



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

Office of the Borough Manager

350 East Dahlia Avenue • Palmer, AK 99645

Phone (907) 861-8689 • Fax (907) 861-8669

Mike.Brown@matsugov.us

Date: April 2025

Manager's Quarterly Activity Report

January, February, March 2025

Community Development

Parks, Recreation and Libraries Services

Winter Operations and Facility Updates: This winter featured significantly lower-than-average snowfall, which limited trail grooming operations to just five days in the core area, with slightly more activity occurring in the Northern Valley. By early March, Borough staff redirected efforts toward addressing freeze-thaw cycles affecting trailheads and parking areas. Ice blades were used to improve traction and drivability, helping to maintain safety in recreation areas.

The mild winter conditions also created an opportunity to prioritize planning efforts and complete deferred maintenance projects. These included signage upgrades, facility repairs, and several survey and design tasks.

Aquatic Programs: Aquatic programming across the Borough remains strong, with high participation in lap swimming, family swim sessions, open swim times, and private rentals. On average, over 340 individuals are enrolled in swim lessons each month. A recently implemented registration and point-of-sale system has improved operational efficiency and enhanced service for pool users.

The Wasilla Pool reopened on March 17 following major facility improvements. Upgrades included improved drainage systems, epoxy flooring, renovated locker rooms, and enhancements to water quality infrastructure. The project was completed ahead of schedule.

Brett Ice Arena: The Brett Ice Arena recorded a successful quarter, marked by strong attendance at events such as the Skate Fest Competition, Alaska State Hockey Association tournaments, and Adult League games. Operational improvements included rolling out a new point-of-sale system, online registration for Learn to Skate programs, and introducing customer accounts. These updates have streamlined processes and improved user access to arena services and scheduling.

Library Engagement: Borough libraries hosted in-person Strategic Planning open houses at each branch, providing opportunities for community members and staff to offer feedback on services, collections, and programming. Input gathered during these sessions will help guide the future development of library offerings across the Borough.

Land & Resource Management

Utility Easements: Matanuska Electric Association (MEA) has submitted a request for three public utility easements on Borough-owned properties as part of the McRae to O'Neill Transmission Line Project. This project includes the construction of a 115kV transmission line, associated distribution line facilities, two new substations, and upgrades to existing electrical infrastructure. The improvements are intended to enhance electric service to the growing areas between Wasilla and Palmer. Two of the proposed easements are located along Church Road, with the third on Barbi Drive.

MEA also requested a utility easement for a separate project involving the relocation of a power pole. The easement pertains to a Borough-owned property located at milepost 59.5 on the Parks Highway.

Additionally, a public use easement was recorded on March 14, 2025, for Sunshine Creek Circle. This easement supports a Borough-led road realignment project that serves the Borough-managed campground in the Sunshine area.

Acquisitions: Following Assembly direction in October 2024, the Borough Manager entered into negotiations with the Big Lake Lions Club to purchase the Big Lake Lions Recreation Facility and its adjacent parking lot. The agreement was signed in January 2025. Internal departmental review and public notice have been completed. Legislation for the acquisition will be presented to the Assembly on May 6, 2025.

Farm Leases: Of the two Borough-owned farmhouses in the Point MacKenzie area, one is currently vacant and the other lease has been extended through August 2025. A resolution will be presented to the Assembly on April 15, 2025, seeking approval to subdivide the easement and proceed with the sale of the properties. The existing hay permit will either be reassigned or terminated upon sale.

Permits/Leases:

- **Talkeetna Community Council:** A Land Use Permit was issued to the Talkeetna Community Council to develop a public skate park at the former Talkeetna Library site. The project will be completed in four phases, with a total estimated cost exceeding \$1 million.
- **Knik Tribe:** The Knik Tribe was granted a Right of Entry permit to conduct a Cultural Resources Survey on a 187-acre addition to Settlers Bay Coastal Park. This survey, funded by a National Park Service Tribal Heritage Grant, is scheduled for spring through early summer 2025.
- **Jonesville Public Use Area:** The Community Development Department obtained a Right of Entry permit from the Alaska Department of Natural Resources to support the annual Jonesville Spring cleanup. Community Development staff will again coordinate and fund dumpster services for the Sutton community effort.
- **Alaska Wildland Adventures:** Permit renewals and associated fees were processed. Alaska Wildland Adventures continues to operate outdoor excursions on various Borough-owned lands.
- **Skeetawk:** Plans have been engineered for a new bus access road into the ski area. Borough engineers are reviewing project comments, and Skeetawk is awaiting final approval to proceed with contractor selection.

Hatcher Pass Patent: In March, the Borough received a patent from the State of Alaska for eight tracts in the Government Peak/Hatcher Pass area, totaling 2,551 acres. An additional 719 acres across four tracts will be transferred soon.

Agricultural Lands: The Agricultural Advisory Board is preparing a recommendation for the Assembly to consider amending Borough code to allow agricultural parcels under 40 acres. One of two pending agricultural conversion requests has been approved; the second is scheduled for review in April.

Competitive Land Sale:

- **Tax & LID Foreclosure Competitive Sale TS45:** Excess proceeds letters were sent to previous owners in December 2024. As of April 4, 2025, seven claims have been submitted. The filing deadline is June 9, 2025.
- **Tax & LID Foreclosure Competitive Sale TS46:** Approved by the Assembly on February 18, 2025, the sale includes 33 parcels. The sale will run on Public Surplus from May 5 to June 4. Borough staff coordinated posting sale notices and uploading property information to the auction site.

