.			
	Motorized ATV Trails	Motorized ATV trails are located in the roadway rights-of-ways and should be on the opposite side of the roadway as the pedestrian / bicyclist trail.	Roadway rights-of-ways	N/A			
	Historical Trails	Historic trail used for the Iditarod Dog Race	Original Route	N/A			





**Trail Descriptions**  
Wasilla Parks and Trails Master Plan

**Trail Name:** Downtown Connecting Trails

**Trail Number:** 1

**Length & Cost:** Attached Trail: 1.43 miles = 7,550 feet at \$70 per foot = \$528,500  
\*the cost will be shared with Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (ADOT&PF) projects.

**Types of Use:** Mixed Use Connector Trail Type II

**Land Ownership:** ADOT&PF and City Right-of-Ways

**Miscellaneous:** 10-foot wide, paved asphalt trail

**Description:** Adding a few trails downtown proposed by the Wasilla Trails Plan 1999 City Amendment would link the northern City grid to the Parks Highway. One of the trails would continue on the east side of N. Lucille Street, south of Nelson Avenue to the Parks Highway and would work nicely by creating a safe alternative to riding along the street that currently exists. Additional short trails would work well on the east side of Main Street and continue on to Bogard Road. This would connect existing trails that currently stop on Bogard Road. Also, adding a trail north on Boundary Street would meet up on Swanson Avenue tying the Downtown Historic area to the Wasilla Middle School trail. Continuing the trail north of the middle school will tie together the existing street trails and extending the Swanson Avenue trail to the Lucille Street trail will make an excellent connector in and around Nunley Park and the three schools: Wasilla High School, Middle School and Iditarod Elementary.

**Recommended actions:** Coordinate with ADOT&PF and the City of Wasilla regarding the widening of streets in the downtown area.



**Trail Descriptions**  
Wasilla Parks and Trails Master Plan

**Trail Name:** Lucas Road Trail

**Trail Number:** 2

**Length & Cost:** Separated Trail: 1.28 miles = 6,758 feet at \$80 = \$540,640

**Types of Use:** Mixed Use Connector Trail Type II

**Land Ownership:** ADOIT&PF Right-of-Way

**Miscellaneous:** 10-foot wide, paved asphalt trail

**Description:** A proposed connector trail from the Wasilla Trails Plan 1999 City Amendment running north and south connecting the Spruce Avenue Trail to the Parks Highway trail along the west side of Lucas Road. It would also cross the Nelson Avenue trail that runs east and west out of Iditapark. This trail would cross the Mystery Avenue Trail running east and west out of the Bumpus Recreational Area on the south side of Mystery Avenue.

**Recommended actions:** ADOIT&PF will build this trail when they upgrade Lucas Road.



**Trail Descriptions**  
Wasilla Parks and Trails Master Plan

**Trail Name:** Southwest Wasilla Trails

**Trail Number:** 3

**Length & Cost:**  
 3.36 miles = 17,740 feet  
 Separated Trail = 3.16 miles = 16,685 feet at \$80 = 1,334,800  
 Boardwalk = .20 miles = 1065 feet at \$520 = 553,800  
 Total Cost = 1,888,600

**Types of Use:** Mixed Use Connector Trail Type II

**Land Ownership:** Private / City Right-of-Way

**Miscellaneous:** 10-foot wide, paved asphalt trail or boardwalk in lowland areas

**Description:** The connector trail that runs southeast from the Multi Use Sports Complex (MUSC) to Endeavor Street. Once the trail hits Endeavor Street, it runs north to Lucille Lake, and south to Knik Goose Bay Road. There will be a spur trail that connects to Smith Ball Fields.

**Recommended actions:** Communicate with RC & D on project status and funding.



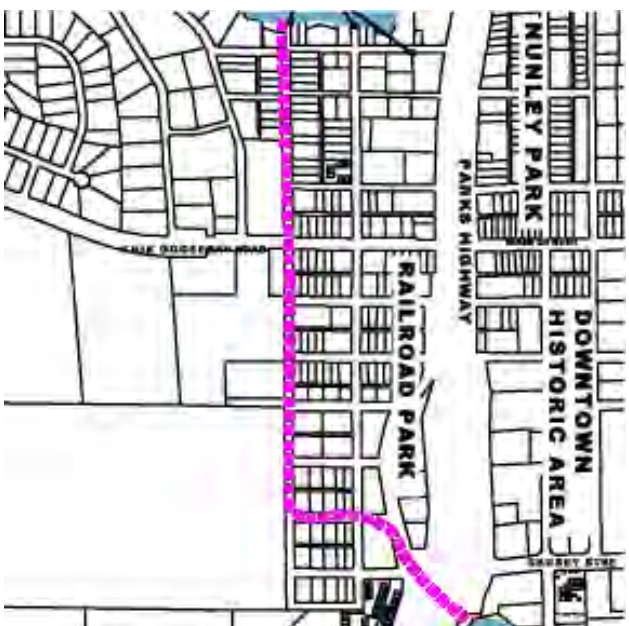
## Trail Descriptions

### Wasilla Parks and Trails Master Plan

<b>Trail Name:</b>	Lake to Lake Trail
<b>Trail Number:</b>	4
<b>Length &amp; Cost:</b>	Separated Trail: 0.83 miles = 4,382 feet at \$80 = \$350,560
<b>Types of Use:</b>	Mixed Use Connector Trail Type II
<b>Land Ownership:</b>	ADOT&PF and City Right-of-Way
<b>Miscellaneous:</b>	10-foot wide, paved asphalt trail

**Description:** The trail was proposed by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Asset Management Plan. The trail begins at Newcomb Park on Wasilla Lake and takes advantage of the underpass to cross the Parks Highway then flows through the City grid south of Railroad Park. The trail follows Railroad Avenue and then turns south on Illamna Street, next it cuts through the existing forest and intersects the Denali Street Trail (#7) before crossing Knik Goose Bay Road (KGB) and following E. Park Avenue and ending at Carter Park on Lake Lucille. The crossing at Knik Goose Bay needs to be looked at and improved if possible. This trail is also a snowmobile route, as shown on the trails map in a yellow dashed line. The trail is part of the Iron Dog Snowmobile Race route.

**Recommended actions:** The lighting in the underpass needs to be improved. Complete the existing trail and provide base materials, paving, signage, lighting and striping at important intersections.





**Trail Descriptions**  
Wasilla Parks and Trails Master Plan

**Trail Name:** West Holiday Drive Trail

**Trail Number:** 5

**Length & Cost:** Separated Trail: 1.06 miles = 5,597 feet at \$80 = \$447,760

**Types of Use:** Mixed Use Connector Trail Type II

**Land Ownership:** City Right-of-Way

**Miscellaneous:** 10-foot wide, paved asphalt trail

**Description:** This is a proposed connector trail that would begin on the west side of the Bumpus Recreational Area on the south side of W. Holiday Drive, curving to the south and turning left on W. Lone Cub Drive and finally ending at the Iditapark. The trail would provide a direct route for the surrounding neighborhoods from Bumpus Recreational Area to Iditapark.

**Recommended actions:** Construct separated trail within the City Right-of-Way.



**Trail Descriptions**  
Wasilla Parks and Trails Master Plan

**Trail Name:** North Peck Street Trail

**Trail Number:** 6

**Length & Cost:** Separated Trail: 1.00 miles = 5,280 feet at \$80 = \$422,400

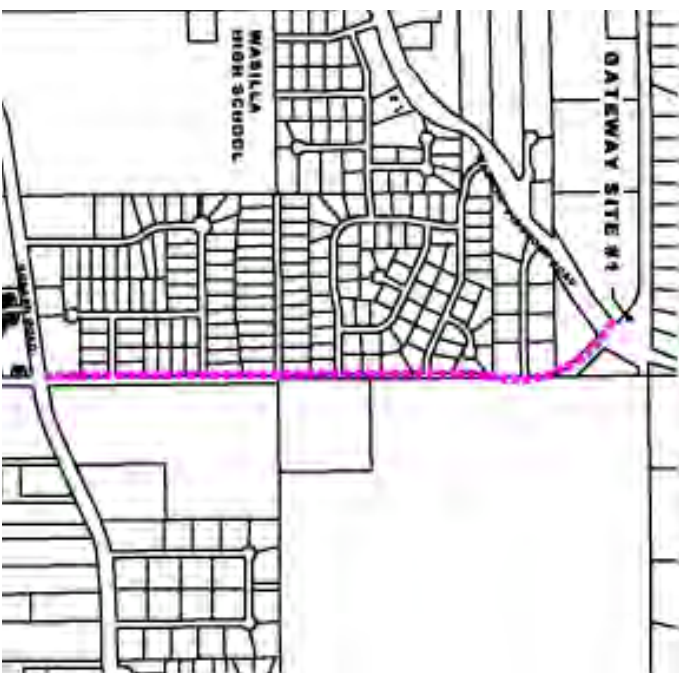
**Types of Use:** Mixed Use Connector Trail Type II

**Land Ownership:** City Right-of-Way

**Miscellaneous:** 10-foot wide, paved asphalt trail

**Description:** This connector trail was proposed by Wasilla Trails Plan 1999 City Amendment as a primitive trail, which needs grading. The trail runs north and south on the east side of N. Peck Street ending at Wasilla Lake connecting to the trails on Spruce Avenue, Wasilla Fishhook Road, and E. Bogard Road. An excellent site for a "Welcome to the City of Wasilla" sign is at the north end of this trail at the intersection of Wasilla Fishhook Road and Spruce Avenue.

**Recommended actions:** Construct separated trail within City Right-of-Way.



**Trail Descriptions**  
Wasilla Parks and Trails Master Plan

**Trail Name:** Denali Street Trail

**Trail Number:** 7

**Length & Cost:** Separated Trail: 0.64 miles = 3,379 feet at \$80 = \$220,320

**Types of Use:** Mixed Use Connector Trail Type II

**Land Ownership:** ADOT&PF Right-of-Way, Section Line Easement

**Miscellaneous:** 10-foot wide, paved asphalt trail

**Description:** A plan proposed by the Wasilla Trails Plan 1999 City Amendment would be a trail south of the Parks Highway on Denali Street to the east of Railroad Park connecting the Parks Highway and Railroad Park to the Palmer Wasilla Highway, cutting through the existing forest south of Susitna Avenue. A crossing will need to be developed where this trail meets the Palmer Wasilla Highway.

**Recommended actions:** Build trail within the existing section line easement.





**Trail Descriptions**  
Wasilla Parks and Trails Master Plan

**Trail Name:** Riley Avenue Trail

**Trail Number:** 8

**Length & Cost:** Separated Trail: 1.44 miles = 7,603 feet at \$80 = \$608,240

**Types of Use:** Non Motorized Multi Use Connector Trail Type II

**Land Ownership:** ADOT&PF and City Right-of-Ways / Private / Setback area

**Miscellaneous:** 10-foot wide, paved asphalt trail

**Description:** This trail will run west from Knik Goose Bay Road along the future extension of Riley Avenue. The trail will connect to the Southwest Wasilla trails at the intersection of Riley Avenue and Endeavor Street.

**Recommended actions:** Acquire right of way to build trail and new road.



**Trail Descriptions**  
Wasilla Parks and Trails Master Plan

**Trail Name:** Cottonwood Creek Greenbelt Trail

**Trail Number:** 9

**Length & Cost:**  
3.95 miles = 20,850 feet  
Separated Trail = 3.02 miles = 15950 feet at \$80 = 1,276,000  
Boardwalk = .93 miles = 4900 feet at \$520 = 2,548,000  
Total Cost = 3,824,000

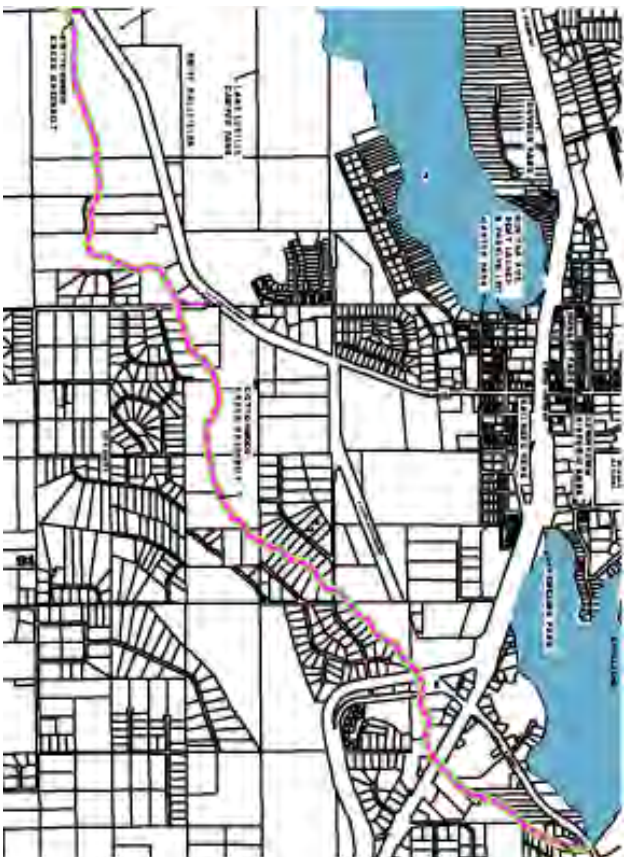
**Types of Use:** Mixed Use Greenway/Connector Trail Type III

**Land Ownership:** Private / Setback area

**Miscellaneous:** 10-foot wide, paved asphalt trail or boardwalk in lowland areas

**Description:** This trail was proposed by the Wasilla Trails Plan 1999 City Amendment, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and TNH. It would connect Wasilla Lake at the north end of Cottonwood Creek going southwest under the Parks Highway requiring an underpass for trail use. From this point, the trail will continue along the creek south of Knik Goose Bay Road ending at the intersection of S. Endeavor Street and Knik Goose Bay Road.

**Recommended actions:** Acquire land along creek to create a greenbelt, which would accommodate the trail.



**Trail Descriptions**  
Wasilla Parks and Trails Master Plan

**Trail Name:** Lucille Creek / MUSC Trailhead Greenbelt Trail

**Trail Number:** 10

**Length & Cost:**  
 2.40 miles = 12,675 feet  
 Separated Trail = 1.77 miles = 9,375 feet at \$80 = 750,000  
 Boardwalk = .63 miles = 3300 feet at \$520 = 1,716,000  
 Total Cost = 2,466,000

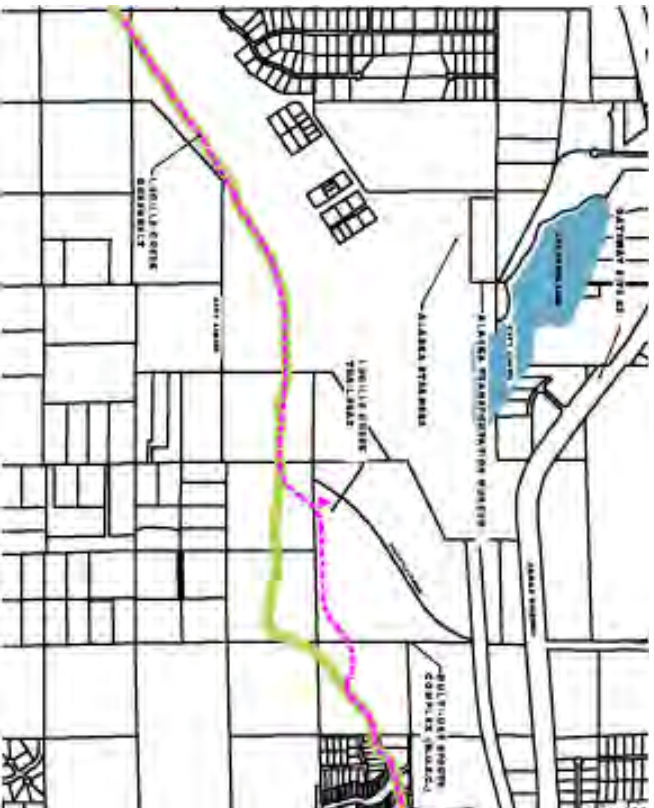
**Types of Use:** Mixed Use Greenbelt Trail Type II

**Land Ownership:** Private / City Right-of-Way

**Miscellaneous:** 10-foot wide, paved asphalt trail or wood boardwalk in lowland areas

**Description:** The trail would begin at the shore of Lucille Lake and run southwest in the Lucille Creek Greenbelt, crossing under the Southwest Wasilla Trail. From this point, the trail will head west out of the greenbelt to the MUSC. It will run along the south edge of the MUSC property though the trail head and then back southwest to the city limits for a possible connection to the surrounding communities. During the winter, this trail would be excellent for snow machines and would continue across Lucille Lake connecting back to the Lake to Lake Trail ending at Wasilla Lake. This trail is also a snowmobile route, as shown on the trails map in a yellow dashed line. The trail is part of the Iron Dog Snowmobile Race route.

**Recommended actions:** Acquire land along creek to create a greenbelt to accommodate the trail.



**Trail Descriptions**  
Wasilla Parks and Trails Master Plan

**Trail Name:** Bumpus Recreational Area Connector Trail

**Trail Number:** 11

**Length & Cost:** Separated Trail: 1.43 miles = 7,550 feet at \$80 = \$604,000

**Types of Use:** Mixed Use Parks Trail Type II & Connector Trail Type II

**Land Ownership:** City Right-of-Way / Park Land

**Miscellaneous:** 10-foot wide, paved asphalt trail

**Description:** The connector trail is proposed because of its value of linking neighborhoods, recreation areas, schools, and major roads. The trail runs north and south connecting Spruce Avenue with Burchell High School and the Parks Highway and passing through Bumpus Recreational Area. The trail would begin at the W. Dorthea Circle and Spruce Avenue intersection and run south through an easement towards Bumpus Recreational Area. It would exit the southern boundary of Bumpus Recreational Area through another easement continue on N. Kimberly Street turning east on W. Vaunda Avenue before turning south on N. Southway Street and finally reaching Burchell High School and ultimately the Parks Highway.

**Recommended actions:** Signage will need to be developed for entering and exiting Bumpus Recreational Area. Acquire Easements will need to be acquired for the trail north and south of Bumpus to connect to roadway Right-of-Ways. Update Bumpus Recreational Area Master plan to allow for best possible route through the area. Construct trail within easements and road Right-of-Way.





**Trail Descriptions**  
Wasilla Parks and Trails Master Plan

**Trail Name:** South Thomas Street Trail

**Trail Number:** 12

**Length & Cost:** Separated Trail: 0.53 miles = 2,800 feet at \$80 = \$224,000

**Types of Use:** Mixed Use Connector Trail Type II

**Land Ownership:** ADOT&PF and City Right-of-Ways

**Miscellaneous:** 10-foot wide, paved asphalt trail

**Description:** This proposed trail would connect the neighborhoods around E. Glenwood Avenue with the neighborhoods near Fairview Loop Road. The trail would begin at the intersection of E. Glenwood Avenue and S. Thomas Street, run south along the west side of S. Thomas Street to S. Togiak Street continuing until it reaches the city limits; thus, connecting the surrounding neighborhoods to the existing Palmer Wasilla Highway trail. There is an excellent opportunity for a small pocket park where the trail connects to the existing Glenwood Avenue trail.

