



PARKS AND TRAILS MASTER PLAN

Exhibit A
Adopted by Resolution Serial No. 11-42 (AM)
October 24, 2011

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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 1999 Trails Plan and the 1996 Comprehensive Plan
- 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 Sports Center included the public in the planning effort. A project questionnaire was mailed to all of the residents within the City 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 20 sites within the City 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. However, the list of sites was condensed down to only include the sites owned by the City. A chart listing these sites and identifying the amenities within each park is included in Appendix B.

The design team and the 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 a separate chart titled “Existing Athletic Facilities (Not City owned),” but have not been included in the “Projected Facility Requirement” chart because they are not currently owned by the City.

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 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 and sites not owned by the City 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 to review the existing athletic facilities on an annual basis to identify needed improvements or additional facilities. Additional facilities may include 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. 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 City, but as the population grows, additional facilities may 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. The future growth for the City was projected using a three percent growth factor. 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

The City currently has seven parks and a boat launch facility. A brief description and history of each City park is listed below along with proposed future improvements. Additionally, a chart was created that includes the classification and acreage for each of the sites. The chart also recommends the total acres of park area required for the City 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.

- Iditapark is located at the old Wasilla Airport site on 28 acres along Nelson Avenue between Lucille Street and Weber Drive. Over the last 10 years, the park has slowly been built-out. Wonderland Park was constructed with volunteers in the community as the first park improvement at this site. Since then, the area has been improved with the Skate Board Park, Honor Garden, Garden of Reflection, tennis courts, basketball courts, volley ball sand pits, amphitheater stage, sledding hill, trails and pavilions. The park also includes a series of ponds and creek that treat storm water from the downtown area and provide habitat for birds and ducks in the summer. This park complex has reached a level of completion but needs future improvements as follows:
 - Large pavilion structure over Amphitheater stage
 - Complete paving pathways
 - Provide lighting for winter time use along path ways
 - Add pavilions
- Nunley Park is located across the street from City Hall between Herning Avenue and Swanson Avenue. This park is named after Leo M. Nunley, a former Mayor of Wasilla. This park takes up about three-quarters of a city block and it is designed to be used by families with small children. It has new playground equipment and a full size railroad caboose for viewing. Future improvements include:
 - One or two pavilions
 - Pave east parking lot
 - Improve pathways
 - Improve/add new playground equipment
- Carter Park is located at the east end of Lake Lucille and it provides lake access for swimming and canoeing. Carter Park is named after the Carter family who homesteaded on Lake Lucille and they donated the property for the park. This is a small park with new playground equipment for small children and it has areas for picnics.

- Newcomb Park is located at the west end of Wasilla Lake along the Parks Highway. This park is named after Harold Newcomb, a former Mayor of Wasilla. This park is very popular in the summer for swimming with a sandy beach area and lake access for canoeing. This park is great for picnics and it has one pavilion. It also provides winter time recreation where the City maintains an ice skating rink on the lake. Future improvements include:
 - New playground equipment for small children
 - Improved lighting for ice skating area
- Lake Lucille Park was originally built by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough in 1986 along the south side of Lake Lucille on 80 acres. This park has a large campground, trails and access to the lake for canoeing. This park has pavilions, soccer fields and playground equipment for small children. The City is in the process of obtaining the park from the Borough. Continued master planning is needed to determine the full build-out potential of the park.
- Bumpus Ballfields is located along Mystery Avenue in the north part of town. This park is named after Charlie Bumpus, a former Mayor of Wasilla. Bumpus Ballfields contains 120 acres of land dedicated for ballfields and trails. This area is approximately 50 percent built-out with four softball fields, one baseball field and one soccer field. These fields have been built by volunteer organizations who in two cases, lease the land from the City and make the fields available to the public when they are not in use. An equestrian trail is also present within the 120 acre park that is available for all non-motorized uses. Continued master planning is needed to determine the full build-out potential of the park.
- Cottonwood Creek Park was recently acquired by the City. It contains nine acres along Cottonwood Creek next to the Parks Highway. This area is planned for a nature trail to support viewing of the creek. Additional property acquisition could lead to a trail head on the opposite side of the creek and a pedestrian bridge over the creek. Master planning is needed for this park as no improvements currently exist.
- Susitna Avenue Boat Launch is located near Carter Park at the east end of Lake Lucille. It provides the only public access for boat launching on either lake in the City. This facility has parking one block away for vehicles and boat trailers. The boat launch has a simply gravel approach into the lake. Future improvements include:
 - Paved or concrete apron into the lake
 - Improved dock tie-down area

