



# City of Bethel, Alaska

## Parks & Recreation Committee Agenda

Regular Meeting

March 2, 2015 – 6:00p.m.

City Hall

Minnie Sallison Fritts  
Committee Chair  
Term Expires 12/2016

Barbara Mosier  
Committee Co Chair  
Term Expires 12/2016

Clarence Daniel  
Committee Member  
Term Expires 12/2017

Margaret Revet  
Committee Member  
Term Expires 12/2017

Rick Robb  
Council Rep 10/2015

Susan Taylor  
Committee Member  
Term Expires 12/2017

Amanda Colvin  
Committee Member  
Term Expires 12/2015

Alternate Committee Member  
3 Year Term

Ronda Sargent  
Director  
543-7711

Matthew Ross  
Committee Recorder  
543-2088

Rachael Pitts  
City Planner  
545-0114

John Sargent  
Grant Development Manager  
543-1386

- I. CALL TO ORDER**
- II. ROLL CALL**
- III. PEOPLE TO BE HEARD – THREE MINUTES PER PERSON**
- IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
- V. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS**
  - a. Election of Chair
  - b. Training by the City Clerk
- VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
  - a. January 12th Minutes
  - b. February 2 Minutes
- VII. DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORT**
- VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
  - a. Dog Park
- IX. NEW BUSINESS**
  - a. 5 Year Plan
  - b. Community Survey draft
- X. MEMBER COMMENTS**
- XI. ADJOURNMENT**



### 3. Vision and Goals

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#### Values and Vision Statement

##### Community Values

We affirm the worth and dignity of each person and the right of each person to grow and prosper. We recognize that our natural environment and quality of life are unique and that each member of the community has a responsibility to preserve and enhance them. We believe our community flourishes through individual initiative to reach community economic, educational, social and cultural goals. These values are the foundation of life in our community for these and future generations.

##### Bethel 2035 Vision Statement

We value Bethel as a place where people care about each other, the natural environment, and living close to the land. We envision a future in which the quality of our natural environment is protected for subsistence and recreation, and the land managed for the sustained prosperity of Bethel's people. We are rich in many ways today, but need to strive for a better community for ourselves and our children. We will work to develop a healthy, more diverse economy, capitalizing on Bethel's current role as a regional hub for transportation, healthcare, education, government services and trade, but also building a stronger base of enduring, locally based economic activities. We will invest in more stable and affordable energy supplies, and strive to guide development to reduce energy and infrastructure costs. We will promote better access within town by vehicle, public transit, dog sled and four-wheeler, and walking. We envision a community where all residents lead safe and healthy lives, and have access to water and sewer service, fire protection, and affordable housing. We hope to make Bethel a place that takes pride in its appearance, so the town comes closer to matching the beauty of our natural setting, with parks, trails, and accessible natural open space. And we will work together as one important part of the regional partnership needed to sustain our lives in this unique, vibrant land.

#### Goals

##### Land Use

- GOAL 1: Reserve space for critical anticipated community needs, including commerce, transportation, housing, community facilities and infrastructure.
- GOAL 2: Encourage future growth to locate near existing employment centers and public services. Coordinate plans affecting the location of growth with plans for the location of water, wastewater and roads, as economically feasible.
- GOAL 3: Provide for compatibility among adjoining land uses, so future development maintains or improves the quality of life or land values of surrounding uses. *-Trails Parks*
- GOAL 4: Encourage a range of housing opportunities for current and future Bethel residents, including more housing within the purchasing or rental capabilities of young families, single people, school teachers and other workers.



- GOAL 5: Create safe, livable neighborhoods centered around community facilities such as schools, parks, the teen center, and the senior center.
- GOAL 6: Maintain and protect the quality of the water, land, and biological resources within the City; encourage the sustainable use of those resources for current and future generations.
- GOAL 7: Protect life and property from natural disasters and hazards.
- GOAL 8: Improve the City's ability to provide quick access to current and accurate information on land status, easements and rights of way, and zoning and other land use regulations.
- GOAL 9: Improve the City's ability to effectively and efficiently manage City-held lands.

**Transportation**

- GOAL 1: Provide for the efficient transport and transfer of air cargo and passengers.
- GOAL 2: Develop a safe and efficient road system.
  - Objective A: Ensure adequate funding for road improvements.
  - Objective B: Provide a safe and efficient street network to meet current needs and future development.
  - Objective C: Design and build roads to reduce the number, length, and cost of business and personal trips.
- GOAL 3: Provide a safe and efficient trail network to meet current and future needs, for year-round transportation and recreation use by Bethel residents and visitors.
- GOAL 4: Provide effective and efficient public transit.
- GOAL 5: Maintain Bethel's status as the primary port for commerce and transportation on the Kuskokwim River.

**Economic Development**

- GOAL 1: Stabilize/reduce the cost of energy (and related factors) that increase the costs of establishing and operating a business in Bethel.
- GOAL 2: Maintain and expand the infrastructure that supports Bethel's economy.
- GOAL 3: Support and expand contributions of economic activities based on local resources, including commercial fishing, subsistence and import substitution.
- GOAL 4: Support and expand contributions of tourism and visitation to the local economy. *PARKS Dept*
- GOAL 5: Support lifelong education and vocational training, particularly training tied directly to job placement in local and regional growth industries. *4-H partnership*
- GOAL 6: Support stronger regional cooperation and regional economic development.
- GOAL 7: Maintain fair, competitive and sufficient local government taxes, fees and utility rates.

**GOAL 8:** Enhance the quality of life in Bethel to attract and retain individuals and businesses.

### Energy

**GOAL 1:** Reduce energy consumption.

**GOAL 2:** Improve and/or expand existing energy infrastructure.

**GOAL 3:** Develop new, alternative energy sources and innovative methods to reduce the cost of energy.

### Public Facilities and Services

**GOAL 1:** Provide and improve essential city services. Respond to current needs and plan for future demand. Link the extension of public facilities to land use development to ensure that growth occurs in a logical, planned and cost-effective manner.

**Objective A:** Administration and Finance. Provide adequate administration services and associated facilities to meet current and anticipated future administration demands on the City of Bethel.

