

# MCGRATH COMMUNITY PLAN

2013

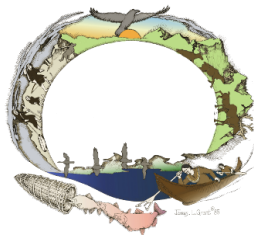
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# McGrath Community Plan 2013

## McGrath Native Village Council

*Building Partnerships for Sustainable Development*

Support for this project provided by:  
Tanana Chiefs Conference



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# McGrath: Building Partnerships For Sustainable Development

## Education

McGrath will be home to a new residential high school education center.



## Culture & Tradition

McGrath will showcase its vibrant culture during community events.



## Housing

McGrath will develop new housing models to meet a range of needs.



## Transportation

McGrath will have access to more affordable sources of fuel.



## Economy

McGrath will use local, sustainable and efficient energy resources, keeping the cost of energy within the local economy.



## Public Facilities & Utilities

McGrath will renovate Anderson Park for the continued and expanded enjoyment of the community.



## Land

McGrath will develop infrastructure on Cranberry Ridge to support residents who want to move out of the floodplain.



## Environment

McGrath will mitigate the hazards of erosion and floods.



## Wellness & Safety

McGrath will have well organized sports and activities for children.



McGrath is a small town with big dreams; a remote village with modern amenities; a diverse people with deep consideration of its ancient culture.



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# The Planning Process

Numerous interviews with McGrath community members, leaders, local business owners and policy makers kicked off the initial surveying stage of our planning process. Four community-wide surveys were conducted during February and April of 2013. Each survey resulted in between 22 and 36 respondents. The results of these surveys are included near the end of this plan.

Updates of the progress and discussions of the plan were voiced at three separate McGrath Native Village Council meetings between February and May 2013. An initial community planning workshop, with 9 participants, was held on March 16, 2013 to identify our unified Values and Vision and to begin evaluating our most critical issues and our available resources. A follow-up workshop, with 10 participants, was held on April 8, 2013 to finalize the critical issues and resources. Community members in attendance of the workshop(s) included a McGrath Native Village Council representative and City of McGrath representatives along with other community leaders.



## The Planning Process History

- The City of McGrath Comprehensive Plan was completed February 1981 by Darbyshire & Associates. It included the Relocation Plan, which a subsequent City Council voted to not proceed with the process of moving the town out of the floodplain and to Cranberry Ridge.
- The McGrath Native Village Council completed Phase I of the Upper Kuskokwim Region Goals and Objectives Summary in 1984. At the time Phase II of the Upper Kuskokwim Regional Strategy Plan was taking place, the Department of Natural Resources was developing the Kuskokwim Area Plan that dealt with issues such as land classification and disposals, mineral closures, and other issues that have a great effect on the lives of the residents of the region. MNVC's Oversight Committee of the Regional Strategy Plan felt it was necessary to develop goals and objectives summarizing how local residents felt on issues regarding economic development of the region and its possible effect on existing lifestyles. To accomplish this, workshops were held in each community and the original 1984 Phase I surveys were updated.
- The City of McGrath completed a Long-Range Development Plan in 1992 that was more comprehensive and much more detailed compared to the 1981 Comprehensive Plan's chapters of similar subject matter.
- The McGrath Native Village Council received a grant for a Strategic Plan, which was turned over to the City of McGrath's (then) City Administrator Cheryl Ogren, to complete. This grant was closed out, the publication was printed and distributed in 2003, although it lacked the final element; implementation. This document was deemed to be a wish list composed by survey respondents and a few people attending the public meetings. It has served both the City and MNVC since that time, but is grossly out of date.
- The City received a small grant from the State of Alaska Department of Community Commerce and Economic Development (DCCED) to assist with updating the City's Comprehensive Plan, mandated of a Second Class City. Ruth St. Amour, Planner visited McGrath and made a presentation at the monthly Breakfast Club meeting and later at the Planning Commission meeting. She provided resources such as examples of completed Comprehensive Plans from communities of similar size and makeup as McGrath. She and Natalie Baumgartner, McGrath's City Administrator, also started to update the Strategic Plan information as a basis to go from, and MNVC has used the draft version of the update since that time.
- A City of McGrath Resolution (13-01) establishing a cooperative agreement between the City of McGrath and the McGrath Native Village Council

(MNVC) to collaborate on the community planning process was adopted during the December 2012 City Council Meeting.

- In January 2013, Jennifer Baumgartner, a community member, was hired by MNVC to serve as the Community Planning Specialist.



*Anderson Park, McGrath, Alaska*

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# Introduction

In December 2012, the McGrath Native Village Council was awarded a grant for participation in TCC's first Community Planning program. Such plans assist communities in identifying and meeting their future needs and have become a critical component in obtaining important funding for infrastructure projects.

This community plan is intended to:

- Identify an overall vision and supporting goals that will set the direction for community development
- Examine and evaluate existing documents and reports pertaining to current Economy, Land Use, Culture & Tradition, Transportation, Education, Housing, Public Facilities, Wellness & Safety and Environment
- Identify future development projects
- Respectfully coordinate with community members to solicit input and guidance
- Build project development partnerships inside and outside of the community
- Develop data collection activity in such a way as to support future funding requests
- Provide a document well grounded in research that communicates a strategy for future economic and community development

## McGrath Community Progress Report 2003 - 2013

Since the 2003 McGrath Strategic Plan was completed, numerous community entities and the community as a whole have worked together reaching their goals. As part of a comprehensive review and update of the 2010 McGrath Strategic Plan, the City of McGrath and the McGrath Native Village Council identified the progress of their existing goals. Areas of progress included improvements in community infrastructure, affirmative efforts in cultural preservation, creation of youth opportunities, and efforts to maintain a healthy, cohesive community.

### Community Infrastructure Improvement

Steps to improve community infrastructure in every area from energy to waste management have been taken since the completion of the 2003 McGrath Strategic Plan.

Among the most significant is the multi-phased water & sewer improvements project. McGrath is currently in the final design phase of completing extensive renovation and upgrade of their water treatment and distribution system replacement and improvements, extensive water treatment plant renovations and improvements, a new water intake, heat system and building repairs. This project is being completed in phases with construction slated to begin in 2014.

Complimentary to the decision to keep the Kuskokwim River as McGrath's primary water source, are the efforts by the Kuskokwim River Watershed Council to address the contaminated military sites that affect the water quality of the Kuskokwim River.

Many steps have been taken to improve waste management practices in McGrath. A recycling program has been established which includes recycling waste such as building materials, clothing and household items, e-waste, car batteries, florescent light bulbs, plastic, aluminum, and glass. The program has

been a collaborative effort between the McGrath Native Village Council, City of McGrath, and McGrath community members. Reuse and recycling has been an important step in reducing the overall amount of waste deposited in the landfill.

On December 24, 2006, the McGrath Native Village Council (MNVC) Tribal Hall, also known as the Chamai Center, burned to the ground. The center housed office space for tribal activities, and served as a gathering place for community events. The loss of the center was felt throughout McGrath. MNVC actively pursued partnerships with the City of McGrath, Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC), the Interior Regional Housing Authority (IRHA), the Alaska Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, and DEC to secure funding and assistance to clean up the site and build a new multi-purpose community center.



*MNVC Community Center*

Jeff Weltzin, through TCC, helped the community leverage funds from an array of funding sources, including a legislative appropriation, the CDBG, and other sources. Matilda (Tilly) Dull, former tribal administrator for the MNVC, worked with Jeff on a grant proposal to the Indian Community Development Block Grant Program administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Natalie Baumgartner, administrator for the City of McGrath, has worked diligently with Judy Haymaker of the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development to keep up with the reporting required for the CDBG. Some money was also secured from the insurance policy for the former facility. The DBA included removing an underground storage tank and a small volume of contaminated soil, and collection of confirmation samples to make sure the remaining soil was clean enough to support reuse of the site. The new community center opened in December 2012 and fulfills the dream of a one-stop community hub, housing tribal offices, social services, learning programs, and spaces for community gatherings and cultural exchange.

In December 2010, A new \$4 million, 6,100-square-foot medical clinic opened in McGrath to serve the estimated 600 residents of the Upper



Kuskokwim Valley, including McGrath, Nikolai, Takotna and Telida. MTNT Limited, donated five acres of the land for the building, which was paid for with grants from the Denali Commission, the Southcentral Foundation and the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration.



An- *McGrath Regional Health Center* other significant  
improve- *McGrath, Alaska* ment in waste  
management has been the installation of a unique Burn Box that was a partnered project of the McGrath Native Village Council and the City of McGrath and constructed using local labor and design plans drawn by a local resident. The Burn Box has been used since September of 2009. The Burn Box is an enclosed chamber with a design that provides better draft and can be used without producing significant emissions compared to similarly designed boxes. A custom ash “pusher” makes quick work of removing residue.

The McGrath Native Village Council is the funding sponsor of the McGrath Roads Reconstruction Project to provide road resurfacing and dust

abatement which has been funded by the Denali Commission and BIA. The project is slated to be completed during the summer of 2013.



Erosion in McGrath control has been of considerable concern to McGrath residents for many years. McGrath enrolled in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and was accepted in the “Emergency Phase” in 2002 and in the Active Phase October 4, 2011 which included a comprehensive mapping project and providing flood insurance to community members that would not have been available without enrolling in the program. The first USDA NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) 1,100’ riverbank rip-rap project was completed in 2009. A second USDA NRCS EWP was begun during the winter of 2012 and is being completed during 2013. Flooding and erosion remain a considerable concern in McGrath although steps are being taken to mitigate the potential damage caused by both.

The high cost of energy and fuel pose increasing challenges to McGrath. McGrath has been proactively researching and pursuing viable alternative,

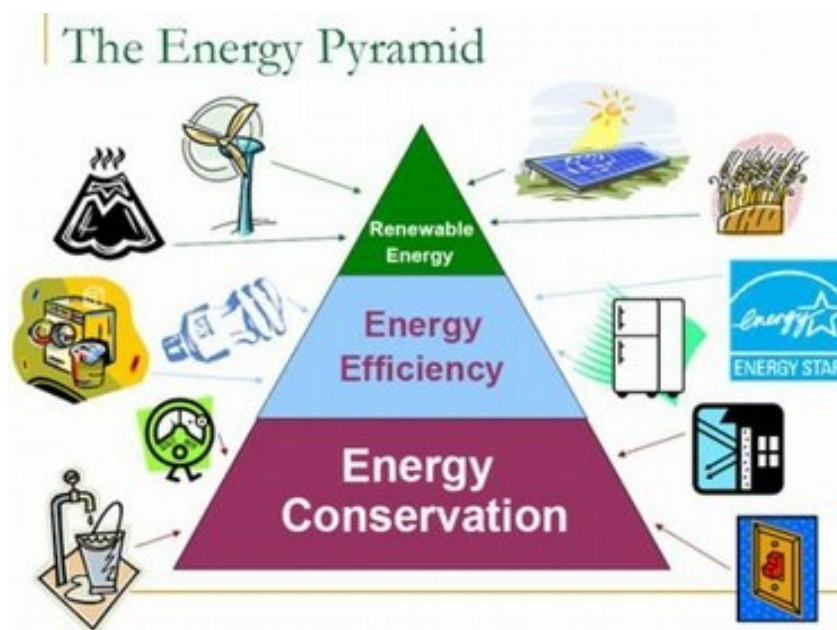
sustainable energy utilizing local resources that could be used to supplement or replace current heat and power sources.

These projects, in addition to the weatherization efforts, energy efficient construction and conservation measures are being utilized and new projects are underway by individuals, businesses and agencies.

McGrath received funding to complete a biomass feasibility study that originated in 2007 with AVI Integrated Biomass project grant and evolved over the years and with additional funding to its present format. Since the original scope of the project is no longer of interest to MTNT/ML&P, the remainder of the grant is being transferred to the City of McGrath for a facility biomass heat project that will demonstrate how using locally available and harvested biomass can stabilize cost and keep funds spent on heating fuels within the local economy.

Utilizing waste heat from the ML&P power plant has been extended beyond its original adjacent footprint and has resulted in installations in the Iditarod Area School District office building, the McGrath School and the South-central Foundation's McGrath Regional Health Center.

McGrath Native Village Council completed construction on their McGrath Community Services Center in 2012 and employed energy efficient





measures including highly insulated walls and ceilings, as well as solar and radiant heat.



*MNVC Community Center*



# Vision

The McGrath Community Vision is at the heart of the planning process. It is the culmination of countless hours of determination and effort from the whole community, and is the guide post for the community's future direction and success.

## Our Vision:

We are a distinctive community; embracing the diversity that ultimately gives us strength. We prosper while protecting our natural resources. We enjoy a sustainable economy that assures the health and safety of our community members and promotes development and enterprise. We accept social responsibility and participate in decisions which affect our people and our community. Together, we work diligently to accomplish community goals while following the wisdom of our elders and planning for future generations.



*Jarred Salmon is a vital staple*

# Values

As an Athabascan community, the things most valued are culture and tradition that teach respect for land, nature and other people. With guidance and support from our elders, we must pass on knowledge of our Cultural Spirit:

Respect of Nature	Sharing
Respect of Land	Love for Children
Respect of Property	Family Roles
Respect for Elders	Domestic Skills
Respect for Life	Humor
Protection of Subsistence Resources	Humility
Conflict Avoidance	Hard Work
Hunter Success	Spirituality
Survival Skills	Unwasteful use of Food & Resources
Cooperation	Responsibility to Community



# Community Profile

## History

Although McGrath is a relatively young city, its history is long and colorful. In the 1840's, the Russians began making annual trips as far upriver as McGrath from Kolmakovsky Trading Post near Aniak. Later, they established a small trading post at Vinasale near an Upper Kuskokwim fish camp. This was the first known contact that the Athabascans in the region had with the Europeans. Regular contact was common by 1900.



*McGrath, on the upper Kuskokwim, in 1919.*

In its early days, McGrath was a seasonal Upper Kuskokwim Athabascan camp and served as a meeting and trading place for Big River, Nikolai, Telida, Vinasale and Lake Minchumina residents. The original people of the area spoke one of the 11 different Athabascan languages of Alaska, now referred to as Upper Kuskokwim. This indicates that they had lived in the area long enough for their language to become unique.