**Recommended actions:** Investigate feasibility of constructing the trail within the section line easement.



**Trail Descriptions**  
Wasilla Parks and Trails Master Plan

**Trail Name:** Bumpus Equestrian Trail

**Trail Number:** 13

**Length & Cost:** Separated Trail: .19 miles = 8250 feet at \$5 = \$41,250

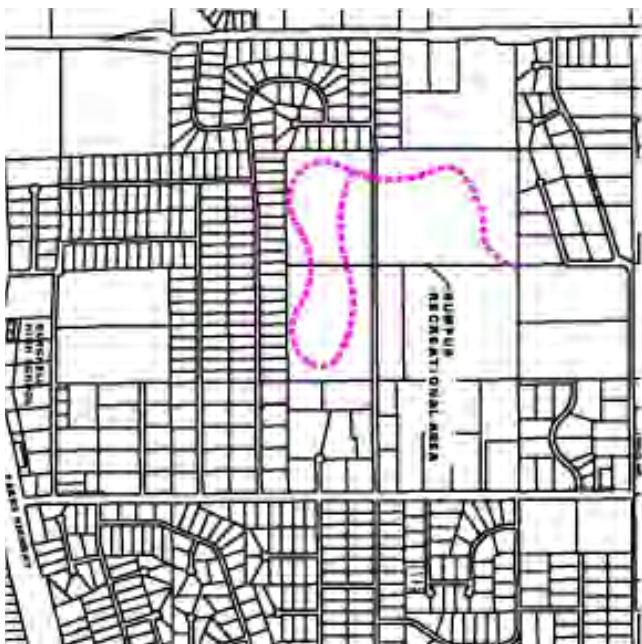
**Types of Use:** Equestrian Trail

**Land Ownership:** City of Wasilla

**Miscellaneous:** Grass or wood chip trail

**Description:** This trail is inside of the Bumpus Recreational Area. The trail has been partially constructed.

**Recommended actions:** Upgrade existing trail





# PARKS AND TRAILS MASTER PLAN

**Draft**  
August 9, 2011

## Project Team:

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Dan Feltz	daniel@mtaonline.net
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## “As Needed” Members

Pete Powell Barbara Peryam Janice Williams Jim Hayes Brenda Carr John Luster

## “Resource” Parties

Diane Keller



# Table of Contents

## 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Background
- 1.2 Scope and Objectives

## 2.0 Methods

- 2.1 Inventory and Assessment
  - 2.1.1 Project Website
  - 2.1.2 Public Questionnaire
  - 2.1.3 Public Meetings
- 2.2 Review of Existing Information

## 3.0 Findings

- 3.1 Public Questionnaire Results
- 3.2 Existing Athletic Facilities
- 3.3 Proposed Athletic Facilities
- 3.4 Projected Facility Requirements
- 3.5 Recommended Classification System for Local and Regional Recreational Open Space
- 3.6 Park Area Analysis

## 4.0 Conclusions and Recommendations

- 4.1 Program for Parks and Recreation facilities
- 4.2 Trails / Greenways
- 4.3 Recommended Classification System for Local and Recreational Open Space
- 4.4 Trail Descriptions in order of importance
- 4.5 Greenways

## 5.0 Bibliography

## **6.0 Appendix A**

Project Website  
Project Questionnaire  
Citizen Advisory Group Meeting Agenda  
Public Welcoming Event Agenda

## **7.0 Appendix B**

List of Sites  
City of Wasilla Context Map  
Park Inventory Checklists

## **8.0 Appendix C**

Questionnaire Results  
Questionnaire Comments  
Existing Athletic Facilities  
Proposed Athletic Facilities  
Projected Facility Requirements  
Recommended Classification System for Local and Regional Recreational Open  
Space  
Park Area Analysis

## **9.0 Appendix D**

City of Wasilla Trails Map  
Recommended Classification System for Local & Regional Recreational Trails

## **10.0 Appendix E**

1999 Trails Master Plan – adopted November 1998

## 1.0 Introduction

### 1.1 Background

The City of Wasilla contracted with Tryck Nyman Hayes, Inc. landscape architects to prepare a comprehensive master plan that will create a long term plan for existing and future citywide parks, greenbelts and trails. This plan serves as a long range vision (5 to 20 year time frame) for future development and programming.

### 1.2 Scope and Objectives

The objective of this project is to inventory existing facilities within the City of Wasilla limits and engage the public in developing the future needs of the community.

- Conduct an inventory of the City of Wasilla parks and trails
  - Develop, distribute and summarize a Wasilla parks questionnaire
  - Organize a Citizen Advisory Group (CAG) and conduct meetings to discuss the project
  - Develop a project website informing the public about the project and the public process
  - Organize a public welcoming event to gather public information about parks and trails
  - Prepare a needs assessment for the City of Wasilla parks and trails
  - Consult National Recreation and Park Association Guidelines for Parks and Recreation Facilities
  - Consult City of Wasilla census information for estimated population counts
- Prepare a program for the City of Wasilla parks and trails
  - Consult the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Asset Management Plan - "Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan"
  - Consult the Wasilla Trails Plan 1999 City Amendment and the Wasilla Comprehensive Plan 1996
- Prepare schematic designs for future parks and greenbelts (ongoing)
- Prepare a comprehensive citywide master plan
  - Prepare a concept level cost analysis (will happen after the schematic designs are prepared)
  - Recommend an implementation plan (will happen after the schematic designs are prepared)

## 2.0 Methods

### 2.1 Inventory and Assessment

During this inventory and assessment, the design team used a variety of methods, which are highlighted below:

- Project website
- Project questionnaire
- Field observation
- Collection of draft plans: Iditapark, Curtis D. Menard Memorial Sports Center and Bumpus Recreational Area
- Aerial photography and topography
- Site parcel / platting information within the City of Wasilla limits

Recognizing that the public was an essential part of the needs and assessment, a Citizen Advisory Group (CAG) was organized. Several CAG meetings were held throughout the process. A public welcoming event at the MUSC included the public in the planning effort. A project questionnaire was mailed to all of the residents within the City of Wasilla limits to gather input on the current use of the existing parks and trails and future needs for park and trail facilities. The project website was updated to maintain public awareness of the project status and contact information.

A list of twenty sites within the City of Wasilla limits was developed and approved by the CAG. A checklist identifying existing facilities at these sites was developed prior to the field observations. Each site was photographed to document the current conditions of the existing facilities. These checklists are included in Appendix B.

The design team and CAG recognized a number of existing recreational facilities and Matanuska-Susitna Borough schools just outside of the City limits that needed to be accounted for in the assessment. These schools and Matanuska-Susitna Borough recreational facilities within two miles of the City limits were surveyed by interviewing school personnel and utilizing plans and aerial photography to identify existing facilities. These facilities have been listed in the chart titled "Existing Athletic Facilities," but have not been included in the "Projected Facility Requirement" chart because they are not currently owned by the City of Wasilla.

The latest park, recreation, open space and greenway guidelines released by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) appear to have been based on a new philosophy, with a "systems approach" to community facility planning. The new approach reconsiders the old notion of a national standard of 10 acres of park land for every 1,000 people, which has been in place since 1981 and is generally recognized as deficient in today's recreation and open space environment. The new NRPA "systems approach" addresses the following trends:

- Need to accommodate different cultures
- Need to include public opinion
- Identification of the wellness movement

- Establishment of level of service standards
- Recognition that the residents of each community should be given the right to determine the size and use of land set aside for parks and recreation facilities

### **2.1.1 Project Website**

A project web page was established at the beginning of the project. This web page was linked to the City of Wasilla website under the heading of “What’s Up Today”. The link to the web page was posted on the public questionnaire and handed out at the public meetings. Throughout the project, the web page was updated with the most current project data and meeting dates. A screenshot has been included in Appendix A.

### **2.1.2 Public Questionnaire**

The public questionnaire included the project goal, the project team, and eight questions about citywide parks, trails and right-of-way acquisition. A copy of the questionnaire is in Appendix A. There was also a place for respondents to write in their comments. It was mailed to all residents living within the City limits. The City received 101 completed questionnaires by June 30, 2007 and the responses are included in Appendix C.

### **2.1.3 Public meetings**

The initial CAG meeting was held on June 25, 2007, and Dave Tuttle was elected as the chairperson. The CAG approved the list of sites to be inventoried by the design team. They also gave the design team their input as to what was needed within the City of Wasilla.

The public welcoming event on September 5, 2007, was advertised in the *Frontiersman*. The sports user groups were invited to attend. The design team had two interactive tables at the event; one for parks and one for trails and greenbelts. The public was invited to move back and forth between the two tables and provide input. The CAG meeting agenda and the public welcoming event agenda are in Appendix A.

## **2.2 Review of Existing Information**

The following items were reviewed prior to this event and assessment:

- “Wasilla Parks and Recreation Commission, Survey 1, April 1995”, prepared by City of Wasilla Parks & Recreation Commission
- *Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines*, James D. Mertes, Ph.D., CLP and James R. Hall, CLP
- *Matanuska-Susitna Borough Asset Management Plan*, assembly adopted June 2001, prepared by Land Design North
- *Wasilla Trails Plan 1999 City Amendment*, prepared by Trails advisory subcommittee, Parks and Recreation Commission, City of Wasilla
- *Wasilla Comprehensive Plan Chapter 5- Parks and Recreation Plan*, April 1996
- Site visits to all twenty sites

## **3.0 Findings**

### **3.1 Public Questionnaire Results**

The public questionnaire was mailed to each property owner within the City of Wasilla limits, and a total of 101 questionnaires were returned. The data was recorded to show the actual number of people responding to each question. A summary of comments shows additional comments that were written in to the eight questions on the questionnaire. The design team has posted the total comments provided by the respondents. These results are included in Appendix C. The results show 57 percent of respondents use city trails, 81 percent support government funding of parks, and 24 percent regularly use park and recreation facilities.

### **3.2 Existing Athletic Facilities**

The City owns 30 athletic facilities ranging from indoor ice rink to outdoor MBX track for bicycles. The twenty existing sites specific to the parks master plan were inventoried to review the number of existing fields and courts. Sites owned by the City of Wasilla and sites not owned by the City of Wasilla were noted. The ten schools in the surrounding area were inventoried by phone to develop a list of facilities provided at each school. Because this information was taken over the phone, the information was included without field verification. The existing athletic facilities chart can be found in Appendix C.

### **3.3 Proposed Athletic Facilities**

The City plans on adding 16 new athletic facilities over the next 20 years as funding becomes available that includes soccer and softball fields. Several approved master plans illustrating proposed facilities have not been constructed. These proposed facilities are listed and categorized by parks owned and parks not owned by the City of Wasilla. The proposed athletic facilities chart can be found in Appendix C.

### **3.4 Projected Facility Requirements**

The results show in general that the number of existing facilities is adequate to serve the greater Wasilla area, but as the population grows additional facilities will be needed. The projected facility requirements chart uses the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) Standards and the revised local standards from the South Davis master plan for the Fairbanks North Star Borough completed by PDC, Inc. in June, 1999. Both sets of standards can be used as a guide for determining the number of facilities that are needed based on population counts for an area. Using a 5 percent growth factor, the future growth for the City of Wasilla was projected. This factor was determined by taking the median of the past 2000 and 2005 growth, which was 6 to 8 percent, and the standard projected growth factor of 3 to 3.5 percent. This chart is included in Appendix C.

### **3.5 Recommended Classification System for Local and Recreational Open Space**

A classification system for local and recreational open space from the *Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines*, written by James D. Mertes and James R. Hall has been included in Appendix C. This classification system includes a description, location criteria, and size criteria for each open space classification.

### **3.6 Park Area Analysis**

This chart includes the classification and acreage for each of the twenty sites that were inventoried and the ten schools that were analyzed in our study. The sites are separated into two categories: parks owned by the City of Wasilla and parks not owned by the City of Wasilla. The chart also recommends the total acres of park area required for the City of Wasilla based on the original NRPA standard of 6.25 to 10.5 acres per 1,000 people. This chart can be found in Appendix C.



## 4.0 Conclusions and Recommendations

A prioritized list of recommendations for parks, trails and greenways was developed for the City of Wasilla to implement.

### 4.1 Program for Parks and Recreation facilities

The Wasilla Parks Master Plan questionnaire reported that people believe city government should provide money for community parks, but the average person visited the existing parks one to five times within the last year. TNH recommends the City of Wasilla establish a design vocabulary for site furnishings for its parks to promote continuity. We also recommend the City develop a volunteer system to help with maintenance of the parks and trails. Excellent examples are the “Adopt a Park” and “Adopt a Trail” volunteer programs.

A “Welcome to the City of Wasilla” sign at four locations within the City limits should be created. The City of Wasilla already owns the Gateway site at the northeast corner of Wasilla Fishhook Road. This site would be an ideal location for a decorative sign. A second recommended location for a decorative “Welcome to the City of Wasilla” sign would be at the western entrance on the Parks Highway. It appears this corner parcel is currently owned by the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities. A third location would be on a private parcel at the eastern entrance of the Parks Highway. This parcel is indicated on the City of Wasilla context map in Appendix C. The fourth location would be on Knik Goose Bay Road within the ADOT & PF right-of-way at the southwest entrance into the City.

We propose that new conceptual site plans be created for Nunley and Newcomb Parks. The second future opportunity would be the acquisition of adjacent lands to the Lake Lucille Camper Park for development into a Sports Complex park focusing more on fields that accommodate the specific needs of user groups; for example, soccer, softball and Little League. The third opportunity would be the acquisition of a privately owned greenbelt in the southeast corner of the City limits. This greenbelt connects Cottonwood Creek and Fairview Loop Road providing open space for residents in the southeast quadrant of the City. Acquisition of lands adjacent to Cottonwood Creek and Lucille Creek would allow for a continuous trail for cross country skiing, biking, walking and running - similar to the Coastal Trail in Anchorage.

### 4.2 Trails / Greenways

A network of city trails has been designed to link existing and future neighborhoods, parks, and common open spaces. This trail system aims to separate vehicular and pedestrian traffic promoting safe pedestrian movement. In formulating this network, the *Matanuska-Susitna Borough Asset Management Plan- Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan* was analyzed. Existing trails from this plan, as well as proposed trails and pathways specifically linking the City of Wasilla to other outlying areas, were recorded. The *Wasilla Trails Plan 1999 City Amendment* and the *Wasilla Comprehensive Plan 1996* were also reviewed. The trails inventory, conducted as part of this plan, noted the existing trails as well as proposed trails throughout the City of Wasilla limits.



From the Wasilla parks master plan questionnaire it was determined that 57 of 92 people currently use the city trails and want the trails to be designed for multi-modal use. A public welcoming event gathered public opinion for future trail connections throughout the city limits. Thirteen future connecting trail opportunities are listed below, and are ranked in order of importance. These trails are also on the Trails Map in Appendix D.

- |                             |  |                               |
|-----------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| 1. Downtown Trails          | 6. North Beck Trail                    | 11. Bumpus Connector Trail    |
| 2. Lucas Road Trail         | 7. Denali Street Trail                 | 12. South Thomas Street Trail |
| 3. Southwest Wasilla Trails | 8. Riley Avenue Trail                  | 13. Bumpus Equestrian Trail   |
| 4. Lake to Lake Trail       | 9. Cottonwood Creek<br>Greenbelt Trail |                               |
| 5. West Holiday Drive Trail | 10. Lucille Creek Greenbelt Trail      |                               |

### **4.3 Recommended Classification System for Local and Recreational Open Space**

The design team has included a classification system for Local and Regional Recreational Trails from the *Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines* by James D. Mertes, Ph.D., CLP and James R. Hall, CLP. This classification system can be found in Appendix D.

### **4.4 Trail Descriptions in order of importance**

The design team has made recommendations for twelve new trails within the City of Wasilla limits. The descriptions for these trails can be found in Appendix D and are listed in order of importance.

### **4.5 Greenways**

A separate recommendation by the design team is for the City to acquire property adjacent to the Cottonwood Creek, Lucille Creek and the greenbelt in the southeast corner of the City. This acquisition should begin immediately, but generally should be contained within the current 75 foot setback for clearing adjacent to these creeks.

## **5.0 Bibliography**

“Wasilla Parks and Recreation Commission, Survey 1, April 1995”, prepared by City of Wasilla Parks & Recreation Commission

*Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines*, James D. Mertes, Ph.D., CLP and James R. Hall, CLP

*Matanuska-Susitna Borough Asset Management Plan*, assembly adopted June 2001, prepared by Land Design North

*Wasilla Trails Plan 1999 City Amendment*, prepared by Trails advisory subcommittee, parks and recreation commission, City of Wasilla

*Wasilla Comprehensive Plan Chapter 5- Parks and Recreation Plan*, April 1996

# **APPENDIX A**





- [Home](#)
- [About Us](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Public Questionnaire](#)
- [Calendar](#)

## Home

# Wasilla Parks Masterplan

**Project Goal:** To develop a masterplan for both citywide park and open space and for facilities at the Multi Use Sports Complex



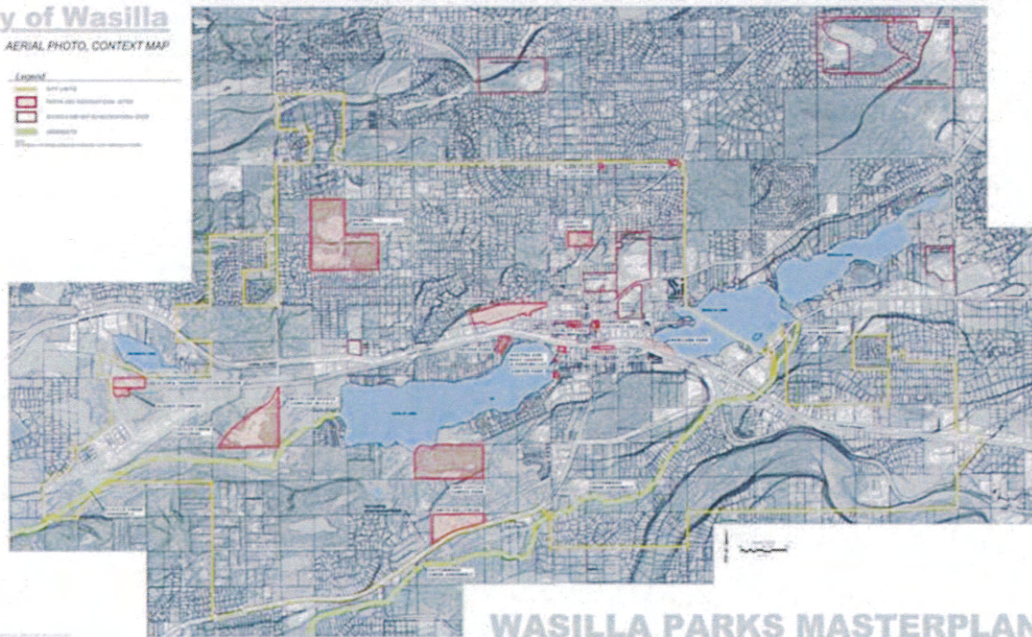
Multi Use Sports Complex

### City of Wasilla

AERIAL PHOTO, CONTEXT MAP

**Legend**

- Existing Parks
- City Limits
- Water
- Forest
- Other



## WASILLA PARKS MASTERPLAN

This is the aerial photo / context map presented to the Citizen Advisory Group on June 26. The existing parks within the City Limits are highlighted in red. The City Limit line is yellow.





- [Home](#)
- [About Us](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Public Questionnaire](#)
- [Calendar](#)

## About Us

### Project Team:

Recreation and Cultural Services Dept.  
 Community and Economics Development Dept.  
 Department of Public Works  
 Citizen Advisory Group  
 Tryck Nyman Hayes, Inc.