**Objective B:** Water and Sewer. Provide adequate infrastructure and facilities and services to meet current and anticipated future demands for water and sewer services in the City of Bethel.

**Objective C:** Solid Waste. Provide adequate facilities to meet current and anticipated future demands for solid waste disposal in the City of Bethel.

**Objective D:** Technology. Provide for current and future technology needs.

**Objective E:** Fire and Emergency Medical Services. Provide adequate fire protection measures and services in Bethel to respond to current and future anticipated emergency service needs.

**Objective F:** Police. Provide adequate police services to meet existing demand and anticipated future demands.

**Objective G:** Youth and Adult Recreation. Sustain and enhance facilities and programs for youth and adult recreation.

**GOAL 2:** Foster intergovernmental cooperation: a network of local governmental and civic organizations committed to the common good of the community, based on a high degree of resident participation, interagency cooperation, and inspired leadership.

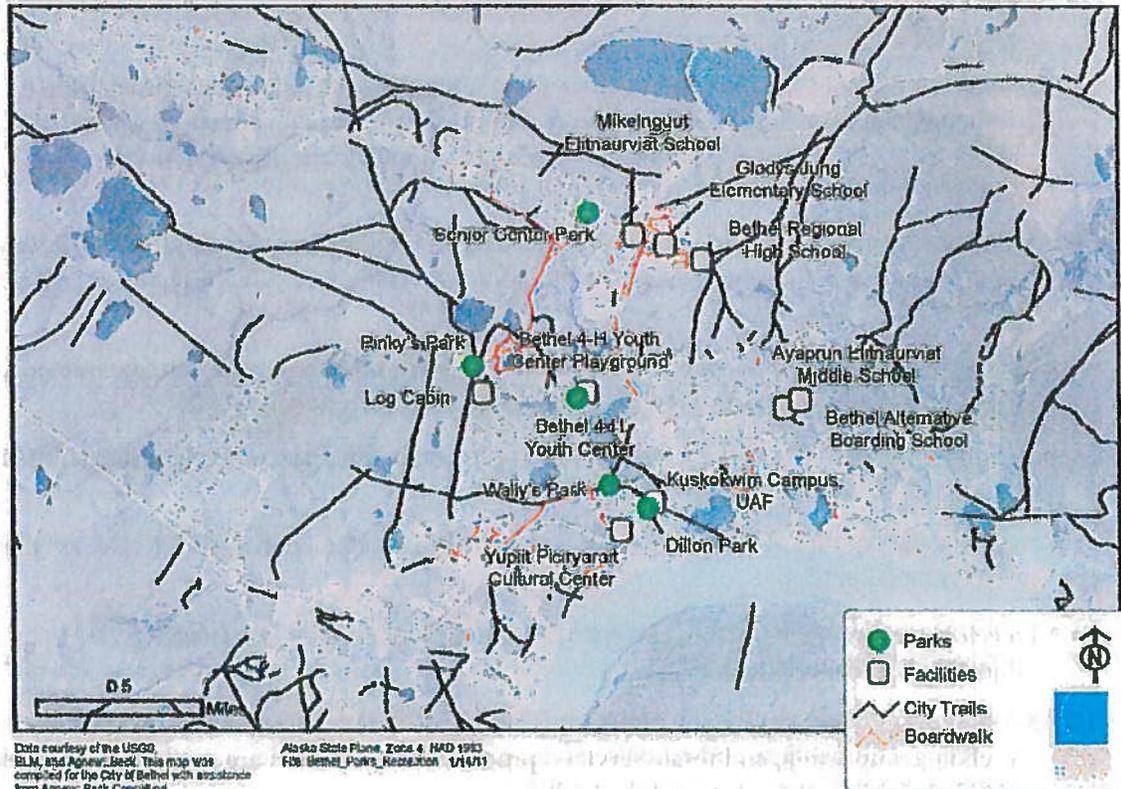
4-A  
Partnership

university, whose spaces are available for limited use. Priorities include capital improvements to existing and future recreation facilities.

- Other parks and recreation infrastructure improvements are detailed in the 2011 Bethel Parks and Recreation Master Plan (updated concurrent with this Comprehensive Plan).

Map 8.3

### City of Bethel Parks + Recreation



- **Intergovernmental Cooperation:** In order to accomplish some of the goals and strategies included in this plan, each chapter reiterates the need for partnerships, cooperation and coordination among the City and other Bethel institutions, such as ONC, the local and regional Native Corporations, the regional school district, housing corporation and health center. To support these efforts, the Public Facilities and Services chapter includes a set of policies for intergovernmental cooperation.

## Priority Implementation Actions:

Priority Public Facilities and Services implementation actions include:

- Implement improvements to internal city management processes and procedures (e.g., cross-training, streamlining procedures). (GOAL 1, Objective A, Action 1a, p9-26)
- Work with individual City departments to develop 5-year capital needs and deferred maintenance plans. (GOAL 1, Objective A, Action 2a, p9-26)
- Better enforce City business licensing and sales tax collection. (GOAL 1, Objective A, Action 3e, p9-27)
- Develop a financial plan for service provision: incorporate capital needs and deferred maintenance, rate study, and recommendations for future improvements. Explore the possibility of charging for piped water/sewer on a meter basis, comparable to trucked/hailed service. (GOAL 1, Objective B, Action 1a, p9-27)
- Establish an alternative treatment system to replace the existing sewer lagoon. Identify and secure a site for new wastewater treatment system. (GOAL 1, Objective A, Action 4a, p9-28)
- Consider building additional water/sewer transfer station(s) in key locations, to create a city wide hub and spoke system. GOAL 1, Objective B, Action 4a, p9-28)
- Identify possible site(s) for a new landfill (to eventually replace existing landfill). (GOAL 1, Objective C, Action 1a, p9-28)
- Consider options for compacting waste (e.g., dynamic compaction). (GOAL 1, Objective C, Action 2a, p9-28)
- Develop and implement a business plan for the Bethel recycling center. (GOAL 1, Objective C, Action 3a, p9-29)
- Market/provide accurate, up-to-date information about what waste management, recycling, composting, and resale services, programs and facilities are available in Bethel. (GOAL 1, Objective C, Action 4e, p9-30)
- ✓ • Secure new facilities for Bethel Police headquarters. (GOAL 1, Objective F, Action 1a, p9-31)
- Upgrade the Bethel 4-H Youth Center. (GOAL 1, Objective G, Action 1a, p9-31)
- ✓ • Develop a community swimming pool complex. (GOAL 1, Objective G, Action 1b, p9-31)
- Explore the use of shared facilities and the coordination of services provided by ONC. (GOAL 2, Action 4a, p9-32)