Trails:

Segelhorst Educational Nature Trail: Community Development received a \$7,500 grant from the Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation to rehabilitate the trail. The Mat-Su Trails Council has offered an additional \$4,000 contingent on a Borough match. The Borough has secured authorization from the School District to complete the work.

Connecting with Trail Care Volunteers/Winter Trail Care Grantees: In February and March, staff met with Winter Trail Care grantees and volunteers to assess challenges and gather feedback. Issues identified included low snow conditions, increased maintenance demands, and the need for improved storage. Volunteers emphasized appreciation for the grant program's accessibility and flexibility.

Earth Materials: The Assembly approved a 150,000-ton material sale contract with AAA Valley Gravel, an Ahtna subsidiary from the Alsop Pit, for the 2025 construction season, and a 90,000 cubic yard sale contract with Tutka, LLC from a new material site at milepost 128 of the Parks Highway which will include improvements to the parking area at milepost 131.

Timber:

- Poppert Milling purchased a third timber salvage sale covering 26 acres off Burma Road.
- Bond Brothers Logging purchased a 1,000-acre sale west of the Little Susitna River.
- Active operations are underway at several salvage sites, including Kashwitna East, Baker Farm Road, Alsop A, Burma Road, and Mule Creek.

The Borough's saw crew burned slash piles at active fuel reduction sites. Notable progress was made at Houston High School, Su Valley High School, and the Willow Community Center. Staff continue to assess other accessible timber harvest areas.

Land Classification: The Department of Emergency Services has proposed classifying a 12.5-acre portion of Borough-owned land on Bogard Road, across from Tait Drive (tax account number 18N01E31C013), for reserved use as a future fire station. The proposed facility would consolidate operations from Public Safety Building 5-2 and the fire division of Public Safety Building 6-5 into one location.

In January 2025, the Borough Assembly approved the classification of a 5-acre portion in the northeast corner of the parcel for this use. At the time, a facility design had not yet been completed. Following the initiation of design work, Public Works has identified the northwest corner of the parcel as a more suitable site due to reduced topographic constraints and increased space to support the proposed development.

Planning Department

Permit Center

Applications processed by the Permit Center in the past 90 days:

Permit Type	Issued Permits	New Applications	Inspections
Construction	2	4	0
Driveway	185	277	293
Encroachment	2	16	9
Utility	57	72	0

ROW Complaints in the past 90 days:

Active Cases	Closed Cases	New Cases
233	157	127

Code Compliance

Activity in the past 90 days:

Active Cases	Closed Cases	New Cases
729	187	132

Current Planning

Activity in the past 90 days:

File Types	Active Files	Closed/Issued	New Files
Marijuana Retail	5	1	1
Alcoholic Beverage	0	1	0
Earth Material Excavation	6	2	1
Floodplain Development Permit	10	3	4
Tall Structure	4	1	1
Variance	1	0	0
Special Event	1	1	1
Multifamily Development Permit	16	0	3

Environmental, Comprehensive & Transportation Planning

MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC): The Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) held meetings on January 9, February 13, and March 13. In February, the commission welcomed two new members, Michael Bowles and Marty Van Diest. Elections were held, resulting in Peter Probasco being elected Chair and Andy Couch elected Vice Chair.

Throughout the quarter, the commission actively reviewed and submitted comments on proposals to the Alaska Board of Game. From March 11 to 13, commissioners Gabe Kitter and Jim Sykes traveled to Juneau to advocate for project funding through the CAPSIS system.

The FWC adopted a resolution in support of the Wasilla Creek Tributary at Bonnie Drive Fish Passage Culvert Replacement Project. A separate resolution was passed recommending that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly classify Borough-owned parcels along the Deshka River as watershed lands to help protect salmon habitat.

The commission also formally commented to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council regarding Cook Inlet Salmon Amendment 16. Commissioner Kendra Zamzow continued representing the FWC on the Waterbody Setback Advisory Board.

Sub-Area Solutions Studies: On January 30, 2025, a revised draft of the Bogard/Seldon Corridor Access Management Plan (CAMP) was released. Staff engaged directly with the public during the Transportation Fair the same day to share information and answer questions regarding the proposed updates.

To support outreach efforts, over 4,500 direct mailers were sent to property owners within half a mile of the corridor, and emails were distributed to 217 key stakeholders. The Planner Platform reached 680 addresses. Additionally, 11 Facebook advertisements—both paid and organic—were placed, averaging a reach of 1,318 individuals per ad. The project website received 5,191 visits, and the GIS story map had 1,688 views. The Transportation Fair recorded 407 attendees on the sign-in sheets.

Public comments on the revised CAMP were accepted from January 30 through February 28, 2025. Since the end of January, 23 written comments, 12 phone inquiries, and 9 in-person contacts have been recorded. A presentation on the revised plan was delivered to the joint Planning Commission and Assembly on March 11, 2025.

Final revisions to the draft plan are underway and will be presented as follows:

- Transportation Advisory Board: April 4, 2025
- Planning Commission: April 21, 2025 (Introduction) and May 5, 2025 (Public Hearing)
- Assembly: May 20, 2025 (Introduction) with a tentative public hearing scheduled for June 3, 2025

In addition, Planning and Public Works staff have completed their review of the draft SASS (Strategic Access and Safety Study) report for the Fishhook Triangle area and submitted revision requests to the contractor. Upcoming efforts will focus on the draft reports for the Knik-Goose Bay/Big Lake and University-Medical sub-areas.

School Walking Routes: The School Walking Routes workgroup convened twice this quarter to begin reviewing walking routes to middle and high schools. The objective is to develop public-facing walking route maps for these schools, complementing the existing maps already available for elementary schools.