4.0 Conclusions and Recommendations

According to the Wasilla Park Master Plan questionnaire, the respondents believe that city government should provide money for community parks. The primary goal of the Parks Master Plan is to identify ways to enhance recreational opportunities within the City limits. This includes enhancing existing parks and trails as well as improving trail connectivity and creating new parks, as needed. Recommended actions to implement this goal are outlined below:

4.1 Recommended Actions

- **Creation of a Volunteer System.** The City should 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.
- **Install Welcome Signs at City Gateways.** Decorative “Welcome to the City of Wasilla” signs should be installed at two locations within the City limits. The first recommended location would be at the western entrance on the Parks Highway. The second location would be on a private parcel at the eastern entrance of the Parks Highway.
- **Creation of Individual Conceptual Park Plans.** New conceptual site plans should be created for Bumpus, Lake Lucille and Cottonwood Creek parks. 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.
- **Park Improvements.** The City will continue to identify ways to add improvements to existing parks. Listed below are recommended improvements:

Iditapark:

- Large pavilion structure over amphitheater stage
- Pave all pathways
- Provide lighting for wintertime use along pathways
- Add pavilions

Nunley Park:

- Add pavilions
- Pave east parking lot
- Improve pathways
- Improve/add new playground equipment

Newcomb Park:

- New playground equipment for small children
- Improve lighting for ice skating area on lake

Susitna Avenue Boat Launch:

- Create paved or concrete apron into Lake Lucille
- Improve dock tie-down area

Cottonwood Creek:

- Create parking area accessible from Bogard
 - Install bridge to cross Cottonwood Creek
 - Create trail through park
- **Trail Connectivity.** 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 to other outlying areas, were recorded. The *Wasilla Trails Plan 1999 City Amendment* and the *Wasilla Comprehensive Plan 1996* were also reviewed. The Wasilla Trails Plan 1999 City Amendment will be used to address the trail systems within the City limits and will be updated as needed. In addition to the adopted Trails Plan, a trails inventory was conducted as part of this plan, which noted the existing trails as well as proposed trails throughout the City 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
2. Lucas Road
3. Southwest Wasilla
4. Lake to Lake
5. West Holiday Drive
6. North Beck
7. Denali Street
8. Riley Avenue
9. Cottonwood Creek Greenbelt
10. Lucille Creek Greenbelt
11. Bumpus Connector
12. South Thomas Street
13. Bumpus Equestrian

4.2 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.

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



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- [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