## Youth and Adult Recreation

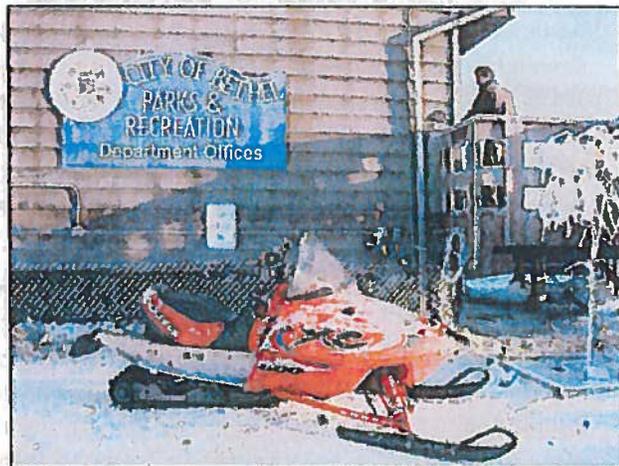
<p><b>Objective G: Youth and Adult Recreation.</b> Sustain and enhance facilities and programs for youth and adult recreation.</p>
<p><b>Strategy 1:</b> Develop public meeting places and indoor recreational facilities for all age groups.</p>
<p><b>Action 1a:</b> Upgrade the Bethel 4-H Youth Center.  <i>The Bethel 4-H Youth Center building needs an upgrade. Improvements include ADA compliant bathrooms and shower, covered entryways for access, egress, more parking space for program participants, fenced area for workshop, equipment and greenhouse to separate it from the youth facilities, new siding and leveling the building. The Youth Center is being considered for an emergency shelter site, which would include the need for cots, sleeping bags, etc. These upgrades will need to be completed whether or not the BATH Center is constructed.</i></p>
<p><i>Completed</i> <b>Action 1b:</b> Develop a community swimming pool complex.  <i>Complete the BATH Center (Phases I and II). Hire a project manager and initiate 2-year fundraising for BATH Center. Consider re-naming the BATH Center to emphasize its regional value. Completing the BATH Center will increase the availability of year-round recreation opportunities for all community members, provide a much-needed public safety resource, and alleviate pressure on the 4-H Youth Center.</i></p>
<p><b>Strategy 2:</b> Expand and improve the Bethel trail system.</p>
<p>See Transportation Goal 5.</p>
<p><b>Strategy 3:</b> Improve Bethel's existing system of parks and recreational open space.</p>
<p><i>Completed</i> <b>Action 3a:</b> Make improvements to Tundra Ridge Park.  <i>These include: three-tier design with tables and/or benches in the middle for parent supervision to upper and lower areas. In other areas install age 2-12 appropriate equipment, one section with swings.</i></p>
<p><b>Action 3b:</b> Make improvements to the Senior Center Park.  <i>These include: more greenery, tables, and benches. Install age 5-12 appropriate play equipment.</i></p>
<p><b>Action 3c:</b> Apply to the Land and Water Conservation Fund to incorporate more land into Pinky's Park.</p>
<p><b>Action 3d:</b> Upgrade the ball field.</p>
<p><b>Action 3e:</b> Maintain skatepark and consider expanding to other locations.</p>
<p><b>Strategy 4:</b> Build additional park and outdoor recreational facilities in order to meet recreational needs of residents and visitors as the community grows.</p>
<p><b>Action 4a:</b> Consider creating/designating additional recreation areas in Bethel (e.g., dog park, recreational campground, ski/non-motorized winter recreation area, waterfront park as part of the Bethel Port, new field for Little League softball, frisbee, soccer and/or football).</p>
<p><b>Policy 4b:</b> Encourage the creation of neighborhood parks/open space in private developments through development standards and the subdivision review process; encourage wider use of the Planned Unit Development ("Conservation Subdivision") approach. (Also Land Use Goal 6 Strategy 1 Policy 1d)  <i>The City could establish policy and procedure, planning and funding assistance to develop a system of neighborhood parks in each of Bethel's residential neighborhood areas (e.g., Kasayulie subdivision, Larson subdivision, Blueberry subdivision, Boat Harbor/Brown's Slough area, the Trailer Court, and future residential areas).  Work with landowners/developers to address potential liability concerns for neighborhood parks.</i></p>
<p><b>Policy 4c:</b> For subdivisions with a dedicated neighborhood park, assess homebuyers a one-time user fee for park maintenance.</p>
<p><b>Policy 4d:</b> Examine any publicly owned lands including street rights-of-way for their potential open space use before their disposition.</p>



<b>Policy 4e:</b> Preserve the central area of Bethel called the Donut Hole area between the H-Marker Lake and Chief Eddie Hoffman Hwy as permanent open space; encourage year-round recreational activities.
<b>Policy 4f:</b> Encourage multiple recreational uses of open space land, provided that the uses are compatible.
<b>Policy 4g:</b> Plan community recreation facilities in conjunction with existing and planned school facilities so that they complement each other in function.
<b>Strategy 5:</b> Expand and/or develop recreational and educational programming to complement recreation facilities.
<b>Action 5a:</b> Expand youth programs currently operating out of the 4-H Youth Center, e.g., food programs, and recreational and educational programs for teens and afterschool youth.

### Background

The Bethel Parks and Recreation Department manages and plans for the City’s parks, playgrounds and recreation facilities. The department coordinates activities and programs for the city’s diverse population. In addition to the City facilities and spaces available, Bethel has a number of facilities operated in partnership with other agencies and institutions, including the school district and university, whose spaces are available for limited use. The facilities are shown in Map 8.3.