South Knik River Community Council (SKRCC) Request for a Special Land Use District (SpUD): Staff supported the SKRCC in January 2025 by facilitating a meeting with SpUD committee applicants. During this meeting, a schedule was established, a chairperson was elected, and remaining details related to committee composition were forwarded to the Community Council for review at its February meeting.

At the February meeting, the Community Council voted to discontinue the SpUD drafting process. Following receipt of a formal resolution from the SKRCC confirming this decision, the Assembly approved RS 25-034 on March 18, 2025, formally ending staff support for the SpUD drafting effort.

Fuller Lake, Lake Management Plan: The third community meeting for the Fuller Lake Land Management Plan (LMP) prompted the initiation of a secondary ballot regarding the use of personal watercraft on the lake. This ballot closed on January 13, 2025, with 17 responses submitted to MSB Planning staff. Of these, 5 supported a timeshare arrangement for personal watercraft use, while 12 supported a full ban. Based on these results, the draft plan includes a ban on personal watercraft on Fuller Lake.

On March 28, 2025, a final ballot was distributed to the 28 parcel owners surrounding Fuller Lake. Parcel owners have 60 days to return their ballots to MSB staff. If 60% of the respondents vote in favor of adopting the LMP,

the plan will proceed to the MSB Planning Commission and Assembly for formal consideration, which will include additional opportunities for public comment.

Waterbody Setback Advisory Board: The Waterbody Setback Advisory Board convened five times this quarter, each dedicated to meticulously reviewing and proposing amendments to the drafted waterbody setback code. Through extensive discussions and thoughtful evaluations of the current regulations, the board arrived at a consensus on several important revisions.

Following the public comment period, the board diligently analyzed the community's feedback, leading to the incorporation of several significant changes aimed at addressing the overarching concerns raised by residents.

Subsequently, the board presented the refined draft ordinance and accompanying resolution to the Assembly. In a proactive response, the Assembly scheduled a special joint meeting with the board on April 29th at 4 PM. This meeting aims to delve deeper into the intricacies of the draft ordinance.

Platting Division

90-day Summary:

Submitted	Number
Pre-Apps Held	46
Cases created	36
Plats	13
Abbreviated Plats	13
Other Platting Board Resolutions	1
Condos	3
Refiles	5

Port MacKenzie

Port Activity:

- Northern Gravel & Trucking LLC continues to use Port MacKenzie to store and distribute road salt across the state.
- Alaska Directional utilized port facilities to stage telecommunications supplies and equipment for the Beluga Point project.
- Cruz Construction has begun staging equipment and materials at the port in preparation for the spring 2025 barge loadout.
- The port has hosted multiple tours for private companies, government entities, and international organizations interested in potential use and business opportunities.
- Port representatives were invited to present to the Senate Transportation Committee in Juneau to provide an update on efforts to advance the completion of the Port MacKenzie Rail Extension project.

Grants:

- Axiom Environmental was contracted to prepare and submit a U.S. Department of Transportation BUILD (Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development) Grant application, as well as a Congressionally Directed Spending request, to support the construction of the barge haul-out ramp. Both applications have been submitted, and the Borough is awaiting award notifications.

- Borough staff are collaborating with Alaska Railroad to support its renewed application for the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) program.

Port Commission:

- The Port Commission held its annual elections in January, re-electing Dane Crowley as Chair and Fred Elvsaaas as Vice Chair. The remaining members of the Commission are Bryan Scoresby, John Pike, and Christopher Gerteisen.
- The Port Commission approved its 2025 meeting schedule, with meetings set for April 21, July 21, and October 20.

Business Development and Marketing:

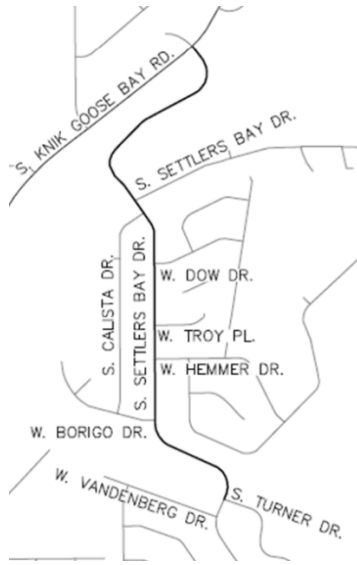
The Borough is actively engaged in the following development opportunities at Port MacKenzie:

- **Central Alaska Energy:** The sole leaseholder in the Port District remains interested in developing a fuel tank farm near the rail loop. Borough staff met with company leadership this month. While the project is still under internal review, discussions are ongoing to determine next steps for advancing development.
- **Nova Minerals:** Nova Minerals is exploring the development of critical mineral resources—specifically antimony—in the West Susitna region. The company has applied for a Department of Defense grant and, if awarded, intends to extract and export the resource quickly through Port MacKenzie.
- **Contractor Use of Port Facilities:** The Borough has received inquiries from two major contractors interested in long-term agreements to use Port MacKenzie as a staging and laydown area supporting the Port of Alaska modernization project in Anchorage.
- **Modular Home Fabrication Facility:** A manufacturing company is evaluating the feasibility of establishing a modular home fabrication facility on Port District uplands. Discussions are in the preliminary stages.
- **U.S. Department of Defense:** Planning is underway for Arctic Edge 2025, with multiple site visits and logistical inquiries made by Department of Defense teams in preparation for the August exercise. Interest has also increased in using Port MacKenzie for military training activities and the offloading of ammunition and explosives. Logistics teams continue to engage with port staff to assess capabilities.