A series of fur and gold booms and busts have impacted the history and culture of the people within the community of McGrath. Each of those events brought a unique population to the region. Abraham Appel built the first trading post at the confluence of the Takotna and Kuskokwim rivers in approximately 1905. Peter McGrath soon opened another store when he arrived in 1907. Peter was appointed a US Commissioner to record the newly discovered gold claims in the Innoko District in 1906-1907. By the spring of 1907, the town of (Old) McGrath was established.



*Peter H. McGrath, after whom The town of McGrath, Alaska was named*

The Alaska Road Commission (ARC), in response to a need for an overland route to facilitate mail delivery, sent W. L. Goodwin of the ARC to survey a trail from Seward to Nome in 1908. It utilized much of the trail network long used by Upper Kuskokwim Athabascans and other indigenous people.

The Seward to Nome Trail route was surveyed in 1908, which marked along routes long established by the Upper Kuskokwim people. In December of 1908, the discovery of gold on a tributary of the Iditarod river (Iditarod Discovery) widened gold rush ventures. In 1910, Goodwin additionally surveyed and marked the trail from Nome to Happy River with a side trip to Dishkaket to the newly discovered Iditarod District.

In 1909, the Northern Commercial Company bought out Abraham Appel and opened a new store at (Old) McGrath.



By 1911, the Upper Kuskokwim people began moving into permanent villages when stores, roadhouses, churches and eventually schools were built, to be closer to services and supplies.

Since McGrath is the northernmost point on the Kuskokwim River accessible by large riverboats, it quickly became a hub and regional supply center for the gold mines and surrounding villages. With the surge of mining activity in the area, some local Athabascans sold game meat to the miners but most continued to trap. Others became employed at trading posts or as mineworkers.

From 1907-1914, thousands of people walked and drove dog teams over what would later become known as the Iditarod Trail on their way to the Innoko and Iditarod gold districts.



*Sunset in McGrath, Alaska*

Inter-Village travel sharply declined by 1915 and mining was declining due to World War I reducing manpower and the use of large mining equipment such as dredges. The introduction of disease by this influx of people was also a major reducer of the population of the Upper Kuskokwim people. During the mid-1930's, some residents abandoned the original town site and moved across the river to the current location of McGrath. Changes in the course of the river in 1937 left the old site on a slough, making it useless as a river stop and this initiated a mass migration to the current site.

In the early 1940's, McGrath had a Civil Aeronautics Authority (CAA) (later Federal Aviation Administration/FAA) and a National Weather Service (NWS) communications complex, a paved airfield and a new grade school built, which eventually had high school rooms added to it. During World War II, McGrath served as a vital aircraft refueling stop, as part of the Lend-Lease Program between the United States and the Soviet Union.

The original school building was moved from Old McGrath in 1945 and a duplex was also used to accommodate the rising school population. A new 4-room school was built in 1964-65 and high school classes began in 1965-66. As accommodations continued to be added, boarding students swelled the school population to 140-150 in the 1970's and 1980's. The State Operated School System Alaska ended in 1976, and McGrath the Administrative site for the RE-AA Iditarod Area School District on the upper Kuskokwim and middle Yukon.

With the loss of families from the FAA and NWS, and the movement of young families for work, the school population dropped from over 100 to less than 50. This resulted in a loss of teachers and their families. As the High School shrank, more students have left to finish their education elsewhere.

McGrath was incorporated as a second-class city in 1975. The population of McGrath peaked in 1990 but has since declined due to the FAA Flight Service Station and the Weather Bureau (became the National Weather Service in 1970) decreasing their local staff.

The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act in 1971 led to the creation of MTNT with headquarters in McGrath and their businesses have added jobs. ANILCA (1980) led to the creation of the Innoko National Wildlife Refuge with its office in McGrath, another source of jobs. The State of Alaska's Department of Natural Resources and KSKO-Radio have also added jobs. For many years, air taxi operations were a major contributor to the local economy, but now that is on the decline. Declining employment opportunities resulted in a downward economic spiral, resulting in residents leaving McGrath in search of employment elsewhere. In 2003, a study by the Denali Commission labeled McGrath as severely economically depressed. This was based strictly on the average adult income. This label did not last long, as McGrath residents increased their income.

Due to McGrath being the northernmost point on the Kuskokwim River accessible by larger barges and large airplanes, it continues to be a regional supply center and headquarters for many regional, state and federal agencies, it offers more employment opportunities than the surrounding area. In spite of the availability of jobs, many residents continue to hunt, fish, trap, mine and pick berries, as subsistence remains an important aspect of the local Native and non-Native culture.



*Salmon Strips hanging in smoke house*

The recent dramatic increase in the price of gold has led to an increase in mining activity, both in exploration for new deposits (i.e. Vinasale Mtn.) and the expansion of existing placer mines as well as production at the Nixon Fork hardrock mine. Mining continues to play a vital role in the McGrath economy.

The McGrath region is rich in non-tangibles such as Native culture, undeveloped and virgin land, nature, wildlife, subsistence opportunities and simple lifestyles. The people represent diverse cultural heritages, both Native and non-Native, and are able to respect cultural differences. McGrath has great potential to be a self-reliant community, setting the example for similar rural communities throughout Alaska.

Construction activity related to the long-awaited erosion control project exposed ancient human remains near McGrath School in October 2012. The discovery is unique because bones do not often last long when buried in the acidic soil of the boreal forest, and because the Native Athabascans of the region have traditionally cremated their dead.

The “Tochak McGrath Discovery”, as it has been named, include the remains of three individual males, a fully-grown adult, a young adult, and a small child. It has a bearing on the genetics of all the peoples of the New World, and the community of McGrath will proudly record the findings in its local cultural history.



## Location

*General Geographic Location: Lat. 62.956390° North, Long. -155.595830° West  
Township: 033N Range: 033W Section: 18 Meridian: Seward*

Located 221 miles northwest of Anchorage and 269 miles southwest of Fairbanks, McGrath is located deep in the interior of Alaska. The most developed land within the city limits is situated on an inside meander, on the northwest bank of the Kuskowim River, lies in a floodplain, and is nearly encircled by the river.

Directly across the Kuskowim River, on the north side of McGrath, the Takotna River drains into the Kuskokwim. This confluence is near the original town site. The region is characterized as vast lowland of rivers, oxbow and pothole lakes, and marshy tundra.

McGrath is located within the Mt. McKinley Recording District, which encompasses 48.9 square miles of land and 5.7 square miles of water. Arising from the north slopes of the Alaska Range and the Kuskokwim Mountains, the Kuskokwim River is a large drainage that encompasses about 11,700 square miles, stretching 450 miles to the Bering Sea near Bethel, Alaska.



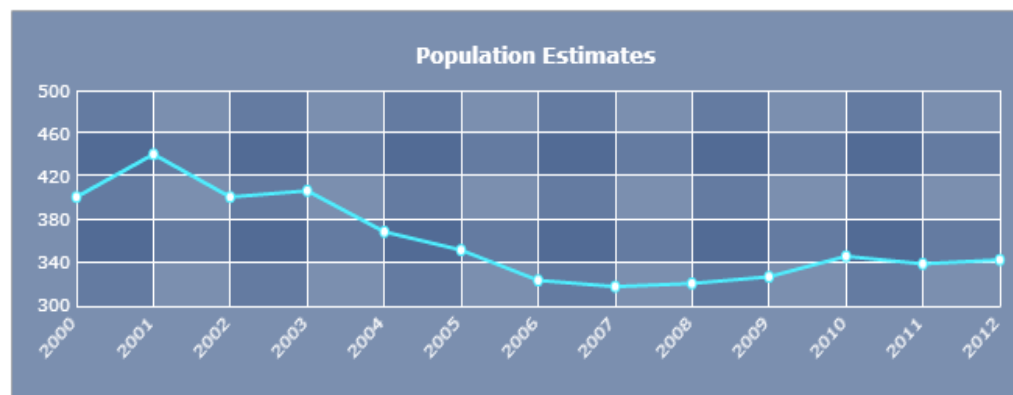
## Demographics

**POPULATION: 341** (2011 DCCED certified estimate) -13.2% change since 2000 US Census

According to Census 2010, there were 195 housing units in the community and 147 were occupied. Its population was 36.7 percent American Indian or Alaska Native; 41.6 percent white; 0.6 percent Asian; 0.9 percent Pacific Islander; 19.9 percent of the local residents had multi-racial backgrounds.

Additionally, 2.6 percent of the population was of Hispanic descent. 52 percent were males, 48 percent were females. The Median age was 39.8 years.

Year	Population
2000	401
2001	441
2002	401
2003	407
2004	369
2005	352
2006	324
2007	318
2008	321
2009	327
2010	346
2011	339
2012	343



Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section.

## Description of the Community

McGrath is an Alaska Native townsite, which has been surveyed. The major landowners in the community are MTNT, The City of McGrath, Alaska Village Initiatives, The State of Alaska, The US Government: BLM and DOT/FAA, as well as private citizens and investors. The land entitlement of the McGrath ANCSA Corporation totals 92,160 acres. The 14(c) reconveyance process has been completed. Special circumstances regarding land in McGrath include land trades and Native allotments.

The community has access to limestone from the Noir Hill Quarry site, which is owned by MTNT with subsurface rights owned by Doyon, Ltd and located approximately 15 miles east of McGrath. The City maintains the road to the quarry.

McGrath has two old landfills, which are located at the end of the DNR Road near Sand Island and at the AC slip. Many years ago, trash was thrown over the riverbank. The current landfill is located east of town on Cranberry Ridge Road.

The McGrath Native Village Council hired an Environmental Director in November 2002 and has since conducted several studies and has developed an Environmental Plan. The Army Corps of Engineers commissioned an environmental impact study for its flood control/streambanks erosion project which was constructed during 2003.

The community is nearly surrounded by the Kuskokwim River. The river floods annually due to ice jams during break-up at a tight meander bend approximately 3.5 miles downstream from McGrath as well as at a sandbar on the east bank approximately .3 miles upstream from this meander bend. Jams may back up the ice for several miles. The entire town is located within the flood plain, but most frequent flooding occurs along the northeasterly edge of town along Takotna Road and across town near Anderson Park and the southernmost end of the airport runway. Ice-jam floods may cause several times more damage than ice-free floods due to the swift movement of large ice volumes and the extreme velocities that result when ice-jams release water. The 100-year flood stage at McGrath is 337.3 feet. The last flood occurred in May 2002.

Erosion of the riverbank along McGrath's shoreline continues to be a severe problem, caused by ice jams and flooding during break-up. Between 1951 and 1984, riverbanks erosion caused an average land loss of 5 feet per year, up to 10 feet at some locations. Since 1984, land losses between 15 and 20 feet annually have been reported. Twenty-two residential properties and one road along riverfront land have succumbed to erosion. Bank erosion near the City offices and water treatment plant building have eroded to within 90 feet of the building. The City has been forced to abandon another road, construct a replacement which is currently being undercut by the river and relocate its river water intake facility which feeds the community water system. The current rate of erosion is quickly reducing the number of riverbank properties required for placement of the erosion control revetment on the riverbank.

With the highest concentration of persons and real property located along the project area, McGrath cannot further withstand such dramatic losses. Without a continued commitment to mitigate the dramatic and devastating erosion, projected economic losses are estimated to well exceed \$20million of property. To relocate the McGrath community would cost in excess of \$12million (1980 figures). The following outlines the continued progress on McGrath's erosion crisis:

**Structural reinforcement of unstable soils:** USDA-NRCS has completed a 1,100' erosion control revetment constructed of rip-rap rock that armors the riverbank. A

second and longer length of riverbank is being armored with similar construction during the summer of 2013.

**Relocation of Infrastructure:** The city's water intake structure and water point are being relocated and two electric power poles are being removed in 2013. Minimal Funds are available for the relocation of infrastructure including roads. One effort has failed, due to not being able to secure light-rights that would have temporarily relocated one riverbank road landward by 50'.

**Prioritize infrastructure with respect to relocation:** Critical public infrastructure, such as water mains have been identified as being critical elements to relocate. Several small homes along the river bank had the opportunity to move to another location away from the river bank but no owners chose to do this or they did not meet qualifications for participation in the FEMA program.

**Create city fund for erosion control, recovery, and infrastructure relocation:** To date, this has not been possible to accomplish.

**Public Education:** There have, over the years, been articles included in the water bill envelopes about the continuing erosion and the severe weather events that have contributed to unanticipated amounts of erosion. Photographs have served to emphasize the dangers.

**Identify sources of funding for erosion control:** The city has identified one source of funding that has become a reality when specific criteria are met. Other, traditional sources of funding have gotten caught in years of studies and plans,



with no actual projects funded. The city could not pay the millions of dollars for the 25% “Local Match” even if they were offered.

**Create Local Erosion Task Force:** This has not been done, but the local agencies meet annually to update the Flood and All-Hazards Mitigation Plan which serves as an overall Task Force for such risks, including erosion.

**Prohibit new construction in erosion zones:** This has not been uniformly addressed.

**Mapping of Erosion Zones:** FEMA developed a Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) that went into full effect on 11/04/2011. A detailed map is available online as well.



*Effects of erosion, McGrath, Alaska*

## Economy

As a transportation, communications, and supply hub in Interior Alaska, McGrath has a diverse cash economy. Many families rely upon subsistence, utilizing salmon, moose, caribou, bear, birds and rabbits. In addition to trapping, hunting and fishing, residents tend vegetable and herb gardens, harvest berries, chop and sell firewood, raise sled dogs and sell Native crafts. In spite of being remotely located, McGrath has a wide variety of modern conveniences, including two grocery/general stores, two hotel accommodations, two restaurants, various supply outlets, several log and limber milling businesses and private mineral extraction businesses.