The City of Bethel-Parks and Recreation Department has a number of existing parks and recreation facilities available to the public, including: Pinky’s Park, Wally’s Park, Dillon Park, Senior Center Park, Bethel 4-H Youth Center and playground, and the Log Cabin. In addition, Boat Harbor Park, Tundra Ridge Park and Pitt Lake Park are undeveloped spaces within the city. The City of Bethel has dedicated substantial funding toward building a new recreation center. Design for the Bethel Aquatic Training and Health Center (BATHC) are 65 percent complete. Operational funds for the facility will come from a combination of user fees and a designated one-half percent sales tax levied by the City. The City is still seeking matching funds for construction. The facility plans currently include a pool, fitness facilities, and additional recreation spaces.

The Bethel Parks and Recreation Department also coordinates a variety of community activities, programs and facilities. These include the Bethel 4-H Youth Center and related activities; the weight room,<sup>21</sup> after-school program, teen program, family nights, youth computer center, arts and crafts program and various other indoor and outdoor activities. Other recreational activities include soccer, adult and youth softball and karate programs,<sup>22</sup> ice-skating, volunteer-coordinated broomball, pre-school playgroup activities, community services activities, including the 4th of July, Clean-up/Green-up, and basketball against drugs. The Parks and Recreation Department

<sup>21</sup> The City plans to relocate the weight room to the BATH Center.

<sup>22</sup> Adult karate is offered through the Kuskokwim Campus Continuing Education Program. Youth karate is offered through 4-H.

also coordinates use of the Log Cabin, and Bethel's Community Garden managed by the Cooperative Extension Service.

The Bethel 4-H Youth Center is essential to the Bethel community. It is the only place in town where all youth have year-round access to recreation facilities. The existing building was constructed in 1981 as a teen center and includes the only public weight room in Bethel. Over the years, as the number of latch key youth has increased, programs run out of the center expanded for afterschool youth and teens. In 1995, the Bethel Parks and Recreation Department collaborated with the University of Alaska Cooperative Extension Service to start a 4-H Youth Development Program, which continues today. The program has been recognized to the Board of Regents by the UAF President, showcased in the College of Rural Alaska annual publication, the Cooperative Extension annual publication, and has received state awards.

Today, the Bethel 4-H Youth Center is open 50 weeks a year for afterschool youth (kindergarten through sixth grade) and teens (13-18 years old). During the school year, the program is available for afterschool youth from the time school is out until 5:30pm; during the summer, early release, and vacations, it is available from noon to 5:30pm, Monday through Saturday. The program is available for teens from 6pm to 9:30pm during the school year and the summer months, six days a week (staffing issues have caused the Center to close on Saturdays; this has been hard on the community).

The Center runs two USDA food programs: the Summer Food Service Program is a ten week program in which hot food (lunch, snack and dinner) are served to all youth up to the age of 18; the Youth at Risk Snack Program for afterschool youth runs during the school year. These are the most basic of youth development programs: when children go hungry it is hard for them to function and focus. The Parks and Recreation department is also working to identify a funding source to provide a snack or dinner for teens during the school year. It is included in the City of Bethel Parks and Recreation Department draft budget for FY11-12, but there is no guarantee that it will be funded. The department is therefore seeking alternative funding sources (i.e. the BCS Foundation). The foods program also includes a youth garden and greenhouse that are used to grow produce for the snack program, working with Parks and Recreation staff and local volunteer Master Gardeners.<sup>23</sup> The Center also operates several life skills programs, including the computer lab, GPS training, arts, crafts, recreation, community service, gardening, cooking, sewing, games, and animal and bird watching projects. The Youth Center programs attract about 50 kids a day after school and 30 teens at night, with a total of about 500-600 Bethel youth. Of these, only about 300 are formally enrolled in the Center's programs. These programs are outgrowing the size of the current facility.

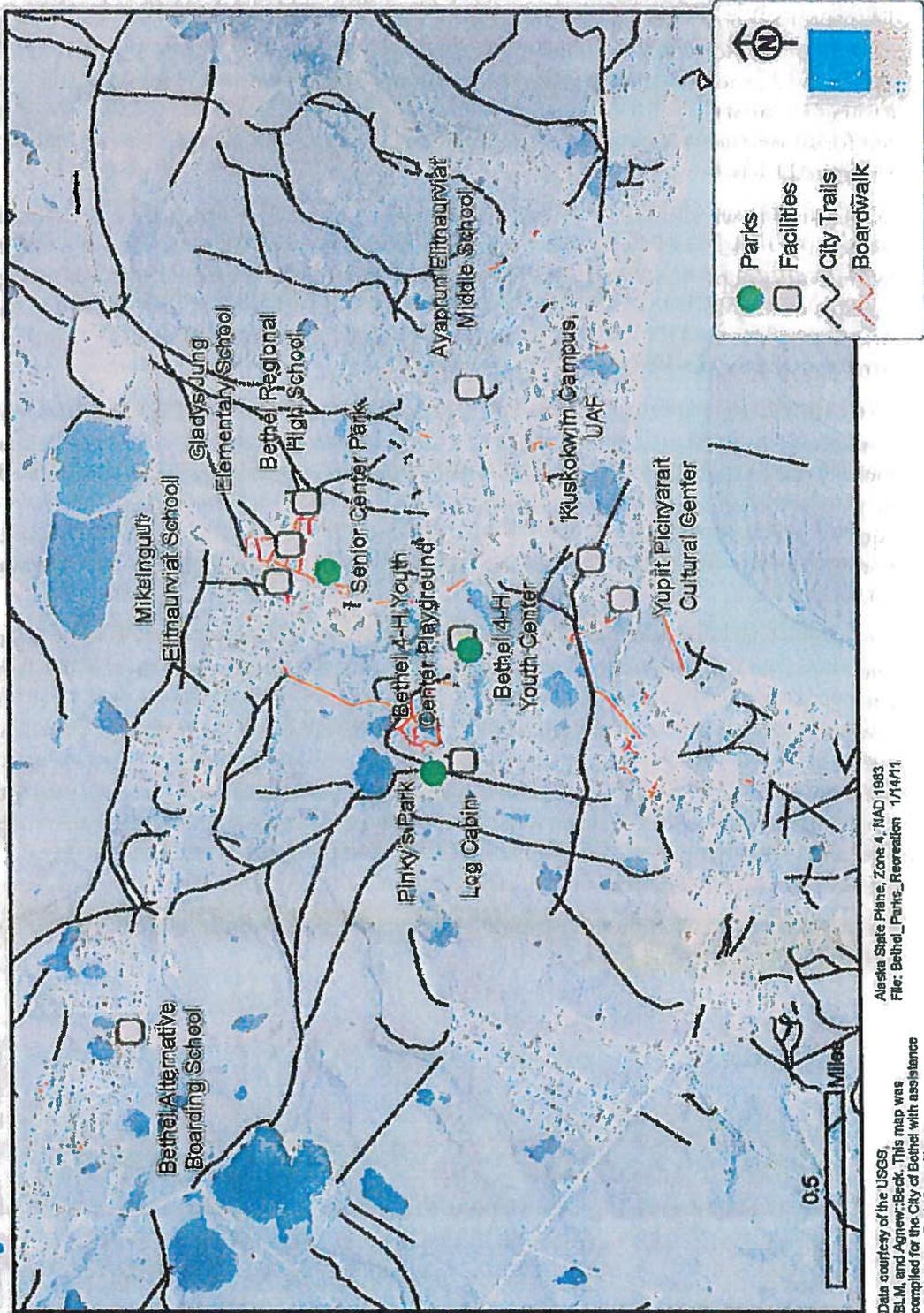
Safe and affordable daycare, childcare, and youth summer and afterschool activities are an important service. The Parks and Recreation facilities (and programs run out of them) provide some portion of this need, but additional services and facilities (whether publicly or privately run) are needed in the community.