Iditapark

### City of Wasilla

#### TRAILS MAP



### WASILLA PARKS MASTERPLAN

This project includes an inventory of the existing trails and an assessment of areas where trails are needed to promote connectivity throughout the city.

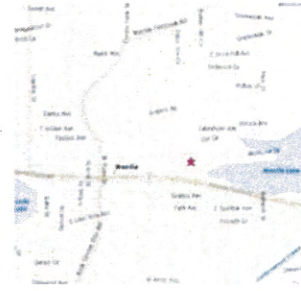


- [Home](#)
- [About Us](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Public Questionnaire](#)
- [Calendar](#)

## Contact Us

### Tryck Nyman Hayes, Inc.

Anchorage and Wasilla Offices



**Tryck Nyman Hayes, Inc.**  
 851 East West Point Drive  
 Suite 309  
 Wasilla, AK 99654





Home

About Us

Contact Us

Public Questionnaire

Calendar

### Public Questionnaire

**1. What age groups live in your household?**

- Preschool (0-5 years)
- Elementary (6-11 years)
- Middle / High School (12-18 years)
- Young Adult (18-25 years)
- Adult

**2. Do you hike the trails inside the City Limits?**

- Yes
- No

**3. How can we make the trail system better?**

- Informational Map Boards at trailheads
- Markers / numbering on each trailhead
- Dedicated R.O.W.
- Design for multi-modal use: Walk, Bike, etc.

**4. Why do you use the trail system in the city?**

- Recreation / Exercise
- Transportation to / from work
- Bird watching / nature viewing

**5. I would like to participate in a volunteer trails clean up maintenance committee?**

- Yes
- No

**6. What do you believe City government should provide money for?**

- Community Programs
- Athletic Fields
- Community Parks
- Trails

**7. What are the best ways to approach R.O.W. acquisition from private property interests?**

- Conservation Easement
- Land Trust Purchase
- Public Dedication
- Donation / Tax Write Off

**8. In the last 12 months, how often have you or other household members visited a city park or city recreation facility?**

- 1-5 times
- 11-15 times
- 6-10 times
- more than 15 times

**9. Other Comments: \_\_\_\_\_**

Please Tell Us  
What You Think!

Please return the  
questionnaires to:

The City of Wasilla  
290 East Herning Ave.  
Wasilla, AK 99654-7091



Home

About Us

Contact Us

Public Questionnaire

Calendar

## Calendar

### September 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

#### Schedule of Events

09.05.07- Public Welcoming Event at the MUSC  
7-9 pm



1. What age groups live in your household?
  - Preschool (0-5 years)
  - Elementary (6-11 years)
  - Middle/High School (12-18 years)
  - Young Adult (18-25 years)
  - Adult
2. Do you hike the trails inside the City Limits?
  - Yes
  - No
3. How can we make the trail system better?
  - Informational Map Boards at trailheads?
  - Markers/numbering on each trail head
  - Dedicated R.O.W.
  - Design for multi-modal use: Walk, Bike, etc.
4. Why do you use the trail system in the city?
  - Recreation / exercise
  - Transportation to/from work
  - Bird watching / nature viewing
5. I would participate in a volunteer trails clean up maintenance committee?
  - Yes
  - No
6. What do you believe City government should provide money for?
 

Community Programs	Athletic Fields
Community Parks	Trails
7. What are the best ways to approach R.O.W. acquisition from private property interests?
  - Conservation Easement
  - Land Trust Purchase
  - Public Dedication
  - Donation / Tax Write Off
8. In the last 12 months, how often have you or other household members visited a city park or city recreation facility?
 

1-5 times	11-15 times
6-10	more than 15
9. Other Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

## Project Goal:

To develop a masterplan for both citywide park and open space and for outdoor recreation facilities at the Multi Use Sports Complex .

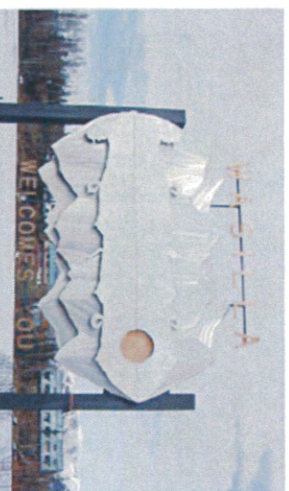
## Project Team:

Recreation and Cultural Services Dept.  
 Community and Economic Dev.  
 Public Works Department  
 Citizen Advisory Group  
 TNH Eng. / Landscape Architects



## Wasilla Parks Masterplan Questionnaire

Please take a minute to fill out the attached postcard and return to The City of Wasilla



Please take a moment to  
**Tell Us...**  
**what you think!**  
[www.cityofwasilla.com](http://www.cityofwasilla.com)

## **Citizen's Advisory Group Meeting Agenda**

Wasilla Parks and Trails Master Plan

Wasilla Multi-Use Sports Complex 7:00 PM, June 26, 2007

1. Introductions  
Citizen's Advisory Group (CAG) Organization  
Select Chairperson
2. Description of Project  
Intent  
Scope of Services
3. Distribute Handout – Binder-Notebook Containing: Minutes, Start-Up Meetings  
Public Involvement Plan  
Project Web Page  
Questionnaire  
List of Sites and Site Inventories
4. Update of Activities to date:  
Two Initial Kick-off Meetings  
Inventory/Photography  
Questionnaire  
Web Page  
Data Base Map(s), (these are to be mounted on wall):  
Aerial Map including vegetation and existing conditions  
Lots and Roadway Rights of Way  
Topography
5. Questions and Input from the CAG Members
6. Future Events: Public Welcoming Event (September 5, 2007)
7. Input from Audience – 3 minute limit
8. Adjournment

## Public Welcoming Event Agenda

Wasilla Parks and Trails Master Plan

Wasilla Multi-Use Sports Complex 7:00 PM, September 5, 2007

1. Introductions  
Project Description and Goal of tonight's meeting  
Project Website: [www.cityofwasilla.com](http://www.cityofwasilla.com)  
Project E-mail: [LA@tnh-inc.com](mailto:LA@tnh-inc.com)
  
2. Progress to date  
Public Questionnaire  
First CAG Meeting  
Inventory of Existing Park Sites  
Assessment Charts including Matsu Schools: Cottonwood Creek Elementary  
Iditarod Elementary  
Larson Elementary  
Snowshoe Elementary Tanaina Elementary Teeland Middle School Wasilla Jr.  
Middle School Burchell High School Wasilla High School  
Mat-Su Career & Technical High School
  
3. Two Interactive Tables  
Parks Master Plan                      Randy Lyons  
Trails Map                                Eric Morey  
Invite the public to stop by each table and designate areas where additional  
parks and trails are necessary.
  
4. What's Next:  
Project Assessment  
Project Program  
Second CAG meeting  
Public Open House- develop a preferred alternative

## **Citizen's Advisory Group Meeting Agenda**

Wasilla Parks and Trails Master Plan

Wasilla Multi-Use Sports Complex 6:30 PM, December 13, 2007

1. Purpose of tonight's meeting:  
Review and Comment on the Wasilla Parks Master Plan Draft Report
2. Distribute Handout – Draft Report: dated 11-12-2007
3. Review Report Findings:  
Four "Welcome to the City of Wasilla" signs  
New Schematic Concept Plans for Nunley, Newcomb and Carter Parks  
Twelve future connecting trail opportunities
4. Questions and Input from the CAG Members
5. Future Events: Third CAG meeting, mid-February
6. Adjournment

# APPENDIX B

## List of Sites: Wasilla Parks Master Plan

Updated August 1, 2011

### Parks:

	<b>Approximate Acreage</b>
1. Bumpus Recreation Area	120 acres
2. Carter Park at Lake Lucille	.65 acres
3. Iditapark	28 acres
4. Newcomb Park at Wasilla Lake	5.4 acres
5. Nunley Park (opposite City Hall)	2.25 acres
6. Cottonwood Creek Park (proposed)	9 acres

### Additional Recreational Facilities:

1. Susitna Avenue Boat Launch	1.25 acres
-------------------------------	------------





<b>AMENITIES</b>	<b>Bumpus Recreation Area</b>	<b>Carter Park at Lake Lucille</b>	<b>Iditapark</b>	<b>Newcomb Park at Wasilla</b>	<b>Lake Lucille Park and Campground</b>	<b>Cottonwood Creek Park (proposed)</b>	<b>Susitna Avenue Boat Launch</b>	<b>Nunley Park</b>
Major League Baseball - 90°	1							
Little League Baseball - 60°								
Softball	4							
Soccer	1				2			
Campsites					57			
Multi-purpose Fields			1					
Tennis			2					
Volleyball			3					
Full Basketball Court			4					
Indoor Skating Rink								
Outdoor Skating Rink			1	1				
Children's Play Equipment*		X	X	X	X			X
Swimming				X				
Skateboard Park			X					
BMX Track			X					
Running Track/Staking Oval								
Equestrian Trails	X							
Trails	X		X		X			
Parking	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
Boat Launch							X	
Picnic Shelters			2	1	3			
Picnic Tables		X	X	X	X			X
Drinking Fountain			X					
Grills		X	X	X	X			X
Showers								
Vending Machines								
Restrooms	X	X	X	X	X			X
Garbage Cans	X	X	X	X	X			X
Benches			X					
Lights			X	X				
Flagpole			X					



# APPENDIX C



## Wasilla Parks Masterplan Questionnaire - Results

There were a 101 questionnaires returned. Not all were filled out in their entirety. The data is broken down by the actual number of people responding to each item.

	<u>Actual #</u>
<b>1. What are the age groups that live in your household?</b>	
Preschool (0-5 years)	12
Elementary (6-11 years)	12
Middle/High School (12-18 years)	24
Young Adult (18-25 years)	14
Adult	94
<b>2. Do you hike the Trails inside the City Limits?</b>	
Yes	57
No	35
<b>3. How can we make the trail system better?</b>	
Informational Map Boards at trailheads	36
Markers/numbering on each trailhead	23
Dedicated R.O.W.	20
Design for multi-model use: Walk, Bike, etc.	58
<b>4. Why do you use the trail system in the city?</b>	
Recreation/exercise	71
Transportation to/from work	8
Bird watching/nature viewing	21
<b>5. I would participate in a volunteer trails clean up maintenance committee?</b>	
Yes	34
No	48
<b>6. What do you believe City government should provide money for?</b>	
City Buildings	64
Community Parks	81
Ballfields	56
Trails	62
<b>7. What are the best ways to approach R.O.W. acquisition from private property interests?</b>	
Conservation Easements	21
Land Trust Purchase	40
Public Dedication	28
Donation/Tax Write Off	37
<b>8. In the last 12 months, how often have you or other household member visited a city park or city recreation facility?</b>	
1-5 Times	38
6-10 Times	19
11-15 Times	11
more than 15	24



## Wasilla Parks Masterplan Questionnaire - Comments

The following is a summary of comments from the questionnaires. They are in no particular order.

### 1. What are the age groups that live in your household?

No Comments

### 2. Do you hike the Trails inside the City Limits?

- 2 people said - Sometimes
- Historic trails only
- A little
- Very seldom
- I don't know where any are
- We have trails?

### 3. How can we make the trail system better?

- Design for Multi-use is very important.
- Exclude vehicle/ORVs/ Motorcycles, etc.
- ATV Trails
- They are good now
- Give 'miles between' info on signs
- Design for snow machine/ATV/motorcycle uses
- Motorized use
- Keep motorized vehicles off
- Advertise
- Keep motorized vehicles off
- Include motorized vehicles

### 4. Why do you use the trail system in the city?

- Haven't used trails!
- I haven't used them
- Bike Trails
- 3 people said - Don't use

### 5. I would participate in a volunteer trails clean up maintenance committee?

- Already do!
- I'm handicapped
- Educate high school age kids. I pick up as I can.
- We do this already as volunteers on our own time.
- 6 people said - Maybe
- Don't know
- No Time

### 6. What do you believe City government should provide money for?

- Sports complexes should be private enterprises.
- Enforce laws already in place.
- 2 people said - Library
- Not the sports complex, it's too expensive.
- Wasilla needs water and sewer before anything else.
- Bus System
- ROADS
- Use vacant buildings
- NONE
- Within the city

### 7. What are the best ways to approach R.O.W. acquisition from private property interests?

- Buy it!
- Whatever it takes
- Need more info to make a good decision
- Each area has different requirements
- Some of each
- Purchase in lieu of Taxes (ask Duffy)
- 3 people said - Don't know
- Offer fair market value
- DO NOT DO THIS!
- Unsure

### 8. In the last 12 months, how often have you or other household member visited a city park or city recreation facility?

- 7 people said - They have visited 0 times.



The following is a summary of comments from the questionnaires. They are in no particular order.

#### 9. Other Comments

- We need more green park and trail space.
- Trails are great. Keep up the good work. Keeps kids and families fit. Saves Fuel, traffic, etc.
- Adopt a program of land acquisition/upgrade landscape guidelines to preserve natural landscape in the city and adjacent to the lake.
- Don't waste our money
- Thanks for the great maintenance. City parks are for all citizens, especially families. More tables, roof covering and lighting needed to prevent parties and crime. Please add children's equipment.
- Seismic clearing could make possible trails
- Need to information about where city trails are and where they go.
- There needs to be a place for kids to play and a plan to keep them safe.
- We use the Bumpus trails almost daily. I have much more to say. Call if interested - Norm Fuller 373-4602.
- Purchase R.O.W. at appraised value.
- Still need 2 more picnic tables at Carter Park.
- Lake Lucille Trail is a mess.
- More restrooms around parks and trails.
- Please make the city more pedestrian friendly.
- Run an efficient municipal government. Keep costs at a minimum!
- Need to spend more money on traffic control ( signs, lights, enforcement).
- Parks and trails are great.
- We may not use them often, but I like having them here.
- We are Katrina refugees and still working in our house.
- We need a trail system for motorized vehicles desperately. With no trail to use, the users go elsewhere.
- Pave roadside trails - acquire domain.
- 4-wheelers are ruining our trails.
- FIX THE STREETS!
- Need a bypass route of city streets.
- I do not believe in acquisition of personal property for anything especially a bike trail or park!! Period!
- We are in our late 70's and have no need for the above.
- We're currently out of town.
- Please develop city trails for biking and walking.
- I don't feel safe on trails due to dirt bikes, 4-wheelers, and unrestrained dogs.
- What does R.O.W mean?
- Regular police patrol at trailheads.
- Increase patrol to keep motorized vehicle off!
- Get the motorized vehicles off the bike trails and out of the parks!! One warning and then impound them.
- How do we address the dust/intrusion by irresponsible ATV users?
- You need to provide a second access to the sports complex!
- This is a poorly worded and designed questionnaire.
- Contact and work with landowners.
- DOT property on Parks Highway next door to us needs landscaping and care.
- Please join trails together and give cross walks more.
- Concentrate on less spending.
- Need a picnic area with open shelters for tables to stay out of the weather, more picnic tables.
- We need to have a trail corridor for motorized vehicles.
- Please pack or plow a few trails in the winter.
- Why don't you explain what R.O.W. is?
- I own property on Lake Lucille drive. I am concerned about increased traffic/road widening if Lake Lucille drive is extended.

# Existing Athletic Facilities

Updated August 1, 2011

Facility	Total Facilities owned by the City								
	Bumpus Recreation Area	Carter Park	Iditapark	Newcomb Park	Nunley Park	Susitna Avenue Boat Launch & Parking Lot	Lake Lucille Park and Campground		Cottonwood Creek Park (proposed)
Major League Baseball- 90'	1								1
Little League Baseball- 60'	0								0
Softball	4								4
Soccer	1						2		3
Football									0
Multi- Purpose Fields			3						3
Tennis			2		1				3
Volleyball			3						3
Full Basketball Court			4						4
Indoor Skating Rink									1
Outdoor Skating Rink				1					1
Children's Play Equipment *		1	1	1	1		1		5
Rope Course									0
Community Center *			1						1
Skateboard Park			1						1
BMX Track			1						1
Running Track / Staking Oval									0
Swimming Pool									0

\* Children's Play Equipment: Typical playground area; may consist of multiple pieces of play equipment.

\* Community Center: A meeting place used by members of a community for social, cultural, or recreational purposes.

# Proposed Athletic Facilities

Updated August 1, 2011

Facility	Parks owned by the City of Wasilla							Total Facilities owned by the City
	Bumpus Recreation Area	Carter Park	Iditapark	Newcomb Park	Nunley Park	Susitna Avenue Boat Launch & Parking Lot	Lake Lucille Park and Campground	
Major League Baseball- 90'								0
Little League Baseball- 60'	2							2
Softball	4							4
Soccer	4							4
Football								1
Multi- Purpose Fields								0
Tennis								0
Volleyball								0
Full Basketball Court								0
Indoor Skating Rink								0
Outdoor Skating Rink								0
Children's Play Equipment *								1
Rope Coarse								0
Community Center *								0
Skateboard Park								0
BMX Track								0
Running Track / Staking Oval								0
Swimming Pool								0

\* Children's Play Equipment: Typical playground area; may consist of multiple pieces of play equipment.

\* Community Center: A meeting place used by members of a community for social, cultural, or recreational purposes

# Existing Athletic Facilities (Not City owned)

Facility	Parks not owned by the City of Wasilla					Schools										Total Facilities not owned by the City	Total School Facilities	
	Alaska Museum of Transportation & Industry	Snyder Park	Smith Little League Ball Fields	Railroad Park	Lake Lucille Camper Park	Alcantra Recreational Area	Cottonwood Creek Elementary	Iditarod Elementary	Larson Elementary	Snowshoe Elementary	Tanaina Elementary	Teeland Middle School	Wasilla Jr. - Middle School	Burchell High School	Wasilla High School			Mat-Su Career & Technical High School
Major League Baseball- 90'			1														1	1
Little League Baseball- 60'			3			4					1				1		7	2
Softball															1		0	1
Soccer					2	4			1		1				1		6	3
Football															1		0	2
Multi- Purpose Fields							1										0	3
Tennis																	0	0
Volleyball																	0	0
Full Basketball Court							1		1		2						0	5
Indoor Skating Rink																	0	0
Outdoor Skating Rink								1		1							0	2
Children's Play Equipment *	1						1	1	1	1	1						1	5
Rope Coarse													1				0	1
Community Center *																	0	0
Skateboard Park																	0	0
BMX Track																	0	0
Running Track / Staking Oval															1		0	1
Swimming Pool															1		0	1

\* Children's Play Equipment:

\* Community Center :

Typical playground area, may consist of multiple pieces of play equipment.

A meeting place used by members of a community for social, cultural, or recreational purposes.