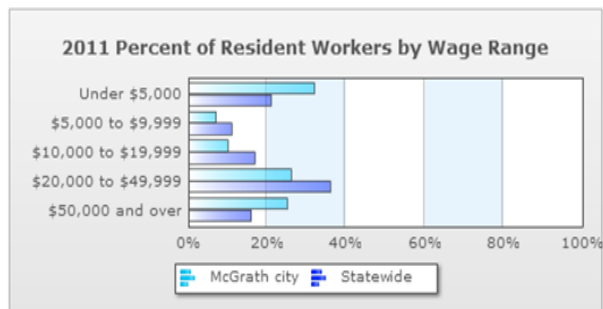
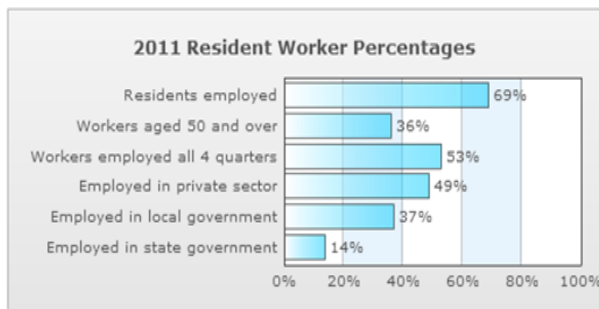
The Nixon Fork gold mine, located 30 miles Northeast of McGrath, employs several local residents and is currently hiring.

The FAA Flight Services Station was reduced to one employee, and the US Weather Bureau has just 3 employees as remote technology replaced on-site employees. Local, State and Federal Government jobs account for more than 50% of the employment in McGrath. The Iditarod Area School District headquarters remains a major cornerstone of the regional economy.

During the summer months, the McGrath-based DNR/Division of Forestry Interior fire fighting camp temporarily employs as many as 200 area residents, and brings in another 200 regional firefighters.

## Jobs and Workforce

McGrath has 256 residents age 16 and over. Of the 176 that are employed, 83 are female and 93 are male. 63 workers are age 50 and over. Total wages earned by McGrath residents during 2011 is \$5,093,372.



Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section.

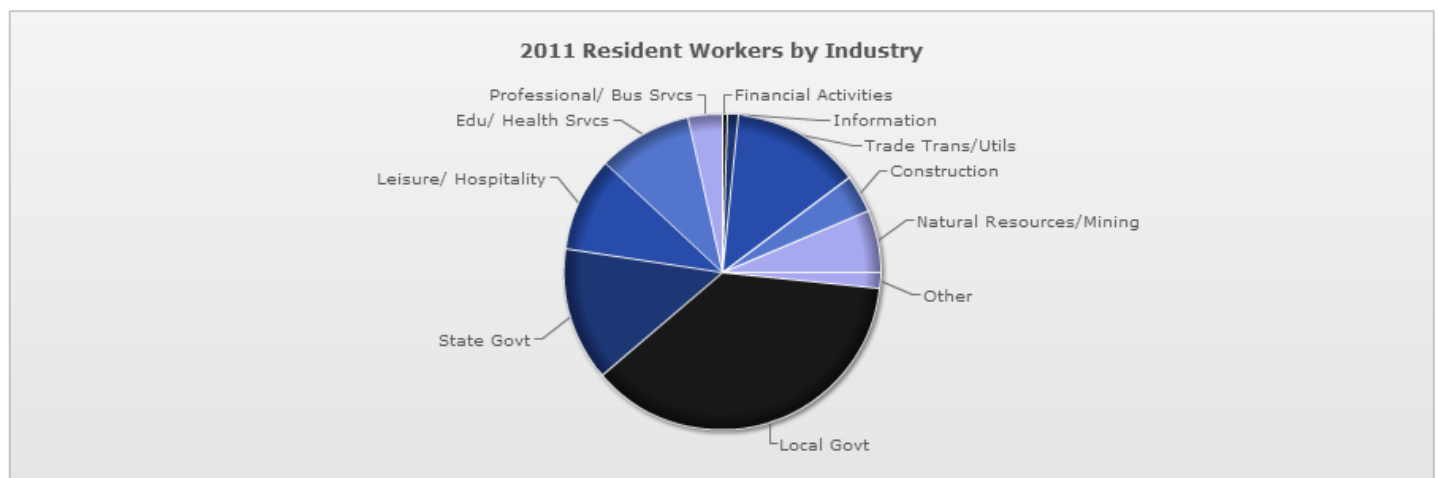
Private businesses employed 87 residents, while local government employed 65 and state government employed 24. Only 94 workers were employed during all 4 quarters of 2011. 71 workers were new hires and 34 unemployment claims were filed.



*Working hard and playing hard are two important elements of life in McGrath*

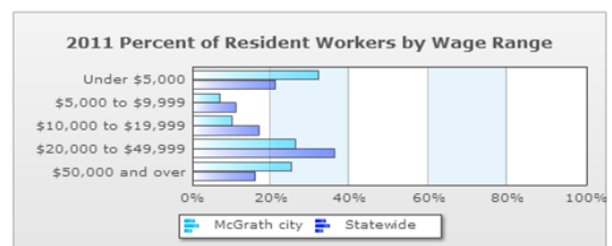
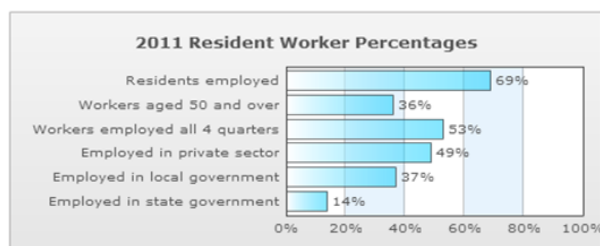
## Workers By Industry

Local government, including the City of McGrath and McGrath Native Village Council, provide 36.9% of the local employment. State government provides 13.6%, while Trade, Transportation and Utilities provides a combined 13.1%. Both Leisure/Hospitality and Education/Health Services provide 9.7% of the employment. Natural Resources and Mining employs 6.3%.



**Number of Workers with Experience in Industry 2007–2011**

Accommodation and food services	56	Management of companies and enterprises	0
Administration and support and waste management	20	Manufacturing	1
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	1	Mining	27
Arts, entertainment and recreation	3	Professional, scientific and technical services	10
Construction	34	Real estate and rental and leasing	18
Educational services	0	State government	39
Finance and insurance	15	Trade	42
Health care and social assistance	24	Transportation and warehousing	27
Information	18	Utilities	19



Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section.

## Infrastructure & Utilities

### McGrath Health Center

In 2004, at the request of the Upper Kuskokwim Advisory Council, Southcentral Foundation assumed management of health care services for the Upper Kuskokwim Area. This region is comprised of the McGrath, Nikolai, Takotna and Telida communities. The Tanana Chiefs Conference previously serviced this region through the McGrath Health Center and two satellite health clinics; one in Nikolai and the other in Takotna. These clinics serve approximately 600 residents in the four villages. The McGrath Health Center is located in central Alaska on the Kuskokwim River, west of Denali National Park.

All the clinics are Community Health Care Center designated. No customer will be denied services due to race, cultural affiliation, or inability to pay. The McGrath Clinic is funded by a federal grant through Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) to provide medical services.

In December 2010, A new \$4 million, 6,100-square-foot medical clinic opened in McGrath to serve the estimated 600 residents of the Upper Kuskokwim Valley, including McGrath, Nikolai, Takotna and Telida. MTNT Limited, a Native corporation representing upper Kuskokwim River villages, donated five acres of the land for the building, which was paid for with grants from the Denali Commission, the Southcentral Foundation and the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration.

Currently, the McGrath Health Center provides Primary & Urgent Care, Tele-Health, Digital Radiology, CLIA Waived Laboratory Services, Pharmacy, Tele-Pharmacy, Behavioral Health Care, Tele-Psychiatry, Smoking Cessation, Drug/Alcohol Counseling, and 24 hour Emergency Service. Itinerant dentists, dental hygienists, optometrists, and chiropractors visit on a regularly scheduled basis to provide care to area residents.



**United Utilities, Incorporated** provides land-line telephone communications.

**GCI, Incorporated** provides cellular phone service.

**Borealis Broadband** provides Internet service through a broadband satellite link. Some residences, facilities and businesses have chosen to obtain Internet service through HughesNet, WildBlue/Exede or Starband.

**McGrath Broadcasting Company**, the local cable television service provider since 1983, feeds 32 channels and 4 movie channels to the community, with a capability of up to a maximum of 80 channels. Service is wired to all household and currently has 109 subscribers. Channel 37 includes Alaska Regional Communications Satellite (ARCS). Channel 12 is set up as a cooperative project with the McGrath School to operate a KSKO-AM radio audio feed with public service announcements and local input; students regularly update the information. McGrath Broadcasting currently owns 3 satellite dishes. Future capability includes broadband service, video-on-demand, and internet. Some community members have chosen to obtain television service through Dish Network or Direct TV.



*McGrath Broadcasting Company*

The City of McGrath operates and maintains a water treatment plant, a piped water system, the solid waste landfill and burn box, the washeteria, the rock quarry and the approximately 30 mile long dirt and gravel road system. The City's water source is surface water from the Kuskokwim River, which is filtered, treated with polymers and chlorinated. The FAA operates its own water system. The majority of residents use individual septic tanks and a limited city sewage system serves approximately 34 homes. The water and sewer system is aging and the City has submitted funding proposals to address needed replacement/repairs. There are two previously used landfills, one area being located at the end of the DNR Road near Sand Island and the other unofficial area near the AC Slip was used by residents to fortify locally initiated erosion control efforts. The current landfill is located at the east end of town on Cranberry Ridge Road and is a Class 3 landfill with designated areas for used oil disposal, and a battery collection site. The community has been educated on the importance of proper disposal of these items.



*Salvage Shed for Recycling and Repurposing*

**McGrath Trash & Refuse** is a locally owned private company which collects refuse for disposal at the City landfill.

**McGrath Light & Power (ML&P)**, owned by MTNT, Ltd (the Village Corporation), is the electric utility and provides electricity fired by diesel-fueled generators with a capacity of 2,145 kw. The utility maintains the city streetlights.





The Village Corporation, **MTNT Ltd**, was formed in 1976 and represents four Interior Alaskan villages; McGrath, Takotna, Nikolai, and Telida. The Shareholders of MTNT own and manage 299,520 acres of land, commercial and residential properties, McGrath Light & Power, along with six subsidiaries serving the nation's government. MTNT provides personnel and services to commercial entities and federal agencies. Other services include development, construction, construction management, design, quality control, budgeting, scheduling, subcontractor selection, environmental, IT, strategic communication, professional staffing, and federal contracting expertise.

**KSKO** is a non-commercial radio station, broadcasting on 870 AM. KSKO is a member of Community Radio of Alaska and provides entertainment, community information and news broadcasts for community members.

The **McGrath Volunteer Fire Department** Fire Chief is appointed annually by the members of the volunteer fire department and approved by the City Council. The MVFD meets monthly and trains regularly.

The **Kuskokwim Valley Rescue Squad/McGrath Chapter** is headed by the Squad Captain and Co-Captain which are both elected by the members of the rescue squad with the approval of the City Council. KVRS meets monthly and serves the region surrounding McGrath

## Governance

The **McGrath Native Village Council (MNVC)** is the elected governing body over the federally recognized tribe, the Native Village of McGrath.

The 5-member Council is comprised of elected officer titles: First Chief, Second Chief, Third Chief, Secretary/Treasurer and Council Member. There are two and three year terms. The Council meets on the first Tuesday of each month. Three full-time positions comprise the office: Tribal Administrator, Environmental Director and Tribal Family Youth Services Specialist. MNVC employs four part-time positions. Tribal Development Workforce Specialist, Elder's Nutrition Specialist, Transportation Planner, a janitor and a maintenance person. Seasonal positions include the Fisheries Technician.



*McGrath Native Village Council Community Center*



The **City of McGrath**, incorporated in 1975, is a Second Class city and a political subdivision of the State of Alaska, governed by a seven-member Council who annually select a Mayor and a Vice Mayor. Council members are elected in staggered 3-year terms (2-3-2). The Council meets on the third Tuesday of each month. City staff includes the City Administrator, the City Clerk/Treasurer, the Public Works Foreman, the Water Treatment Plant Operator, and a part-time janitor.

*City Departments include:*

Public Safety, Public Works, Volunteer Fire Department, Kuskokwim Valley Rescue Squad/McGrath, and the Planning Commission.

*City Committees include:*

Administration and Finance Committee, Public Safety, Public Works, and Water Service.



*Cap'n Snow Building*

# Critical Needs in McGrath

## Education

- Need a Residential Learning Center for high school students in McGrath
- Need community wide support for IASD adding more sports/team travel for students
- Need community wide support for students having increased educational alternatives that focus on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math
- Need community wide support for the continuing development of McGrath becoming an educational hub, providing a range of formal/training classes that develop career, vocational, academic, cultural and traditional skills

## Culture & Tradition

- Need more cultural representation at community events
- Need more frequent community gatherings for socializing

## Transportation

- Need lower fuel costs
- Need mechanics/auto shop
- Need lower options for freight costs

# Critical Needs in McGrath

## Economy

- Need to pursue community self-reliance/sustainability to lessen dependence upon necessities (i.e. imported fuels, foods, diesel generated electric power)
- Need to focus on alternative forms of energy (i.e. biomass, solar, wind, geothermal, etc.)
- Need to mitigate threat of organizations leaving McGrath
- Need stronger pool of jobs & workforce

## Public Facilities

- Need large year 'round greenhouse
- Need another holding cell in the jail to separate men/women and adults/juveniles
- Need a Visitor's Center/Chamber of Commerce/Tourism Council
- Improvements needed at Community Parks

## Environment

- Need to mitigate erosion/flood hazards
- Need to pursue affordable ground water quality testing options for those with wells

# Critical Needs in McGrath

## Land

- Need to mitigate erosion of our riverbanks
- Need road access and utility infrastructure on Cranberry Ridge
- Need new cemetery on high ground (Cranberry Ridge)
- Need to pursue possibility of a spur to Donlin Gas Pipeline for the purpose of tapping into and purchasing natural gas

## Wellness & Safety

- Need a VPSO to enforce local laws, provide assistance to AST
- Need more school or community organized sports/activities for children

## Housing

- Need more affordable energy efficient housing
- Need Assisted Living Center
- Need updated information shared regarding smart construction practices in our climate (CCHRC)

# Goals & Priorities

## For The Future of McGrath

This Community Plan is organized around nine planning dimensions including: Education, Land, Housing, Culture & Tradition, Economy, Public Facilities, Transportation, Wellness & Safety, and Environment.