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<sup>23</sup> Bethel's youth garden is located at the Bethel 4-H Youth Center and is designated for the youth gardening programs; it exists in addition to the Bethel Community Garden, which is located on Osage Street on the north side of Pinky's Park.

Map 8.3

# City of Bethel Parks + Recreation



Alaska State Plane, Zone 4, IAD 1993  
File: Bethel\_Parks\_Recreation 1/14/11

Data courtesy of the USGS, ELM, and Agnew::Beck. This map was compiled for the City of Bethel with assistance from Agnew::Beck Consulting.

Facilities run in partnership between the City of Bethel and other institutions include Mikelnguut Elitnaurviat School (grades K-2), Ayaprun Elitnaruvik School (grades K-6), Gladys Jung School (grades 3-6), Bethel Regional High School (grades 7-12), Bethel Alternative Boarding School (grades 10-12), the University of Alaska Fairbanks – Kuskokwim Campus and the Yuppit Piciyarait Cultural Center. Due to ongoing school use, liability concerns, application process, the need for supervision and scheduling constraints, public use of school facilities has been on a very limited basis.

With six staff in winter months and two additional seasonal staff for park maintenance in summer, the Parks and Recreation Department relies heavily upon community volunteers to keep recreational programs going. Additional staff can only be paid for through grant funded programs or in collaboration with other agencies. Bethel Parks and Recreation is currently working with the AVCP TANF Program; a Program Assistant was hired through this partnership to do additional activities with youth.

The City has been updating the Bethel Parks and Recreation Master Plan concurrent with this Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan includes selected priorities from the Master Plan, which identifies Bethel's future recreational uses, demands and future needs in greater detail. The plan will also establish park facility and space standards to help the City maintain a system of quality recreational spaces suited for Bethel's population needs and financial resources. Priority parks and recreation infrastructure improvements are included in the Comprehensive Plan.

Recreation facilities for Bethel's youth are important to the community. As one resident said at a planning workshop, "The skate park is the best thing that has happened in Bethel!" Other participants asked about additional playground facilities and a shooting range. The Parks Department currently has a playground at the 4-H Youth Center, and this plan includes strategies to use City policy to encourage the creation of additional neighborhood parks throughout Bethel. Though the City has no plans to build or operate a shooting range, the Bethel Sportsman Club has indicated plans to build a 200-yard multi-purpose rifle range, a pistol range and a shotgun range to support their educational programs in firearm safety, marksmanship and sportsmanship.<sup>24</sup>

Other parks and recreation infrastructure improvements are detailed in the 2011 Bethel Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

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<sup>24</sup> Letter to the City of Bethel from Jaimie Kassman, Bethel Sportsman Club President. See Appendix A Public Comments.