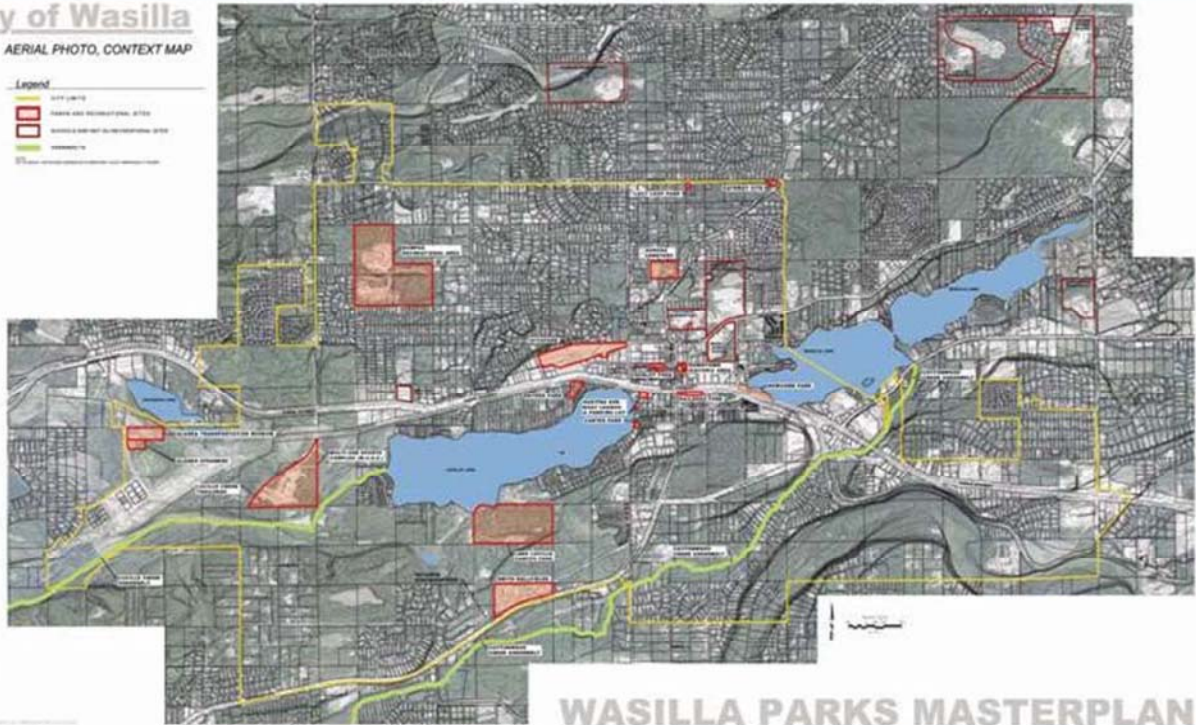


Multi Use Sports Complex

City of Wasilla

AERIAL PHOTO, CONTEXT MAP

- Legend**
- CITY LIMITS
 - EXISTING PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS
 - PROPOSED PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS
 - WATERSHEDS
 - CITY OF WASILLA WATER TREATMENT PLANT



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.



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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.