# Projected Facility Requirements

Updated August 1, 2011

Facility	NRPA Facility Standards**	South Davis Master Plan Facility Standards**	Existing facilities owned by the City	Proposed Facilities owned by the City	2010 Needs - Actual Population 7,831 ^	2014 Needs - Est. Population 8,848 ^	2024 Needs - Est. Population 12,007 ^	2034 Needs - Est. Population 16,294 ^	2010 Needs - Actual Population 7,831 ^	2014 Needs - Est. Population 8,848 ^	2013 Needs Est. Population 12,007 ^	2028 Needs Est. Population 16,294 ^
Major League Baseball- 90'	1/5,000	1/20,000	0	1	1.57	1.77	2.40	3.26	0.39	0.44	0.60	0.82
Little League Baseball- 60'	1/5,000	1/4,000	1	2	1.57	1.77	2.40	3.26	1.96	2.21	3.00	4.07
Softball	1/5,000	1/3,500	4	4	1.57	1.77	2.40	3.26	2.24	2.53	3.43	4.66
Soccer	1/10,000	1/4,000	1	5	0.78	0.89	1.20	1.63	1.96	2.21	3.00	4.07
Football	1/20,000	1/15,000	0	1	0.39	0.44	0.60	0.82	0.52	0.59	0.80	1.09
Multi- Purpose Fields	No Req.	No Req.	4	0								
Tennis	1/2,000	1/6,500	3	0	3.92	4.42	6.00	8.15	1.21	1.36	1.85	2.51
Volleyball	1/5,000	No Req.	3	0	1.57	1.77	2.40	3.26				
Full Basketball Court	1/5,000	No Req.	4	0	1.57	1.77	2.40	3.26				
Ice Hockey, Indoors	No Req.	1/20,000	1	0					0.39	0.44	0.60	0.82
Ice Hockey / Skating Rink, Outdoors	No Req.	1/3,000	1	0					2.61	2.95	4.00	5.43
Children's Play Equipment *	No Req.	No Req.	4	1								
Rope Coarse	No Req.	No Req.	0	0								
Community Center *	No Req.	No Req.	2	0								
Skateboard Park	No Req.	No Req.	1	0								
BMX Track	No Req.	1/30,000	1	0					0.26	0.30	0.40	0.54
Running Track / Staking Oval	No Req.	1/15,000	0	1					0.52	0.59	0.80	1.09
Swimming Pool	1/20,000	No Req.	0	0	0.39	0.44	0.60	0.82				

\* Children's Play Equipment:

Typical playground area; may consist of multiple pieces of play equipment.

\* Community Center:

A meeting place used by members of a community for social, cultural, or recreational purposes.

\*\* National Recreation and Park Association "Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines" (The standards should be used as a guide for short and long term facility planning. The actual quantity of facilities will vary as the needs of the community change.)

^ Projected population rates are based on a 3.1% factor. Census information was obtained from <http://factfinder2.census.gov>.



## Recommended Classification System for Local & Regional Recreational Open Space

	<b>General Description</b>	<b>Location Criteria</b>	<b>Size Criteria</b>
<b>Mini-Park</b>	Used to address limited, isolated or unique recreational needs.	Less than 1/4 mile distance in residential setting.	Between 2500sq. ft. and one acre in size.
<b>Neighborhood Park</b>	Neighborhood park remains the basic unit of the park system and serves as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood. Focus is on informal active and passive recreation.	1/4 to 1/2 mile distance and uninterrupted by non-residential roads and other physical barriers.	5 acres is considered minimum size, 5-10 acres is optimal.
<b>School-Park</b>	Depending on circumstances, combining parks with school sites can fulfill the space requirements for other classes of parks, such as neighborhood, community, sports complex and special use.	Determined by location of school district property.	variable--depends on function
<b>Community Park</b>	Serves broader purpose than neighborhood park. Focus is on meeting community-based recreation needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces.	Determined by the quality and suitability of the site. Usually serves two or more neighborhoods and 1/2 to 3 mile distance.	As needed to accommodate desired uses. Usually between 30 and 50 acres.
<b>Large Urban Park</b>	Large urban parks serve a broader purpose than community parks and are used when community and neighborhood parks are not adequate to serve the needs of the community. Focus is on meeting community-based recreational needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces.	Determined by the quality and suitability of the site usually serves the entire community	As needed to accommodate desired uses. Usually a minimum of 50 acres, with 75 or more acres
<b>Natural Resource Areas</b>	Lands set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space and visual aesthetics/buffering.	Resource availability and opportunity.	variable
<b>Greenways</b>	Effectively tie park system components together to form a continuous park environment.	Resource availability and opportunity.	variable
<b>Sports Complex</b>	Consolidates heavily programmed athletic fields and associated facilities to larger and fewer sites strategically located throughout the community.	Strategically located community-wide facilities.	Determined by projected demand. Usually a minimum of 25 acre being optimal.
<b>Special Use</b>	Cover a broad range of parks and recreation facilities oriented toward single-purpose use.	Variable-dependent on specific use.	variable
<b>Private Park/Recreation Facility</b>	Parks and recreation facilities that are privately owned yet contribute to the public park and recreation system	Variable--dependent on specific use.	Variable

## Park Area Analysis

Parks owned by the City of Wasilla	Park Classification	Approximate Existing Acreage 2011
Bumpus Recreation Area	Sports Complex	120
Carter Park	Mini Park	0.65
Iditapark	Community Park	28
Newcomb Park	Neighborhood Park	5.4
Nunley Park	Mini Park	2.25
Cottonwood Creek Park (proposed)	TBD	9
Susitna Avenue Boat Launch & Parking Lot	Mini Park	1.25
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>166.55</b>

City of Wasilla Population	Recommended Total Park Area ** (Acres)
7,831 (2010)	49 to 82
8,848 (2014)	55 to 93
12,007 (2024)	75 to 126
16,294 (2034)	102 to 171

Projected Population uses a 3.1% growth factor

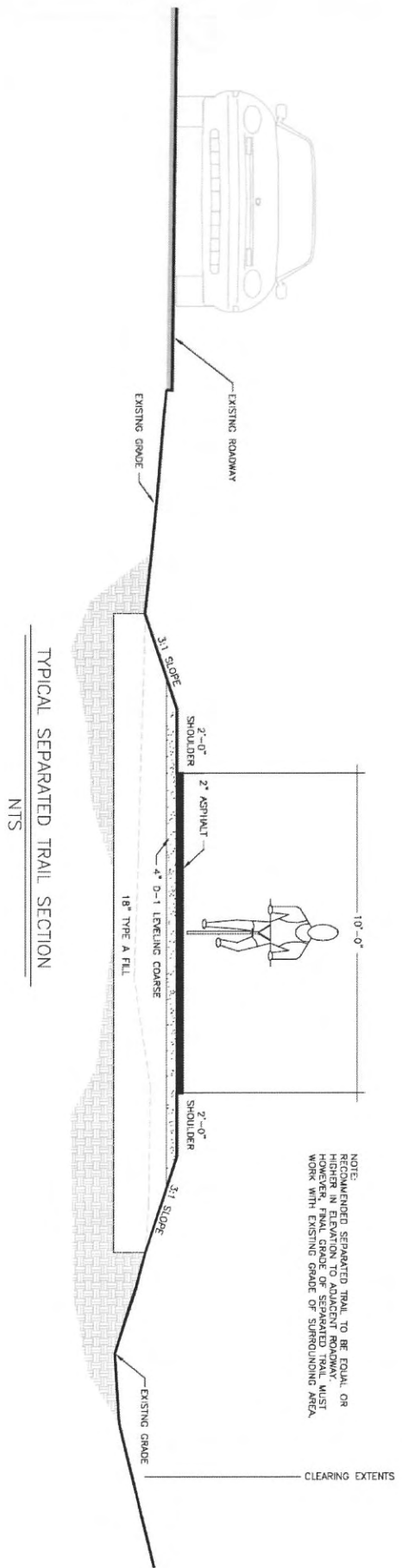
\*Acreages are approximate

\*\*National Recreation and Park Association "Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines" recommends 6.25 to 10.5 acres per 1,000 population. In 1996, NRPA guidelines were revised to include a Level of Service Standard.

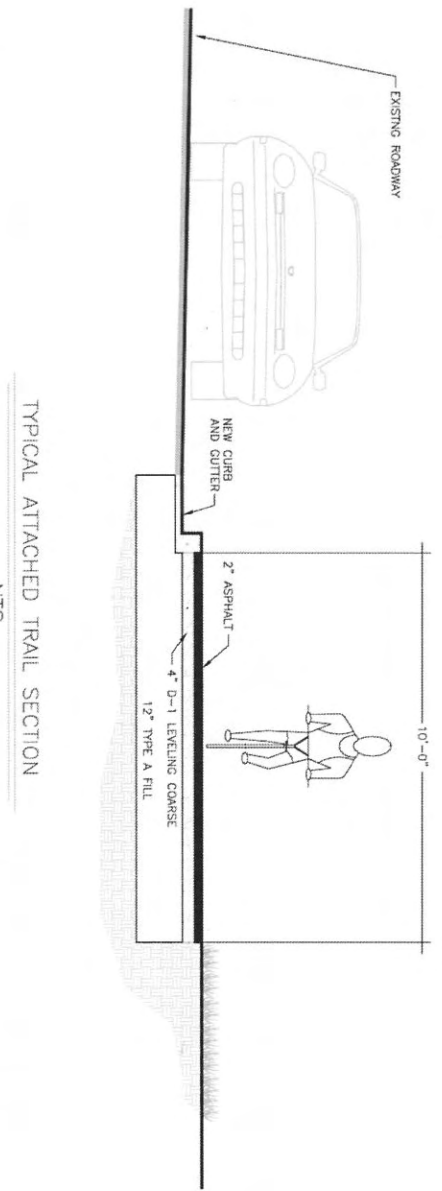
# APPENDIX D

## Recommended Classification System for Local & Regional Recreational Trails

Classification		General Description	Location Criteria	Size Criteria
Park Trails (Types I, II, and III)	Type I	Type I trails are used in situations where use patterns dictate separate paths for pedestrians and bicyclist /in-line skaters. An example would be a trail around an intercity lake or along a riverfront.	Typically located within a greenway, park, or natural resource area (corridor width varies, with 100 feet being the recommended minimum when trail uses are separated)	Separate trails for pedestrians and bicyclists /in-line skaters. 10 foot wide bicycle and in-line skating hard surface trail. Separated by a natural landscape median strip, width varies. 8 foot wide pedestrian hard-surfaced trail.
	Type II	Type II trails are more suited to lighter use patterns, such as from a housing subdivision to a natural resource area.	Typically located within a greenway, park, or natural resource area (corridor width varies, with 50 feet being the recommended minimum)	10 foot wide pedestrian, bicycle, and in-line skating hard-surfaced trail.
	Type III	Type III trails are suited for areas requiring minimum impact, such as a nature preserve.	Typically located within a natural resource area or special use area such as a nature preserve.	6 to 8 foot wide soft-surface trail. Consideration should be given to augmenting soft-surfaced nature trails with hard-surfaced ones to allow universal access to all user groups.
Connector Trails (Type I and II)	Type I	Type I trails are used in situations where use patterns dictate separate paths for pedestrians, bicyclist and, if necessary, in-line skaters. An example would be a trail within the shoulder or right of way of a collector street or parkway.	Located within the roadway right-of-way and designed to accommodate heavy use patterns	10 foot wide hard-surfaced pedestrian, bicycle, and in-line skating trail (8 foot if pedestrian only) both side of the roadway. 10 minimum setback from roadway where space permits.
	Type II	Type II trails are suited to lighter use patterns, such as a link between a parkway or thoroughfare and a nearby housing development.	Located within the roadway right-of-way and designed to accommodate multiple uses and /or directional use.	10 foot wide hard-surfaced pedestrian, bicycle, and in-line skating trail (8 foot if pedestrian only). 10 minimum setback from roadway where space permits.
Bike Lanes	Bike Lanes	Bike lanes are designated portions of the roadway for the preferential or exclusive use of bicyclists. Bike lanes should be used in situations where traffic volumes are heavy enough to warrant clear separation between the bicycles and the vehicles.	Designated portion of the roadway	5 foot wide bike lane, both sides of the roadway if possible, and striping
	Bike Routes	Bike routes are essentially paved shoulders or segments of the roadway that serve to separate bicyclists from traffic. Bike routes (paved shoulders) should be used in all other situations.	Paved shoulder along roadway	4 to 6 foot paved shoulder, both sides of the roadway if possible, and striping
All-Terrain (Mountain) Bike Trails	All-Terrain (Mountain) Bike Trails	All-terrain bike trails are similar to park trails in that they emphasize a strong relationship to the natural environment. They are most often located within natural resource areas, greenways, community parks and special use facilities, such as golf courses.	Natural Resource areas, greenways, community parks, and special-use areas	Trail design to coincide with the standards developed by regional park agencies and state resource agencies.
	Cross-Country Skiing Trails	These trails come in a variety of types and widths to accommodate two different styles: diagonal style and skate-ski. Similar to park trails, they should have a strong emphasis on the natural environment.	Natural Resource areas, greenways, community parks, and special-use areas	Diagonal style requires a set track, while skate-ski style requires a wider packed and groomed surface. Trail lengths vary considerably, with loops ranging from a few to 10 or more kilometers. Since quality and safety are important to all skiers, a few well groomed trails are preferable to extensive but poorly maintained ones. Trail design should coincide with the standards
	Equestrian Trails	Equestrian trails are usually grass or woodchip. In some instances, cross-country ski trails are used for horseback riding during the summer.	Natural Resource areas, greenways, community parks, and special-use areas	Trail length varies considerably, with loops extending out 10 miles or more. There are no specific standard for how many miles of trail should be developed within a given community. Trail design should coincide with the standards developed by regional park agencies and state resource agencies.
Other	Motorized ATV Trails	Motorized ATV trails are located in the roadway rights-of-ways and should be on the opposite side of the roadway as the pedestrian / bicyclist trail.	Roadway rights-of ways	N/A
	Historical Trails	Historic trail used for the Iktarod Dog Race	Original Route	N/A

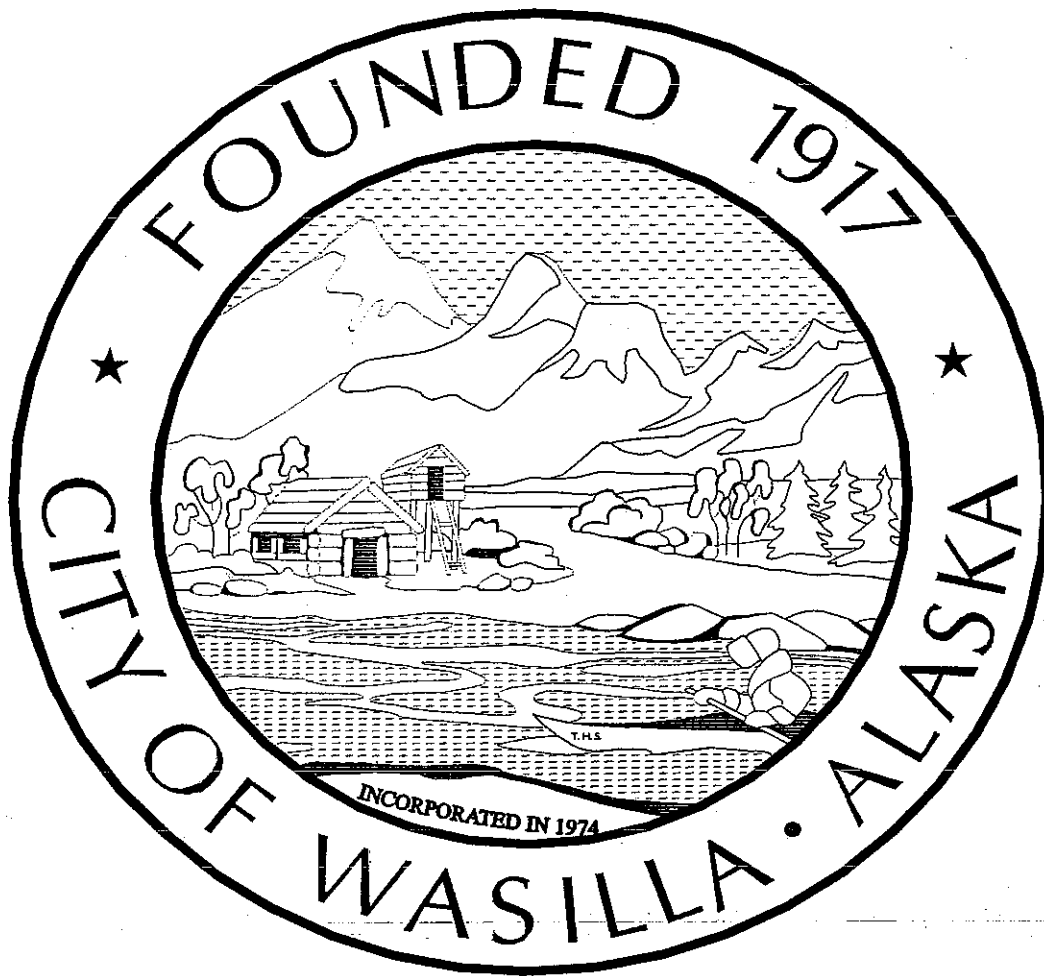


NOTE:  
 UNGRADED, SEPARATED TRAIL TO BE FOUR OR  
 FIVE FEET HIGHER IN ELEVATION TO ADJACENT ROADWAY.  
 HOWEVER, FINAL GRADE OF SEPARATED TRAIL MUST  
 WORK WITH EXISTING GRADE OF SURROUNDING AREA.



Note:  
 Trail cost calculations are reflected in the cost descriptions on the following pages. Costs were calculated from the trail widths and the associated materials depicted in the two section drawings above. Boardwalk cost information obtained from ADO&PF bid tabs. Boardwalk cost reflects a 10' boardwalk, hand rails, and piling. The costs exclude lighting, decorative concrete, and Right-of-Way acquisition. All costs are contingent to specific site conditions and constraints.

# APPENDIX E



## TRAILS PLAN

1999 City Amendment

Prepared by: Trails Advisory subcommittee  
Trails Advisory Subcommittee  
Parks & Recreation Commission  
City of Wasilla

“Exhibit A”

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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Bill Byers  
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Warren Templin  
Jack Carpenter

This document was written, edited and reviewed by the City of Wasilla and the Trails Advisory Subcommittee.



## FOREWORD

### To the reviewer:

This draft has been reviewed and approved by the City of Wasilla's Parks and Recreation Commission on 20 January 1998. Comments and minor changes from the Parks and Recreation Commission have incorporated in this draft. **These trails have been subjectively determined and do not reflect their legal accessibility.** The information was compiled over the year 1997 by the Wasilla Trails Advisory Subcommittee and incorporates comments and recommendations received from key city employees. The Wasilla Trails Advisory Subcommittee is continuing to work on recommended action items to be reflected in the final plan before it submitted to the Wasilla City Council for approval.

### Committee Background

The volunteer Wasilla Trails Advisory committee was formed in the beginning of 1997 to address the community needs for a dedicated trails system which allows for cross town access to existing routes used for recreational purposes. The need has been seen that a dedicated trail system must be executed to ensure the Wasilla citizens and those in the immediate vicinity may continue to enjoy their recreational pursuits which are an integral part of the attraction of living within this city.

As city development of residential and commercial areas expand, a trails plan becomes more difficult, or even impossible to implement. As evidenced by the large response of citizens to any change or review of the Wasilla City Council concerning modification of snowmobile regulations, lake access for various summer and winter pursuits and regulations of those uses, city residents hold their recreational pursuits very dear. On the other hand, complaints of noise, pollution, and most importantly, the safety concerns of specific hazardous spots along the "unofficial" trail system now in use along road right of ways, points to the fact that a well planned and regulated trail system needs to be implemented now.

Safety is the paramount concern along with ensuring that citizens now and in the future may continue to enjoy outdoor activities that are such a fundamental part of life in Alaska. Thus, the City of Wasilla Trails Advisory committee was formed from concerned city residents and Greater Wasilla residents. The committee was formally recognized by the City of Wasilla and formally named the Wasilla Trails Advisory Subcommittee, reporting to the Wasilla Parks and Recreation Commission.