Trails

**Trails**

<b>GOAL 3: Provide a safe and efficient trail network to meet current and future needs, for year-round transportation and recreation use by Bethel residents and visitors.</b>
<b>Strategy 1:</b> Plan and develop a network of multi-modal streets, accessways, and other improvements, including bikeways, walkways, and safe street crossings, to promote safe and convenient bicycle and pedestrian circulation within the community.
<b>Action 1a:</b> Revive the Trails Committee.
<b>Action 1b:</b> Document existing and traditional trails. <i>Out of town trails are reserved by 17B easements.</i>
<b>Action 1c:</b> Incorporate the existing traditional trail network system and pedestrian needs when extending the road system.
<b>Action 1d:</b> Partner with other entities, such as the ADOT&PF, BNC, and other landowners, to plan for, reserve and fund trails.
<b>Action 1e:</b> Designate and mark trails to minimize damage to land.
<b>Action 1f:</b> Connect trail routes to major community facilities (e.g., City Sub, Post Office, Pinky's Park) and public transit stops.
<b>Action 1g:</b> Construct new year-round trails (or converting existing seasonal trails to year-round use).
<b>Action 1h:</b> Pursue BIA and FHWA funds for trails.
<b>Policy 1i:</b> Pedestrian pathways (boardwalks and other systems) shall be accommodated in the downtown area so that travel between adjacent neighborhoods, schools, and the business and office centers is safe and efficient. (LRTP Policy #3)
<b>Policy 1j:</b> Pedestrian and bicycle connections should be required along roads where land uses are concentrated and between buildings and parking areas. (LRTP Policy #4) <i>Public discussion went even further: residents suggested that walkways and/or paths be included in every road project (new or improvements to existing), and that a walkway/path be incorporated into plans to pave Ptarmigan.</i>
<b>Policy 1k:</b> Retrofitting existing arterials and collectors with bike, ATV and snowmobile lanes shall proceed on a prioritized schedule as appropriate and practical (i.e., snowmobile lanes may not be appropriate in areas where street width is less than 50 feet).
<b>Policy 1l:</b> Maintenance and repair of existing snowmobile trails, bikeways and pedestrian accessways (including walkways) will have the same priority as the maintenance and repair of motor vehicle facilities.
<b>Policy 1m:</b> The Bethel Planning Commission will continue serving as an advisory committee to protect and promote trail and pedestrian transportation within the Bethel Urban Boundary.
<b>Strategy 2:</b> Address multi-use conflicts between roadway and trail users.
<b>Action 2a:</b> Place signs at trail and pedestrian crossings and identify access points.
<b>Action 2b:</b> Improve the safety of road-trail crossings (e.g., signage, under-/over-pass).
<b>Action 2c:</b> Consider alternatives that would provide for trail users to use road right of way.
<b>Action 2d:</b> Study alternatives for trail crossings of aboveground utilities. <i>Water/sewer pipes have blocked some trails.</i>
<b>Policy 2e:</b> Minimize environmental impacts (e.g., dust, erosion, soil compaction) of ATV use.
<b>Policy 2f:</b> Pedestrian crosswalks should be provided at regular intervals, especially in residential neighborhoods and near schools. (LRTP Policy #5)

## Trails - cont.

<b>Policy 2g:</b> Bikeways, snowmobile and pedestrian accessways shall be designed and constructed to minimize potential conflicts between transportation modes. Design and construction of such facilities shall follow the guidelines established by the Alaska Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.
<b>Strategy 3:</b> Reserve trail routes, targeting connections that provide pedestrian access to the river, parks, and pedestrian connections among key public facilities (e.g., school) and residential neighborhoods.
<b>Action 3a:</b> Develop and maintain a safe, continuous, multi-use path along Chief Eddie Hoffman Highway between the downtown business area and the airport to include bicycle, running, and walking routes.
<b>Policy 3b:</b> To the extent possible, bicycle/pedestrian trails or paths should be established along roadways as these are built (new) or upgraded (existing).
<b>Policy 3c:</b> All new subdivision shall incorporate into the lot layout, to the extent practicable, the traditional winter and summer trail system as identified (in LRTP, Maps 4 and 6). The City's ten percent open space set-aside may be used to protect trail networks. (LRTP Policy #1)
<b>Policy 3d:</b> All new subdivisions shall incorporate into the lot layout, to the extent practicable, the tundra village trail network that links Bethel to regional villages. (LRTP Policy #2)
<b>Policy 3e:</b> Consider the potential to establish or maintain accessways, paths, or trails prior to the vacation of any public easement or right-of-way.
<b>Policy 3f:</b> As part of the development review process, identify existing and future opportunities for bicycle and pedestrian accessways; reserve rights-of-way, as appropriate.
<b>Policy 3g:</b> Snowmobile and pedestrian accessways shall connect to local and regional travel routes.
<b>Policy 3h:</b> Priority should be given to developing accessways to major activity centers within the Bethel Urban Growth Boundary (e.g., downtown commercial center, schools, community centers).
<b>Policy 3i:</b> Bicycle parking facilities should be provided at all new residential multifamily developments of four units or more, commercial, industrial, recreational, and institutional facilities.

### Background

Bethel has a well-used system of traditional trails and pedestrian boardwalks that provide routes between neighborhoods and business centers within the city, as well as a transportation link between Bethel and surrounding communities. In winter, trails are used by snow machines, dogsleds, cross-country skiers, and pedestrians. In summer months, trails are used by ATVs, pedestrians, and bicycles.

Bethel has about one mile of elevated boardwalk, serving pedestrian traffic. The system of boardwalks is safer for pedestrians than on-street walking routes because it is separated from road traffic and routes lead to appropriate crossing sites. The elevated boardwalks are less expensive than at-grade, separated pathways and have fewer environmental impacts because they are constructed on pilings, rather than solid fill. The Bethel Parks and Recreation Department is currently working to expand the system and establish sections of trail and trail connections, preferably with formal easements. Some trails have already been disrupted by overland water pipes; planning and securing easements can help to minimize such disruption in future. Priorities for new trail routes include:

- trails that connect parks,
- trails that offer a pedestrian facility away from roads to minimize dust impacts,
- trails that connect key locations and existing routes (e.g., Post Office to Pinky's Park),

- loop routes (e.g., Brown Slough), and
- school routes for kids (e.g., along Ptarmigan, across the doughnut hole).