Public Works Department

Project Management Division

Settlers Bay Drive Pavement Preservation, TIP24: This project is part of the voter-approved Transportation Infrastructure Program (TIP24), passed in November 2024. It includes the resurfacing of approximately 1.4 miles of Settlers Bay Drive, from Knik Goose Bay Road to Turner Drive. Scope of work includes pavement reclamation, drainage improvements, installation of guardrails, signage, striping, and repaving. The design contract was awarded in January 2025, and current efforts include traffic calming studies, field investigations, roadway design, and coordination with relevant agencies. Construction will begin in late 2025, with project completion anticipated in 2026.



Above photo: Resurfacing route from South KGB to Turner Drive

Mat-Su Central School: The construction of Mat-Su Central School is substantially completed, and the Mat-Su Borough School District has moved into its new facility.



Above photo: Mat-Su Central School

Animal Care Improvements (Interior & Exterior): The Animal Care Facility Improvements Project for the exterior work is complete. The interior improvements consist of mold remediation, new wall and floor finishes, HVAC replacement, lighting upgrades, plumbing upgrades, and alternates on the bid for kennel cage replacements and front counter replacement. Construction is underway and is scheduled to be completed by September 2025. Additional funding was instituted to improve the reception desk area.

Solid Waste Division

Quarterly Numbers	January - February - March	
Landfill Customers	45,000	Customers
Tonnage Accepted (Construction & Demolition, Medical Waste, Asbestos)	19,000	Tons
Motor Oil, Antifreeze, and Cooking Oil Diverted	5,600	Gallons
Household Hazardous Waste Diverted	11,600	Pounds
Recycling Diverted at Central Landfill	60	Tons

Recycling	January - February - March	
VCRS Recycling Customers	11,831	Customers
Recyclables Diverted from Landfill by VCRS	299	Tons

Safety Update—The Solid Waste Division traveled 31,851 miles transporting municipal solid waste, household hazardous waste, and leachate. Monthly safety meetings were held to promote awareness and reinforce safe practices at the landfill.

Environmental Services – Oversaw the transport of 1,644,163 gallons of leachate to the Anchorage Water and Wastewater Utility and managed the acceptance and proper coverage of 73 tons of asbestos-containing material by regulatory standards.

Department of Emergency Services

Emergency Medical Services

Incident Summary:

- January: 868 incidents
- February: 940 incidents
- March: 955 incidents

During recent extreme cold periods, EMS crews provided critical support to partner fire departments at multiple structure fires. In addition to responding to civilian injuries, EMS personnel play a key role in ensuring the health and safety of Borough emergency responders on the scene.

Unusual weather patterns, including icy and slippery conditions, contributed to an increase in calls related to motor vehicle accidents and slip-and-fall injuries.

Quarterly EMS training included Traffic Incident Management, which aimed to improve responder safety during roadside emergencies. EMS also provided Emergency Trauma Technician and triage training to several partner fire departments.

EMS continues to support local community events through public education and standby coverage to ensure rapid response in the event of an incident. Additionally, EMS has responded to a consistently high number of law enforcement standby calls, including those involving acts of violence or SWAT team deployment.

Fire-Rescue Services

Fire/Rescue Incident Summary:

Fire/Rescue Department	January	February	March
Butte	13	23	18
Central	222	219	204
Caswell	04	08	07
Sutton	01	02	05
Talkeetna	24	21	14
West Lakes	100	71	66
Willow	27	13	22
Palmer Area*	94	90	89
Water Rescue/Dive	01	01	01
Houston (City)*	28	31	25
Total	514	473	451

During the reporting period, fire departments across the Matanuska-Susitna Borough responded to over 1,089 emergency calls—an average of approximately 12 fire/rescue calls daily. These included 40 structure fires, 6 wildland or brush fires, and more than 620 rescue-related incidents. Rescue and EMS calls accounted for roughly 57% of all responses. On-call responders contributed an estimated 22,500 person-hours during the quarter.

As part of ongoing risk reduction efforts, fire personnel installed 108 smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, and combination units. These installations are critical to reducing fire-related fatalities. The Borough experienced two fire fatalities in separate incidents during the quarter; there were six fire-related deaths in 2024.

Increased call volumes have resulted in more overlapping emergencies, placing additional resource demands. For example, in January, the West Lakes Fire Department responded to four high-priority (delta/echo level) calls within a 33-minute span, an occurrence that is becoming more frequent.

Unseasonably warm weather, combined with rain and ice, contributed to a surge in motor vehicle collisions, several of which involved heavy extrication. One notable incident involved a school bus crash near mile 177 of the Parks Highway, to which Talkeetna Fire responded under extreme ice conditions. Fortunately, no serious injuries to students were reported.

Community collaboration remains strong. The Big Lake Community Council and Horseshoe Lake Firewise partnered to donate 100 smoke and CO detectors to West Lakes Fire Department for local installation efforts. In addition, DES redistributed fire apparatus recently replaced by the Central Mat-Su Fire Department to retire aging equipment—over 40 years old—in Willow and Talkeetna.

Local fire chiefs participated in a legislative conference in Juneau to discuss emergency service issues with state lawmakers. Preparations are also underway for what is expected to be an early wildland fire season due to low snowpack and dry conditions. Crews have already responded to several grass and wildland fires and are coordinating with Forestry for early-season readiness.

Water Rescue Team

The Department of Emergency Services Water Rescue Team remains a self-sufficient, Borough-wide response unit specializing in water and ice rescue operations. The team responds to various emergencies, including overturned vessels, missing swimmers, individuals trapped in ice or mud, and support for other technical rescue incidents. In recent years, the team's capabilities have expanded to include rope rescue and drone operations.

