

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Municipalities (AS 37.05.315)****Grant Recipient: Fairbanks North Star Borough****Federal Tax ID: 920030612****Project Title:****Project Type: Maintenance and Repairs**

Fairbanks North Star Borough - Tanana Lakes Infrastructure

State Funding Requested: \$1,500,000
One-Time Need**House District: Fairbanks Areawide (7-11)****Brief Project Description:**

Tanana Lakes Recreation Area (TLRA) is a 750 acre multi-use park south of the City of Fairbanks, within the flood control system, that will offer year-round convenient access to a variety of recreational opportunities. The TLRA site is undergoing clean-up and restoration this year.

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$5,189,573
Funding Already Secured:	(\$0)
FY2012 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$1,500,000)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$3,689,573

Funding Details:

National Association of Counties 5-Star Grant, \$10,000 FY06 Alaska Fish and Game Sports Fishing grant, \$450,000; FY06 Alaska DNR Trails Program, \$50,000 with \$12,500 FNSB match; and a 2007 ConocoPhillips Earth Energy Partners grant, \$200,000.

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

The FNSB, in cooperation with several partners, is developing the Tanana Lakes Recreation Area, a 750 acre multiuse park south of the City of Fairbanks within the flood control system along the Tanana River. The recreation area will offer year-round, convenient access to a variety of recreational and educational opportunities. The location is ideal for a community recreation area given its proximity to Fairbanks and Fort Wainwright, its location along the Tanana River, and the unique wildlife and bird wetland habitat that exists on the site. The site is also well situated for expansion, as the adjacent lands are owned by the FNSB and/or State of Alaska. The project will feature an extensive series of walking, hiking, skiing, skijoring, biking, ATV, snow machine, and birding trails, several swim beaches (the only public outdoor swim beaches within 15 miles of downtown Fairbanks), non-motorized and motorized boating activities, a boat launch into the Tanana River, camping, playgrounds, bird watching, and fishing. The size and location of the project site lends itself to a wide variety of potential uses. In addition to the recreational opportunities, the TLRA will enhance the integrity of the area's natural assets and unique wildlife and bird habitat.

The Tanana Lakes Recreation Area Master Plan will guide the development of the recreation area. The plan was adopted by the FNSB Assembly in 2007 after a lengthy and supportive public hearing process. The unique wetlands came into existence in the early 1970's with construction of the Chena Flood Control Project. A series of groins constructed during the project diverted the river from its natural path leaving behind a series of shallow lakes, bogs, and other wetlands. Birds and other wildlife took to the location immediately as a migration stopover and/or nesting habitat. Unfortunately the site also

became host to nefarious activities of humans. Cars stolen from around Fairbanks were driven to the site, abused and eventually set fire. The FNSB and its partners have sponsored several clean-up efforts and have hauled several hundred thousand tons of debris to the landfill in the initial effort to transform the site. Since cleanup of the site began last year over 500 burned and destroyed cars have been removed.

The FNSB through a \$450,000 grant from the Department of Fish and Game Dingell-Johnson Sport Fisheries program is building a two-ramp boat launch, five-acre parking area, two restrooms, and two picnic shelters beside the 30-acre lake located in the southwest corner of the park. Two LWCF grants totaling \$501,983 with a project match of \$603,490 will construct a picnic/play area and parking at the east non-motorized swim beach, park trails, and will begin construction on an access road to the site. A \$200,000 grant from Conoco-Phillips will be used to fund construction of the east trailhead parking lot, nature trails in the bird watching section of the park and other trails throughout the park. The LWCF and Conoco-Phillips grant projects began in the summer of 2009. A \$62,500 project partially funded through the DNR Recreation trails program will complete bird watching trails and parking at trail heads. Construction of this project began during the winter of 2008. The FNSB Department of Parks and Recreation is using \$1,880,000 of FNSB funds to construct a road network through the park, an entrance station and parking lots.

The project, when complete will not only be a source of neighborhood pride, but also another great park within the FNSB park system. TLRA will be a signature facility for the community of Fairbanks offering unique recreation opportunities to interior Alaskans and visitors. One can view rare shore bird species, participate in the annual World Ice Art Championships, stay at the campground, go for a swim and have a family picnic, launch a boat into the Tanana River, go canoeing, and zip around one of the ponds on your wave runner all in the same park. There truly is nothing like it in all of Alaska.

Project Timeline:

The project timeline calls for the swim beach, trails, boat launch, entrance station, and roads to be developed with the park to be operational by the spring of 2012. Trail and parking lot development began during the FNSB FY09, and the road and picnic areas and beach development in are set to begin in 2011 to meet the 2012 opening. Expenditure of this request will occur during the spring of 2012.

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

FNSB

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

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Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? Yes No