



North Lakes Community Council

3060 Lazy Eight Ct #2 PMB 449
Wasilla, AK 99654

November 24, 2024

Mat-Su Borough Parks, Recreation & Advisory Board

Via: Mr. Hugh Leslie, MSB Recreation & Library Service Manager (email)

Dear MSB PRTAB Members,

My name is Rod Hanson, President of the North Lakes Community Council.

Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend your Board meeting this evening, November 24, 2025. I do however have a request that I hope you could consider during the Audience Participation section of your meeting.

As a part of your budget process, our request is that the PRTAB consider directing focus and resources toward public health and safety concerns at the small Borough Park on the North Shore of Cottonwood Lake. This is the park that is at the south end of North Spruce Drive.

Last summer, I met with local residents, and with Assemblyman for District 6, Dimitri Fonov, at the park to better understand the problems. I believe Mr. Fonov then had some follow-up discussions with Parks & Recreation.

More recently, at our November 20, 2025 NLCC Membership Meeting, there was a robust discussion about the ongoing maintenance and sanitation issues happening at the important park. For years, the parking lot maintenance has been hit and miss. There are often potholes and grading issues that make it very difficult for vehicles and pedestrians to utilize the park. Also, for years now, the NLCC has provided a temporary “porta-potty” facility and arranged for servicing of the unit. Park use is hard to predict, and it is very common for the NLCC to receive complaints about the sanitary conditions and foundation settling of the “porta potty” unit.

There are very few parks within the boundaries of the NLCC. We believe the Borough should budget appropriately, take full ownership of the park, and make this park one we can all be proud of ... including the PRTAB.

The Cottonwood Lake Park should be improved as follows:

- The parking lot should be graded, paved, and marked with parking spots to make the best and most efficient use of the limited space available. The small grove of trees in the Northwest corner of the park area should be removed, again to make the most efficient use of limited space.
- A CXT Vault Toilet should be installed in the park to mitigate sanitary and trash concerns.
- An area should be delineated near the lake to include a small grassy area and a picnic table.

I am not sure how best to promote this vision for a safe and attractive public park, and I regret that I will not be able to attend the meeting tonight. Rev. Randy Hillman is on the PRTAB and is also an active member of the North Lakes Community Council. He has been engaged in the NLCC discussions and could share the nature of our community concerns.

I wanted to get this to you now, as I understand you are engaged in budget discussions. Please let me know if there is any additional information that would be helpful from the Community Council.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rod D. Hanson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rod" being the most prominent.

Rod Hanson
President, North Lakes Community Council
rod@nlakes.cc
907-841-8735

cc: Assemblyman Dimitri Fonov, District 6 (email)
NLCC Board Members (email)



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Winter Hours:

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- Weekends 10AM - 8PM

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Location: Nestled at the base of Government Peak with easy trail access.

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- **Year-Round Access:** Ideal for summer and winter activities.
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GPRA Chalet Events

GPRA Chalet Events

List	Section	-All-	-All Ages-	- Any Date -
NOV 11	Moonlit Nordic Ski Tour & Cocoa Night November 11 GPRA Chalet & Trails An outdoor volunteer activity. Registrati...			View Details
NOV 19	McFadden - Alister Wedding November 19 GPRA Chalet An outdoor volunteer activity. Registrati...			View Details
NOV 20	Fresh Tracks Morning Ski Meetup November 19 GPRA Trails An outdoor volunteer activity. Registrati...			View Details
DEC 03	Winter Wonderland Wedding Showcase December 03 GPRA Chalet An outdoor volunteer activity. Registrati...			View Details
DEC 09	Talkeetna Peaks Leadership Retreat & Summit December 09 GPRA Chalet An outdoor volunteer activity. Registrati...			View Details
DEC 21	Christmas Vacation Ski Social & Trail Celebration December 21 GPRA Chalet An outdoor volunteer activity. Registrati...			View Details
				SEP 30 Gears of Government President's Award winners September 30 GPRA Chalet An outdoor volunteer activity. Registration Required View Details

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Main Borough Building: 350 E. Dahlia Ave. Palmer AK 99645

(907)861.7801 | Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8AM -5PM

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GPRA Chalet Event Space & Amenities

GPRA Chalet Events



Event Space

Host your event in a spaiouss hall accommodating up to 300 guests, ideal for weddingss, meetings, and more.