During the quarter, team members supported ice rescue training for fire departments across the Mat-Su Borough. Due to unstable ice conditions, the risk of incidents remains elevated, with several recent events involving vehicles breaking through ice in multiple locations.

With the warmer weather, the team utilized the training tower at Station 62 to practice high-angle rope rescue techniques. The team also completed seasonal maintenance on boats and specialized equipment in preparation for the upcoming open-water season.

Emergency Management (EM)

In response to increased activity at Mount Spurr, Emergency Management has prioritized volcanic eruption preparedness and interagency coordination. Staff delivered a preparedness presentation to the Glacier View Community Council and provided planning support to the Department of Emergency Services and other Borough departments.

EM participated in a site visit to Port MacKenzie with the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management to assess readiness and coordination efforts. Staff also facilitated a mid-winter flood *After Action Review* following unseasonably warm temperatures and rain that led to localized flooding across the Borough.

Community preparedness continued through ongoing Community Emergency Response Team training and coordination. EM also prepared for upcoming FireWise home surveys and submitted multiple mitigation grant applications.

Telecommunications

Telecommunications staff have continued maintenance of remote repeater sites and undertaken preparations in the event of volcanic ash fall. In January, an unusual storm resulted in wind damage and significant ice accumulation at the Grubstake repeater site, causing a temporary outage. Emergency communications remained operational through pre-established backup systems. Temporary repairs were completed promptly, and permanent repairs are ongoing as weather conditions permit.

Telecommunications collaborates with the IT Department to develop a comprehensive radio system roadmap. Additionally, the team is working with the State of Alaska to plan communication system improvements and transition to a digital system, including new hardware installation at the Knik site.

Special Projects

In response to increasingly frequent severe weather events, the Department of Emergency Services (DES) has continued efforts to strengthen operational resiliency and ensure continuity of service during both natural and human-caused disruptions. A recent wind and ice storm—resulting in unprecedented ice accumulation—temporarily disabled the Grubstake repeater site, one of the Borough’s primary emergency communication points. Despite this outage, pre-established and rehearsed failover protocols ensured uninterrupted emergency communication services.

Additional preparedness efforts include securing grant funding to install backup emergency generators at emergency services facilities. Currently, only 5 out of 37 facilities remain without an alternate power source. DES also converted an older support vehicle to deliver diesel, heating oil, or unleaded fuel to emergency apparatus and facilities during extended incidents.

Using grant funding obtained last year, DES acquired two mobile generators and heat units to prevent facility freeze-ups or damage during equipment failures or cold-weather events. These ongoing investments support the Borough’s commitment to maintaining essential operations in the face of unexpected system failures.

Animal Care and Regulation

During the first quarter of 2025, the shelter reported an average length of stay of 14.3 days—a slight improvement from the previous quarter. Continued emphasis on animal enrichment, improved socialization, and strategies to reduce fear, anxiety, and stress have improved outcomes. Notably, the shelter achieved a 43% reduction in euthanasia rates compared to last quarter, highlighting the team’s ongoing commitment to enhancing animal welfare and quality of life successful adoptions.

The *Miles & Mutts* program also experienced continued growth, with 25 volunteers taking 60 dogs out for walks since January. These structured outings offer more than just physical exercise—they allow dogs to explore new environments, reduce kennel-related stress, and develop social skills that make them more adoptable.

The program's visibility also increases community awareness and gives potential adopters a chance to see the animals in a relaxed, real-world setting. Community engagement remains a vital pillar of the shelter's success, with 36 active volunteers contributing 360 hours this quarter across various roles.

The shelter also strengthened its partnership with Mat-Su College by launching the hands-on portion of the Veterinary Technician Program on March 18. While the academic program began last fall, students now attend in-person lab sessions at the shelter every Tuesday and Thursday, assisting with animal care, medical support, and socialization. This collaboration provides students with valuable practical experience while supporting shelter operations and addressing the statewide shortage of trained veterinary technicians.

We successfully completed the construction of our outdoor dog area, which now includes multiple secure runs designed to provide dogs with safe spaces for exercise, enrichment, and socialization. This addition not only improves the quality of life for the animals in our care but also supports staff and volunteers in managing daily routines more efficiently.

These upgrades included improvements to building infrastructure, enhanced drainage in outdoor areas, and repairs to key shelter systems aimed at creating a safer, more functional, and welcoming environment for both animals and people. These efforts reflect our ongoing commitment to providing high-quality care while maintaining a professional and efficient shelter facility.

Across all divisions—shelter operations, veterinary services, and enforcement—staff continue to collaborate seamlessly to meet the evolving challenges of their work. This cross-functional teamwork ensures that animals receive holistic, timely care from intake to placement, while also supporting public safety and responsible pet ownership throughout the borough. Whether responding to calls, providing medical treatment, or facilitating adoptions, every team member plays an essential role in the shelter's daily success. Their shared commitment, professionalism, and compassion not only improve outcomes for animals but also strengthen community trust and engagement. Together, they embody the department's mission to serve as *"Animal Advocates and Community Servants,"* advancing the well-being of both animals and the people who care for them.

Shelter Operations

The shelter operations team continued to provide consistent, high-quality care for animals seven days a week. In addition to facilitating adoptions, reuniting lost pets with their families, distributing pet food assistance, and partnering with local rescue organizations, the team also expanded access to services by opening an additional day for walk-in visits—making it even easier for the public to adopt, reclaim, or get support for their pets.