The planning dimensions are fluid in that assets may fit into more than one dimension, and that communities can add or subtract dimensions as deemed necessary to meet local needs. Community plans based on this tool meet the requirements of the Office of Indian Energy, Denali Commission and other funders for a general community plan.



*Community Planning Workshop*

*McGrath's goals are*

*not listed in order of*

*priority.*

⌘ **Education** McGrath is home to a Residential Learning Center for high school students. McGrath School offers a full and varied curriculum (including Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) which helps our students qualify for Alaska Performance and other scholarships. McGrath School offers more opportunity for our students to play competitive sports. McGrath has an adequate supply of housing for teachers and their families and to accommodate students attending the Residential Learning Center. These goals provide the opportunity for students from this region and beyond to be prepared to identify careers utilizing vocational and technical sciences that will meet the needs of Rural Alaska.

⌘ **Culture & Tradition** McGrath maintains our cultural and traditional values based on the wisdom of our elders.

⌘ **Housing** McGrath has adequate, safe and affordable housing which is located in environmentally stable conditions.

⌘ **Transportation** McGrath has a transportation system with well maintained roads and trails and affordable options to travel by plane or boat.

⌘ **Economy** McGrath has a diverse and viable economy that promotes local hire, provides a stable living environment, and supports subsistence life.

⌘ **Public Facilities** McGrath has adequate, safe and well-maintained public buildings and infrastructure for our growing community.

⌘ **Wellness & Safety** McGrath has a safe and healthy community for the benefit of maintaining our cultural values.

⌘ **Environment** McGrath residents respect our land and strive to protect it from erosion and contamination.

⌘ **Land** Community members continue the tradition of respecting each other and preserving the land and its cultural resources.

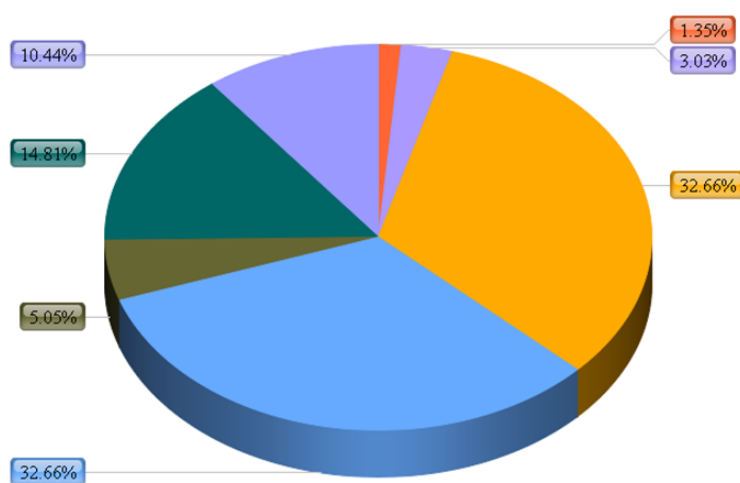


# Education

McGrath School is a public school serving 43 students in grades K-12. The Iditarod Area School District (IASD) is headquartered in McGrath and serves the villages of McGrath, Takotna, and Nikolai on the Kuskokwim River and the villages of Anvik, Grayling, Holy Cross and Shageluk on the Yukon River. McGrath School is a public school serving 43 students in grades K-12. It once peaked at approximately 130 students. Tanana Chiefs Conference operates the Head Start program which is also housed in a classroom inside McGrath School.

The University of Alaska Fairbanks, College of Rural Alaska Interior Aleutians Campus, McGrath Center offers classes on-line, through distance education and by occasionally holding special classes of interest locally (skin-sewing, hazmat, etc.).

■ Less than 9th Grade   
 ■ 9th - 12th grade, no diploma   
 ■ High School Graduate   
 ■ Some college, no degree   
 ■ Associate's Degree  
■ Bachelor's Degree   
■ Graduate Degree



EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT (2011 American Community Survey)  
McGrath, AK Population 25 years and Older = 297

**Education Goal:** McGrath is home to a Residential Learning Center for high school students. McGrath School offers a full and varied curriculum (including Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) which helps our students qualify for Alaska Performance and other scholarships. McGrath School offers more opportunity for our students to play competitive sports. McGrath has enough housing for teachers and their families and to accommodate students attending the Residential Learning Center or any other local training center. McGrath is a hub where adult and youth students can obtain specialized vocational and technical training in a variety of fields, including health care, wildland fire training and aviation. These goals provide the opportunity for students from this region and beyond to be prepared to identify careers utilizing vocational and technical sciences that will meet the needs of Rural Alaska.



*2013 High School Graduation Ceremony*

## Education Goal: *continued*

- **Objective:** Support students having increased educational alternatives that focus on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math.
  - Activities
    1. Support IASD and McGrath School as new programs and staff are introduced
    2. Encourage the renovation/repairs of possible rentals for teacher housing
    3. Work with UAF/UAA on village-based STEM curriculum
- **Objective:** Support IASD in quest for Residential Learning Center in McGrath
  - Activities
    1. Submit letters of support to IASD Superintendent
    2. Explore training opportunities for locals to staff center
- **Objective:** Support McGrath becoming an educational hub
  - Activities
    1. Pursue organizations interested in offering local training
    2. Work with UAF to develop a brochure to distribute
    3. Offer link on local website for further information and local contacts

# Culture & Traditions

McGrath is a well mixed community of Native and non-Native residents. A value embedded across the diverse community is respect for the environment, fish, and wildlife. A strong commitment to this value will ensure continued replenishment of the resources for the continued existence of the local culture and traditions.

McGrath is unique due it having a firm step in both the Native and Western cultures and also having many urban amenities, though being a remote village. The rich history of the community marks the change from using dogsleds to snowmobiles; wooden skiffs to motorized river boats; lanterns to electricity; log homes to modern homes; verbal storytelling to the internet; and weekly or monthly plane service to almost daily plane service from multiple carriers. With all these new technologies and amenities, the community of McGrath still enjoys a traditional subsistence lifestyle. The ancient wisdom of supporting and respecting one another and the bounties of our land continue to be taught to new generations.

**Culture & Traditions Goal:** McGrath maintains our cultural and traditional values based on the wisdom of our elders.

- **Objective:** Need more cultural representation at community events
  - Activities
    1. Continue teaching traditions to youth
    2. Organize traditional dance and music classes
- **Objective:** Need more frequent community gatherings for socializing
  - Activities
    1. Invite other groups/entities to host gatherings
    2. Distribute traditional recipes for potluck-style gatherings
    3. Plan ahead to ensure community wide participation

2. List action/activity here.

- Need more active Native leadership
- Division of resources by ethnicity
- Lack of cooperation between City, MNVC and TCC
- Culture is disappearing as population dwindles



*4th of July Celebration, Anderson Park*

# Housing

McGrath has 195 total housing units. 48 of these houses are vacant, of which 12 are unlivable and require extensive remodeling. Of the 147 occupied houses, the average household size is 3 people., 89 are family households and 58 are non-family households. 90 houses are owner-occupied and 57 are rentals.

**Housing Goal: McGrath has adequate, safe, and affordable housing located in environmentally stable conditions.**

- **Objective:** Explore alternative housing models to meet a range of needs
  - Activities
    1. Explore apartment style housing
    2. Encourage guest/visitor lodging
    3. Promote local hire on housing projects
- **Objective:** Address elder housing needs
  - Activities
    1. Explore development of an assisted living home
    2. Provide adequate elder housing at low or no cost
- **Objective:** Advanced building techniques, similar to those utilized by the Cold Climate Research Center, will be put into practice
  - Activities
    1. Establish relationship with CCRC
    2. Pursue opportunities through IRHA to build passive homes
- **Objective:** Promote local hire on building projects
  - Activities
    1. Contact contractors once winning bids are announce to determine their labor needs
    2. Assist contractors in finding a qualified local labor pool by hosting job fairs, posting new job announcements and distributing and receiving employment applications.



# Transportation

There are no road connections to McGrath, but approximately 30 miles of local roads used by pedestrians, ATV's, snowmachines, cars and trucks. McGrath roads consist of alluvial dirt and sand which is the source of a constant dust control problem. Construction of a hard-surface road for a section of the city is expected to be complete in the Fall of 2013. Winter trails are marked to Nikolai (50 miles) and Takotna (20 miles). When the Kuskokwim River freezes, it becomes an "overland highway". Residents rely on air service and barges for passenger and freight service. Air facilities include a State-owned 5,435 foot paved runway with a 1,700 foot crosswind landing strip, and a seaplane base on the Kuskokwim River.

**Transportation Goal:** McGrath has a transportation system with well maintained roads and trails and affordable options to travel by plane or boat.

- **Objective:** Explore options to reduce the cost of fuel
  - Activities
    1. Review solutions implemented in similar villages
    2. Support efforts to educate the community on reducing fuel consumption
    3. Form "Energy Task Force" to provide oversight on reducing the high costs of fuel
- **Objective:** Explore options to reduce freight costs
  - Activities
    1. Promote and support local consolidated charters
- **Objective:** Support educational opportunities for mechanic vocational training
  - Activities
    1. Post announcements from vocational schools
    2. Encourage and support local engine repair classes

2. List action/activity here.

- Need more active Native leadership
- Division of resources by ethnicity
- Lack of cooperation between City, MNVC and TCC
- Culture is disappearing as population dwindles

# Economy

McGrath's economy has historically been based on hunting, trapping, mining and its strategic location as a regional hub. Though it suffered as federal agencies have reduced their local manpower, the community remains resilient. A focus remains on becoming a sustainable community with a strong and stable economy.

**Economy Goal:** McGrath has a diverse and viable economy that promotes local hire, provides a stable living environment, and supports subsistence life.

- **Objective:** Pursue community self-reliance to lessen dependence upon necessities (i.e. imported fuels, foods, diesel generated electric power)
  - Activities
    1. Review solutions implemented in similar villages
    2. Pursue alternative forms of energy (i.e. biomass, solar, wind, geothermal, etc.)
    3. Develop partnerships with TCC, UAF, AEA, CCRC
    4. Establish "Energy Committee" to provide oversight on the high costs of energy
- **Objective:** Mitigate threat of organizations leaving McGrath
  - Activities
    1. Encourage open communication with decision makers
    2. Support development of multi-unit housing for employees
- **Objective:** Match employment opportunities with immediate needs of the

community to offset economic hardships

- Activities
  1. Pursue Elder Meal Program, Community Gardening Program
  2. Day Care Services - Early Childhood Program  
(Other needed positions include: youth sports coach, swimming lessons, cultural teachers & advisors, and elder assistants)
  3. Continue and expand a summer youth employment program
  4. Provide on the job training and career planning services throughout the year
  5. Heavily promote local hire whenever possible



# Public Facilities & Utilities

**Public Facilities & Utilities Goal:** McGrath has adequate and well-maintained public buildings and infrastructure for our growing community.

- **Objective:** Support the development of a large year 'round greenhouse
  - Activities
    1. Review community greenhouses operating in similar villages
    2. Develop partnership with UAF's CES
    3. Pursue funding and training opportunities
- **Objective:** Establish Visitor's Center and Tourism Board
  - Activities
    1. Create a Chamber of Commerce or Tourism Board
    2. Create website for visitors and potential new residents/agencies
    3. Pursue funding for small visitor's center
- **Objective:** Renovate Anderson Park and develop two additional Community Parks
  - Activities
    1. Explore funding opportunities for needed repairs and development
    2. Host "work parties" for clean-up, painting, etc.
    3. Pursue new signage sponsorships

# Wellness & Safety

Health care, such as preventive care, acute care, immunizations, prenatal care, and emergency care is provided by the McGrath Health Center. Telemedicine and Teleradiology services are provided.

**Wellness & Safety Goal:** McGrath is a safe and healthy community for the benefit of maintaining our cultural values.

- **Objective:** Organize school or community sports/activities for children
  - Activities
    1. Pursue 4H program through UAF's CES
    2. Pursue funding for Little League coach
    3. Pursue a Youth Rifle Club
- **Objective:** Secure a Village Public Safety Officer to enforce local laws
  - Activities
    1. Continue communication with TCC's VPSO Director
    2. Ensure local advertisement of job posting
    3. Support City's goal to secure housing for VPSO



List action/activity here.

- Need more active Native leadership
- Division of resources by ethnicity
- Lack of cooperation between City, MNVC and TCC
- Culture is disappearing as population dwindles

# Environment

McGrath is located along the Kuskokwim River and accessible only by air, boat and snowmobile. The landfill is located at the edge of town and includes a burn box for household trash as well as a recycling and salvage area. The communities water supply is the Kuskokwim River. There is a continued effort to reduce the erosion of river banks.

**Environment Goal:** McGrath residents respect our land and strive to protect it from erosion and contamination.

- **Objective:** Mitigate erosion/flood hazards
  - Activities
    1. Structural reinforcement of unstable soils
    2. Prohibit new construction in erosion zones
    3. Continue public education of erosion and flood hazards (i.e. National Flood Insurance Program)
- **Objective:** Ensure safe ground water
  - Activities
    1. Pursue affordable ground water quality testing options for those households with wells
    2. Educate community on basic tests (microbiologic and testing for nitrates/nitrites), including recommended frequency of testing according to the National Sanitation Foundation ([www.nsf.org](http://www.nsf.org))

# The Land

To the McGrath community, subsistence means harvesting local vegetation, berries, fish, land animals and birds for food, clothing, and tools. Ancient practices of surviving off the land and the river continue to be an integral part of communal life. Most households prefer to gather and store traditional foods in addition to store bought foods. Expansion of utilities and roads on Cranberry Ridge is necessary to accommodate future growth in McGrath.

