

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH PARKS, RECREATION, AND TRAILS ADVISORY BOARD

Chairperson – James Jones – At Large 1

Vice Chair – Ruth Wood - District 7

Pat Owens – District 1

Vacant – At Large 2

Kimberly Waychoff - District 3

Roy Wahl – District 4

Michael Rovito – District 2

Harry Hillman – At Large 4

Jill Martinson - District 5

Maksim Revutskiy – District 6

Kenni Linden – At Large 3

AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING Lower Level Conference Room

November 25, 2024

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ROLL CALL – DETERMINATION OF QUORUM
- III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- V. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING
 - A. OCTOBER 28, 2024
- VI. BOROUGH STAFF REPORT
 - A. Hugh Leslie, Recreation & Library Services Manager
- VII. PERSONS TO BE HEARD / AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION – 3 minutes per person
- VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
 - A. Matanuska Valley Moose Range at Jonesville PUA
 - i. No report
 - B. Code of Ordinances for Parks and Recreation
 - i. No report
- IX. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Elections for 2025
 - B. Mat River Park
 - C. Homeless camp abatement
 - D. Approval for Chair & Vice-Chair to sign letters of support to include in the MSB Community Development grant to Rasmuson & Mat-Su Trails and Park Foundation for upgrades to Matanuska River Park
- X. VOLUNTEER NOMINATIONS
- XI. CORRESPONDENCE
- XII. MEMBER COMMENTS

XIII. NEXT MEETING

January 27, 2025

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH PARKS, RECREATION, AND TRAILS ADVISORY BOARD

Chairperson – James Jones – At Large 1

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Pat Owens – District 1

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Michael Rovito – District 2

Harry Hillman – At Large 4

Jill Martinson - District 5

Maksim Revutskiy – District 6

Kenni Linden – At Large 3

MEETING MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING Lower Level Conference Room

October 28, 2024

- I. CALL TO ORDER
 - A. Called to order at 6:10 pm
- II. ROLL CALL – DETERMINATION OF QUORUM
 - A. Present: James Jones, Ruth Wood, Pat Owens, Michael Rovito, Harry Hillman, Jill Martinson, Maksim Revutskiy
 - B. Absent: Kimberly Waychoff, Roy Wahl, Kenni Linden
- III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 - A. Ms. Owens motioned to approve, unanimous consent.
- IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
 - A. Pledge of Allegiance conducted.
- V. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING
 - A. SEPTEMBER 16, 2024 – Mr. Rovito motioned to approve, unanimous consent.
- VI. BOROUGH STAFF REPORT
 - A. Hugh Leslie, Recreation & Library Services Manager – Mr. Leslie outlined the process for plowing Borough lots and trail maintenance during snow events. Went over legislation that was approved at the last assembly meeting, including the plan to acquire the ice arena in Big Lake, funding for Jonesville PUA and MRP upgrades. Described the Jay Nolfi Park playground project and the ribbon cutting on October 15.
- VII. PERSONS TO BE HEARD / AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION – 3 minutes per person
 - A. None.
- VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
 - A. Matanuska Valley Moose Range at Jonesville PUA
 - i. State legislation has been presented to fund trail and area upgrades.
 - B. Code of Ordinances for Parks and Recreation
 - i. No report
- IX. NEW BUSINESS

- A. 2025 meeting schedule discussion – Mr. Hillman motioned to approve the proposed 2025 meeting schedule, unanimous consent.

X. VOLUNTEER NOMINATIONS

- A. None.

XI. CORRESPONDENCE

- A. None.

XII. MEMBER COMMENTS

- A. Mr. Hillman – Mentioned he was concerned about Borough staff trying to clean up around Knik River “place”. Will follow up with Hugh.
- B. Mr. Jones – Met at Mat River Park with Director Morrissey and the Palmer Airport manager, trees were not marked but walked the property for which trees were cut down. He was pleased with the Palmer Airport manager and the overall project. Expressed he was not satisfied with the legality of the avigation easement and public notification.
- C. Ms. Wood - Apologized for tardiness, also upset to hear about Director Morrissey’s response to the public notification question.
- D. Ms. Owens – Gave details regarding a trapping workshop for dog owners given by Mat Su Valley Hikers & Bikers. Also asked about her term and expiration.
- E. Mr. Rovito – Noticed signs stashed up on the Butte, they are for our crew to install. Asked about down trees, and the procedure to report. Asked if Ms. Morrissey could come to a meeting to speak with the board. Asked about trapping at Crevasse, not allowed.
- F. Mr. Hillman – Asked to put MRP on the next agenda.
- G. Ms. Martinson – Spoke about the ribbon cutting at Jay Nolfi Park, it was beautiful.
- H. Mr. Revutskiy – Would also like to meet Ms. Morrissey at a meeting.