### Subcommittee Purpose

The goal of the Wasilla Trails Advisory Subcommittee is to promote a well organized, safe, multi-user friendly trail system that will enhance the quality of life of every citizen by:

- Ensuring there will always be avenues open to all user groups;
- Facilitating travel through and out of town;
- Realizing the potential economic gain and costs to the city.

## FOREWORD

### **Subcommittee Members**

The Wasilla Trails Advisory Subcommittee is made up from volunteers living within the City of Wasilla and the greater Wasilla area. The committee is officially comprised of seven (7) members, of which the majority is to be city residents. Members serve a two-year term on a one-year rotation of three seats, so new ideas and insights can be brought in. The chair is voted upon by the committee and serves for two consecutive years. The chair may be re-elected once in succession. After a consecutive term, the chair may become a regular member, thereafter may be nominated for the chair position again. The chair may assign a co-chair(s) of any of the present members.

### **Wasilla Parks and Recreation Commission**

The Wasilla Trails Advisory Subcommittee is an advisory committee to the City of Wasilla Parks and Recreation Commission. All requests and recommendations of the committee must be submitted to the Wasilla Parks and Recreation Commission for further action. Depending on the nature of the request, the Wasilla Parks and Recreation Commission will forward recommendations to the City of Wasilla Planning Commission or directly to Wasilla City Council, depending on the nature of the request.

The Wasilla Trails Advisory Subcommittee chair must submit committee meeting minutes to the Wasilla City Clerk's Office for public review. Meeting minutes will also be submitted to the office of the Mayor of Wasilla, Wasilla Planning Department, Wasilla Planning Commission, and the Wasilla Parks and Recreation Commission. The Wasilla Parks and Recreation Commission will establish a liaison for the trails subcommittee from one of its members, excepting the Wasilla Parks and Recreation Commission chair. The Wasilla Parks and Recreation Commission will have the authority to regulate membership of the trails subcommittee.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .....	I
SUBCOMMITTEE PURPOSE .....	II
SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS .....	III
WASILLA PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION .....	III
TABLE OF CONTENTS .....	IV
<b>INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>1</b>
TRAILS PLAN PURPOSE.....	1
TRAILS PLAN OVERVIEW .....	1
TRAIL SYSTEM GOALS OVERVIEW .....	1
<b>GOALS, POLICIES, &amp; OBJECTIVES .....</b>	<b>2</b>
PRIMITIVE TRAILS.....	2
SEPARATED (PAVED) PATHWAYS.....	2
LEGAL ACCESS.....	3
TRAIL HEADS.....	4
LIABILITY RELATED TO TRAILS.....	5
TRAIL DESIGN.....	7
SAFETY .....	7
PUBLIC SAFETY .....	8
IMPACTS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY .....	9
TRAIL MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS .....	9
MOTORIZED RECREATIONAL VEHICLE REGISTRATION .....	10
TRAIL INFORMATION.....	10
OBLITERATION OF PRIMITIVE TRAILS.....	10
EASEMENT VACATIONS .....	11
SOURCES OF TRAIL FUNDING .....	11
<b>IMPLEMENTATION .....</b>	<b>11</b>
NOMINATION PROCESS.....	11
TRAIL PRIORITIES .....	11
CITY ACTION .....	11
VOLUNTEER PROGRAM .....	12
RIGHT OF WAY ACQUISITION .....	12
FUNDING FOR TRAILS.....	12
COORDINATION OF EFFORTS .....	12
PUBLIC INFORMATION.....	13
<b>PLAN REVISION.....</b>	<b>14</b>
PLAN REVISION PROCESS.....	14
PLAN REVIEW PROCESS .....	14
<b>TRAIL INVENTORY SUMMARY INDEX/STATUS .....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>TRAIL DESCRIPTION DEFINITIONS .....</b>	<b>16</b>

# INTRODUCTION

## Trails Plan Purpose

The Wasilla Trails Plan is the basic planning and policy document guiding the City of Wasilla's involvement in trails and trail development activities. This plan seeks to provide the necessary foundation and guidance for the development of an integrated and comprehensive trail system within the city of Wasilla.

The focus of the Trails Plan is recreational trail projects and trail related issues. The Plan emphasizes both primitive trails and separated paths (paved) mainly within road rights-of-ways. The Plan is to include solutions to meet the needs of both motorized and non-motorized users. The Plan is to provide for city centered, cross-town accesses, promoting recreational use in and around the city of Wasilla area and trail inter-connections to outlying areas.

The Wasilla Trails Plan is to be part of the City of Wasilla Comprehensive Plan, providing information to other entities within the city, borough and state. The Plan is to be reviewed and formalized by the City of Wasilla's Parks and Recreation Commission, the City of Wasilla's Planning Commission, and approved by the Wasilla City Council.

## Trails Plan Overview

The overall goal of the Wasilla Trails Plan is to be a working tool for the Wasilla Comprehensive Plan. The Trails plan is intended to provide the city with an integrated system of trails that permit and encourage travel by several means other than automobile, and offer a variety of recreational opportunities.

## Trail System Goals Overview

The goals of the Wasilla Trails system have been developed within the framework of the basic principles of safety mobility, efficiency, health, aesthetics and pleasure. These goals establish the broad aim of the Trails Plan and a **city wide comprehensive trail system that:**

- Addresses the needs and solutions to all types of user groups;
- Facilitates travel in and throughout the city;
- Addresses public health and safety needs;
- Complements and supplements the City's transportation and recreation needs;
- Has a positive impact on the environment of the community;
- Integrates parks and open space, residential, commercial, and educational centers;
- Serves both utilitarian and recreational purposes;
- Attracts and promotes tourism to the City of Wasilla;
- Promotes and enhances the quality of life of all age groups.

## GOALS, POLICIES, & OBJECTIVES

Trails goals, policies, and objectives describe what members of the community desire for a future trail system. The following goals, policies, and objectives reflect the City of Wasilla's future trail system and plan for developing the system.

### Primitive Trails

This goal seeks to provide a network of recreational trails for users of primitive trails. Primitive trails are trails that have an unpaved surface as differentiated from paved surfaces for bicyclists and pedestrians. Primitive trails are multiple use, less costly to construct and maintain, and provide basic paths for a majority of users year round. A major focus of this plan is the development and dedication of primitive trail facilities.

Primitive trails provide facilities for a variety of trail users, including snow machines, dog mushers, cross country skiers, hikers, mountain bikers, equestrians and all terrain vehicle enthusiasts. This plan seeks to establish a primitive trail grid that allows convenient access to the regional trail system and provides access to local destinations and community businesses such as food, gas and lodging.

The objectives of the primitive trail plan need the support from the following entities:

- Matanuska Susitna Borough, State of Alaska Department of Transportation, the Alaska Railroad and private landowners
- Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
- Private landowners
- Utility companies where primitive trails and utilities are co-located
- The City of Wasilla. The Wasilla City Council can ratify a resolution that will give precedence to Primitive Trails over a separated (paved) path, where the paved path will obliterate any possibility of a primitive trail that has been included in the Wasilla Trails Plan. The City may request (ardently) that the State follow the resolution. We hope the City will adopt the resolution for all city projects under City control.

### Separated (Paved) Pathways

This goal seeks to provide a network of non-motorized use facilities during the non-winter season for pedestrians, roller bladers, skaters, skate boarders, and bicycles. These paths will provide for recreational use and will serve to connect residential areas with activity centers. During the winter months, non-motorized use pursuits such as cross country skiing, mushing, etc. will be encouraged. Until the primitive trails plan is developed, separated (paved) paths may be utilized for motorized use in the winter through a city permit process.

The objective of the separated (paved) paths is to provide paved trails along arterial and main feeder roads within the city. As most of these roads are constructed by the State of

Alaska Department of Transportation, a procedure should be established through which the Wasilla Trails Advisory Subcommittee may review the State's plans and recommend action that concords with the Trails Plan. It is recommended that a criteria form be constructed

### **Separated (Paved) Pathways**

Whereby the City needs may be addressed and sent to the State of Alaska Department of Transportation. The criteria form should address the following:

- Identification of areas of intense foot traffic, especially near schools and parks.
- Local gathering areas.
- A priority project list should be developed.

### **Legal Access**

The legal access goals address the lack of clearly defined reservations for public access along commonly used trails within the City of Wasilla and the Greater Wasilla Area. Legal access may be acquired in a number of ways. The essential factor is permanence. To ensure the permanency of the granted access to the greatest extent, inclusive language which prohibits highway vehicular travel (cars, trucks), and which carefully address liability issues to minimize liability to the City of Wasilla and any liable party which may assume maintenance and construction must be included. Legal access procedures shall differ according to the interested party. The City of Wasilla will be seeking trails mainly along the State Road and Alaska Rail Road right-of-ways for construction of the main trails arterial. Section lines, utility and private property easements may be called for on a lesser, but no less important, basis.

**State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Alaska Rail Road Easements or Permits:** Agreements entered into with these two entities will have their own specific contract agreement which includes construction, liability issues (possible bonding), and volunteer efforts. The state currently has some programs for volunteer efforts, the City may have to enhance its current volunteer program which can be presented to the Alaska Rail Road.

- The City of Wasilla needs clearly defined guidelines on volunteerism and liability which would certainly benefit the City greatly, not only the trails, but civic improvement projects.

**Section Line/Utility Easements:** Utility easements often follow section lines that are part of the State, but in some cases, private landowners are grantors. Trails along section line utility easements will require support from the utility companies, which will entail a supportive effort on the part of the City to establish a workable agreement and identify the specific concerns of the utility companies. In case of a utility line trail on private property, the needs of the property owner and the utility companies must be met. Section line trails may be established by first obtaining a road right of way and then meeting any specific requirements of the State for construction.



**Private Landowner:** The City of Wasilla may acquire trail easements from private landowners in a variety of ways.

- **Deed** - This would be the optimum. The landowner would deed land to the City with language specifying trail use.
- **Easement** - Easements should be written to specify public use, specifically trails. Public use easements to the city are not taxable. Easements in perpetuity would be optimum (the easement continues even if the owner sells the property).
- **Lease** - The landowner may lease the property for a period of time. This may be very appealing to those who would like to "tryout" a trail to observe the impact upon their property. The lease should be for one year, at the least, and should not terminate upon sale of the property.

**Greenbelts/Waterways:** The City of Wasilla is encouraged to investigate ways greenbelts along streams and lakes may be acquired for dedication of trails that cross or follow waterways and legal dedication of those trails. All city, state and federal laws and ordinances related to the operation of motorized recreational vehicles upon navigable waterways should be reviewed and revised, if necessary, to implement the Trail Plan and regulate negative impacts to property owners.

**Trail Dedication:** After an easement is granted, the trail must become a dedicated trail by the guidelines developed by the Mat-Su Borough. In the event that the Borough assigns more duties to the Wasilla Planning Department, similar criteria should be followed for the dedication of trails throughout the City. The City should be encouraged to participate in the dedication process with the Borough through correspondence or delegates to attend Borough meetings to present the City's recommendations and concerns on this issue.

A pamphlet that encourages private landowners and developers to dedicate trails should be developed.

- **Tax Break Incentive Program** - Concepts for this program should be put forth to the Borough.
- **Property Impact** - A study should be undertaken by the Trails Advisory Subcommittee to outline the pros and cons of trail development in subdivision.

## **Trail Heads**

Trail heads enhance the trail system by promoting easy access, safe vehicle parking and safety. They can accommodate a variety of trail users and a large volume of activity in the case of special events. Trail heads will help promote an economic benefit to the cities local businesses by drawing visitors into the city.

The following are recommendations to provide the most comprehensive trail heads:

- Locate in an area easily patrolled by the Wasilla Police Department
- Adequate parking area

- Drive through circular construction (two entries)
- Toilets
- Trash Receptacles
- Adequate lighting
- Various user accommodations besides vehicular (hitching posts, bike rack) appropriate to the specific trail head.

The currently recommended possible trail heads are as follows:

- Wasilla City Airport
- Bumpus Ball Fields
- I-DID-A-PARK

### **Liability Related to Trails**

The key factor in covering any liability claim is good design standards, proper signage, safety and enforcement. If every reasonable effort is made to construct the trails in a safe manner, regulations for speed and safety equipment posted, signs and pamphlets on safety procedures made available to the public, then liability concerns are met. Safety is the Primary Concern of the Trails Plan.

Liability specifics will be addressed through trail easements or permits, such as those involving the State, Borough and the Alaska Railroad. Private land owners may also have their own specific liability responsibilities, if any, stated within their contractual agreement.

### **Liability Related to Trail**

The City of Wasilla will be the coordinator, designer and engineer for all the trails that are designated through a trail easement contract agreement, the actual maintenance, improvements and construction obligations of the City may be through volunteer organizations. The City is encouraged to elicit volunteer organizations to sign maintenance agreements that will both protect the city and the organization from liable suits.

Construction work accomplished through volunteer efforts also needs a specific contractual agreement. Volunteer construction work will be constructed to industry standards for personal safety and engineering.

- The Wasilla City Finance Director should compile information on insurance available for Council to consider during the Trail Plan review
- Increase public awareness of potential trail hazards or hazardous practices to minimize liability

- The City of Wasilla may be used as a resource for liability concerns through AML (Alaska Municipal League) and ARPA (Alaska Recreation and Parks Administration)

## Trail Design

Safety design, low cost construction, aesthetics, low neighborhood impact and through volunteer efforts and grant fund funding are the primary concerns in trail design. Trail design will conform to industry standards concerning off road recreational vehicle use and State of Alaska Department of Transportation separated (paved) path design for both separated and primitive trails.

The city must develop it's own trail design before trail construction along city roads built solely by the city. Comprehensive trail design criteria will greatly enhance grant-funding efforts.

There may be some additional elements not required by the Trail Design Plan, but will be necessary on a case by case basis to fulfill a contractual agreement of grantor's of trail easements or to address problem areas.

The Wasilla Trails Advisory Subcommittee has identified design concerns, some of which are inclusive of current State of Alaska Department of Transportation design and some that may address additional safety concerns that may be added to the trail design criteria:

- Educational signage about trail hazards and trail etiquette should be installed at trail heads. Signage should include posted speed limits on motorized trails near populated areas.
- Review, and/or design trails with minimal road (or railroad) crossing or otherwise interacting with highway motor vehicles.
- Establish in trail designs that road crossings be perpendicular (90 degree angles) to highway motor vehicles and railroad track crossings.
- Recommend in trail designs that any rail road crossings be made where roads cross the rail way tracks.
- Increase trail rider awareness and visibility at all highways or rail road crossings.

## Safety

The safety goal addresses the visible safety aids provided along the trail and seeks to inform the public of proper procedures for trail operation and regulations.

- Trail Signage: To establish criteria for safety signage along the trail system: speed limits, road and water crossings, safety gear requirements and numbers and/or color coding for navigation.

The Wasilla Police Department is required to develop and pursue an ongoing, aggressive trail usage program and establish enforceable City ordinances governing the use of snow machines and ATVs within the City.

Trail Safety and Trail Route Pamphlet: A pamphlet will be developed that includes:

1. Laws and regulations for speed limits, safety gear requirements and signage definitions.
  2. Policing and fining policy.
  3. Helpful safety tips.
  4. Easily read map of the trail system.
  5. Points of interest with in and outside the city.
- Trail Safety Program: A coordinated Safety Program will be developed by utilizing volunteer organizations to inform children and adults of safe operating procedures through symposiums, classes and lectures for school age children. Organizations should be encouraged to provide speakers.

### **Public Safety**

The Trails Plan intent to increase the enforcement of trail (mainly off road motorized recreational vehicle) ordinances is by the formation of a volunteer "courtesy" patrol. The voluntary patrol will enhance the police department's effective response in the case of violations, accidents and even theft by becoming the "eyes" of the department in areas not easily accessible to the police. The volunteer patrollers should have adequate training in CPR, carry first aid kits, and carry radios linked to the Wasilla Police Department. The Wasilla Trails Advisory Subcommittee suggests that a training validation process be recommended by the Wasilla Police Department.

Security will be required during special events and on call for "spot" checking on the trails during high use times (weekends, holidays) and patrolling areas identified as problem spots through police reports or citizen complaints. As most of the trails fall along road right of ways, they can be monitored by regular city patrols. Alaska State Troopers should be advised of City ordinance through the Wasilla Police Department so they can report suspect trail users.

The city of Wasilla should establish legal speed limits where appropriate, otherwise recommend and enforce, where feasible, the Department of Motor Vehicle's definition of the "Basic Speed" law. Trail speeds should reflect the speeds that the trail was designed for.

- Vehicular and pedestrian traffic
- Road and Driveway crossings

A quick response plan should be developed by the Wasilla City Police Department for handling trail accidents, specifically for off road, difficult to access areas along the trail system. Volunteer patrollers should also carry along items such as tow straps, extra gas, duct tape, etc., for incidental problems.

A program and regulations shall be established for operators of authorized motor vehicles that are under the age of sixteen and not licensed by the Department of Motor

Vehicles. A possible solution would be for a licensed operator to accompany any unlicensed operator while on any of the Wasilla Trails. The Wasilla City Police Department is encouraged to give input on devising a safe policy.

A city ordinance should be established for the legal driving of snow machines and ATVs on residential streets to access designated trails (i.e. "garage to trail access").

### **Impacts on Private Property**

The following negative impacts have been expressed by some property owners concerning trails near/on their property. The Trails Plan hopes to eliminate most of these concerns by locating the trails mostly on public lands and right of ways along main arterial and feeder roads.

#### **Negative Impact: Noise:**

- Objectives:**
- Establish slow speed limits to cut down on noise in heavily residential areas.
  - Establish a "safe zone" for noise. A specific distance a trail must be from a residential home, the only exception being along a main or arterial road right of way.
  - Establish buffer criteria

#### **Negative Impact: Trash:**

- Objectives:**
- Signage
  - Trash receptacles

#### **Negative Impact: Safety for children in residential neighborhoods:**

- Objectives:**
- To follow design and safety guidelines in this plan.
  - Establish a criteria where special needs areas can be identified and if necessary, additional safety enhancement material and construction provided.

#### **Negative Impact: Theft/Loitering:**

- Objectives:**
- Signage prohibiting leaving the trail
  - Policing

#### **Negative Impact: Damage to landscaping/fields, etc.:**

- Objectives:**
- Signage prohibiting leaving the trail.
  - Identifying areas where leaving the trail for a little "free wheeling" is occurring or likely to occur to place the signage appropriately.
  - Problem areas may need to be barricaded through trail funding.

### **Trail Management Recommendations**



As trail use increases a common occurrence is for conflicts between user groups to emerge and trail degradation to occur. The Trails Plan seeks to minimize conflicts between different types of trail users, and avoid trail degradation due to improper use, by developing sufficient opportunities for all user groups, so they need not rely on trails ill suited for their trail use.

The development and distribution of a trail users "rules of the road" brochure to promote non-destructive use of trails and eliminate user conflicts. The installation of signage promoting "rules of the road" at trail heads and along trails will promote safety and good will.