**Land Goal: Community members continue the tradition of respecting each other and preserving the land and its natural resources, while developing a growing infrastructure.**

- **Objective:** Develop infrastructure on Cranberry Ridge
  - Activities
    1. Pursue funding to expand utilities to Cranberry Ridge
    2. Pursue funding to create new roads on Cranberry Ridge
- **Objective:** Develop new cemetery on Cranberry Ridge
  - Activities
    1. Explore specific areas for new cemetery
    2. Perform site assessments
    3. Choose and develop new site
- **Objective:** Explore possibility of a seasonal spur road to Donlin Gas Pipeline for the purpose of tapping into and purchasing natural gas
  - Activities
    1. Pursue communications with Donlin
    2. Research various options to transport natural gas from pipeline back to McGrath
    3. Research changes needed to current infrastructure to determine if McGrath is willing to switch to natural gas
  - 2. List action/activity here.

- Need more active Native leadership
- Division of resources by ethnicity
- Lack of cooperation between City, MNVC and TCC
- Culture is disappearing as population dwindles



# Implementation

The McGrath Working Group, a panel of representatives from the community, will serve in an advisory role to address the short and long term planning needs of McGrath. The McGrath Working Group should have representation from local entities to strengthen team-building and eliminate duplication of efforts. The Working Group will engage McGrath residents in projects that effect the community and region.

## McGrath Working Group Guidelines:

1. Community Support: A planning effort must have the backing of the community and its leadership. Residents and local entities should encourage the Working Group's efforts to make McGrath a better place to live and visit.
2. Board Members: The Working Group should consist of 5 to 7 members appointed by the following organizations: McGrath Native Village Council, M.T.N.T., and the City of McGrath. Village/City administrators, utility workers and individuals with knowledge of the planning process would be ideal choices.
3. Projects: The Working Group should monitor the status of projects identified in this plan.
4. Regional & State Coordination: The Working Group should invite Regional and State agencies to attend their meetings.
5. Project Assignments: The Working Group should assign a lead person or entity to each project to ensure accountability.
6. Public Meetings: All Working Group meetings must be open to the public. The meetings will provide an opportunity for discussion and questions. Meeting minutes should document any projects discussed.
7. Calendar: The Working Group should develop a calendar of meeting dates to be shared with all local entities. Calendars can also include application deadlines, project timelines, regional and state events, and community gatherings so as not to assign conflict with other events.
8. Follow-up: The Working Group should periodically follow-up on the projects contained in this plan and any new projects that are identified in the future.



# Resources

DICHINANЕК' HWT'ANA: *A History of the people of the Upper Kuskokwim who live in Nikolai and Telida, Alaska.* Author: Raymond L. Collins

McGrath Community Strategic Plan-2003

<http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/plans/McGrath-SAP-2003.pdf>

McGrath Flood and All-Hazards Mitigation Plan-2007

[http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/planning/nfidp/Hazard\\_Mitigation\\_Plans/McGrath\\_Flood\\_and\\_All\\_Hazards\\_Mitigation\\_Plan\\_FINAL\\_Dec\\_2008.pdf](http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/planning/nfidp/Hazard_Mitigation_Plans/McGrath_Flood_and_All_Hazards_Mitigation_Plan_FINAL_Dec_2008.pdf)

McGrath Community Wildfire Protection Plan-2010

[http://forestry.alaska.gov/pdfs/McGrath\\_CWPP\\_2010.pdf](http://forestry.alaska.gov/pdfs/McGrath_CWPP_2010.pdf)

McGrath Comprehensive Plan-1982

<http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/plans/McGrath-CP-1982.pdf>

McGrath Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS)-2011

[http://www2.census.gov/geo/pvs/bas/bas11/st02\\_ak/incplace/p0246010\\_mcgrath/BAS11P10200046010\\_000.pdf](http://www2.census.gov/geo/pvs/bas/bas11/st02_ak/incplace/p0246010_mcgrath/BAS11P10200046010_000.pdf)

McGrath Barge Landing Scoping Analysis—Denali Commission

<http://www.denali.gov/dcpdb/Data/attachments/McGrath%20Barge%20Landing%20Scoping%20Analysis%20Report%2Epdf>

State of Alaska Community Database Community Information Summaries (CIS)

[http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/commdb/CIS.cfm?Comm\\_Boro\\_Name=McGrath](http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/commdb/CIS.cfm?Comm_Boro_Name=McGrath)

Alaska Baseline Erosion Assessment—U.S. Army Corps of Engineers—Erosion Information paper—McGrath Alaska—2008

[http://www.poa.usace.army.mil/Portals/34/docs/civilworks/BEA/McGrath\\_Final%20Report.pdf](http://www.poa.usace.army.mil/Portals/34/docs/civilworks/BEA/McGrath_Final%20Report.pdf)

State of Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development

<http://live.laborstats.alaska.gov>

# Photo Credits

Ruby Egrass	Samantha Holmberg
Natalie Baumgartner	Kathy Parker
Jennifer Baumgarnter	Tamara Vanderpool

# Appendices

McGrath Community Map  
Resources for Contractors/Visitors  
Surveymonkey.com Survey Results  
Community Plan Resolution—City of McGrath, MNVC, M.T.N.T., Ltd.



## 2012/2013 McGrath Information for Contractors, Residents & Visitors

### Local Companies & Heavy Equipment:

- ⌘ Ben Magnuson, PO Box 46, McGrath, AK 99627  
PH 907-524-3543 FAX 907-524-3014
- ⌘ Paydirt Construction, Robert Magnuson, Jr., PO Box 101, McGrath, AK 99627, PH 907-524-3738 robertlmagnuson@hotmail.com
- ⌘ Allan Anderson & Allan Anderson Jr. 907-524-3150/3101
- ⌘ Ephrem Andrews 907-524-3571 (Bobcat)
- ⌘ Richard Anselment 907-524-3455 (SkidSteer & other)
- ⌘ Zebulon Vanderpool 907-574-0488 (Bobcat)
- ⌘ McGrath Light & Power 907-524-3009 (Bobcat & Boom Truck)
- ⌘ City of McGrath (Tom) 907-524-3200/3825 (Water Truck & other)

### Food & Lodging:

- ⌘ Iditarod Trail Café & Bunkhouse/Rooms, Susan King, PO Box 252, McGrath, AK 99627, PH 907-524-3331 sjking64@gmail.com
- ⌘ Hotel McGrath B&B, Zebulon Vanderpool & Jennifer Baumgartner  
PO Box 173, McGrath, AK 99627, PH 907-524-3951  
FAX 907-524-3952 hotelmcgrath.jb@mcgrathalaska.net

### Permits – Fees –Development:

⌘ City of McGrath, PO Box 30, McGrath, AK 99627  
PH 907-524-3825 FAX 907-524-3536, mcgrathcityad-  
min@gmail.com

- ⌘ National Flood Insurance Program Development Permit – (for any construction, clearing, excavation or significant renovation)
- ⌘ Landfill Fee for construction, overburden and demolition debris  
\$12 per 128 cu ft = \$25 for a 10-cu yd truck, \$30 for a 12 cu yd  
truck
- ⌘ Road Use Fee – Twenty-five cents (\$0.25) per cu yd to haul any raw material on a city owned or maintained road
- ⌘ Surface Access Fee - for material mined from city land where Doyon owns subsurface rights – on Cranberry Ridge Rd. (\$ .25 cu yd hauled)
- ⌘ Heavy Vehicles – Permit required for crawler, chain. Lug, traction type heavy equipment to use roads. Refundable deposit of \$250.00 required

**Fill Material – Gravel – Rock:**

- ⌘ Sand Island - Sand & Gravel – City of McGrath holds the Permit. Contact the city office for information regarding availability. City of McGrath Road Use Fee @\$ .25 cu yd hauled over city owned or maintained roads) which applies to all material hauled from Sand Is land.
- ⌘ Cranberry Ridge fill material – Doyon, Limited has the subsurface rights. Contact Doyon Lands & Natural Resources, Jim Mery, VP Lands & Natural Resources, meryj@doyon.com 907-459-2030 FAX 907-459-2062. The City of McGrath owns the surface land. City of McGrath Surface Access Fee applies (@\$ .25 cu yd hauled) as well as the City of McGrath Road Use Fee applies (@\$ .25 cu yd hauled over city owned or maintained roads) Contact the City office 524-3825 for information.

⌘ Noir Hill (Limestone) Rock Quarry Doyon Limited. holds the subsurface rights. Contact Doyon Lands & Natural Resources, Jim Mery, VP Lands & Natural Resources, meryj@doyon.com 907-459-2030 FAX 907-459-2062. M.T.N.T Limited owns the surface land. Contact: Betty Magnuson, 907-524-3391. City of McGrath Road Use Fee applies (@\$.25 cu yd hauled over city owned or maintained roads). Contact the City office 524-3825 for information.

### Vehicle Rentals:

⌘ Contact the Lodging businesses to check for availability of their vehicles, bicycles, kayaks, & ATVs and boats. You can also place a request for rental services available from individuals, on the online Message Board of the community's Internet Service Provider. [www.mcgrathalaska.net](http://www.mcgrathalaska.net)

### Airline Services: To McGrath from Anchorage

- ⌘ Pen Air—operated by Tanana Air Service, Anchorage PH 907-771-2640, Local PH 907-524-3600
- ⌘ Alaska Air Transit – operated by McGrath Turnaround Services, Anchorage PH 907-276-5422, Local PH 907-524-3951
- Local Charter Airlines
- ⌘ Magnuson Airways, Barney Anselment, PO Box 111, McGrath, AK [www.magnusonairways.com](http://www.magnusonairways.com), Cell 907-631-2286 Hm 907-298-2223
- ⌘ Tanana Air Service, Brian Martin, Owner, PO Box 29, McGrath, AK PH907-524-3330 FAX907-524-3409 [tanana@mcgrathalaska.net](mailto:tanana@mcgrathalaska.net)

### Local Government:

- ⌘ McGrath Native Village Council, Samantha Holmberg, Tribal Administrator 907-524-3024, [samamanta.holmberg@tananachiefs.org](mailto:samamanta.holmberg@tananachiefs.org)
- ⌘ City of McGrath, Natalie Baumgartner, City Administrator PH 907-524-3825, [mcgrathcityadmin@gmail.com](mailto:mcgrathcityadmin@gmail.com)

## Agencies, Organizations & Services:

- ⌘ State of Alaska
  - DOT – Airport Manager - Doug Lyman 907-524-3241
  - DNR – Division of Forestry – Seasonal – 907-524-3010
  - Fish & Game – Roger Seavoy 907-524-3323
    - Alaska State Troopers – Jack LeBlanc 907-524-3052
    - Fish & Wildlife Protection – Brett Gibbens 907-524-3222
- ⌘ Crowley Marine – Aircraft, Diesel/#1 Heating fuel & Unleaded gasoline, 907-524-3019
- ⌘ M.T.N.T. Limited (Local Native Corporation) Betty Magnuson,  
Office Manager 907-524-3391
- ⌘ Northern Air Cargo – Tanana Air 907-524-3330  
tanana@mcgrathalaska.net
- ⌘ McGrath Health Center – Dustin Parker, Manager 907-524-3299  
dparker@scf.cc
- ⌘ U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service - Innoko Wildlife Refuge –907-524-3251
- ⌘ McGrath Community Website – (Weather, Message Board, Link to Jobs listing, “Experiencing McGrath”: Community Brochure, City Newsletters, River level, Birthday and Event Calendar, etc.)  
www.mcgrathalaska.net
- ⌘ McGrath Web Cams –  
webcams.htm and <http://www.borealisbroadband.net/http://akweathercams.faa.gov/sitelist.php>  
(Southwest Alaska weather cams - 4 directions in McGrath)
- ⌘ State of Alaska Community Profile for McGrath (choose a Summary or Detailed Info request and then, “McGrath” from dropdown menu)
- ⌘ [http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/commdb/CF\\_COMDB.htm](http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/commdb/CF_COMDB.htm)



- ⌘ Alaska Commercial Company 907-524-3688 (groceries and general merchandise)
- ⌘ The Shoppe 907-524-3633 (groceries and general merchandise)




**Utilities - Locates:**

- ⌘ City of McGrath-water, sewer, landfill, washeteria, streetlights, roads, emergency services, PO Box 30, McGrath, AK 99627 907 524-3825
- ⌘ McGrath Light & Power – Dean Capaul, Power Plant Manager, PO Box 52, McGrath, AK 99627, PH 907-524-3009
- ⌘ United Utilities – Local telephone – Alex Holmberg PO Box 194, McGrath, AK 99627, 1-800-478-2020 to request services
- ⌘ McGrath Broadcasting-Cable TV – Mike/Isabelle Harrington, PO Box 164, McGrath, AK 99627 524-3873
- ⌘ Borealis Broadband – Local ISP (Internet service) – Horst Poepperl






*River Boats on the Kuskokwim, McGrath, Alaska*




1. Culture & Tradition: Do you feel there is a need for more cultural influences represented at community events?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		60.0%	12
No		33.3%	8
Maybe		20.8%	5
If so, what type of influences and during what events?			4
answered question			24
skipped question			0

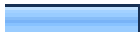

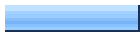
2. Culture & Tradition: Do you feel that our community would gain strength from more frequent community gatherings (i.e. picnics, potlucks), for the sole purpose of socializing? If so, how often?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		70.8%	17
No		8.3%	2
Maybe		20.8%	5
How often?:			13
answered question			24
skipped question			0

### 3. Transportation: If McGrath had a staffed auto mechanic shop, would you utilize it?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		88.8%	18
No		8.7%	2
Maybe		21.7%	5
Comment (optional):			5
answered question			23
skipped question			1



### 4. Transportation: Do you feel there is a need for a bike loan program (free to use, check-out a bicycle like you would check-out a book from the library)?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		21.7%	5
No		68.8%	13
Maybe		21.7%	5
Comment (optional):			3
answered question			23
skipped question			1

5. Economy: How important is it to reduce the cost of energy (ie, gasoline, heating oil, electricity)

	0 - Not Important at all	1	2	3	4	5 - Neutral	6	7	8	9	10 - Extremely Important
-	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	8.3% (2)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	8.3% (2)	8.3% (2)	

6. Economy: Do you support the continued development of McGrath becoming an educational hub through opportunities that provide a range of formal/training classes and hands-on sharing/learning of career, vocational, academic, cultural and traditional skills?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		91.3%	21
No		0.0%	0
Maybe		8.7%	2
Comment (optional):			2
answered question			23
skipped question			1

### 7. Economy: Would you consider using an expeditor to purchase groceries and supplies from Anchorage?

		Response Percent	Response Count
	Yes	64.2%	13
	No	8.3%	2
	Maybe	37.5%	9
Comment (optional):			5
answered question			24
skipped question			0

### 8. Economy: Do you feel McGrath is suffering from a lack of jobs or workforce?

		Response Percent	Response Count
	Jobs	28.6%	6
	Workforce	19.0%	4
	Both	67.1%	12
What do you believe are areas of potential job growth and/or workforce development?			9

### 9. Economy: Are you worried about the possibility of agencies leaving McGrath?

		Response Percent	Response Count
	Yes	68.6%	13
	No	34.8%	8
	Maybe	8.7%	2
If so, what do you believe McGrath could do to encourage them to stay?			9
answered question			23
skipped question			1

## Critical Issues #2



1. Economy: Do you feel that you would benefit from and utilize alternative forms of energy (i.e. biomass, solar, wind, geothermal, etc.) if they were available to you?