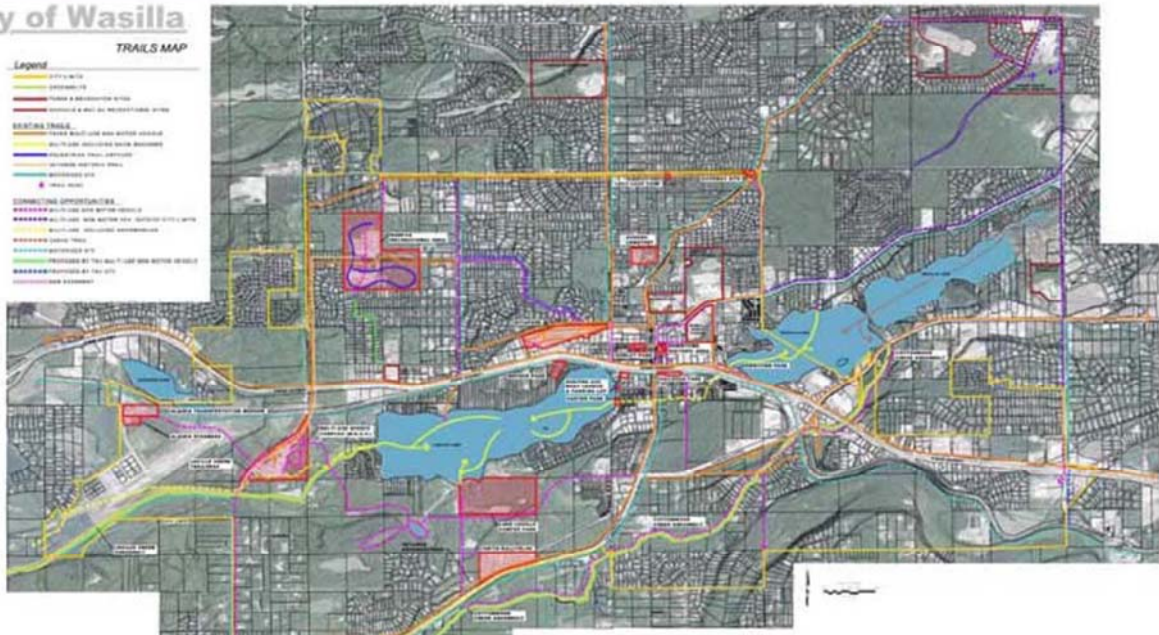


Iditapark

City of Wasilla

TRAILS MAP

- Legend**
- CITY CENTER
 - COMMERCIAL DISTRICT
 - PARKS & RECREATION DISTRICT
 - RESIDENTIAL & MULTI-USE DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
- EXISTING TRAILS**
- TRAILS WITH LAND AND WATER RIGHTS
 - CITY-OWNED AND/OR MAINTAINED TRAILS
 - PRIVATELY OWNED TRAILS
 - TRAILS WITH RIGHTS OF WAY
 - TRAILS WITH RIGHTS OF WAY
- CONNECTING CORRIDORS**
- ALL-STATE AND STATE TRAILS
 - ALL-STATE AND STATE TRAILS WITH RIGHTS OF WAY
 - STATE TRAILS WITH RIGHTS OF WAY
 - STATE TRAILS WITH RIGHTS OF WAY
 - STATE TRAILS WITH RIGHTS OF WAY
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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.



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Contact Us

Tryck Nyman Hayes, Inc.

Anchorage and Wasilla Offices



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



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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**



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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
 Community Parks
 Athletic Fields
 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
 6-10
 11-15 times
 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



Please take a moment to

Tell Us...

what you think!

www.cityofwasilla.com



Wasilla Parks Masterplan

Questionnaire

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



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

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

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
Project E-mail: 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

APPENDIX B

List of Sites: Wasilla Parks Master Plan

Updated August 1, 2011

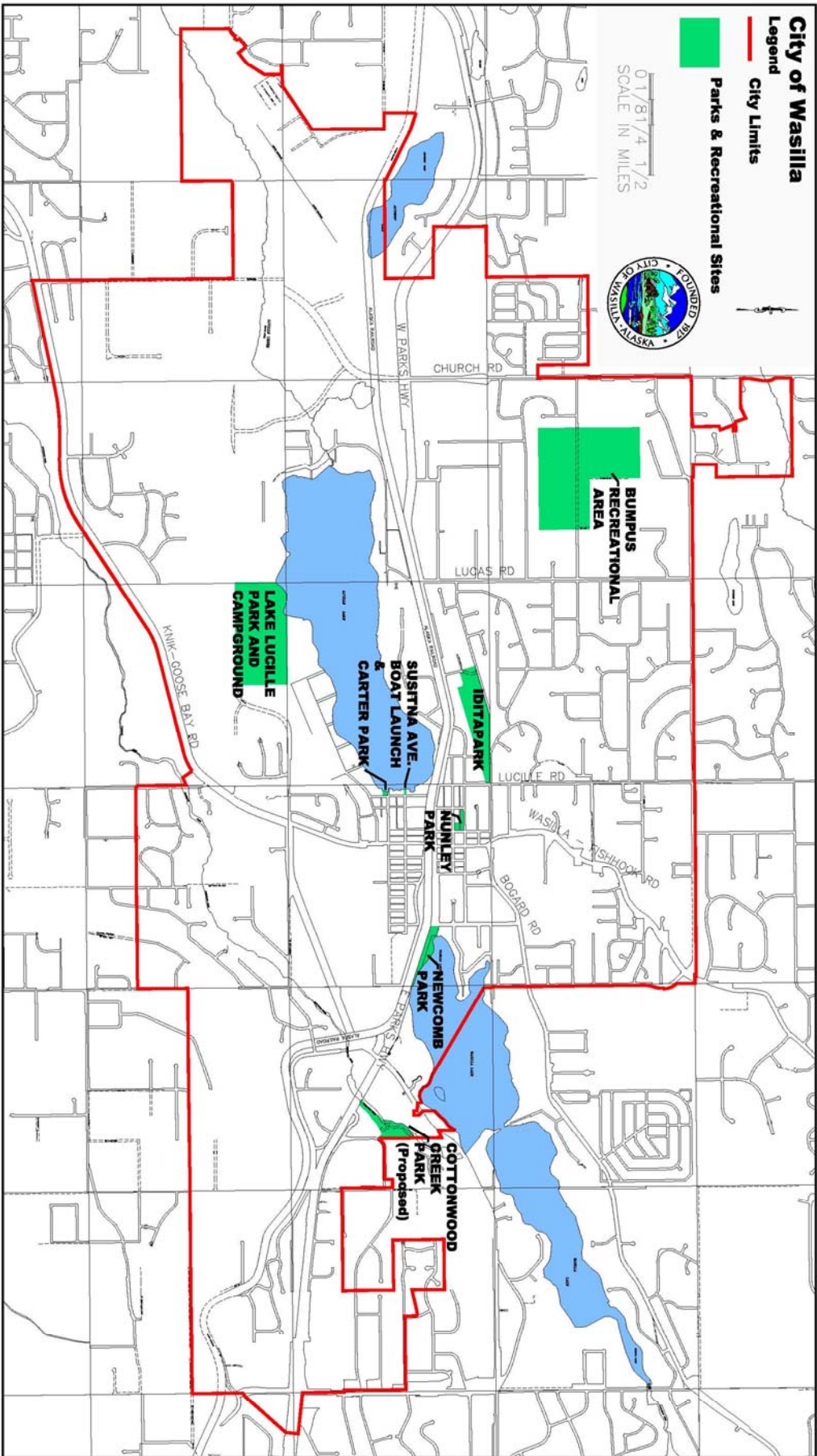
Parks:

	Approximate Acreage
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
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WASILLA PARKS MASTER PLAN



AMENITIES	Bumpus Recreation Area	Carter Park at Lake Lucille	Iditapark	Newcomb Park at Wasilla	Lake Lucille Park and Campground	Cottonwood Creek Park (proposed)	Susitna Avenue Boat Launch	Nunley Park
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>
1. What are the age groups that live in your household?	
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
2. Do you hike the Trails inside the City Limits?	
Yes	57
No	35
3. How can we make the trail system better?	
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
4. Why do you use the trail system in the city?	
Recreation/exercise	71
Transportation to/from work	8
Bird watching/nature viewing	21
5. I would participate in a volunteer trails clean up maintenance committee?	
Yes	34
No	48
6. What do you believe City government should provide money for?	
City Buildings	64
Community Parks	81
Ballfields	56
Trails	62
7. What are the best ways to approach R.O.W. acquisition from private property interests?	
Conservation Easements	21
Land Trust Purchase	40
Public Dedication	28
Donation/Tax Write Off	37
8. In the last 12 months, how often have you or other household member visited a city park or city recreation facility?	
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)	Curtis D. Menard Memorial Sports Center	TOTAL
Major League Baseball- 90'	1									1
Little League Baseball- 60'	0									0
Softball	4									4
Soccer	1						2		1	4
Football										0
Multi- Purpose Fields			1							1
Tennis			2							2
Volleyball			3							3
Full Basketball Court			4							4
Indoor Skating Rink								1		1
Outdoor Skating Rink			1	1						2
Children's Play Equipment *		1	1	1	1		1			5
Rope Course										0
Community Center *			1					1		2
Skateboard Park			1							1
BMX Track			1							1
Running Track / Staking Oval								1		1
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		
Major League Baseball- 90'			1												1		1
Little League Baseball- 60'			3			4					1				1		7
Softball															1		0
Soccer					2						1				1		6
Football											1				1		0
Multi- Purpose Fields							1			1							0
Tennis																	0
Volleyball																	0
Full Basketball Court							1				2						0
Indoor Skating Rink																	0
Outdoor Skating Rink								1									0
Children's Play Equipment *	1						1	1	1	1	1						1
Rope Coarse													1				0
Community Center *																	0
Skateboard Park																	0
BMX Track																	0
Running Track / Staking Oval															1		0
Swimming Pool															1		0

* 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.