### **Motorized Recreational Vehicle Registration**

This plan seeks to encourage registration of snow vehicles and ATVs with the Alaska State Department of Motor Vehicles. It is required that all recreational motorized vehicles utilizing the designated trails within the city of Wasilla are registered with the State of Alaska Division of Motor Vehicles. Motorized vehicles falling into this category are: snow vehicles (snow machines, snowmobiles) and 4-Wheel All Terrain Vehicles (ATV's). The Division of Motor Vehicles is governed by State Statute AS 05.30.010-120 and define a snow vehicle as a vehicle propelled by mechanical power, in part by skis, belts, cleats, or low pressure tires and primarily designed to travel over ice and snow. ATVs (All Terrain Vehicles) with low-pressure tires may be registered as snow vehicles. Vehicles are registered over a two-year period and in even years from August (even year) to the next even year August. The current DMV fees are \$5.00 for the two year period (or parts thereof) and you receive two orange numbered stickers plus the year tab. Registration is required for vehicles unless they are operated solely on private land. A fine of \$50 can be issued for operating on public land, such as State Park lands or even by the side of a public road or highway for unregistered vehicles.

The requiring of registration of snow vehicles and ATVs complies with State Law, aids in the recovery of stolen vehicles, and allows for a census count to reflect the number of registered vehicles in the Greater Wasilla area for trail grant requests.

### **Trail Information**

The Trails Plan seeks to increase the public knowledge of legal recreation trails inside the City of Wasilla and the Greater Wasilla Area by providing detailed trip information and accurate descriptions of legally dedicated public recreation.

Trail information decreases the likelihood of trail users getting lost and creates a more "user friendly" recreation experience for those without firsthand knowledge of the trail. Trail information promotes legal alternatives to the numerous trespassing trails that exist within the City, and encourages diverse recreational opportunities that enhance residents and visitors options.

The Wasilla Chamber of Commerce should be approached for the development of a trail pamphlet and to promote economic advantages of trails to local businesses.

### **Obliteration Of Primitive Trails**

The potential evolvement of recreational primitive trails into separated (paved) paths or even into vehicular roadways may be prevented by the establishment of standard trail

easement language that would prohibit agencies from paving a primitive trail and/or prohibiting highway vehicle travel on trails. The erection of special barricades that prevent access by highway vehicles onto trails may be necessary where a problem location is identified.

### **Easement Vacations**

The Wasilla Parks and Recreation Commission and the Wasilla Trails Advisory Subcommittee needs to be informed of proposed easement vacations within the city limits. This is important as the trails system will be an ongoing process and access to possible new park and recreation facility locations may be limited. The Trails Plan seeks to acquire easement vacation notice by approaching the Mat-Su Borough Platting Department to request the Wasilla Trails Advisory Subcommittee and the Wasilla Parks and Recreation Commission are on the mail out for the City when notifications are sent out.

### **Sources of Trail Funding**

The Trails Plan seeks to design, construct and maintain the trails and to promote the safety program with minimum cost to the City through grants and volunteerism. Trail funding objectives are:

- To identify all grants that can be used for separated and primitive trail construction and equipment.
- Identify and help organize various different group organizations for raising matching fund monies or volunteer work.
- The Wasilla Trails Advisory Subcommittee shall work with the Wasilla Parks and Recreation Commission to organize fund raising events.

## IMPLEMENTATION

The Trails Plan identifies the desire for a network of trails within the City of Wasilla and the related policies for developing the network. Various methods of implementation are identified within the document. This section addresses those methods and the associated actions needed to implement the plan. Some methods are more desirable than others are and it is not anticipated that all methods of implementation discussed will be adopted.

### Nomination Process

One recommended method of implementation is the development of a nomination process for trails to be included in the Trails Plan. The Plan includes several trails, however; it is reasonable to assume in order to accomplish the goals specified in the Plan, it will be necessary and desirable to add new trails, especially if the City expands beyond its current borders. A nomination process should be developed and adopted by the Trails Subcommittee that addresses the criteria for prioritizing and accepting trails to be included in the Trails Plan.

### Trail Priorities

The City of Wasilla trails priorities take advantage of current State of Alaska and Mat-Su Borough projects that are still in the design phase to assure the City's needs are met regarding primitive use trails and separated (paved) pathways. The top ten major projects are as follows and are in priority order:

- Palmer Wasilla Highway Paved Pathway (Wasilla Trail #24)
- City of Wasilla Paved Pathway - Bogard Road/Crusey Street (Wasilla Trail #9)
- City of Wasilla Separated Path along Knik Goose Bay Road (Wasilla Trail #5)
- City of Wasilla Separated Path along Lucus Road (Wasilla Trail #11)
- City of Wasilla Separated Path along Wasilla Fishhook Road (Wasilla Trail #3)
- Parks Highway Separated Path to Wasilla Airport (Wasilla Trail #15 extension)
- City of Wasilla/Alaska Railroad Primitive Use Trail (Wasilla Trail #16)
- Church Road 1998 Upgrade (Wasilla Trail #15)
- Parks Highway 1999 Upgrade (Wasilla Trail #24)
- ARR/Parks Highway (City of Wasilla) Realignment 1999 (Wasilla Trail #16)

The Trails Subcommittee is currently reviewing the priorities of locally significant trails that are the sole responsibility of the City of Wasilla.

### City Action

The Wasilla City Council may be approached to endorse and implement segments of this plan in order to build its financial obligations accordingly. The trails recommendations could be incorporated into currently planned paving projects on an individual basis where sufficient road right-of-way and funding is available.

### **Volunteer Program**

Another method of implementation could be the development of a City of Wasilla volunteer program for trail development and maintenance. The program could be used to coordinate existing volunteer efforts as well as to identify areas where volunteers can assist with the development and maintenance of trails within the City as well as those leading to and from the City. There are currently several organizations such as the Mat-Su Motor Musers, Aurora International, and the Knik Dog Musers Association, to name a few, that can be called upon for their assistance.

### **Right of Way Acquisition**

The majority of currently planned trails contained within the Trails Plan follow along State of Alaska Department of Transportation, Alaska Rail Road, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, or city of Wasilla road right-of-ways. The City of Wasilla needs to establish the policies and procedures for obtaining trail right-of-way and/or designating trails with the permission from within each of those government entities. In addition, procedures need to be addressed for acquiring right-of-way across private lands. One method would be to amend the existing subdivision regulations to include acquisition procedures. Another method is to review existing policies for accepting trail dedications across private property.

### **Funding for Trails**

Developing a method of funding trails within the City of Wasilla is an important method of implementation. Funding would include acquisition of right-of-way, development of trails including planning, design, and construction efforts, and maintenance of trails.

### **Coordination of Efforts**

The success of the Trails Plan is dependant to a great extent on the coordinated efforts of different commissions and departments within the City. It is also dependent on coordinated efforts between the City, other agencies, and the private sector. The City of Wasilla Parks and Recreation Department should coordinate management of trails included in the Trails Plan. Other Departments of the City have responsibilities for trails consistent with their departmental responsibilities. The Planning Department is responsible for assuring compliance with roads, highways, and subdivision requirements and may be called upon to acquire trail easements when funding is available or to process trail dedications. Construction permits for improving trails within trail easements and rights-of-way can be obtained from the Department of Public Works. The Planning Department is responsible for the Trails Plan and any amendments, which may be necessary or desired.

## Public Information

Legal public trails (those for which there is a legal right-of-way) included within the Wasilla Trails Plan should be identified on City of Wasilla Trails Map with pertinent information and be available to the public. Developing a comprehensive map of legal public trails would be of help in preventing trespass and trail encroachments. In addition, separate trails maps for promoting specific trail use, such as snow machine, cross-country skiing, bicycling, hiking, Iditarod Re-start and Iron Dog viewing routes, etc. would be a significant step towards promoting tourism and recreation in the City. This type of information is in high demand from visitor centers and local sport shops. This will help in identifying recreation trails and as an amenity to the quality of life within the Greater Wasilla area and can assist in attracting new residents and businesses to the City.

## **PLAN REVISION**

Revisions to the Trails Plan will be necessary and desirable as additional trails are nominated and accepted by the Trails Subcommittee to be included in the Plan. It is important that a process for revising the plan is defined.

### **Plan Revision Process**

The Trails Subcommittee, the Parks and Recreation Commission, the Planning Commission, the Wasilla City Council, or the City Administration can initiate revisions to the Trails Plan. When initiated by the Trails Subcommittee, a request for revision will be forwarded to the Parks and Recreation Commission who will ratify and send to the Wasilla Planning Commission. When a revision is initiated by the Parks and Recreation Commission, the Planning Commission, the Wasilla City Council, or the City Administration, the Trails Subcommittee will be notified of the proposed revision and asked for input prior to the revision of the Plan.

A recession policy needs to be developed in the event that a trail is lost to a lease or permit agreement that does include comprehensive guidelines of closures and barricades for the public.

### **Plan Review Process**

It is anticipated that the Trails Subcommittee will review the Plan on a yearly basis to determine if revisions are necessary. It is also anticipated that community organizations and individuals interested in revising the Trails Plan will work with the Trails Subcommittee and the City Administration to initiate a revision.



## TRAIL DESCRIPTION DEFINITIONS

The following are definitions used to define the city of Wasilla's existing trails and future trail candidates.

<b>Trail Name:</b>	Trail names were chosen to describe trail and location.
<b>Trail Number:</b>	Trail numbers were assigned using odd and even numbers designating trail direction, such as used in the federal highway system. Odd numbered trails designate those trails generally running in a North-South direction. Even numbered trails designate those trails generally running in a East-West direction. For those trails not fitting into either of these two categories, letter designations were assigned to them.
<b>Length:</b>	The length of the trails was measured in approximate miles.
<b>Uses Accommodated:</b>	Uses and users were roughly identified along with whether the trail was multi-use or not. The use of the term "bike trail" was not used because of the connotation that the trail is for bicycles only and/or could be only be used by non-motorized vehicles during both summer and winter seasons. The preferred terms are paved multi-use paths and primitive multi-use paths. Paved multi-use paths could be used by pedestrians, bicyclists, skaters, skateboarders, etc. and other non-motorized users during the summer months and used by pedestrians, cross-country skiers, dog teams, (snow machines and ATV's when permitted) etc. during the winter or snow season. Any user or vehicle excluding trucks or automobiles could use primitive multi-use trails.
<b>Land ownership:</b>	Land ownership usually designates the responsible owner and/or an easement holder.
<b>Miscellaneous:</b>	This section was provided for notes and connotations not fitting into any other category.
<b>Description:</b>	Here is where we have tried to describe the attributes of existing trails.
<b>Recommended Actions:</b>	The recommended actions are from the Wasilla Trails Advisory Subcommittee of the City of Wasilla Parks and Recreation Commission.
<b>Revised:</b>	Provides the date the description has been changed.

# WASILLA TRAILS PLAN

## TRAIL INVENTORY SUMMARY INDEX/STATUS

The Wasilla Trails Inventory Summary Index/Status provides an overall summary of the City of Wasilla Trails, right-of-ways, current status of the trail descriptions, date of last revision and the responsible volunteer working on the specific trail description.

#	Trails:	Right-of-way:	Current Status:	Date:	Who:
<b>North / South Trails: ( odd numbered trails)</b>					
1	Main Street	AK State DOT	Draft Description Revised	1/27/98	Marc Seeba
3	Wasilla Fishhook Road	AK State DOT	Draft Description Revised	10/9/97	Bernadette Rupright
5	Knik Goose Bay Road	AK State DOT	Draft Description Revised	10/9/97	Bernadette Rupright
7	Lucille Street	City of Wasilla	Draft Description Revised	12/6/97	Bernadette Rupright
9	Crusey Street	AK State DOT	Draft Description Revised	1/27/98	Marc Seeba
11	Lucas Road	AK State DOT	Draft Description Revised	1/27/98	Marc Seeba
13	Peck Street	City of Wasilla	Draft Description Complete	5/8/97	Marc Seeba
15	Church Road	AK State DOT	Draft Description Revised	10/9/97	Bernadette Rupright
17	Hallea Lane	City of Wasilla	Draft Description Revised	10/9/97	Marc Seeba
19	Iditarod Historic Trail	City of Wasilla	Draft Description Revised	12/27/97	Marc Seeba
21	Mack Road	City of Wasilla	Draft Description Complete	12/27/97	Marc Seeba
23	Thomas Street	City of Wasilla	Draft Description Revised	10/9/97	Bernadette Rupright
25	Denall Street	City of Wasilla	Draft Description Complete	12/27/97	Marc Seeba
27	Seward Meridian Parkway	AK State DOT	Draft Description Revised	12/15/97	Marc Seeba
<b>East / West Trails: ( even numbered trails)</b>					
2	Parks Highway	AK State DOT	Draft Description Revised	9/10/97	Michelle Moss
4	Bogard Road	AK State DOT	Draft Description Revised	9/10/97	Michelle Moss
6	Nelson Avenue	City of Wasilla	Draft Description Revised	10/7/97	Karol Kolohmainen
8	Swanson Avenue	City of Wasilla	Draft Description Complete	9/10/97	Michelle Moss
10	Lake View Avenue (between Lake Street / KGB Road)	City of Wasilla	Draft Description Revised	10/9/97	Bernadette Rupright
12	Glennwood Avonuo	City of Wasilla	Draft Description Revised	12/27/97	Marc Seeba
14	Spruce Avonuo	City of Wasilla	Draft Description Revised	10/9/97	Bernadette Rupright
16	Alaska Rail Road	Alaska Railroad	Draft Description Revised	12/6/97	Marc Seeba
18	Mystory Avonuo	City of Wasilla	Draft Description Complete	12/27/97	Marc Seeba
20	Susitna Avonuo	City of Wasilla	Draft Description Revised	12/27/97	Marc Seeba
22	Iron Dog Trail	City of Wasilla	Draft Description Revised	12/27/97	Marc Seeba
24	Palmer Wasilla Highway	AK State DOT	Draft Description Complete	12/26/97	Marc Seeba
<b>Misc Trails: ( special named trails)</b>					
LLL	Lake Lucille (Land)	City of Wasilla	Draft Description Complete	12/26/97	Marc Seeba
LLP	Lake Lucille Park	Mat-Su Borough	Draft Description Complete	9/10/97	Warren Templin
LLW	Lake Lucille (Water)	Corp of Engrs	Draft Description Revised	12/6/97	Marc Seeba
WHS	Wasilla High School	Mat-Su Borough	Draft Description Complete	9/10/97	Warren Templin
WLW	Wasilla Lake (Water)	Corp of Engrs	Draft Description Revised	12/6/97	Marc Seeba

# WASILLA TRAILS PLAN

## TRAIL DESCRIPTION DEFINITIONS

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<b>Length:</b>	The length of the trails were measured in approximate miles.
<b>Uses Accommodated:</b>	Uses and users were roughly identified along with whether the trail was multi-use or not. The use of term "bike trail" was not used because of the connotation that the trail is for bicycles only and/or could be only be used by non-motorized vehicles during both summer and winter seasons. The preferred terms are paved multi-use paths and primitive multi-use paths. Paved multi-use paths could be used by pedestrians, bicyclists, skaters, skateboarders, etc. and other non-motorized users during the summer months and used by pedestrians, cross-country skiers, dog teams, (snowmachines and ATV's when permitted) etc. during the winter or snow season. Primitive multi-use trails could be used by any user or vehicle excluding trucks or automobiles.
<b>Land ownership:</b>	Land ownership usually designates the responsible owner and/or an easement holder.
<b>Miscellaneous:</b>	This section was provided for notes and connotations not fitting into any other category.
<b>Description:</b>	Here is where we have tried to describe the attributes of existing trails.
<b>Recommended Actions:</b>	The recommended actions are from the Wasilla Trails Advisory Subcommittee of the City of Wasilla Parks and Recreation Commission.
<b>Revised:</b>	Provides the date the description has been changed.

**WASILLA TRAILS PLAN**  
**WASILLA TRAILS DESCRIPTIONS**

**Trail Name:** Main Street.

**Trail Number:** 1

**Length:** The North - South length runs approximately 0.25 miles (3 city blocks).

**Uses accommodated:** Pedestrian and bicycle only.

**Land ownership:** State of Alaska, DOT.

**Miscellaneous:** There is a revision for Main Street in the works which may allow for some kind of multi-use trail. A paved path is proposed at this time.

**Description:** Asphalt sidewalks exist on both sides of North/South directions. There is currently no room for a multi-use trail at this time.

**Recommended actions:**

1. Check into proposed Bogard road intersection revision to see if a multi-use trail is remotely possible.
2. Best to by-pass these 3 blocks if possible, although the intersection with the Parks highway provides a stop light for cross traffic and a crossing of the railroad tracks to gain access to the KGB road and trails.

**Revised:** 1/27/98

**WASILLA TRAILS PLAN**  
**WASILLA TRAILS DESCRIPTIONS**

**Trail Name:** Parks Highway

**Trail Number:** 2

**Length:** Within the Wasilla City limits, the east/west length runs approximately 5.25 miles from Seward Meridian to Church Road.

**Uses accommodated:** Multi-use.....

**Land ownership:** State of Alaska, DOT.

**Miscellaneous:** Extended paved non-motorized multi-use paths are part of future state upgrade projects. The Parks Highway is a very important east/west corridor for all types of motorized and non-motorized users.

**Description:** North side of Parks Highway: Some sections of frontage road/paths exist between Seward Meridian and Wasilla Lake. A well used footpath begins east of Newcomb Park on Wasilla Lake and extends to Crusey Street. A paved multi-use path/sidewalk runs westward from Crusey Street extending beyond Church Road.

South side of Parks Highway: Primitive paths exist westward from Seward Meridian past the intersection of the Palmer Wasilla Highway. Just past the intersection of the Palmer Wasilla Highway, primitive paths exist within the Parks Highway and Alaska Rail Road right-of-ways continuing westward past Church Road towards Big Lake.

**Recommended actions:**

1. The Parks Highway north side non-motorized multi-use paths should be made contiguous with the Palmer Wasilla Highway non-motorized multi-use path.
2. The Parks Highway south side paths should be developed as primitive multi-use paths.

**Revised:** 9/10/97

WASILLA TRAILS PLAN  
WASILLA TRAILS DESCRIPTIONS

Trail Name: Wasilla Fishhook Road

Trail Number: 3

Length: Within the Wasilla City limits the North - South length runs 1.3 miles.

Uses accommodated: Primitive multi-use.

Land ownership: State of Alaska, DOT.

Miscellaneous: New construction (Aug/Sept 1997) of Spruce intersection includes a short stretch of paved trail. Further paved extension needs investigating.

Description: North bound on the right-hand-side, a primitive trail exists and continues past Wasilla City Limits at Spruce Street, the trail provides a main corridor to the north of Wasilla. Primitive trail begins at Dana and is broken at one point to avoid personal property, users must use road shoulder past one lot. Excellent multi-use trail location for access to Bald Mountain and Hatcher Pass.

Recommended actions: 1. See if trail easement is possible where current trail jumps onto the road shoulder.  
2. What about dedication??? as multi use trail?

Revised: 10/9/97

**WASILLA TRAILS PLAN**  
**WASILLA TRAILS DESCRIPTIONS**

**Trail Name:** Bogard Road

**Trail Number:** 4

**Length:** Within the Wasilla City limits the east/west length runs approximately 0.75 miles from Peck Street to the Intersection with Main Street and Wasilla Fishhook Road.

**Uses accommodated:** Multi-use.....

**Land ownership:** State of Alaska, DOT.

**Miscellaneous:** Bogard Road may be slated for an upgrade through a State project, especially the re-alignment of the intersection with Main Street and the Wasilla Fishhook Road. Bogard Road provides trail access for a large residential population of users and is a highly used east/west corridor for all types of motorized and non-motorized users.

**Description:** An undeveloped but extremely well-used primitive path exists on the north side of Bogard Road extending eastward towards Palmer.