		Response Percent	Response Count
	Yes	81.8%	21
	No	4.3%	1
	Maybe	4.3%	1
Comment (optional):			7
answered question			23
skipped question			0

2. Economy: Do you feel McGrath should pursue community self-reliance and sustainability so that we aren't as dependent upon necessities (i.e. imported fuels, foods, diesel generated electric power)?

		Response Percent	Response Count
	Yes	78.3%	18
	No	8.7%	2
	Maybe	13.0%	3
Comment (optional):			3
answered question			23
skipped question			0



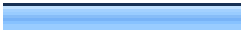

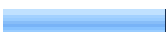
### 3. Public Facilities: Would you purchase locally grown food produced from gardeners, farmers or a community greenhouse?

		Response Percent	Response Count
<div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> </div>	Yes	<div><div></div></div>	82.6% 18
	No	<div><div></div></div>	0.0% 0
	Maybe	<div><div></div></div>	21.7% 5
If so, what produce would you purchase?			8
answered question			23
skipped question			0



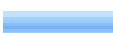
### 4. Public Facilities: Would you or a friend/relative benefit from an Assisted Living Center?

		Response Percent	Response Count
<div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> </div>	Yes	<div><div></div></div>	40.9% 9
	No	<div><div></div></div>	31.8% 7
	Maybe	<div><div></div></div>	31.8% 7
Comment (optional):			2
answered question			22
skipped question			1

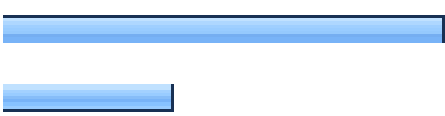
**5. Public Facilities: Do you feel McGrath needs another holding cell in the jail (to separate men/women and adults/juveniles)?**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		40.8%	8
No		31.8%	7
Maybe		27.3%	6
Comment (optional):			4
answered question			22
skipped question			1

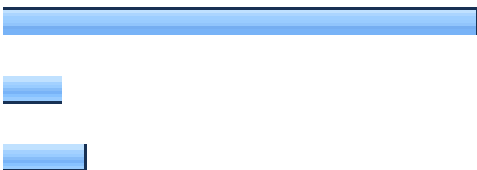
**6. Public Facilities: Do you feel McGrath needs a Visitor's Center operated by a newly established Chamber of Commerce/Tourism Council to promote our community to agencies, industries, tourists and potential new residents?**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		33.3%	7
No		47.6%	10
Maybe		19.0%	4
Comment (optional):			5
answered question			21
skipped question			2




### 7. Public Facilities: Do you feel Anderson Park is in need of improvements/repairs?

		Response Percent	Response Count
	Yes	72.7%	18
	No	27.3%	6
	Maybe	0.0%	0
If so, what improvements or repairs?			6
answered question			22
skipped question			1




### 8. Wellness & Safety: Do you feel McGrath needs a VPSO to enforce local laws and provide assistance to the Troopers?

		Response Percent	Response Count
	Yes	78.3%	18
	No	8.7%	2
	Maybe	13.0%	3
Why?			10
answered question			23
skipped question			0




**9. Wellness & Safety: Do you feel McGrath needs more school or community organized sports and activities for our children?**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		81.0%	17
No		14.3%	3
Maybe		4.8%	1
If so, which sports or activities?			7
answered question			21
skipped question			2

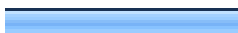
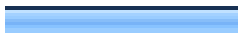

**10. Housing: Do you feel McGrath needs more energy-efficient affordable housing?**

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		68.2%	16
No		18.2%	4
Maybe		13.6%	3
Comment (optional):			6
answered question			22
skipped question			1




1. Housing: Do you feel there is a need to have any updated information shared with the community regarding smart construction practices in our climate ("Best Practices" in Rural Alaska Building Construction, Cold Climate Housing Research Center)?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		81.8%	18
No		9.1%	2
Maybe		9.1%	2
Comment (optional):			3
answered question			22
skipped question			0

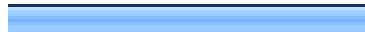


2. Land: Do you feel McGrath needs a new cemetery on high ground out of the floodplain (Cranberry Ridge)?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		38.1%	8
No		38.1%	8
Maybe		23.8%	5
Comment (optional):			4
answered question			21
skipped question			1

3. Land: Do you feel McGrath needs to begin creating road access and utility infrastructure on City, MTNT and privately owned land on Cranberry Ridge that will naturally promote the growth, development and gradual migration of McGrath?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		71.4%	16
No		9.5%	2
Maybe		19.0%	4
Comment (optional):			2
answered question			21
skipped question			1

4. Land: Do you feel McGrath should pursue a road to the Donlin Gas Pipeline (closest point to McGrath, between the west side of the Alaska Range at Farewell to Donlin Creek Mine) for the purpose of tapping into and purchasing natural gas?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		68.1%	13
No		27.3%	6
Maybe		13.6%	3
Comment (optional):			6
answered question			22
skipped question			0



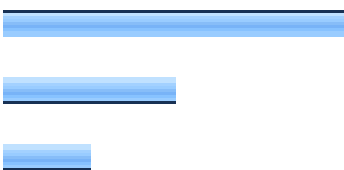
**5. Land: Do you feel McGrath needs to develop more trails and trail patches (ATV, snowmachine, XC Skiing, dogsled, bike)?**

		Response Percent	Response Count
<div> <div></div> <div></div> </div>	Yes	28.6%	6
	No	62.4%	11
	Maybe	19.0%	4
Comment (optional):			4
answered question			21
skipped question			1

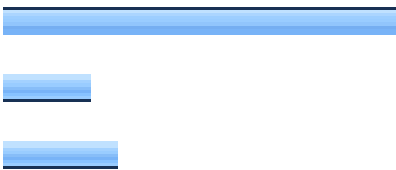
**6. Environment: Do you feel McGrath needs to continue to pursue projects that will help to mitigate the erosion of our river banks?**

		Response Percent	Response Count
<div> <div></div> <div></div> </div>	Yes	78.2%	18
	No	9.5%	2
	Maybe	14.3%	3
Comment (optional):			2
answered question			21
skipped question			1

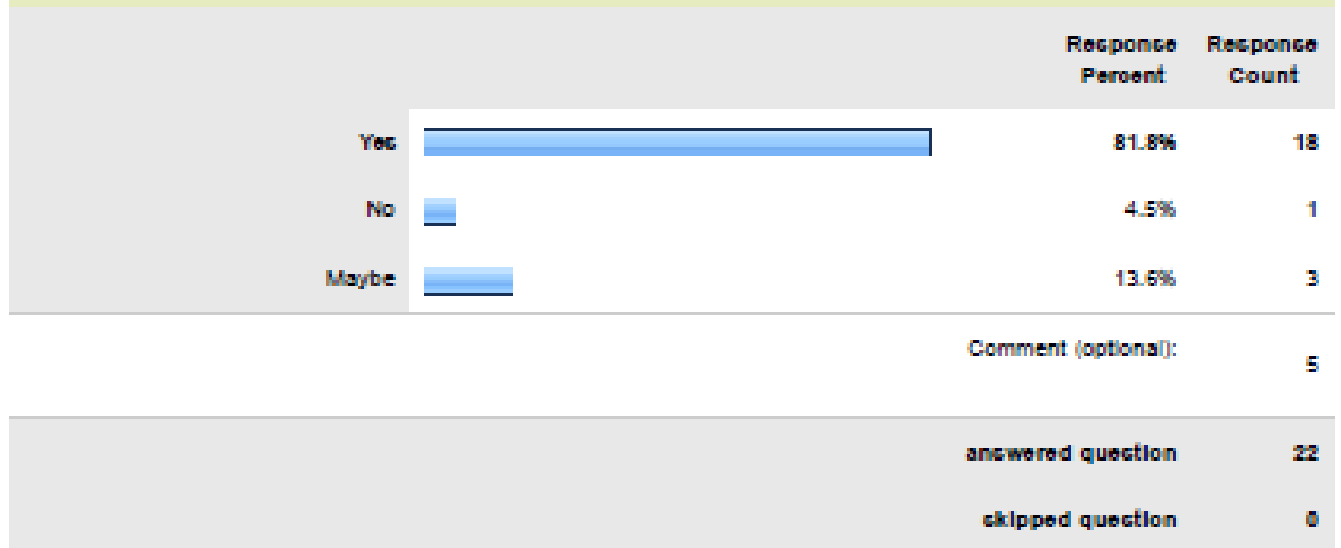
**7. Environment: Do you feel that it is necessary for McGrath to pursue the testing of our ground water quality for those that have wells?**

		Response Percent	Response Count
	Yes	67.1%	12
	No	28.6%	6
	Maybe	14.3%	3
Comment (optional):			3
answered question			21
skipped question			1

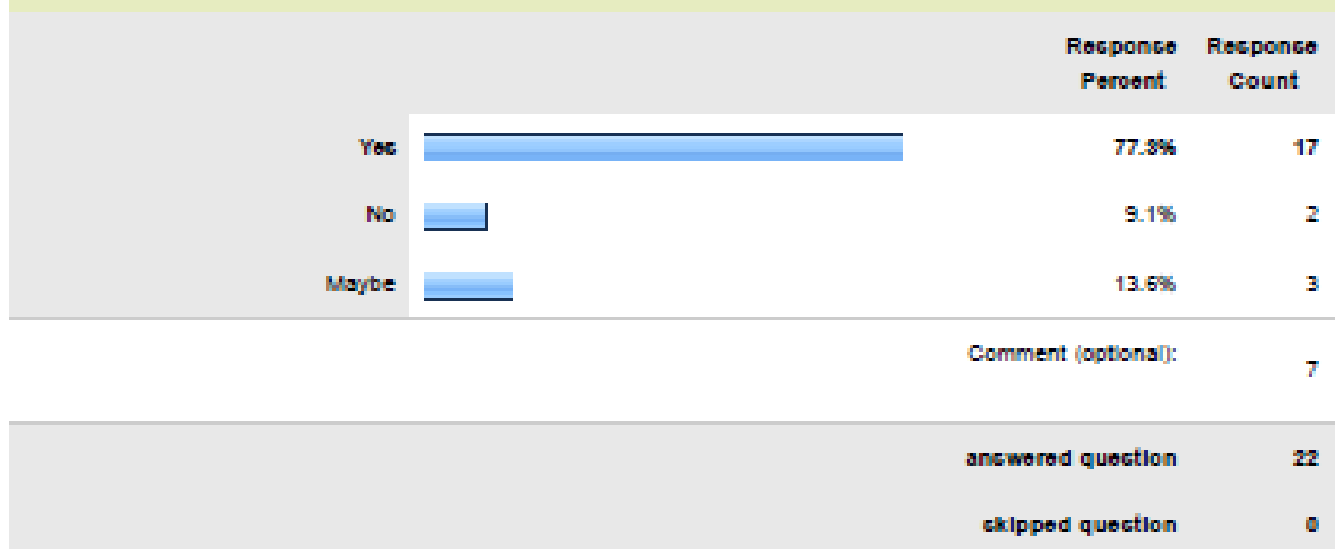
**8. Education: Do you feel McGrath would benefit from a local IASD residential high school?**

		Response Percent	Response Count
	Yes	88.7%	14
	No	14.3%	3
	Maybe	19.0%	4
Comment (optional):			4
answered question			21
skipped question			1

**9. Education: Do you feel McGrath students should have increased educational alternatives that focus on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math?**



**10. Education: Do you feel McGrath students need more extracurricular activities and sports which allow them to compete and interact with other students on a regional and state level?**



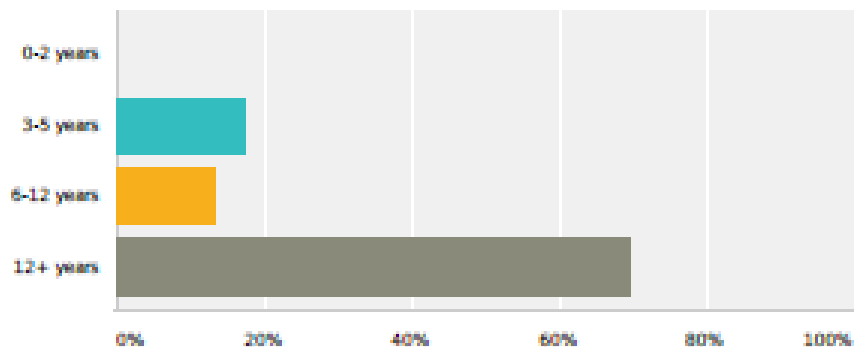
## Q1 What makes McGrath a special place to live?