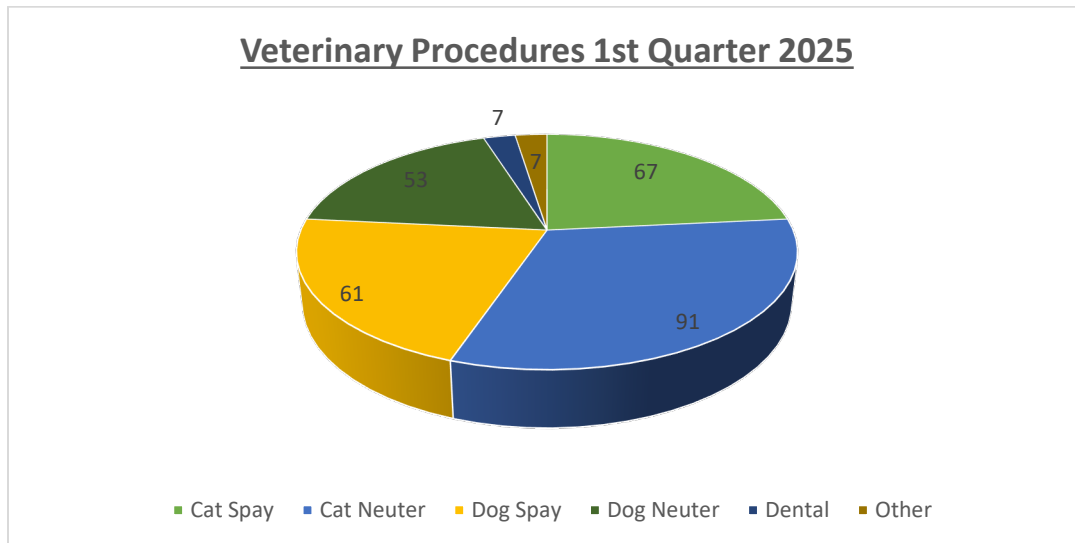
During the first quarter, the Animal Care and Regulation team welcomed 531 animals into the shelter through owner surrenders, returns, seizures, stray intakes, and transfers. Despite the ongoing challenges that come with intake fluctuations, the team continued to achieve positive outcomes: 49 animals were successfully transferred to rescue partners, 88 were reunited with their families, and 294 found loving, permanent homes through adoption.

Veterinary Operations

The veterinary clinic team plays a vital role in ensuring the health and well-being of every animal that enters the shelter. Each day, they conduct thorough health checks, administer preventive treatments such as vaccines and parasite control, perform spay and neuter surgeries, and respond promptly to medical emergencies. Their

proactive approach not only addresses immediate health needs but also helps prevent the spread of illness within the shelter population.

This highly skilled and compassionate team is committed to providing exceptional veterinary care, often under challenging circumstances. Their efforts go beyond individual animal care—they directly support public health by controlling the spread of zoonotic diseases, reducing pet overpopulation through sterilization efforts, and educating the public on responsible pet ownership. The veterinary clinic’s dedication is a cornerstone of the shelter’s mission, ensuring that every animal receives the medical attention they need while promoting a healthier, safer community for both pets and people.



Volunteers and Fosters

In-shelter and foster volunteers continue to serve as an essential part of the Animal Care & Regulation team, providing invaluable support in daily operations and animal care. We have successfully transitioned our grant-funded volunteer coordinator to a permanent 1000-hr position. This critical role has enabled the shelter to actively recruit and manage volunteers across various areas, including special events, general shelter operations, foster care, and animal enrichment.

The Volunteer Coordinator has also implemented key procedural updates within the volunteer and foster programs to enhance safety, improve training, and ensure alignment with industry best practices. These updates help create a more structured and rewarding experience for volunteers while ensuring the highest standards of care for the animals.

During this reporting period, over 40 animals were placed into foster homes. These foster placements were especially critical for animals needing socialization, those too young for sterilization, or those recovering from medical procedures. The support of foster caregivers not only improves the quality of life for these animals but also creates space within the shelter for others in need, ultimately contributing to higher live outcomes and more successful adoptions.

Information Technology (IT)

GIS Division

Public Lake Access Viewer: The GIS Division collaborated with Land Management to develop an interactive, user-friendly viewer that displays public lake access locations across the Mat-Su Borough. The viewer includes verified information on site conditions and available amenities, making it easier for the public to identify safe and legal recreational access points.

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/5af9eaa929f8452fbc6c0d344ee717d3>

ATC-20 Post-Earthquake Assessment Forms: Digitizing post-earthquake assessment forms using Survey123 has streamlined data collection and analysis processes. Real-time dashboards have been developed to visualize assessment results, improve situational awareness, and continuously update the Common Operating Picture (COP).

2025 Core Imagery Collection: The kickoff meeting for the 2025 imagery collection project has been scheduled. This year's collection will include the core area and Hatcher Pass, which was originally planned for collection in 2024 but was postponed due to unfavorable conditions.

2025 Addressing/Cadastral Team: As of 2025, 26 subdivisions and four condominiums have been recorded, with 79 subdivisions pending recording. Additionally, 14 map corrections are in process, and 170 address updates have been completed.

IT Business Operations Division

Website: The Web Team is developing a new Borough website to improve access to services, events, and public notices. The updated site will include enhanced editing tools, improved search capabilities, and a more efficient content update process. Collaboration with internal departments is ongoing to expand and refine website content.

Tyler Enterprise Permitting and Licensing: The IT Department is advancing the configuration of Tyler Enterprise Permitting & Licensing to support functions including permitting, platting, code enforcement, fire plan review, bed tax, and self-reported tax accounts. This work represents a key step in transitioning from legacy paper-based processes to a modern, integrated enterprise system.

Landfill Coupons: The Web Team supported the Solid Waste Division in preparing the Landfill Coupon application for its April 1 release. This year's version includes several enhancements designed to streamline the approval process, resulting in a more efficient and user-friendly experience for applicants.