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	Cottonwood Creek Park (proposed)	
Major League Baseball- 90'									0
Little League Baseball- 60'	2								2
Softball	4								4
Soccer	4								4
Football									0
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					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

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	Population				Needs			
					2010 Actual	2014 Est.	2024 Est.	2034 Est.	2010 Actual	2014 Est.	2013 Est.	2028 Est.
Major League Baseball- 90'	1/5,000	1/20,000	1	0	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	0	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	4	4	0.78	0.89	1.20	1.63	1.96	2.21	3.00	4.07
Football	1/20,000	1/15,000	0	0	0.39	0.44	0.60	0.82	0.52	0.59	0.80	1.09
Multi- Purpose Fields	No Req.	No Req.	1	0								
Tennis	1/2,000	1/6,500	2	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	2	0					2.61	2.95	4.00	5.43
Children's Play Equipment *	No Req.	No Req.	5	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	1	0					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

	General Description	Location Criteria	Size Criteria
Mini-Park	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.
Neighborhood Park	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.
School-Park	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
Community Park	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.
Large Urban Park	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
Natural Resource Areas	Lands set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space and visual aesthetics/buffering.	Resource availability and opportunity.	variable
Greenways	Effectively tie park system components together to form a continuous park environment.	Resource availability and opportunity.	variable
Sports Complex	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.
Special Use	Cover a broad range of parks and recreation facilities oriented toward single-purpose use.	Variable-dependent on specific use.	variable
Private Park/Recreation Facility	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
TOTAL		166.55