Answered: 21 Skipped: 2

#	Responses	Date
1	It's beautiful. McGrath kind of feels like a family, in the sense that there are people to help when it's really needed.	3/4/2013 10:15 AM
2	It's a place where my husband is from. It is a place where we can raise our children in a environment of a very large family systems, but not being actual family relations by genes. Its tight knit with its ups more than downs. Year around, it the most beautiful place.	2/28/2013 3:31 PM
3	Having the support of the community is special in many ways.	2/21/2013 11:16 PM
4	Family, and life long friends, the freedom, peacefulness, away from the race of the city, no stop lights, all the mosquito's, Hunting	2/21/2013 10:59 PM
5	The unique quality of the people.	2/21/2013 8:19 PM
6	The wilderness. It is small in population so you know everyone. People rally to help neighbors in crisis.	2/21/2013 8:08 PM
7	The beauty of the geographical location, wide variety of things to do, good people/friendly community and the potential to be self-sustaining through local renewable resources - foods gathered, hunted, grown, fished; fuels for heat and electricity and outstanding human resources.	2/21/2013 7:44 PM
8	Opportunity for independence and freedom from over regulation by government- to some degree.	2/21/2013 6:47 PM
9	Freedom the beauty rural lifestyle	2/21/2013 6:25 PM
10	Small population Difficult access	2/21/2013 5:05 PM
11	The small town community feeling, the remoteness and beauty of its surroundings.	2/21/2013 3:42 PM
12	We know each other. Even if we don't like each other we help each other. It is beautiful.	2/21/2013 2:49 PM
13	Nothing	2/21/2013 2:34 PM
14	Ultimately the people, but also: the immediate access to the outdoors; native lifestyle/traditions; ability to live a relatively self-sufficient lifestyle; unique area history; and abundant amenities (including city water/sewer, Tochak Historical Society, the Library, LED street lights, a cafe, and good coffee)	2/21/2013 1:50 PM
15	The community is very tight and supportive.	2/21/2013 12:52 PM
16	Riding bikes down dirt roads to get to meetings or to work. Quiet environment. Opportunities to get involved in just about any aspect of the community.	2/21/2013 12:48 PM
17	Isolation & freedom to do basically what you want without government looking over your shoulder!	2/21/2013 12:22 PM
18	It is not anchorage/lower 48	2/21/2013 12:16 PM
19	Isolation	2/21/2013 11:56 AM
20	Everyone cares and look out for each other.	2/21/2013 11:52 AM
21	The people are the best! We rally together to support each other. We are living in and around nature. It's beautiful.	2/21/2013 11:48 AM

## Q2 How long have you lived in McGrath?

Answered: 23 Skipped: 0



### Q3 What do you hope McGrath looks like in 20 years?

Answered: 22 Skipped: 1

#	Responses	Date
1	Hopefully an increase in the population. Maybe with paved or gravel roads. Maybe a road from Anchorage.	3/4/2013 10:15 AM
2	I would like to the economy be supported by the cost of living. I hate saying it, but a road system in which would bring our prices down and costs of transportation in and out of village. More opportunities in our school, education, job related skills training and technical support.	2/28/2013 3:31 PM
3	More famiyls and more long term residents...and a top notch school.	2/21/2013 11:16 PM
4	A road system, bring some of the living costs down, stimulate the economy,	2/21/2013 10:59 PM
5	Prosperous with personal, small businesses started by local people.	2/21/2013 8:19 PM
6	Double the present population but not many people more than that. Energy efficient buildings heated and powered by local renewable resources, especially advanced river hydro-power.	2/21/2013 8:08 PM
7	A thriving, vibrant community with lots of activity. One that no longer has to rely on most everything being imported. The showcase of villages in rural AK where people come from the far corners of Alaska, the lower 48 and other continents to see and learn the innovations that have been put into practice in McGrath.	2/21/2013 7:44 PM
8	Palm trees, sandy beaches, warm winds and less people. Beside that, I took a survey 15 yrs. ago asking the same question and in reality it is still very much the same. I think what you are asking, is "how will McGrath be changed within 20 years?" In my experience change is affected by someone or something. Basically, if you change you need to have someone to take charge of the change otherwise nothing gets done. But in our case we need to know what changes are good for the community and then gain consensus on those items and appoint someone (very important) to follow through on those items until the goal has been achieved or proven to be unfeasible. I don't think this has ever been done in McGrath and what you guys are doing could get us there.	2/21/2013 6:47 PM
9	Healthy families	2/21/2013 6:25 PM
10	Smaller than it is now	2/21/2013 5:05 PM
11	I would like to think that the population would boom again, which would include school system improvements and more opportunities for school age kids. It would also have to lead to more employment opportunities in order to have a population boom. I like how it was 15 years ago!	2/21/2013 3:42 PM
12	A little more populated.	2/21/2013 2:49 PM
13	The same	2/21/2013 2:24 PM
14	A place where it is obvious that people take pride in their community and their culture. Where children thrive as part of a caring community, and ultimately want to return to raise their families. A thriving library that serves as a community hub. Renown for having one of the best small museums in Alaska. A creative, dynamic education system founded on the unique cultural background of the area, which also inspires a love of learning by teaching from/in nature. A road that is not a health hazard. A network of groomed ski trails, especially in the sand island area. An efficient, beautifully designed city building (that also houses the library) with lots of natural light & materials, and faces the river (dream big right?) :)	2/21/2013 1:50 PM
15	A very close community with very successful local people.	2/21/2013 12:52 PM
16	Dirt roads with dust control. Lots of planned activities for local youth and children playing outside. Trees still growing along the roadside.	2/21/2013 12:48 PM
17	Less people as times get tougher government shutting down ex bureau etc.	2/21/2013 12:22 PM
18	a safe and somewhat affordable place to live.	2/21/2013 12:16 PM
19	better economy to where the younger folks will be able to live here; a lot of them have moved away over the years	2/21/2013 12:14 PM
20	More people, more jobs, lower cost of living	2/21/2013 11:56 AM

## Q4 What do you believe are the most critical issues currently facing McGrath?

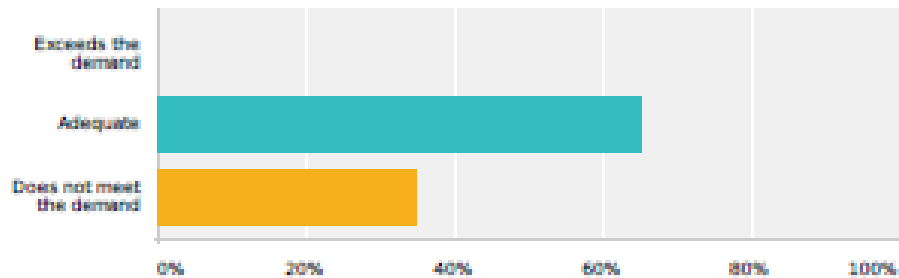
Answered: 22 Skipped: 1

#	Responses	Date
1	Cost of living	3/4/2013 10:15 AM
2	Our roads-dust control, river pollution, school opportunities for technical upgrades, more updated preparations for the real world new technology for our youth, suicide awareness, electricity upgrades with solar panels and renewable energy. Transportation upgrades, possible road systems to neighboring villages somehow.	2/28/2013 3:31 PM
3	The school needs work...lot of our kids leave for a better education...need more community events and more jobs	2/21/2013 11:16 PM
4	High price of living, alcohol, no other outlet for recreation	2/21/2013 10:59 PM
5	Cost of heating fuel, regular fuel, living expenses and transportation for goods sent to McGrath via air, and barge.	2/21/2013 8:19 PM
6	Ned for well being and healthy attitudes among the youth. Transportation costs; fuel, air freight and air fares.	2/21/2013 8:08 PM
7	1. High cost of living; mostly due to our reliance on -- or services affected by highly priced imported fuels, foods, and many other commodities that could be created locally through sustainable, renewable methods. 2. Erosion control; without continued construction, the cobow on which McGrath is located will erode to the point that we no longer have much of a community in the floodplain. Solution? More growth on high ground, i.e. Cranberry Ridge. 3. Alcohol abuse and the community's blind eye toward the problem and every sort of negative issue caused by such abuse. 4. Lack of hope or a vision that there can and will be change and development within the community for the children and those in the future.	2/21/2013 7:44 PM
8	Consensus building, commitment, problem solving.	2/21/2013 6:47 PM
9	Cost of living	2/21/2013 6:25 PM
10	Energy costs	2/21/2013 5:05 PM
11	School system and lack of opportunities for kids, lack of employment opportunities, and lack of self motivated individuals.	2/21/2013 3:42 PM
12	1. Youth with no training, poor education, and little to no work ethic. 2. High rate of alcoholism 3. Aging population with great skills, knowledge and ideas but...see #1 4. Rising cost of living	2/21/2013 2:49 PM
13	Fuel prices	2/21/2013 2:24 PM
14	Old disintegrating water and sewer lines as well as an outdated water plant, barely limping along. Price of electricity and gas. Declining school numbers and opportunities. Apathy. Feuds between families and neighbors.	2/21/2013 1:50 PM
15	Underage drinking and drug abuse.	2/21/2013 12:52 PM
16	Alcoholism, child abuse/neglect, lack of job opportunities for young people in which they learn practical job skills: responsibility, being on time, self-improvement, etc.	2/21/2013 12:48 PM
17	to develop utilities for those living and wanting to live on cranberry ridge	2/21/2013 12:22 PM
18	rising fuel/electrical cost.	2/21/2013 12:16 PM
19	Price of fuel makes everything go up except wages	2/21/2013 12:14 PM
20	The cost of living fuel, food, freight, utilities...everything!	2/21/2013 11:56 AM
21	People without jobs.	2/21/2013 11:52 AM
22	Everything costs too much! Groceries, gas, electricity, cords of wood... way to expensive. We need to help those who are suffering from drug/alcohol abuse. And help those who are suicidal.	2/21/2013 11:48 AM



### Q5 How would you rate the availability of housing in McGrath?

Answered: 23 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses
<b>Exceeds the demand</b>	0%
<b>Adequate</b>	65.22%
<b>Does not meet the demand</b>	34.78%
Total Respondents: 23	

Comment (optional): ( 10 )

#	Comment (optional):	Date
1	There are slim to no options for people who want to permanently settle in McGrath. The housing that is available is in poor condition and over priced for what it is.	3/4/2013 10:18 AM
2	Lack of housing for people moving to McG is limited.	2/21/2013 8:22 PM
3	Many vacant "houses" are not habitable. There is a lack of energy efficient, affordable housing.	2/21/2013 7:50 PM
4	Seems to be several houses for sale. If you considering government funded housing, we should consider the effect on those trying to sell their house. What ever housing project considered, I feel in should include houses available for sale be private parties.	2/21/2013 7:04 PM
5	Young people can't afford rent here	2/21/2013 6:26 PM
6	But not if we want an increase in population.	2/21/2013 5:46 PM
7	The problem is not availability but viability. There is no one to fix anything.	2/21/2013 2:54 PM
8	If people have low standards and don't mind doing fixes.	2/21/2013 12:48 PM
9	Elder housing is a must, instead of going to the city.	2/21/2013 11:53 AM
10	I think there is enough housing. Maybe more housing would make people want to move here though.	2/21/2013 11:49 AM

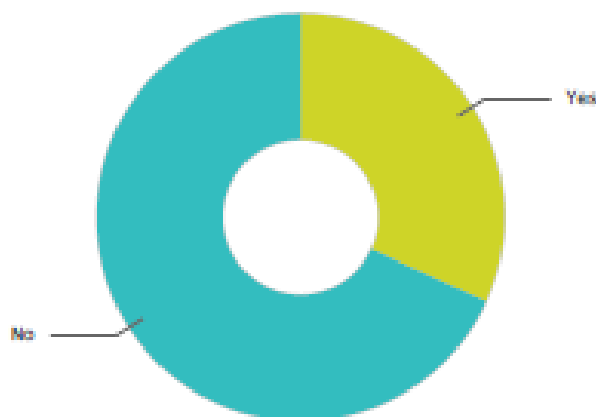
**Q6 In the next 5 years, what would you like to see happen to improve the condition/availability of housing?**

Answered: 22 Skipped: 1

#	Responses	Date
1	Lots available with access to water and electricity.	3/4/2013 10:18 AM
2	Sewer upgrades, weatherization, removal of mold. Build apartment building for people that work part time seasonal, offer for small families, single people and visitors.	2/28/2013 3:36 PM
3	More houses for rent at a decent rate	2/21/2013 11:17 PM
4	Not sure	2/21/2013 11:03 PM
5	Have HUD or another entity build homes for local people and rental unit(s) such as an apartment building.	2/21/2013 8:22 PM
6	Continued weatherization projects.	2/21/2013 8:10 PM
7	Innovative approaches: A series of "tiny houses" that are compact and energy efficient and suitable for a single or couple, a couple of multi-family small apartment or condo buildings to make economical use of heating and insulation resources. I'd also like to see Teacher and VPSO housing constructed through grants from AHFC.	2/21/2013 7:50 PM
8	Consider buying materials in large bulk orders at reduced cost and negotiate shipping costs to lower the overall cost of materials. This could also create a business for someone.	2/21/2013 7:04 PM
9	More housing units like HUD housing to make it easier on the young people to purchase a house	2/21/2013 6:26 PM
10	Building codes	2/21/2013 5:06 PM
11	I would like to see additional housing units to supplement a boom or renovation of housing that remains unoccupied.	2/21/2013 3:46 PM
12	Get in some new folks, who don't mind working and have some skills	2/21/2013 2:54 PM
13	Sell my house	2/21/2013 2:25 PM
14	MTNT (or other entity) builds a nice low-income apartment complex. It would help teachers, elders, and those without a steady source of income.	2/21/2013 1:55 PM
15	The cost of fuel and electricity to go down.	2/21/2013 12:57 PM
16	The price of housing rise so that it is practical for people to build a quality building that they could sell later and get their money back. Definitely NOT have government money (our tax dollars) subsidize more housing.	2/21/2013 12:48 PM
17	really nothing	2/21/2013 12:23 PM
18	rehab. of existing housing for more energy efficiency.	2/21/2013 12:17 PM
19	something to make people move here railroad road to Kantishna????	2/21/2013 12:17 PM
20	nothing	2/21/2013 11:57 AM
21	not sure.	2/21/2013 11:53 AM
22	They should build affordable housing. Maybe an apartment building.	2/21/2013 11:49 AM