**Recommended actions:** 1. Due to the schools and population in this area, multi-use trails should be developed on both sides of the road if possible.

**Revised:** 9/10/97



WASILLA TRAILS PLAN  
WASILLA TRAILS DESCRIPTIONS

Trail Name: Knik Goose Bay Road

Trail Number: 5

Length: Within the Wasilla City limits the North - South length runs 1.2 miles.

Uses accommodated: Primitive multi-use.

Land ownership: State of Alaska, DOT.

Miscellaneous: By fall of 1998 the Glennwood separated paved path will join the KGB road. Currently, the separated paved path stops just short of the intersection with KGB road.

Description: South bound primitive trails exist on both sides beginning at Lakeview Street and are well used on east side between Lakeview and Glennwood, trail is possibly outside of right-away. Some patchy trail exists from the Parks Highway to Lakeview on the west side. Excellent multi-use trail location for access to Knik, Point MacKenzie and State lands.

Recommended actions: 1. There appears to be room for both primitive and paved multi-use trails.  
2. Access to Lake Lucille Park and Lake Lucille through several public accesses.

Revised: 10/9/97

**WASILLA TRAILS PLAN**  
**WASILLA TRAILS DESCRIPTIONS**

**Trail Name:** Nelson Avenue

**Trail Number:** 6

**Length:** The west bound length runs approximately 1.5 miles from Main Street to Lucas Road.

**Uses accommodated:** Currently bicycles, pedestrians, and skaters.

**Land ownership:** City of Wasilla.

**Miscellaneous:** The Right-of-way widths and topography may preclude a primitive trail being built either across the street or parallel to the existing paved path.

**Description:** Asphalt path on north side of street from Lucas Road to a short distance west of Graybark. Other than paved sidewalks and curbs on the corners of the east side of Lucille, there is no other developed trail.

**Recommended actions:**

1. The paved path should be extended east to Main Street.
2. Since this is the main access to the Wonderland Park, a primitive trail or sidewalk would probably be well utilized and should be considered.

**Revised:** 10/7/97

**WASILLA TRAILS PLAN**  
**WASILLA TRAILS DESCRIPTIONS**

**Trail Name:** Lucille Street

**Trail Number:** 7

**Length:** Within the Wasilla City limits the North - South length runs approximately 1.3 miles.

**Uses accommodated:** Multi-use....

**Land ownership:** City of Wasilla.

**Miscellaneous:** A blinking 4-way stop light has been proposed by the Wasilla City Council for the intersection of Lucille and Nelson.

**Description:** From the Parks Highway north to Nelson (0.4 miles) a sidewalk exists on both sides of the road (except for the mini-storage lot where a primitive trail exists). Northbound at Nelson a paved multi-use trail exists on the east side crossing to the west side at Heritage, running for a short distance to Spruce Avenue.

**Recommended actions:** 1. Use of the west side for a primitive trail is possible if the short distance from Heritage to Spruce non-motorized paved trail is changed to multi-use (motorized and non-motorized).

**Revised:** 12/6/97

# WASILLA TRAILS PLAN

## WASILLA TRAILS DESCRIPTIONS

**Trail Name:** Swanson Avenue

**Trail Number:** 8

**Length:** The west bound length runs approximately 0.9 miles from the Main Street to intersect with the Parks Highway.

**Uses accommodated:** Pedestrians, skaters, children on bicycles.

**Land ownership:** City of Wasilla.

**Miscellaneous:**

**Description:** Paved sidewalks exist on both sides of the avenue.

**Recommended actions:** 1. Construction of primitive trail for other uses (motorized, equestrian, etc.) of right-of-way widths allow.

**Revised:** 9/10/97

WASILLA TRAILS PLAN  
WASILLA TRAILS DESCRIPTIONS

Trail Name: Crusey Street

Trail Number: 9

Length: The North - South length runs approximately 0.4 miles.

Uses accommodated: Primitive and paved multi-use.

Land ownership: State of Alaska, DOT.

Miscellaneous:

Description: North bound from the intersection of the Parks Highway primitive path use is evident to the intersection with Swanson Avenue. North bound between Swanson Avenue and the intersection with Bogard Road, a paved multi-use trail exists on the left hand side and a primitive unimproved primitive trail exists on the right hand side.

Recommended actions: 1. Grading of primitive path is recommended to guide users to stay on trail, and not damage adjacent landscaping.

Revised: 1/27/98

**WASILLA TRAILS PLAN**  
**WASILLA TRAILS DESCRIPTIONS**

**Trail Name:** Lake View Avenue  
(between Lake Street / KGB Road)

**Trail Number:** 10

**Length:** The west bound length runs approximately 0.2 miles from the Knik Goose Bay Road to Lake Street.

**Uses accommodated:** Multi-use

**Land ownership:** City of Wasilla.

**Miscellaneous:** Some ATV's use Lake View Avenue from Knik Goose Bay Road to the VFW and then cross over to the gravel pit there . This is one way users find a way to the public access at Lake Lucille when coming north on Knik Goose Bay trails. But users cross private property and park land when using access through the gravel pit.

**Description:** An established primitive trail exists on the north side between the Knik Goose Bay Road and the VFW, where it crosses the road to the gravel pit and access to Lake Lucille Park. There is room for a trail on south side from the gravel pit to Lake Street to complete a trail to the public access on Lake Street.

**Recommended actions:** 1. Discourage access into Lucille Park through the gravel pit, or dedicate a trail through to lake to avoid destruction of park land and encroachment onto private property, or provide direct access from KGB Road to Lake Street to Lake Lucille public access.

**Revised:** 10/9/97

**WASILLA TRAILS PLAN**  
**WASILLA TRAILS DESCRIPTIONS**

**Trail Name:** Lucas Road

**Trail Number:** 11

**Length:** The north bound length runs approximately 1.25 miles from the Parks Highway to Spruce Avenue.

**Uses accommodated:** Pedestrian, ATV's, and equestrian.

**Land ownership:** State of Alaska, DOT.

**Miscellaneous:**

**Description:** This is a "path of least resistance." At some points it may wander beyond the right-of-way. Excavation and a steep slope on the north side of Nicola Avenue have limited any possible uses south to the Parks Highway. The lawn which extends to the edge of the road in front of Jacobsen's Greenhouse appears to have been avoided. An undeveloped but well used trail runs northbound from the Greenhouse to Spruce Avenue on the west side.

**Recommended actions:** 1. Create a primitive trail running from the Parks Highway north to Spruce Avenue along the west side of Lucas Road that would be well utilized by various types of users.

**Revised:** 1/27/98



**WASILLA TRAILS PLAN**  
**WASILLA TRAILS DESCRIPTIONS**

**Trail Name:** Glennwood Avenue

**Trail Number:** 12

**Length:** The east bound length runs approximately 1.1 miles from the Knik Goose Bay Road to Old Matanuska Road.

**Uses accommodated:** Multi-use. Summer use: Pedestrian, Bicycles, ATV's.

**Land ownership:** City of Wasilla.

**Miscellaneous:** Last portion connecting to the Knik Goose Bay Road has primitive trails on both sides of the road. A 4 way stop should be installed at the intersection with Knik Goose Bay Road. A light would be preferred.

**Description:** A paved trail exists on the north side beginning 20' beyond the railroad crossing at the intersection with Old Matanuska Road. A separated paved trail on both sides of the road exists between Cheesecake Street and Thomas Street across Cottonwood Creek where the separated paved path on the north side stops just short of the Knik Goose Bay Road. Cottonwood Creek is used as a winter trail south to the Fairview Loop Road. The Denali Street power line trail intersection provides a path to the north to Susitna Avenue to allow travel west to Lake Lucille. There appears to be room on the south side for a primitive trail except where it is paved on both sides.

**Recommended actions:** 1. Establish a primitive trail on south side and north side where existing trail has been obliterated. Trail must cross to the north side parallel to the paved path on a steep incline. Perhaps the north side between Thomas Street and the incline of paved trail can become multi-use (motorized and non-motorized), or a parallel trail at that point.

**Revised:** 12/27/97

**WASILLA TRAILS PLAN**  
**WASILLA TRAILS DESCRIPTIONS**

**Trail Name:** Peck Street

**Trail Number:** 13

**Length:** The North - South length runs approximately 0.8 miles.

**Uses accommodated:** Pedestrian, bicycle, ATV's, snowmachines, and equestrian. This trail provides a main access route from the Bogard Road Trail to and from the Wasilla - Fishhook Road Trail, as well as trail access for 3 major subdivisions.

**Land ownership:** The City of Wasilla is controls the Peck Street road right-of-way from Bogard Road north to the State controlled intersection with the Wasilla - Fishhook Road.

**Miscellaneous:**

**Description:** North bound, a concrete sidewalk exists on the left hand side from Bogard Road to Snohomish Avenue; curbing continues for .15 miles with the remainder unimproved to intersect with the Wasilla - Fishhook Road. A primitive trail exists on the north bound right hand side from Bogard Road to the Wasilla - Fishhook Road.

**Recommended actions:**

1. The City of Wasilla should complete concrete sidewalk on northbound left hand side to coincide with the existing concrete curb northbound past Snohomish Avenue.
2. The City of Wasilla should complete the primitive trail grading on the northbound right hand side, especially the last 0.2 miles to the intersection with the Wasilla - Fishhook Road.
3. The City of Wasilla should negotiate with the Borough to provide at least a footpath path on the northbound left hand side to connect the concrete sidewalk with access the intersection with the Wasilla - Fishhook Road.

**Revised:** 12/6/97

**WASILLA TRAILS PLAN**  
**WASILLA TRAILS DESCRIPTIONS**

**Trail Name:** Spruce Avenue

**Trail Number:** 14

**Length:** The west bound length runs approximately 3 miles from the intersection with Wasilla Fishhook to Church Road.

**Uses accommodated:** Multi-use

**Land ownership:** City of Wasilla.

**Miscellaneous:** The north side easement is much better suited for a trail easement due to some already existing electric/telephone easements with trails established and more level terrain with less brush.

**Description:** A well established trail runs on the north side from Wasilla Fishhook to approximately within 0.1 miles of Lucille Street. From Lucille Street to Lucas the established trail jumps from the north side of the road to the south side and back twice, the north side being more permanent. From Lucas to Church the trail is established for 1/2 mile then is lost to subdivision private property, but there is a power line trail which breaks at an angle from that point with an established trail on it.

**Recommended actions:**

1. Work on obtaining permission from borough to have easement given to the city for the north side of the road.
2. Work with utility easements on north side to establish primitive trail.

**Revised:** 10/9/97

**WASILLA TRAILS PLAN**  
**WASILLA TRAILS DESCRIPTIONS**

**Trail Name:** Church Road

**Trail Number:** 15

**Length:** Within the Wasilla City limits the north bound length runs approximately 1.2 miles from the Parks Highway past Spruce Avenue.

**Uses accommodated:** Primitive Multi-use trail (a separated paved path is in the design plans when Church Road is paved).

**Land ownership:** State of Alaska, DOT.

**Miscellaneous:** Future design plans already exist for a paved multi-use trail to be constructed at the same time that Church road is paved by the State DOT.

**Description:** Established trail on the west side north bound from the Parks Highway to Mission Hills, except for one house lot on a hill that must be skirted by going onto the road shoulder surface. From Mission Hills to Spruce Avenue the trail jumps from side to side due to the sheer drop off shoulder, but mainly stays on the west side.

**Recommended actions:** 1. Establish trail on west side to connect into existing Parks Highway paved and primitive trails. Multi-use trail on east side is probably cost prohibitive. Possibly there is room on west side for both primitive and paved multi-use trails.

**Revised:** 10/9/97

# WASILLA TRAILS PLAN

## WASILLA TRAILS DESCRIPTIONS

**Trail Name:** Alaska Rail Road

**Trail Number:** 16

**Length:** The east-west bound length of the proposed trail runs approximately 8.1 ARR miles from the intersection of the ARR/Old Matanuska Road/Fairview Loop Road (at approximately ARR Milepost 156.3) and through the ARR underpass (at approximately ARR Milepost 164.4) of the Parks Highway in the west.

**Uses accommodated:** Primitive multi-use trail established.

**Land ownership:** Alaska Rail Road

**Miscellaneous:** A section of the railway bed is to be moved as part of the Parks Highway upgrade in 1999.

**Description:** A well used primitive multi-use trail runs between the railroad tracks and the highway, with the trail running closer to the highway than to the rail road tracks. Trail along railway between Kenai Supply and Glennwood runs within Alaska Rail Road property. Alaska Rail Road property is also used behind Spenard Builders Supply as a primitive trail. The ARR Trail could be used to connect east-west bound travelers to the KGB Road, trails to Big Lake, and to the proposed trail head at the Wasilla Municipal Airport.

**Recommended actions:**

1. Research the right-of-way interface between Alaska Rail Road roadbed and the Alaska DOT Parks Highway.
2. Work with the ARR Engineers to establish trail between the intersection of ARR/Old Matanuska Road/Fairview Loop Road through the City of Wasilla out past the new Airport facility and beyond to the ARR underpass at the Parks Highway.
3. The primitive trail currently following the rail bed is the best path for moving ATV and snow machine traffic in a east-west corridor direction through the city. Also the rail road corridor will connect with the proposed Church Road extension to the Wasilla Municipal Airport and a proposed trail head.

Revised:

12/6/97

**WASILLA TRAILS PLAN**  
**WASILLA TRAILS DESCRIPTIONS**

**Trail Name:** Hallea Lane

**Trail Number:** 17

**Length:** The south bound length runs approximately 0.1 miles from the Parks Highway to Lake Lucille drive.

**Uses accommodated:** Pedestrian, bicycle (snow machines in winter season).

**Land ownership:** City of Wasilla.

**Miscellaneous:** A very narrow crossing over the railroad tracks makes for a very tight fit even for two cars.

**Description:** Southbound from the Parks Highway an asphalt path exists on the east side after the railroad crossing to Lake Lucille Drive. A highly used power line trail begins about 20 feet after crossing rail road tracks that runs westward towards Big Lake.

**Recommended actions:** 1. Some way must be devised for crossing the railway other than using the roadway as it currently exists, enlarging the roadway crossing is one possible solution. This trail is very important to the city trail system as it provides access to Lake Lucille and access towards trails leading to Big Lake.

**Revised:** 10/9/97

**WASILLA TRAILS PLAN**  
**WASILLA TRAILS DESCRIPTIONS**

**Trail Name:** Mystery Avenue

**Trail Number:** 18

**Length:** The east west length runs approximately 1.0 miles between Church Road and Lucas Road.

**Uses accommodated:** Multi-use.

**Land ownership:** City of Wasilla.

**Miscellaneous:**

**Description:** The primitive trail provide east west access along the Bumpus Ball Fields between Church Road and Lucas Road. In the east, the primitive trail is mostly on the north side of Mystery Avenue to the gate for Bumpus. In the west, a primitive trail connects the Bumpus Ball Fields to Lucas Road.

**Recommended actions:** Awaiting further review.

**Revised:** 12/27/97



**WASILLA TRAILS PLAN**  
**WASILLA TRAILS DESCRIPTIONS**

**Trail Name:** Iditarod Historic Trail

**Trail Number:** 19

**Length:** Total length of the trail is "1,049" miles from Anchorage to Nome, length of trail within Wasilla City limits is approximately 4 miles.

**Uses accommodated:** The City of Wasilla is the official re-starting point of the world famous dog sled race to Nome, the Iditarod.

**Land ownership:** City of Wasilla (re-start point only), Private Landowner(s) and State of Alaska, DOT.

**Miscellaneous:** The Iditarod dog sled race begins in Anchorage with a ceremonial start and travels to Eagle River. The re-starting point actually begins the timed race to Nome. The City of Wasilla is normally the official re-start point, although in recent years the starting point has been moved to Willow due a lack of adequate snow pack.

**Description:** The re-start point of the Iditarod Dog Sled Race in Wasilla is located at the I-DID-A-PARK. The trail leaves I-DID-A-PARK entering Weber Circle to cross the Parks Highway and the Alaska Rail Road tracks to Buford Place. The route continues on to Lake Lucille. South from Lake Lucille the route exits the lake out over private land along the western edge of Lake Lucille Park to travel along Endover Street to the Knik Goose Bay Road. The trail follows the road to Knik where it leaves civilization and follows the historic official Iditarod Trail out to the Big Susitna River and then on to Nome.

**Recommended actions:**

1. Contact Stan Hooley, Iditarod Director for additional information at (907) 376-5155.
2. Signs should be erected showing this historic trail.

**Revised:** 12/27/97

**WASILLA TRAILS PLAN**  
**WASILLA TRAILS DESCRIPTIONS**

**Trail Name:** Susitna Avenue

**Trail Number:** 20

**Length:** East-west length approximately 0.5 miles.

**Uses accommodated:** Multi-use.

**Land ownership:** City of Wasilla.

**Miscellaneous:** Provides public access to the eastern shore of Lake Lucille.

**Description:** Susitna Avenue provides public access to Lake Lucille at the western end, from there eastward, it provides a primitive trail link across Knik Goose Bay Road to the Denali Street trail leading to the south. The primitive trail runs mostly on the north side of the street.

**Recommended actions:**

1. Signage.
2. Cut and remove brush, grade pathway.

**Revised:** 12/27/97

**WASILLA TRAILS PLAN**  
**WASILLA TRAILS DESCRIPTIONS**

**Trail Name:** Mack Road

**Trail Number:** 21

**Length:** The north bound length runs approximately 0.9 miles from the Knik Goose Bay Road along Mack Road to Millsite Road, from there a primitive trail continues approximately 0.75 miles to the western edge of the Wasilla Municipal Airport.

**Uses accommodated:** Multi-use, winter only.

**Land ownership:** The City of Wasilla, possibly private land owner(s).

**Miscellaneous:**

**Description:** The primitive trail, beginning at the intersection of Mack Road and Knik Goose Bay Road, goes north following Mack road for 0.9 miles. At the end of Mack Road the trail continues north following what appears to be a section line to Lucille Creek. During the winter, the primitive trail continues crossing Lucille Creek where it immediately intersects the Iron Dog Trail (#22), from there it continues north to the Wasilla Municipal Airport.

**Recommended actions:**

1. Trail needs signage.
2. Establish trail right of way past end of Mack Road.
3. Trail needs some brushing.

**Revised:** 12/27/97

**WASILLA TRAILS PLAN**  
**WASILLA TRAILS DESCRIPTIONS**

**Trail Name:** Iron Dog Trail

**Trail Number:** 22

**Length:** Total length of the trail is 1,137 miles from Wasilla to Nome, length of trail within Wasilla City limits for the 1998 race is approximately 4.5 miles.

**Uses accommodated:** The City of Wasilla is the official starting point of the world's longest snow machine race to Nome and then on to Fairbanks.

**Land ownership:** City of Wasilla (Starting point only).

**Miscellaneous:** The snow machine race to Nome is officially known as Iron Dog, Gold Rush Classic. The City of Wasilla has adopted and supports the official starting point. In recent years, the race has included a round trip from Wasilla to Nome and back for a total distance of 2,274 miles. In 1998, the race will be run from Wasilla to Nome and then on to Fairbanks.