## Public Transit

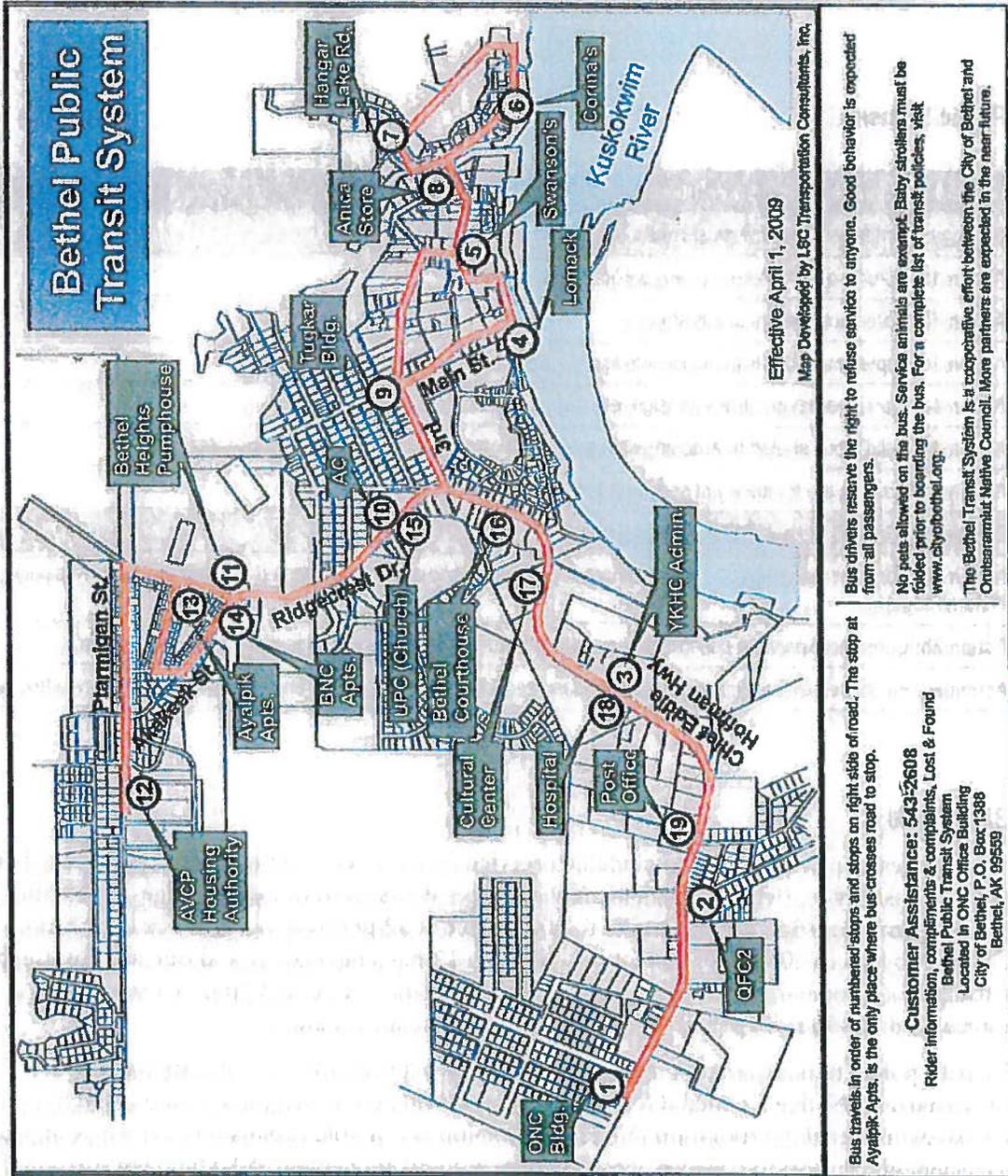
<b>GOAL 4: Provide effective and efficient public transit.</b>
<b>Strategy 1: Improve public transit services.</b>
<b>Action 1a:</b> Purchase a machine to make public transit passes.
<b>Action 1b:</b> Construct shelters at bus stops.
<b>Action 1c:</b> Implement a bus tracking system to provide real-time estimates of bus arrivals.
<b>Action 1d:</b> Incorporate public transit-design features into new development standards.
<b>Action 1e:</b> Build a bus shelter to accommodate buses, maintenance equipment and materials.
<b>Action 1f:</b> Increase the frequency of service (i.e., buses run more often).
<b>Strategy 2: Expand the public transit system.</b>
<b>Action 2a:</b> Consider extending public bus service to the airport and currently un-served subdivisions (e.g., Kasayulie, Tundra Ridge).
<b>Action 2b:</b> Consider expanding public transit system to include a river bus (ferry) service on the Kuskokwim.
<b>Action 2c:</b> Purchase new public transit vehicle(s), as needed, to expand the fleet and enable additional service/routes.

## Background

Alternatives to private vehicle include taxi service, bus service and boat shuttle services; these are used extensively by Bethel residents and visiting residents from outlying villages. Public bus service (a more affordable alternative to taxi service at \$2 per passenger; \$1 for elders and children) began in 2008. The system includes two 12-passenger buses and one eight-passenger backup bus. It operates Monday through Saturday from 7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Current use is estimated at 80-90 rides per day. See Map 5.4 for route information.

Bethel's public transit system is a cooperative effort between the City of Bethel and Orutsarmiut Native Council (ONC). ONC is currently coordinating with the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation (YKHC) to explore a possible expansion of the existing route to include the airport in order to accommodate patients traveling to YKHC from surrounding villages.

Map 5.4



Bus travels in order of numbered stops and stops on right side of road. The stop at Ayalpak Apts. is the only place where bus crosses road to stop.

**Customer Assistance: 543-2608**  
 Bethel Public Transit System  
 Located in ONC Office Building  
 City of Bethel, P.O. Box 1388  
 Bethel, AK 99559

Bus drivers reserve the right to refuse service to anyone. Good behavior is expected from all passengers.

No pets allowed on the bus. Service animals are exempt. Baby strollers must be folded prior to boarding the bus. For a complete list of transit policies, visit [www.cityofbethel.org](http://www.cityofbethel.org).

The Bethel Transit System is a cooperative effort between the City of Bethel and Oribesaramut Native Council. More partners are expected in the near future.

<b>Priority Level</b>	<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Comp plan reference</b>
1	Take Part In Identifying, Mapping Community Needs	Land Use, Goal 1, Strategy 1, Action 1a
1	Develop A City-Wide, GIS Mapping Lad Records System; Update As Lads Are Subdivided Or Developed & Make Data Available For Use By City Staff And The General Public	Land Use, Goal 8 , Start 1, Action 1a
1	Identify Key Issues (Energy And Freight Delivery) Use Work On These Issues To Improve Relations And Build Capacity To Take On Other Important Projects	Economic Develop, Goal 6, Start 2, Action 2a
1	Work With Individual City Department S To Develop 5-Year Capital Needs And Deferred Maintenance Plans	Public Facilities & Services, Goal 1, Objective A, Strategy 2, Action 2a
1	Upgrade The Bethel 4-H Youth Center	Public Facilities & Serves, Goal 1, Objective G, Strategy 1, Action 1a
2	Set Standards In Bethel Municipal Code To Protect Natural Resources And Features	Land Use, Goal 6, Strategy 1, Action 1b
2	Document Existing And Traditional Trails	Transportation, Goal 3, Objective A, Strategy 1, Action 1b
2	Invest In Beautification Efforts (Neighborhood Cleanups, Planting Flowers Along The Road)	Economic Develop, Goal 4, Strategy 2, Action 2b