## Q7 Does McGrath have adequate housing for elders?

Answered: 22 Skipped: 1



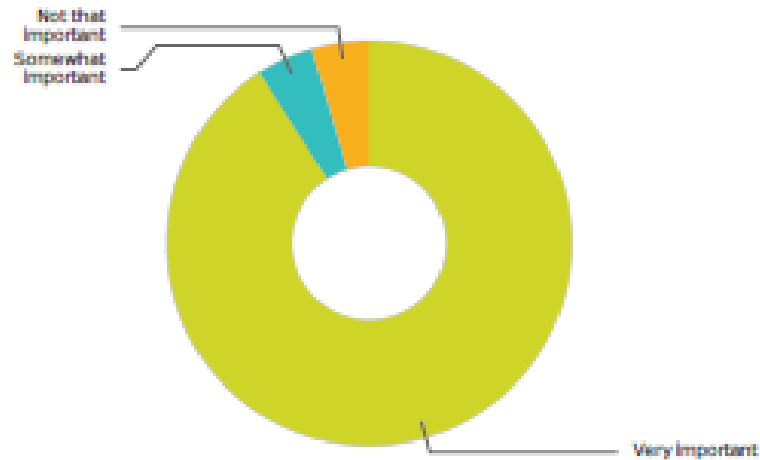
Answer Choices	Responses
<b>Yes</b>	<b>31.82%</b> 7
<b>No</b>	<b>68.18%</b> 15
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>

Comment (optional): ( 9 )

#	Comment (optional):	Date
1	our elders homes need work	2/21/2013 11:17 PM
2	I dont know	2/21/2013 11:03 PM
3	Not in the assisted living category.	2/21/2013 8:10 PM
4	McGrath has already identified the need for a group home for elders that could be funded through grants to SCF and the City.	2/21/2013 7:50 PM
5	I am an elder and I don't see anyplace I would want to be put in. Again, this question came up 15-20 years ago. We are no better off now. Its seems the big problem is stability in funding to maintain the facility.	2/21/2013 7:04 PM
6	Again - there is no one to fix anything andd few people either willing or who have the time to fix stuff or supply elders with wood, transportation etc. Many people think we should have an assisted living facility for elders. Problem is - ask thoswee same folks (or any elders.) if they would live there themselves and they will tell you - no.	2/21/2013 2:54 PM
7	See question 6 or perhaps McGrath could build an elder housing facility to keep more of our elders here	2/21/2013 1:55 PM
8	The very fact that housing is provided is a plus.	2/21/2013 12:48 PM
9	Elder housing or a assisted living home should be provided	2/21/2013 11:57 AM

**Q8 Please indicate how important the cost of electricity is in your ability to continue living in your community?**

Answered: 22 Skipped: 1



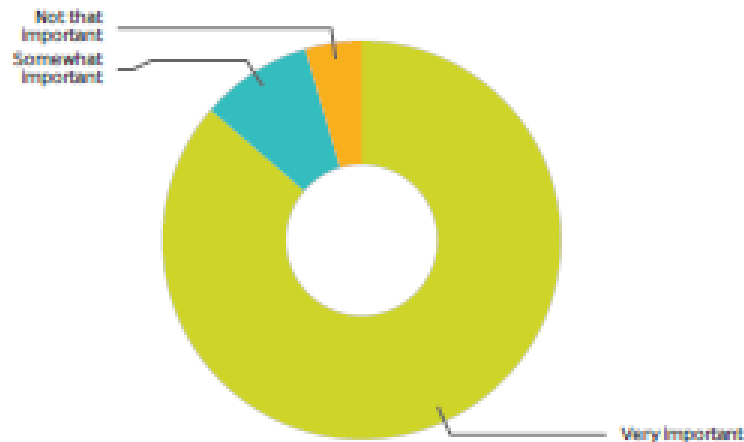
Answer Choices	Responses
<b>Very Important</b>	<b>90.91%</b> 20
<b>Somewhat Important</b>	<b>4.55%</b> 1
<b>Not that Important</b>	<b>4.55%</b> 1
Total	22

Comment (optional): ( 7 )

#	Comment (optional):	Date
1	In town it's cheap compared to McGrath	2/21/2013 11:08 PM
2	A fair price, but if we continue to use imported fossil fuel to generate electricity, the rates will have to continue to climb. Renewable energy sources on individual and community levels must be developed.	2/21/2013 7:55 PM
3	It is not just my ability to live in the community, it is McGrath ability to attract any industry or businesses to our town. Aside from government paycheck it is businesses and industry that will make our community continue to click.	2/21/2013 7:08 PM
4	Invest in solar	2/21/2013 1:58 PM
5	On a retirement budget, with utility costs calculated to fit that budget, it may become too costly to live here.	2/21/2013 12:50 PM
6	TOO Expensive.	2/21/2013 11:54 AM
7	So expensive!!!!	2/21/2013 11:50 AM

**Q9 Please indicate how important the cost of heating is in your ability to continue living in your community?**

Answered: 22 Skipped: 1



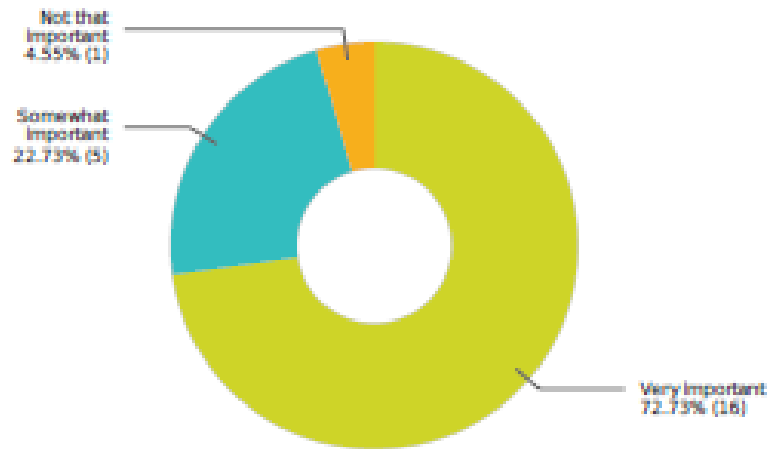
Answer Choices	Responses
Very Important	86.36% 19
Somewhat Important	9.09% 2
Not that Important	4.55% 1
Total	22

Comment (optional): ( 10 )

#	Comment (optional):	Date
1	Areas to get wood that aren't on someone else's "spot" are not easily located. This means that if someone does not know where to get wood at, then they have to pay for wood, which is also very expensive. The cost of fuel for toys is expensive.	3/4/2013 10:21 AM
2	again cheap in town, its nice to be able just to turn the thermostat up	2/21/2013 11:06 PM
3	only because I gather my own firewood.	2/21/2013 8:13 PM
4	The cost of heating a building is critical. This can be lowered by using locally available renewable resources, conservation measures and improved cold-climate construction.	2/21/2013 7:55 PM
5	Comment 8	2/21/2013 7:08 PM
6	Use wood we gather ourselves, helps a lot	2/21/2013 6:27 PM
7	Price of gas can impact ability to get firewood	2/21/2013 1:58 PM
8	On a retirement budget, with utility costs calculated to fit that budget, it may become too costly to live here.	2/21/2013 12:50 PM
9	VERY Expensive	2/21/2013 11:54 AM
10	So expensive!!!!	2/21/2013 11:50 AM

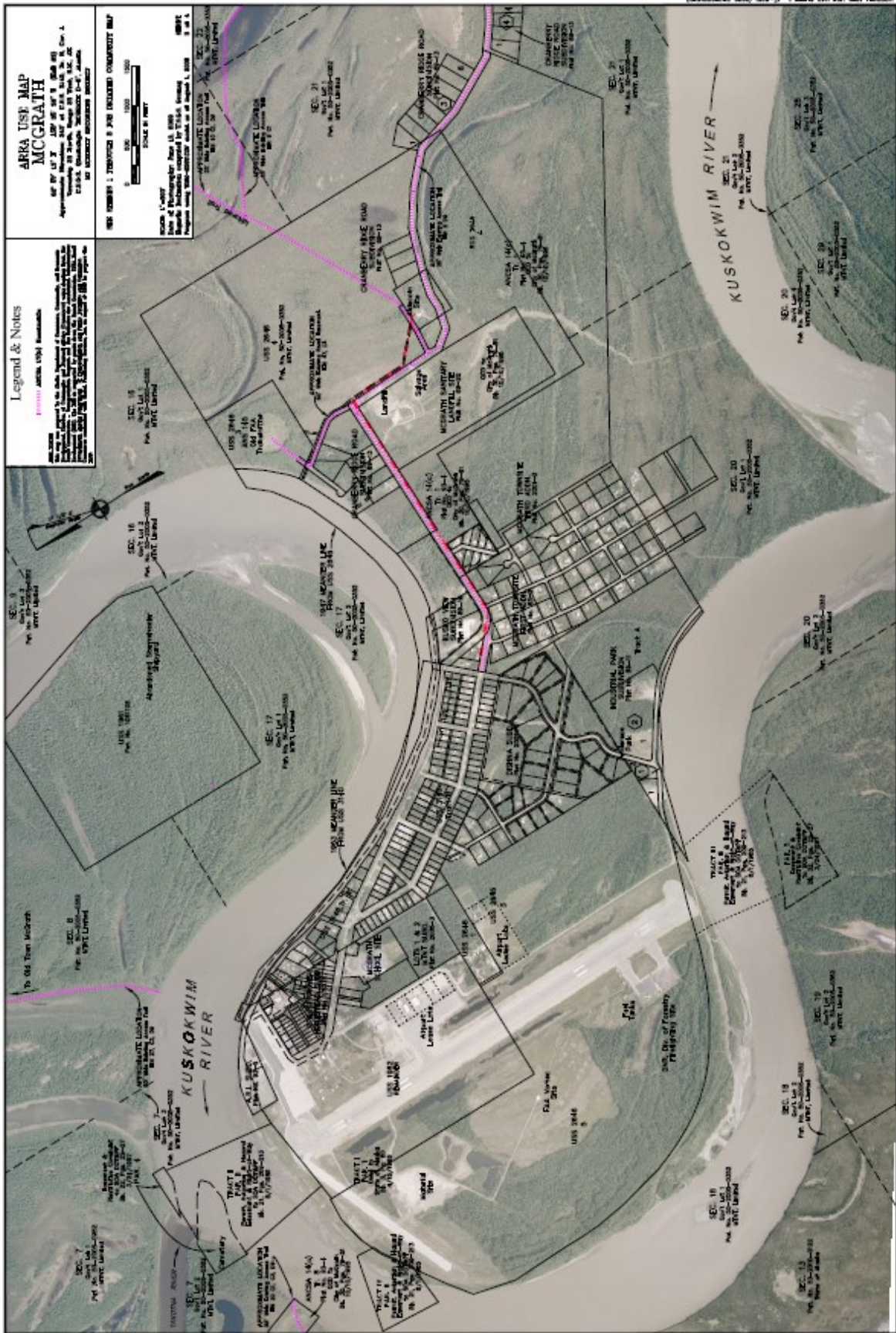
**Q10 Please indicate how important the cost of gasoline is in your ability to continue living in your community?**

Answered: 22 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses	
Very Important	72.73%	16
Somewhat Important	22.73%	5
Not that Important	4.55%	1
Total		22
Comment (optional): ( 10 )		

#	Comment (optional):	Date
1	Gasoline prices are getting incredibly high.	3/4/2013 10:21 AM
2	Its insanely high in mcg	2/21/2013 11:06 PM
3	I ride a bike but use vehicles to transport goods.	2/21/2013 8:23 PM
4	Because of our wilderness lifestyle and subsistence, gasoline is a critical component.	2/21/2013 8:13 PM
5	Although many can use low-cost modes of transportation, outboards and vehicles used to harvest our food sources and to get firewood are critical to the community.	2/21/2013 7:55 PM
6	comment 8	2/21/2013 7:08 PM
7	McGrath is a fairly walkable community but the price does limit hunting, fishing, and trapping	2/21/2013 1:58 PM
8	On a retirement budget, with utility costs calculated to fit that budget, it may become too costly to live here.	2/21/2013 12:50 PM
9	VERY Expensive	2/21/2013 11:54 AM
10	So expensive!!!!	2/21/2013 11:50 AM











McGrath Native Village Council

PO Box 134

McGrath, Alaska 99627

City of McGrath

PO Box 30

McGrath, Alaska 99627

**Joint Resolution 13-01**

**Resolution Adopting McGrath Community Plan**

**Whereas**, this community plan is important to the future growth and development of McGrath, Alaska ;  
and,

**Whereas**, this plan was created through a public process which captured the values and goals of our  
community: and,

**Whereas**, this plan is a tool that helps us manage change in our community; and,

**Whereas**, this plan is intended to coordinate future community development and service delivery; and,

**Whereas**; we ask all public, private, and non-profit entities serving our community to recognize and use  
this plan; and,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the parties of this resolution agree to work together to pursue  
the values, goals, and vision express in this plan.

**CERTIFICATION**

The Resolution was duly considered and adopted by the McGrath Native Village Council on the  
13 day of August, 2013 by a vote of 4 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 absent.

Signed: Betty Magnuson  
Betty Magnuson, First Chief

Attest: Samantha Holmberg  
Samantha Holmberg, Tribal Administrator

This Resolution **passed** and **approved** by the McGrath City Council this 25<sup>th</sup> day of June 2013 by a vote of  
4 AYES and 0 NAYS.

Mayor Douglas P. Lyman  
Douglas P Lyman

Attest Crystal Holmberg  
Crystal Holmberg, City Clerk