Parks & Recreation Software: The IT Department partnered with Parks and Recreation to expand the FinnlySport software—already in use at the Brett Ice Facility—to include Borough pool facilities. As part of the project, a new point-of-sale system was also implemented at the pools and the ice rink. This integrated system enhances operational efficiency and improves the user experience for staff and the public.

IT Infrastructure & Cybersecurity Operations Division

Server Infrastructure upgrades: The Network/Systems team continues configuring the infrastructure at our Disaster Recovery location to increase our capabilities and better posture us for highly available (HA) services.

Recently HA network configurations and updates were made to pave the path to resilient data and server availability.

Network Infrastructure upgrades: Router, Switch, and access point (AP) installations continue across the borough. The total project status is 65% Complete and on track for completion this Spring. *Upgrades and reconfiguration* of our core network continue. The network and systems team continues to make infrastructure improvements that reduce cyber risk, increase our resiliency, and reduce the equipment necessary to provide critical connectivity to the MSB.

Camera, and Central Video Management System: Licensing and hardware installation continue across the organization. Existing camera systems on the network have been added within this new system. The installations at fire stations under the DES Camera Grant are now complete and we are working to finalize camera adjustments. Procurement of additional cameras for Libraries, Big Lake Ice Arena, and the Pools is also underway.

Samsara: IT has been working with Risk Management and Safety to configure and roll out the new in-vehicle dash camera systems.

State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP): MSB was awarded grant requests totaling \$113k to assist with completing a third-party cybersecurity assessment, refreshing end-of-life systems, and accessing additional content to train end-users about cybersecurity risks. It is working to rescope the grant award, allowing us to spend the remaining balances on further cybersecurity enhancements.

Telecom collaboration: The network and systems team continues to collaborate with the telecom team. Recently, we completed the Telecom edge firewall upgrade, bringing the management access to the network under the umbrella of MSB IT. This change adds another layer of in-house support to better assist the telecom team in the future while also providing enhanced perimeter security. IT continues to work with Telecom to develop a telecom design study.

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY FUND
JULY 1, 2024 - MARCH 31, 2025

Report Date as of March 31, 2025	<u>Annual</u>	<u>Annual</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	%
<i>*Note these numbers are un-audited</i>	<u>Adopted</u>	<u>Amended</u>	<u>Rev./Exp./Enc.</u>	<u>Used</u>
<u>Areawide</u>				
Revenues:				
Property Taxes	127,397,410	127,397,410	122,307,777	96%
Marijuana Sales Tax	1,850,000	1,850,000	881,711	48%
Excise Taxes	9,505,000	9,505,000	6,104,393	64%
Federal Payments	4,020,000	4,020,000	0	0%
State Grants & Shared Revenues	19,704,361	19,704,361	10,338,406	52%
Fees	7,865,800	7,865,800	6,497,190	83%
Interest Earnings & Other	210,000	210,000	12,541,603	5972%
Recoveries & Transfers	5,777,443	5,807,858	2,242,995	39%
TOTAL AREAWIDE REVENUES	176,330,014	176,360,429	160,914,075	91%
Expenditures:				
Non Departmental	112,730,389	113,239,212	93,155,101	82%
Assembly	8,787,258	8,837,258	5,700,562	65%
Mayor	138,030	138,030	87,418	63%
Information Technology	7,004,730	7,004,730	5,666,339	81%
Finance	10,175,257	10,125,257	6,991,500	69%
Planning	4,890,674	4,890,674	3,067,816	63%
Public Works	2,894,503	2,894,503	2,087,324	72%
Public Safety	19,570,549	19,400,549	12,762,882	66%
Community Development	5,823,385	5,823,385	4,052,045	70%
TOTAL AREAWIDE EXPENDITURES	172,014,775	172,353,598	133,570,987	77%
	4,315,239	4,006,831	27,343,088	
<u>Non-Areawide</u>				
Revenues:				
Property Taxes	4,582,300	4,582,300	4,387,819	96%
State Grants & Shared Revenues	755,000	755,000	35,000	5%
Fees & Other Miscellaneous Income	275,000	275,000	131,645	48%
Interest Earnings & Miscellaneous	21,000	21,000	100,935	481%
TOTAL NON-AREAWIDE REVENUES	5,633,300	5,633,300	4,655,399	83%
Expenditures:				
Non Departmental	528,883	528,883	528,883	100%
Assembly	3,173,914	3,173,914	2,290,948	72%
Information Technology	68,900	68,900	26,594	39%
Finance	50,000	50,000	193	0%
Community Development	2,110,021	2,110,021	1,497,081	71%
TOTAL NON-AREAWIDE EXPENDITURES	5,931,718	5,931,718	4,343,700	73%
	-298,418	-298,418	311,699	

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY FUND
JULY 1, 2024 - MARCH 31, 2025