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

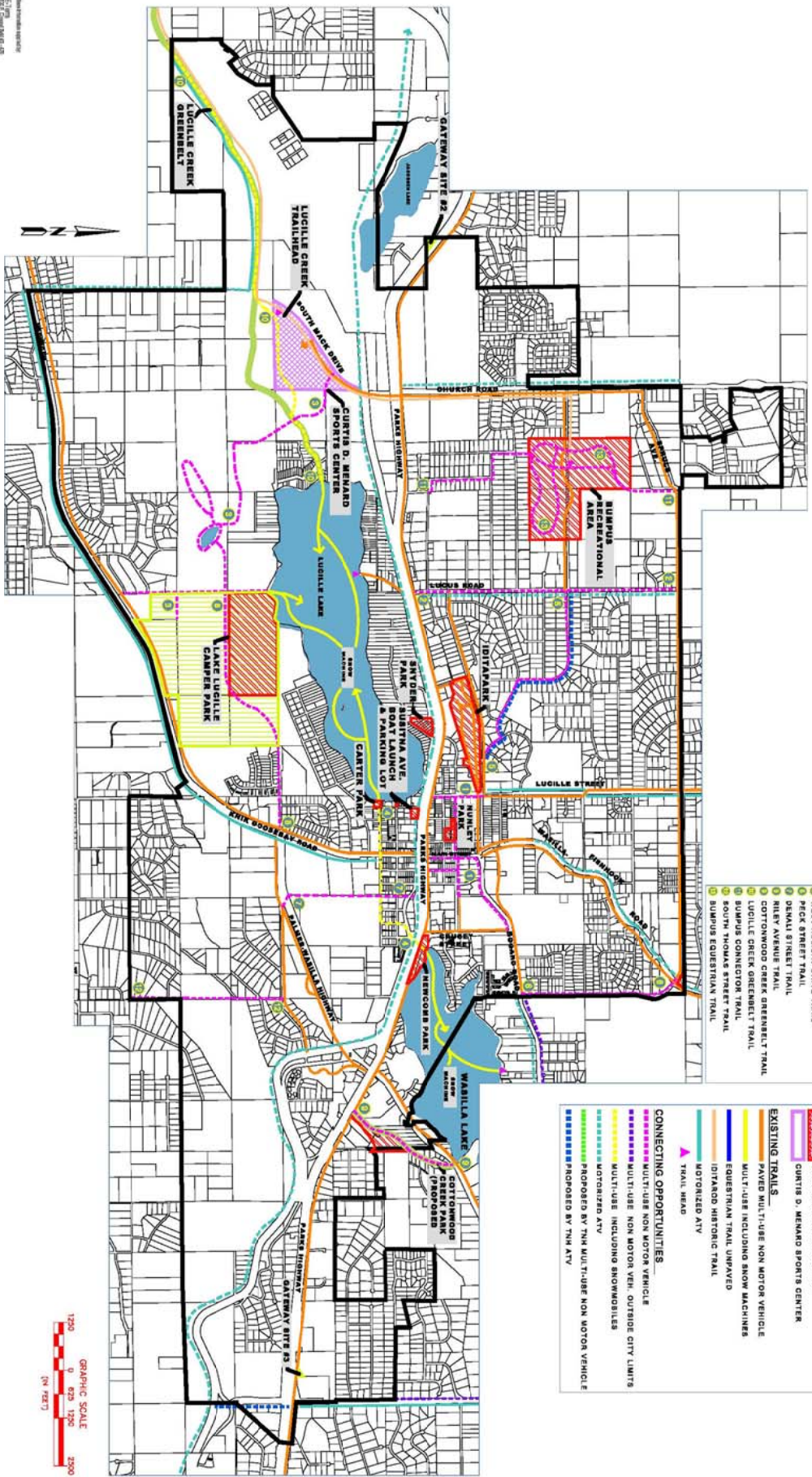
*Acreages are approximate

**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

City of Wasilla

TRAILS MAP



- Key**
- 1 DOWNTOWN TRAILS
 - 2 LUCAS ROAD TRAIL
 - 3 SOUTHWEST WASILLA TRAILS
 - 4 LAKE TO LAKE TRAIL
 - 5 WEST HOLIDAY DRIVE TRAIL
 - 6 PECK STREET TRAIL
 - 7 DENALI STREET TRAIL
 - 8 NINEY AVENUE TRAIL
 - 9 COTTAGEWOOD GREENBELT TRAIL
 - 10 LUDWIG CENTER GREENBELT TRAIL
 - 11 SOUTH THOMAS STREET TRAIL
 - 12 BIJURUP EQUESTRIAN TRAIL

- Legend**
- CITY LIMITS
 - GREENBELTS
 - PARK / GATEWAY ACQUISITION
 - PARKS & RECREATION SITES
 - CURTIS O. MENARD SPORTS CENTER
- EXISTING TRAILS**
- PAVED MULTI-USE NON MOTOR VEHICLE
 - MULTI-USE INCLUDING SNOW MACHINES
 - EQUESTRIAN TRAIL UNPAVED
 - INDIANGO HISTORIC TRAIL
 - MOTORIZED ATV
 - TRAIL HEAD
- CONNECTING OPPORTUNITIES**
- MULTI-USE NON MOTOR VEHICLE
 - MULTI-USE NON MOTOR VEH. OUTSIDE CITY LIMITS
 - MULTI-USE INCLUDING SNOWMOBILES
 - MOTORIZED ATV
 - PROPOSED BY THE MULTI-USE NON MOTOR VEHICLE
 - PROPOSED BY THE ATV



WASILLA PARKS MASTER PLAN

Approved by the City of Wasilla
City Council Meeting on 11/15/2011
11/15/2011

DEPARTMENT OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Recommended Classification System for Local & Regional Recreational Trails

Classification	General Description	Location Criteria	Size Criteria
Park Trails (Types I, II, and III)	Type I	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	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	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	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	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	Designated portion of the roadway	5 foot wide bike lane, both sides of the roadway if possible, and stripping
	Bike Routes	Paved shoulder along roadway	4 to 6 foot paved shoulder, both sides of the roadway if possible, and stripping
Other	All-Terrain (Mountain) Bike Trails	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	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	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	Roadway rights-of ways	N/A
Historical Trails	Historic trail used for the Iditarod Dog Race	Original Route	N/A