2	Maintain And Improve Access Between Bethel And Surrounding Villages (Small Boats, Snow Machines Trails, Ice Roads)	Economic Develop, Goal 4, Strategy 6, Action 6a
2	Encourage Local Job-Shadowing And Mentoring Programs	Economic Develop, Goal 5, Strategy 2, Action 2b
2	Report Success (Maintaining A Balance Budget For Two Years Running) To The Bethel Community At Large, For Example Via Press Releases To Bethel Media.	Public Facilities & Serves, Goal 1, Strategy 1, Action 1b
2	Establish A Formal City Wide Capital Improvement Program	Public Facilities & Serves, Goal 1, Objective A, Strategy 2, Action 2c
3	Establish Neighborhood Watch/Citizen Patrol Program	Land Use, Goal 5, Strategy 2, Action 2a
3	Work With The Community Designate The Appropriate Indeed Future Uses All City Of Bethel Land( E.G., Disposals, Public Facilities, Parks & Recreation)	Land Use, Goal 9, Strategy 1, Action 1b
3	Include Road And Trail Projects In The City's Capital Improvement Plan, Which Can Be Used To Secure ADOT&PF Funding. Develop Clear Project Descriptions During The City's Capital Improvement Program Process With All Necessary Information To Respond To ADOT&PF Requests For Information During The Needs List Project Initiation Process	Transportation, Goal 2, Objective A, Strategy 1, Action 1a

3	Partner With Other Entities Such As The ADOT&PF, BNC And Other Landowners To Plan For Reserve And Fund Trails	Transportation, Goal 3, Objective A, Strategy 1, Action 1d
3	Pursue BIA And FHWA Funds For Trails	Transportation, Goal 3, Objective A, Strategy 1, Action 1h
3	Improve The Safety Of Road-Trail Crossings-Signage Under/Over Pass	Transportation, Goal 3, Objective A, Strategy 2, Action 2b
3	Improve Opportunities To Learn About Historic And Contemporary Yupik Siberian Yupik And Cupik Life Through Cultural Center Exhibits Events Recreation Opportunities	Economic Develop, Goal 4, Strategy 3, Action 3a
3	Improve And/or Expand Local And Regional Trails And Multi-Use Roads To Better Serve Non Motorizes Transportation ( Pedestrians, Bicycles, Mushers, Skiers) (See Trans Goal 3)	Energy Implement, Goal 1, Strategy 2, Action 2b
3	Explore Potential Funding Mechanisms-Grant Programs Donations/Set Asides For Key Projects Property And Other Taxes Not Currently Used	Public Facilities & Services, Goal 1, Objective A, Strategy 3, Action 3c
3	Organize Community Clean-Ups And Or Beautification Contest For Residential Neighborhoods	Public Facilities & Services, Goal 1, Objective C, Strategy 5, Action 5b
3	Make Improvements To The Senio9r Center Park	Public Facilities & Services, Goal 1, Objective G, Strategy 3, Action 3b
3	Apply To The Land And Water Conservation Fund To Incorporate More Land Into Pinky's Park	Public Facilities & Services, Goal 1, Objective G, Strategy 3, Action 3c
3	Upgrade The Ball Field	Public Facilities & Services, Goal 1, Objective G, Strategy 3, Action 3d
3	Maintain Skate Park And Consider Expanding To Other Locations	Public Facilities & Services, Goal 1, Objective G, Strategy 3, Action 3e

4	Revive The Trails Committee	Transportation, Goal 3 Objective A Strategy 1 Action 1a
4	Incorporate The Existing Traditional Trail Network System And Pedestrian Needs When Extending The Road System	Transportation, Goal 3, Objective A, Strategy 1, Action 1c
4	Designate And Mark Trails To Minimize Damage To The Land	Transportation, Goal 3, Objective A, Strategy 1, Action 1e
4	Connect Trail Routes To Major Community Facilities And Transit Stops- City Sub, Post Office, Pinky's Park	Transportation, Goal 3, Objective A, Strategy 1, Action 1f
4	Construct New Year Round Trails Or Convert Existing Seasonal Trails To Year Round Use	Transportation, Goal 3, Objective A, Strategy 1, Action 1g
4	Place Signs At Trails And Pedestrian Crossings And Identify Access Points	Transportation, Goal 3, Objective A, Strategy 1, Action 2a
4	Consider Alternatives That Would Provide For Trail Users To Use Road Right Of Way	Transportation, Goal 3, Objective A, Strategy 2, Action 2c
4	Study Alternative For Trail Crossings Of Aboveground Utilities	Transportation, Goal 3, Objective A, Strategy 2, Action 2d
4	Develop And Maintain A Safe, Continuous, Multi-Use Path Along Chief Eddie Hoffman Highway Between The Downtown Business Area And The Airport To Include Bicycle, Running And Waling Routes	Transportation, Goal 3, Objective A, Strategy 3, Action 3a
4	Provide Amenities To Assist Visitors( Benches Roadside Paths/Sidewalks Informational Signs)	Economic Develop, Goal 4, Strategy 2, Action 2c
4	Regularly Update The City Website As A Guide To City Services And Facilities	Public Facilities & Services, Goal 1, Strategy 1, Action 1a

4	Invite US Army To Assist With A City-Wide Cleanup	Public Facilities & Services, Goal 1, Objective C, Strategy 5, Action 5a
4	Consider Creating Designating Additional Recreation Areas In Bethel (Dog Park, Recreational Campground, Ski/Non Motorized Winter Recreation Area, Waterfront Parks As Part Of The Bethel Port, New Field For Little League Softball, Frisbee Soccer Or Football)	Public Facilities & Services, Goal 1, Objective G, Strategy 4, Action 4a
	Expand And Improve The Bethel Trail System (Transportation Goal 5)	Public Facilities & Services, Goal 1, Objective G, Strategy 2,