XIII. NEXT MEETING

- November 25, 2024 – Unanimous consent.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

- A. Meeting adjourned 7:05 pm

October 31, 2024

Dear Rasmuson Foundation,

I am writing on behalf of the Mat-Su Borough Parks, Recreation, and Trails Advisory Board to express our enthusiastic support for the proposed upgrades to the Matanuska River Park & Campground. Our community recognizes the immense value this park brings, not only as a natural gem but as a vital resource for recreation and community engagement.

The Matanuska River Park & Campground serves as a central hub for outdoor activities, attracting families, hikers, bikers, skiers, and campers from across the region. However, to maintain its appeal and ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for all visitors, significant upgrades are necessary. Improvements to amenities and recreational infrastructure will enhance accessibility and promote longer stays, benefiting both our residents and visitors.

We believe that your philanthropic foundation shares our commitment to enhancing community spaces and fostering outdoor recreation. With your support, we can elevate the park's offerings and ensure it remains a beloved destination for future generations.

We appreciate your consideration of our request. Together, we can make a lasting impact on the Matanuska River Park & Campground and the community it serves.

Thank you for your time and support.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

Mat-Su Borough Parks, Recreation, Trails Advisory Board Chair

[Your Name]

Mat-Su Borough Parks, Recreation, Trails Advisory Board Vice-Chair

TEMPLATE FOR NEW 2025 FUNDING REQUESTS

From MSB Staff, Name: Jillian Morrissey

This is a:

- State funding request
- Federal funding request

Project Title: Matanuska River Park & Campground Utility Replacement and Upgrades: Phase 1

Type of Project: (Pick One)

- Planning and Research
- Maintenance and Repairs
- Remodel, Reconstruction and Upgrades
- New Construction and Land Acquisition
- Equipment and Materials
- Information Systems and Technology
- Other

2025 Funding Request: *\$ 3,000,000.00

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$ 3,050,000.00
Funding Already Secured:	\$ 50,000.00
Minus *2025 Funding Request:	\$ <u> </u>
Project Deficit:	\$ 3,000,000.00

Explanation of Other Funds: *(include a description of Funding Already Secured, etc.)*

If this project is funded this year, will you be requesting funding again?

- Yes (For Phase 2)
- No

Brief Project Description: *(be brief, you can add more detail below)*

Matanuska River Park & Campground is a crown jewel of the Borough Parks and Recreation facility and requires upgrades to be able to continue to provide a high level of service and quality of experience for users. Upgrades required include new electrical system, water system, a forest management plan, sustained forestry services, expanded and reconfigured RV campsites, ADA compliant bathroom replacement, connection to City of Palmer water and sewer.

Detailed Project Description and Justification: *(expand to next page if needed)*

The Matanuska River Park & Campground, located at Mile 17 Old Glenn Highway, is a popular destination offering eighty-six (86) spaces for tents or RVs, a central comfort station, an RV dump station, picnic tables, grills, four (4) pavilions, playground equipment, a sand volleyball court, trails, 'pump park' for bike riding, river access, an observation deck, parking areas, a campfire area, and a group camping area.

Proposed upgrades include:

- Replacement of the electrical system which has reached the end of its service life and is now characterized by frequent failures and increasing maintenance challenges. This system's age and the consistent breakdowns highlight the urgent need for replacement, which cannot be deferred any

longer. The planned upgrades will involve designing and implementing new, reliable system for electric service.

- Address the failing water facilities including a thorough assessment of the current systems, which have become increasingly difficult and costly to maintain. The planned upgrades will involve designing and implementing new, reliable systems for water service.
- Develop a forest management plan and provide sustained forestry services to support an FAA approved safe glide path for the City of Palmer Airport operations. Land Management has staff expertise to provide the necessary planning but will require forestry contractors to execute contract services. This will include felling, stump grinding and replacement of ornamental and native tree species to maintain the traditional character of the park.
- Expand and reconfigure the 'back-in' RV campsites to provide more space for campers. Additionally, significant tree felling in this area is required to support City of Palmer Airport safe glide path. Upgrades to the RV sites will allow rehabilitation of these impacted landscaped areas to maintain the traditional character of the park.
- Install an ADA-compliant bathroom upgrade to support visitor use.
- Connect to the City of Palmer's water and sewer systems to ensure more reliable utility services to the park.
- Additional components of the project will include obtaining necessary permits, coordinating with local utility providers, and restoring any areas of the park affected by the construction.

These improvements are essential for modernizing the park's infrastructure, ensuring reliable utility services, and enhancing the overall experience for all visitors.

Project Timeline:

Design and planning: 2025

Construction: 2026

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

Matanuska-Susitna Borough Community Development