Commercial Kitchen

Utilize a fully equipped kitchen with professional-grade appliances, available for catering and food preparation.



Wi-Fi

Enjoy complementary high-speed internet access throughout he chalet for you and your guests.



Event Space

Host your event in a spacious haccommodating up to 300 guests, ideal for weddingss, meetings, and more.



Commercial Kitchen

Utilize a fully equipped kitchen with professional-grade appliances, available for catering and food preparation.



Event Space



Wi-Fi

Accessibility



Accessible Parking

Designated accessible parking spaces located close to the chalet entrance.

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Mat-Su Borough

PARKS, RECREATION & LIBRARIES



<https://matsu.gov>



Indoor Facilities

- ▼ **Brett Memorial Ice Arena**
- ▼ **Big Lake Lions Recreation Center**
- ▼ **Palmer & Wasilla Pools**
- ▼ **Borough Gym**
- ▼ **Libraries**
 - ▼ **Big Lake**
 - ▼ **Sutton**
 - ▼ **Talkeetna**
 - ▼ **Trapper Creek**
 - ▼ **Willow**





Brett Memorial Ice Rink

- **Learn to Skate classes - all ages**
- **Learn to Play Hockey - all ages**
- **Public Skate**
- **Private rental times available**
- **Adult and Youth Hockey Leagues**
- **Summer Skill Camps**
- **Birthday Parties**





Big Lake Lions Recreation Center

- ▼ **Learn to Skate classes - all ages**
- ▼ **Learn to Play Hockey - all ages**
- ▼ **Public Skate**
- ▼ **Private rental times available**
- ▼ **Adult and Youth Hockey Leagues**
- ▼ **Summer Pickle Ball**
- ▼ **Birthday Parties**

Pool Programs Offered

- ▼ **Learn to swim classes - all ages**
- ▼ **Lifeguarding and WSI classes**
- ▼ **Water Aerobics**
- ▼ **Club Swim Teams**
- ▼ **Public open swims and lap swims**
- ▼ **Private rental times available**
- ▼ **Birthday parties**



Library Programs

Summer Reading Programs - all ages

Preschool Story Hour

Book Clubs

Facility Rental

Computers available for use



Wi-Fi Available

Video Conferencing through OWL program

E-Readers available for checkout

Audio book downloads

Test Proctoring

Community Events center



Outdoor Recreation Facilities

- ▼ **Government Peak Recreation Area & Chalet**

- ▼ **Alcantra Sports Complex**

 - ▼ **Soccer**

 - ▼ **Baseball**

 - ▼ **Disc Golf**

 - ▼ **Year-round multipurpose trails**

- ▼ **Crevasse Moraine Sledding Hill**



Campgrounds

- ▼ Matanuska River Park Campground
- ▼ Jim Creek Campground
- ▼ Talkeetna River Park Campground
- ▼ Sunshine Creek Campground *NEW*



Amenities vary by campground:

- ▼ Electric hookups
- ▼ Dump Station
- ▼ Fire Pits
- ▼ Picnic Tables
- ▼ Dog Park