Report Date as of				
March 31, 2025	<u>Annual</u>	<u>Annual</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	%
<u>Land Management</u>				
Revenues:				
Fees	69,700	69,700	21,932	31%
Interest Earnings	56,000	56,000	20,090	36%
Property Sales & Uses	1,221,000	1,221,000	1,091,786	89%
Miscellaneous	1,000	1,000	1,150	115%
Capital Projects	0	0	19,517	
Sale of Gfa	0	0	2,638	
TOTAL LAND MANAGEMENT REVENUES	1,347,700	1,347,700	1,157,113	86%
Expenditures:				
Non Departmental	194,467	194,467	194,467	100%
Community Development	1,351,226	1,351,226	1,563,907	116%
TOTAL LAND MGMT. EXPENDITURES	1,545,693	1,545,693	1,758,374	114%
	-197,993	-197,993	-601,262	
Budgeted Contribution to Permanent Fund	311,000	311,000	278,233	
<u>Enhanced 911</u>				
Revenues	1,331,000	1,331,000	761,254	57%
Expenditures	1,698,212	1,730,257	1,481,834	86%
	-367,212	-399,257	-720,580	
<u>Fire Fleet Maintenance</u>				
Revenues	1,394,850	1,394,850	1,376,852	99%
Expenditures	1,393,850	1,393,850	839,837	60%
	1,000	1,000	537,015	
<u>Caswell Lakes FSA</u>				
Revenues	452,800	452,800	489,369	108%
Expenditures	564,037	564,037	458,634	81%
	-111,237	-111,237	30,735	
<u>West Lakes FSA</u>				
Revenues	4,403,217	4,403,217	4,322,827	98%
Expenditures	5,596,255	5,596,255	4,682,392	84%
	-1,193,038	-1,193,038	-359,566	
<u>Central Mat-Su FSA</u>				
Revenues	13,530,400	13,530,400	13,290,004	98%
Expenditures	17,226,829	17,291,829	13,338,543	77%
	-3,696,429	-3,761,429	-48,540	
<u>Butte FSA</u>				
Revenues	1,353,900	1,353,900	1,375,132	102%
Expenditures	2,082,969	2,082,969	1,758,690	84%
	-729,069	-729,069	-383,558	

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY FUND
JULY 1, 2024 - MARCH 31, 2025

Report Date as of March 31, 2025	<u>Annual</u>	<u>Annual</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	%
<u>Lazy Mountain RSA</u>				
Revenues	363,530	363,530	350,419	96%
Expenditures	362,178	400,538	358,881	90%
	1,352	-37,008	-8,462	
<u>Greater Willow RSA</u>				
Revenues	1,365,640	1,365,640	1,385,462	101%
Expenditures	1,463,851	1,592,732	1,573,406	99%
	-98,211	-227,092	-187,944	
<u>Big Lake RSA</u>				
Revenues	2,299,960	2,299,960	2,206,843	96%
Expenditures	2,464,531	2,778,545	2,408,505	87%
	-164,571	-478,585	-201,662	
<u>North Colony RSA</u>				
Revenues	305,740	305,740	290,508	95%
Expenditures	287,322	349,939	325,433	93%
	18,418	-44,199	-34,925	
<u>Bogard RSA</u>				
Revenues	2,346,580	2,346,580	2,300,752	98%
Expenditures	2,492,438	2,808,932	2,145,630	76%
	-145,858	-462,352	155,122	
<u>Greater Butte RSA</u>				
Revenues	1,416,870	1,416,870	1,368,269	97%
Expenditures	1,434,340	1,507,188	1,446,673	96%
	-17,470	-90,318	-78,405	
<u>Meadow Lakes RSA</u>				
Revenues	2,716,540	2,716,540	2,589,937	95%
Expenditures	2,910,724	3,069,804	2,749,562	90%
	-194,184	-353,264	-159,624	
<u>Gold Trails RSA</u>				
Revenues	2,603,492	2,603,492	2,551,285	98%
Expenditures	2,758,659	2,898,824	2,627,287	91%
	-155,167	-295,332	-76,002	
<u>Greater Talkeetna RSA</u>				
Revenues	932,320	932,320	889,555	95%
Expenditures	972,697	1,059,391	930,940	88%
	-40,377	-127,071	-41,385	
<u>Trapper Creek RSA</u>				
Revenues	339,850	339,850	319,218	94%
Expenditures	326,438	363,485	315,665	87%
	13,412	-23,635	3,553	

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY FUND
JULY 1, 2024 - MARCH 31, 2025

Report Date as of March 31, 2025	<u>Annual</u>	<u>Annual</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	%
<u>Alpine RSA</u>				
Revenues	346,500	346,500	320,230	92%
Expenditures	377,613	453,265	430,622	95%
	-31,113	-106,765	-110,392	
<u>Talkeetna Flood Control Service Area</u>				
Revenues	69,400	69,400	68,600	99%
Expenditures	42,154	42,154	8,133	19%
	27,246	27,246	60,467	
<u>Point MacKenzie Service Area</u>				
Revenues	13,700	13,700	14,434	105%
Expenditures	36,400	71,400	86,275	121%
	-22,700	-57,700	-71,841	
<u>Talkeetna Water/Sewer Service Area</u>				
Revenues	1,319,100	1,319,100	875,570	66%
Expenditures	1,428,338	1,428,338	1,157,619	81%
	-109,238	-109,238	-282,048	
<u>Freedom Hills Subd. RSA</u>				
Revenues	0	0	0	0%
Expenditures	5,063	3,563	0	0%
	-5,063	-3,563	0	
<u>Circle View / Stampede Est.</u>				
Revenues	27,000	27,000	26,620	99%
Expenditures	25,767	25,767	7,601	29%
	1,233	1,233	19,019	
<u>Chase Trail Service Area</u>				
Revenues	0	0	0	0%
Expenditures	25,631	25,631	0	0%
	-25,631	-25,631	0	
<u>Solid Waste</u>				
Revenues	11,112,500	11,112,500	9,577,254	86%
Expenditures	19,427,930	19,427,930	15,420,231	79%
	-8,315,430	-8,315,430	-5,842,976	
<u>Port</u>				
Revenues	835,000	835,000	2,413,046	289%
Expenditures	2,594,963	2,594,963	1,225,747	47%
	-1,759,963	-1,759,963	1,187,299	