**Description:** In recent years the Iron Dog snow machine race has started at the Best Western Lake Lucille Inn located on Lake Lucille. In 1998, the planned starting point is at the Mat-Su Resort located on Wasilla Lake. Within the city limits the trail runs from the starting point at the Mat-Su Resort, across the Parks Highway to run along the ARR primitive trail between the ARR tracks and the Parks Highway. The trail continues westward to cross the railroad track at Hallea Lane to run past the Best Western Lake Lucille Inn gaining access to Lake Lucille. The trail continues across Lake Lucille, and in a westward direction of the lake on the north edge of Lake Lucille Creek. The trail follows Lucille Creek drainage to Johnson Trail, taking a left to Hollywood Road and follows Hollywood Road to South Big Lake Road and across to Big Lake, then to the Klondike Inn where the timed start of the race begins to Nome. In the 1998 race, the second leg of the race will run back down to Fairbanks instead of back to the starting point in Wasilla.

**Recommended actions:**

1. Contact Harriett Fenerly, Iron Dog Executive Director for more information at (907) 563-4414.
2. Signs should be erected showing the dedicated trail.
3. The trail needs to be brushed.

**Revised:** 12/27/97

**WASILLA TRAILS PLAN**  
**WASILLA TRAILS DESCRIPTIONS**

**Trail Name:** Thomas Street

**Trail Number:** 23

**Length:** Approximately 0.5 miles.

**Uses accommodated:** Non-apparent.

**Land ownership:** City of Wasilla.

**Miscellaneous:** Recently paved.

**Description:** No apparent trail exists outside roadway. All building lots are improved.

**Recommended actions:** 1. Not recommended for multi-use trail. If necessary and neighborhood does not object, the west side could accommodate a 4' path for pedestrians and bicycles.

**Revised:** 10/9/97

**WASILLA TRAILS PLAN**  
**WASILLA TRAILS DESCRIPTIONS**

**Trail Name:** Palmer Wasilla Highway

**Trail Number:** 24

**Length:** Within the Wasilla City limits, the east/west trail length runs approximately 0.25 miles northeastward from the intersection of the Parks Highway towards Palmer. The total distance of the Palmer Wasilla Highway trail is approximately 10 miles.

**Uses accommodated:** Multi-use.

**Land ownership:** State of Alaska, DOT.

**Miscellaneous:** The extension of the paved non-motorized multi-use path from Wasilla to Palmer is part of an ongoing State of Alaska, DOT project. The Palmer Wasilla Highway trail is a very important east/west regional corridor for all types of motorized and non-motorized users.

**Description:** North side of Palmer Wasilla Highway: From the intersection of the Parks Highway, a marked bike path which is part of the highway runs northeast for 0.25 miles that connects to the separated (paved) pathway. The separated (paved) pathway runs towards Palmer for approximately 5 miles (just a half mile short of the Four Corner intersection).

South side of Palmer Wasilla Highway: Primitive paths exist eastward from the Cottonwood Creek culvert towards Palmer.

**Recommended actions:**

1. Construct and pave a separated pathway from the Parks Highway to connect with the newly completed separated (paved) pathway on the north side of the Palmer Wasilla Highway.
2. Brush and grade the primitive path towards Palmer on the south side of the highway.

**Revised:** 12/26/97

**WASILLA TRAILS PLAN**  
**WASILLA TRAILS DESCRIPTIONS**

**Trail Name:** Denali Street

**Trail Number:** 25

**Length:** The north south length is approximately 0.7 miles.

**Uses accommodated:** Multi-use.

**Land ownership:** City of Wasilla.

**Miscellaneous:** The Denali Street trail provides the south bound leg from Susitna Avenue connecting Lake Lucille through to Glenwood Avenue.

**Description:** The southbound length runs 0.1 miles from Rail Road Avenue along Denali Street to a dead end. From the dead end of Denali Street the trail continues south following a major power line easement to Glenwood Avenue.

**Recommended actions:** 1. Get trail easement and provide signage to mark trail.

**Revised:** 12/27/97



**WASILLA TRAILS PLAN**  
**WASILLA TRAILS DESCRIPTIONS**

**Trail Name:** Seward Meridian Parkway

**Trail Number:** 27

**Length:** The north bound length runs approximately 1.9 miles from the Parks Highway, through the intersection of the Palmer Wasilla Highway, to Bogard Road.

**Uses accommodated:** Primitive Multi-use.

**Land ownership:** State of Alaska, DOT.

**Miscellaneous:** Future DOT plans include extending Seward Meridian Parkway to the north of Bogard Road through to the newly constructed East Seldon Road.

**Description:** An established primitive multi-use trail exists on the north bound right hand side roadway, sometimes following the power line, from the Parks Highway to the intersection of the Palmer Wasilla Highway. North from the Palmer Wasilla Highway intersection, primitive multi-use trails exist on both sides of the roadway to the intersection of Bogard Road. Crossing of Cottonwood Creek just before the Board Intersection is provided by an existing multi-use bridge on the north bound left hand side of the road. On the left hand side, facing west and nearby the Cottonwood Creek, a snow machine trail cuts slightly over land in the south (to avoid the generally open running water) to gain access to the eastern portion of Wasilla Lake.

**Recommended actions:**

1. Work on obtaining permission from borough to have easement given to the city for the eastern side of the road.
2. Work with utility easements on eastern side to establish primitive trail.
3. Future road design plans should provide for a paved multi-use trail on the north bound left hand side and retain the primitive trail on the north bound right hand side..

**Revised:** 12/15/97

**WASILLA TRAILS PLAN**  
**WASILLA TRAILS DESCRIPTIONS**

**Trail Name:** Lake Lucille (Land)

**Trail Number:** LLL

**Length:** The length of the trail making a loop around Lake Lucille is approximately 5 miles.

**Uses accommodated:** Non-motorized.

**Land ownership:** City of Wasilla, Mat-Su Borough and Private Land Owners.

**Miscellaneous:** At the current time, the growth of constructed dwellings and roads have obliterated the land loop path that existed around the lake prior to the late 1960's.

**Description:** A primitive path is envisioned beginning at the Lake Lucille Inn intersection of Hallea Lane and Lake Lucille Drive. As the path leads westward along Lake Lucille Drive it curves towards the south crossing Lake Lucille Creek and continues on to the "private" Tillicum Avenue. The "private" Tillicum Avenue seems to have been built upon the utility right of way instead of a platted road right of way. The utility easement has been barbed wired off for trail users. On the further east past the barbed wire, and on what appears to be private land, there is a dirt private air field and a road leading over to the edge of the Borough's Lake Lucille Park and the road continues to the south connecting with Endover Street. The envisioned path is seen to follow the utility easement to continue directly east to connect into Lake Lucille Park, where the pathway could continue then through the park to connect with a pathway along Lakeview Avenue. The path would then connect north along Lake Street and then turn west again along the ARR right of way to connect into Pioneer Drive, cross over private property to Selina Lane, where it would again have to cross over private property to connect once again to Lake Lucille Drive.

**Recommended actions:**

1. Begin research into right of ways over the entire proposed primitive trail path loop.
2. Work with utility easements on south side to establish primitive trail.
3. Work on obtaining permission from Borough to have an easement given to the City for the path to pass through Lake Lucille Park.

**Revised:** 12/26/97

**WASILLA TRAILS PLAN**  
**WASILLA TRAILS DESCRIPTIONS**

**Trail Name:** Lake Lucille Park

**Trail Number:** LLP

**Length:** Over 2 miles of hiking trails.

**Uses accommodated:** Non-motorized.

**Land ownership:** Mat-Su Borough - Recreational Services Division.

**Miscellaneous:** The entrance to Lake Lucille Park is 0.5 miles north on Endover Street from mile 2.3 of the Knik Goose Bay road, southwest of Wasilla. (See Appendix for map of Lake Lucille Park trails.)

**Description:** Lake Lucille Park has over 2 miles of hiking trails throughout the park. The "perimeter" trail travels through most of the undeveloped portions of the park and is 1.5 miles in length. Three spur trails, the main one is a seismic exploration trail, with a combined length of 0.4 miles, divides the perimeter system into four loops. The western section (trail 1) of the trail near the northern boundary follows a "berm" that was pushed up by ice action along the shore of Lake Lucille. Along the marshy southern edge of the lake, the residential and commercial developments on the north shore and the Talkeetna Mountains can be viewed from the "berm" trail. The ridge line trail follows the southern boundary of the park (trails 3 & 4) along the top of a glacial moraine, with views of the flats and benches south towards Palmer Slough and of the mountains including Pioneer Peak and the Twin Peaks beyond Knik Arm. All of the trails are wooded with birch and scattered cottonwood and white spruce. The understory scrub layer is mostly prickly rose and high bush cranberry. The lake access has two floating boardwalks along the "berm" trail that allow hikers to access the lake for non-motorized boating and fishing activities from the lake parking lot/trail head.

**Recommended actions:** None.

**Revised:** 9/10/97

# WASILLA TRAILS PLAN

## WASILLA TRAILS DESCRIPTIONS

**Trail Name:** Lake Lucille (Water)

**Trail Number:** LLW

**Length:** Lake Lucille's water surface covers 362 acres with an average depth of 5.7 feet.

**Uses accommodated:**  
**Summer Multi-use:** Float equipped airplanes, power boats, sailing, canoeing, personal watercraft, fishing, swimming and watercraft racing events.  
**Winter Multi-use:** Ski equipped airplanes, automobiles, snow machines, ATV's, dog sledding, cross-country skiing, ice skating, hiking and events such as snow machine races, Iron Dog and Iditarod.

**Land ownership:** Army Corp of Engineers / City of Wasilla / Mat-Su Borough.

**Miscellaneous:** Access on and off the lake is difficult due to the private property around it's perimeter prohibiting access to the water. Public access to Lake Lucille is limited to Lake Lucille Park and Park Avenue. Commercial resort access is available at Lake Lucille Inn, commercial park fee access is available at Snyder Park.

**Description:**  
**Summer:** During the summer months Lake Lucille provides a water multi-use playland and vista views.  
**Winter:** During the winter months Lake Lucille freezes over allowing motorized vehicles (snow machines) access to it's surface. Winter enthusiasts traveling into Wasilla via the Knik Goose Bay Road can turn on Endeavor at mile 2.3 and travel straight one mile to reach the lake along the right-of-way of Endeavor Street and along the western boundary of Lake Lucille Park. This short cut allows riders to bypass the congested intersections downtown at the Parks Highway and access trails north of Wasilla safely. Users should be aware that motorized traffic within the park boundaries is prohibited by MSB code to protect wildlife and park amenities from vehicular damage that has occurred over the past several seasons.

**Recommended actions:** None.

**Revised:** 12/6/97

**WASILLA TRAILS PLAN**  
**WASILLA TRAILS DESCRIPTIONS**

**Trail Name:** Wasilla High School

**Trail Number:** WHS

**Length:** One mile.

**Uses accommodated:** Non-motorized, cross country running and skiing.

**Land ownership:** Mat-Su Borough.

**Miscellaneous:** The trail is one mile in length and has many side accesses that have tied into it created by ATV's. The trail is classified as non-motorized, but without fences and gates to restrict usage the trail is over run with all types of motorized vehicle traffic. (Waiting for map from Roger Nellis, Wasilla H.S. AD)

**Description:** The high school trail system starts behind Wasilla High School at the football field entrance and circles around the field and north up the hill behind the school returning to the west end of the student parking lot where it parallels a utility easement adjacent to the baseball field complex.

**Recommended actions:** 1. Research method of restricting motorized usage of trail system.

**Revised:** 9/10/97

WASILLA TRAILS PLAN  
WASILLA TRAILS DESCRIPTIONS

Trail Name: Wasilla Lake (Water)

Trail Number: WLW

Length: The length of Wasilla Lake is 2.5 miles from the Seward Meridian Parkway Inlet to the western edge of Newcomb Park located on the Parks Highway.

Uses accommodated: Summer Multi-use: Float equipped airplanes, power boats, sailing, canoeing, personal watercraft, fishing, swimming and watercraft racing events.  
Winter Multi-use: Ski equipped airplanes, automobiles, snow machines, ATV's, dog sledding, cross-country skiing, ice skating, hiking and events such as snow machine races.

Land ownership: Army Corp of Engineers / City of Wasilla / Mat-Su Borough.

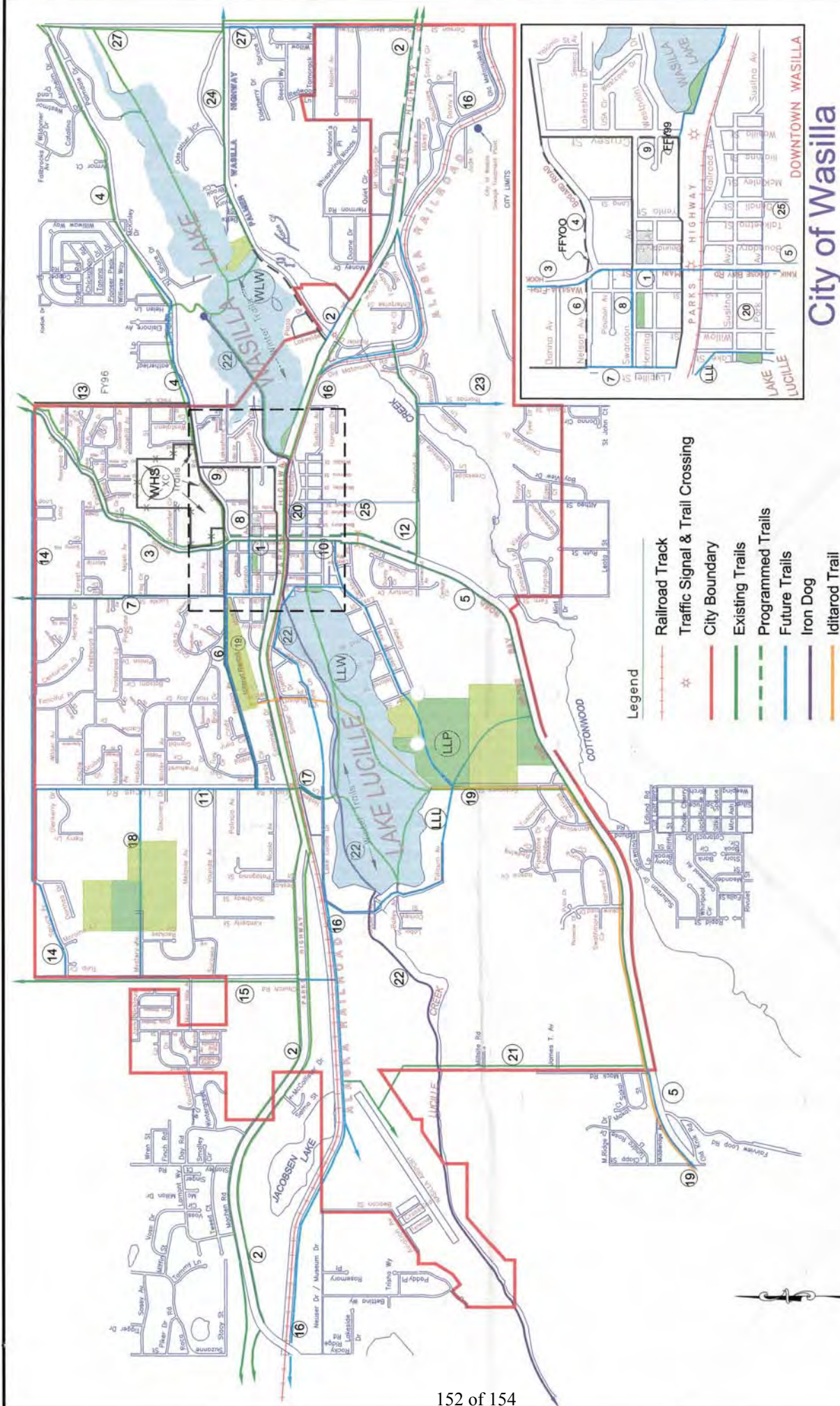
Miscellaneous: Public access to Wasilla Lake is limited to Lakeside Park, the entrance of Cottonwood Creek into the lake at Seward Meridian Parkway, and the exit of Cottonwood Creek at the Palmer Wasilla Highway. Commercial resort access (with launch fee) is available at the Mat-Su Resort, commercial business access is available at Valley Yamaha.

Description: Summer: Wasilla Lake is the terminus for the Seven Mile Canoe Trail that ends at Lakeside Park near the rest rooms on the beach. There is a trail map that describes the route from the State Park access at Finger Lake State Recreation Area through Finger Lake portaging to Cottonwood Lake. From there a stream is followed to Mud Lake where you paddle under Seward Meridian Parkway into Wasilla Lake traversing the entire length to reach Lakeside Park in Wasilla. As the name suggests, the length of the trail is between 6.5 and 7 miles and treats the user to some panoramic vistas of the surrounding the Matanuska-Susitna valley.  
Winter: During the winter months Wasilla freezes over allowing motorized vehicles (snow machines) access to its surface. Access from the East is from land near the culvert for Cottonwood Creek on Seward Meridian Parkway and runs over the eastern portion of Wasilla Lake. Access to the western portion of Wasilla Lake is through a (sometimes open water) channel. The western portion of Wasilla Lake allows users access to the Mat-Su Resort, Lakeside Park, and a crossing of the Parks Highway to access the ARR trail along side the Parks Highway or the Crusey Street Trail.

Recommended actions: 1. Determine if the bermed off end of Palm Dale is possibly public access.  
2. Propose a better way of crossing the Parks Highway for snowmachines, possibly a crossing light button at Crusey Street.

Revised: 12/6/97





# City of Wasilla

Trails & Parks Plan 1999 City Amendment

Revised by: City of Wasilla, Planning Office

Figure 7-4

- Legend**
- Railroad Track
  - Traffic Signal & Trail Crossing
  - City Boundary
  - Existing Trails
  - Programmed Trails
  - Future Trails
  - Iron Dog
  - Iditarod Trail
  - Existing Parks
  - Future Parks
  - Historic Parks
  - Future Under Pass

These trails have been subjectively determined and do not reflect their legal accessibility



Basemap by Mapmakers for the City of Wasilla. All Rights reserved. 1994. Updated by the Wasilla Planning Office 10/09

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The special meeting of the Wasilla Parks and Recreation Commission was held on Wednesday, June 29, 2011, at Curtis D. Menard Memorial Sports Center, Wasilla, Alaska. Chairman Dave Tuttle called the meeting to order at 5:25 p. m.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Commissioners present and establishing a quorum were:

Ms. Mary Shampine, Seat A  
Mr. Dave Tuttle, Seat B  
Mr. Henry Hartman, Seat C  
Ms. Randy Robinson, Seat E

Commissioner Joan Matthews was excused.

Staff in attendance were:

Mr. James Hastings, Recreation & Cultural Services Manager  
Mr. Bert Cottle, Deputy Administrator  
Ms. Tammy Ostrom, Sports Center Secretary

**III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mr. Hastings led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chair Tuttle asked if there were any changes to the agenda.

GENERAL CONSENT: The agenda was approved as presented without objection.

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

Parks and Trails Master Plan:

- Recommended Title of Plan to be changed from Wasilla Cultural Resource Plan to Parks Master Plan Trails and Open Spaces.
- Highest priority for plan is to provide safe access to existing City Parks or points of interest.
- Need a more detailed definition of trail types.
- Easements important for future trail developments.

**VI. COMMUNICATION ITEMS**

Commissioner Hartman- Arts Walk every Thursday 2:00pm to 7:00pm.



**VII. COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMENTS**

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Tuttle adjourned meeting at 7:07 p.m.

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Dave Tuttle, Chair

ATTEST:

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TAMMY OSTROM, Commission Secretary

Approved: July 13, 2011.