Parks

Matanuska River Park - Palmer

Jay Nolfi Park - Big Lake

Jordan Lake Park - Big Lake

Talkeetna Village Park - Talkeetna

Christiansen Lake Park - Talkeetna

Willow Library Playground



Trails - Non-Motorized

Alcantra Trail System

Pioneer Ridge-Austin Helmers Trail

Crevasse Moraine Trail System

Lazy Mountain Trail System

Matanuska Peak Trail

Matanuska River Park Trail System

Morgan Horse Trail

7 Mile Canoe Trail

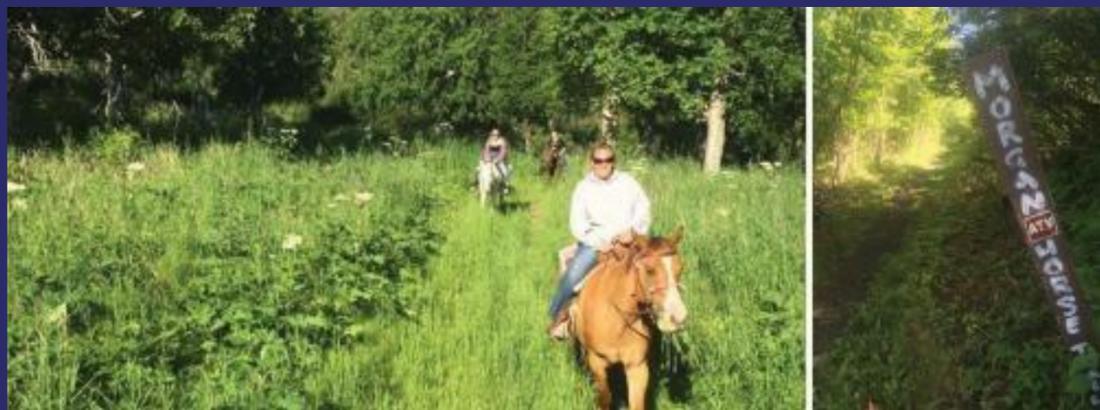
West Butte Trail

Eska Falls Hiking Trails

Government Peak Recreation Area Trails

Settlers Bay Coastal Park

Talkeetna Lakes Trail System



Trails - Motorized

Mat-Su Borough Maintained Trails:

- ▼ Plumley-Maud Trail
- ▼ Jim Creek Public Use Area
- ▼ Ridge Trail

Motorized use is a generally allowed use on most all undeveloped Borough lands



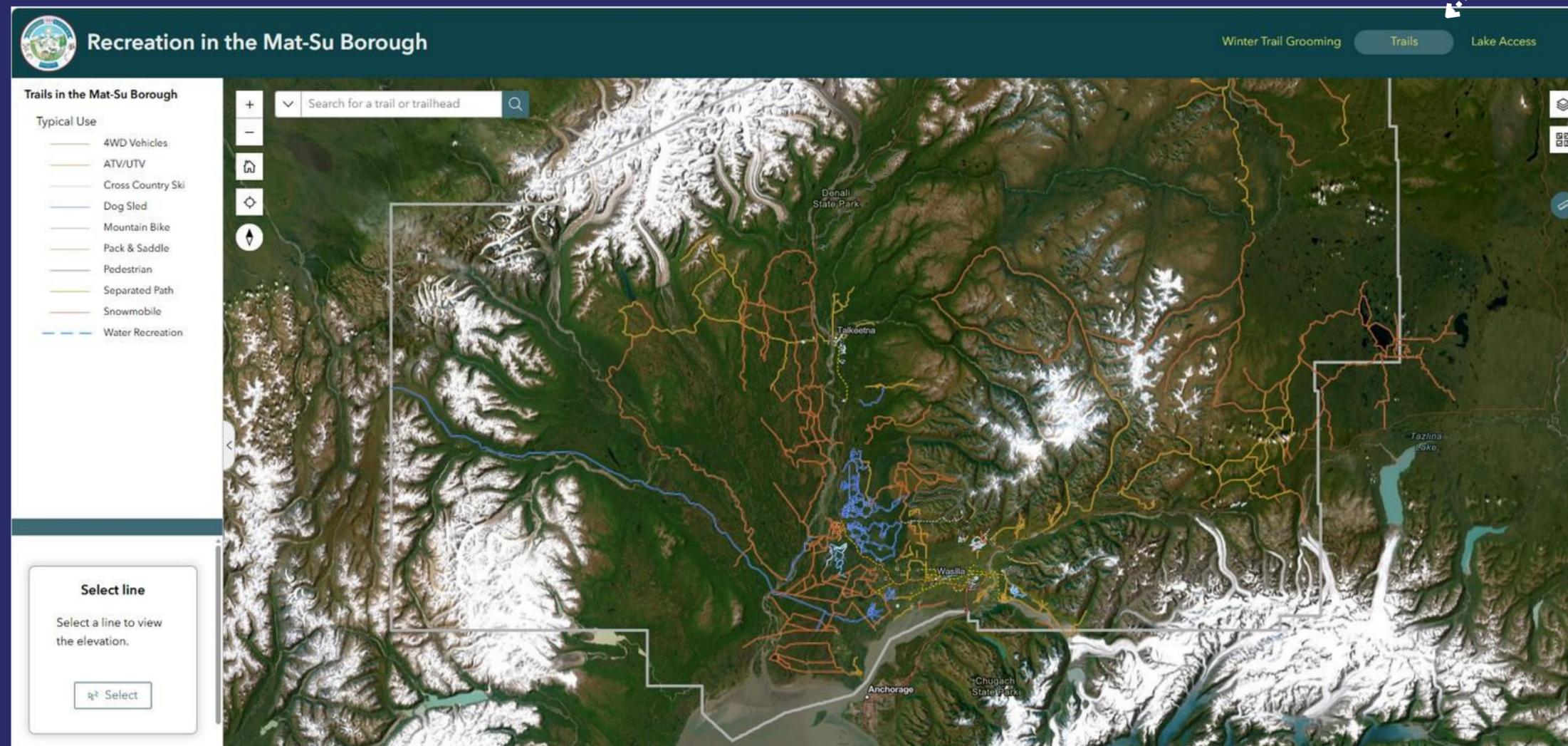
Public Lake Access

- ▶ **The Mat-Su Borough maintains the Big Lake Boat Launch**
- ▶ **We also maintain seasonal accesses to Seymour Lake, Neklason Lake, Cottonwood Lake, Walby Lake, Island Lake and Lake Louise.**
- ▶ **Sunshine Creek Fishing Area**
- ▶ **Additionally, there are hundreds of non-maintained public accesses. A dashboard is available on the Borough website <https://shorturl.at/1RWca>**



Interactive Lake Access, Trails & Winter Grooming Maps

<https://shorturl.at/p5wwh>



Select the map you'd like to view at the top of the page

Recent Improvements, Additions and Ongoing Projects

- ▶ Online Campground Registration
- ▶ Big Lake Lions Recreation Center
- ▶ Jonesville Shooting Range
- ▶ Government Peak Management Plan
- ▶ Matanuska River Park Master Plan
- ▶ Settlers Bay Coastal Park
- ▶ Pioneer Peak Parking Lot Improvements
- ▶ Whigmi Road Restroom
- ▶ Jordan Lake Park
- ▶ Fish Creek Park Playground
- ▶ Alcantra Ball Field Upgrades
- ▶ Problem Reporter



How Many in 2025?

- ▼ **4,000 annual trail passes sold**
- ▼ **380,000 + trail users**
- ▼ **111,388 pool registrations**
- ▼ **88,680 ice rink attendees**
- ▼ **11,150 campground users**



Land and Resource Management Division (LRMD)

Manages the use of MSB lands through:

- ▶ Permits
- ▶ Leases
- ▶ Management Agreements
- ▶ Sales

General responsibilities:

- ▶ Resource Management (gravel, timber, firewood, agriculture)
- ▶ General and Tax Foreclosure land sales
- ▶ MSB land use authorization through permits, leases, easements, trail care agreements and management agreements
- ▶ 10 Trail Care Agreements with non-profit community groups and organizations
- ▶ 12 Winter Trail Care and Grooming Grants with community Partners

LRMD Projects

- ▼ **Jonesville Public Use Area Feasibility and Master Plan <https://msb-jonesville.blogspot.com/>**
- ▼ **Government Peak Recreation Area Plan Update <https://matsu.gov/plans/2025-2026-government-peak-recreation-area-plan-update>**

MSB Parks & Recreation

QUESTIONS?

