

NENANA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

WHERE THE RIVER MEETS THE CROSSROADS OF THE INTERIOR

2013-2018

**PREPARED BY NENANA RESIDENTS WITH ASSISTANCE FROM
TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE COMMUNITY PLANNING PROGRAM**



Nenana Native Village

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**Nenana Native Village
Toghotthele Corporation
Nenana City Schools and City of Nenana**

Resolution 2013-0017

Nenana Community Development Plan 2013-2018

WHEREAS, the Nenana Native Village is the federally recognized governing body for the village of Nenana, AK.

WHEREAS, the Nenana Native Village would like to adopt the Nenana Community Development Plan 2013-2018.

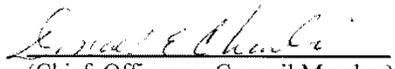
WHEREAS, the Nenana Native Village fully supports and recognizes the Nenana Community Development Plan 2013-2018.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Nenana Native Village hereby addresses and supports the Nenana Community Development Plan 2013-2018.

DULY ADOPTED, this 16th day of May 2013.

CERTIFICATION

This certifies that the above resolution was duly adopted at a convened meeting of the Nenana Native Village Tribal Council at which time a quorum was present. This resolution was adopted by a vote of ___ for, and _0_ against, with ___ abstaining.


(Chief Officer, or Council Member)
Nenana Native Village Council

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NENANA'S VISION FOR A HEALTHY & VIBRANT COMMUNITY

In a healthy and vibrant community of Nenana;

- Anyone who wants to work has a job,
- There are effective solutions to issues of abuse available (substance abuse, domestic abuse, and sexual abuse),
- Public Safety and Public Services are adequate and well supported,
- There is adequate physical and mental healthcare available,
- People take personal responsibility of their own wellbeing,
- There are culturally relevant recreational opportunities,
- The community is actively engaged in the life-long educational process,
- We like ourselves, care for, and support each other,
- There are opportunities for spiritual enrichment
- There is a responsive justice system with open communication,
- Diversity is celebrated,
- Resources are appropriately managed for the benefit of all generations.



PLANNING PROCESS

Date	Meeting Title	Attendance
September 27 th , 2011	Pre-planning consultation meeting	10
November 22 nd , 2011	Nenana Quarterly Community meeting: Project Announcement	112
April 10 th , 2012	Nenana Community Planning Kick-Off Meeting	19
May 14 th , 2012	Nenana Economic Development	9
June 11 th , 2012	Nenana Housing and Community Infrastructure	7
July 16 th , 2012	Nenana Quarterly Community Meeting: Project update and survey distribution	
August 14 th , 2012	Vocational Education	16
October 10 th , 2012	Community Health & Wellness	21
November 5 th , 2012	Review Session	6
December 31, 2012	Draft Plan Distributed	Community Gathering
March 26 th , 2013	Review Session	10
May 16 th , 2013	Nenana Native Council passes resolution adopting plan & endorsed by City Council, Toghothle Village Corp. and School	

The 2013-2023 Nenana Community Planning Project first began in September 2011 when representatives from the Nenana Native Council, City of Nenana, Nenana City School District, and Railbelt Mental Health gathered to discuss the scope of work and planning focus areas for the Nenana Community Planning Project. The Nenana Community Planning Project was introduced to Nenana community members at the Nenana Quarterly meeting that was held on November 11th, 2011 with over 100 attendees. At the November 2011 meeting, Nenana residents share their ideas on what made living in Nenana a special place to live, what they hoped would *never* change about Nenana, what they *would* like to see change in 5 years, and finally what the most critical issues facing Nenana were. Based on the



November 15 Nenana Quarterly Community Meeting

In five years in Nenana I want to see job creation, utilisation of existing resources, biomass, greater self-sufficiency through agriculture and natural resources, less drinking and drug abuse, a police force, repairs to the school, greater support for kids, a healthier community

One thing I hope will change in Nenana is the high unemployment rate, lack of low skilled/entry level jobs, lack of industry, substance and alcohol abuse, disinterest in getting involved or supporting community development efforts.

Something that makes Nenana a special place to live is the friends, we all know each other, community gatherings, care for one another, our culture, its location, closeness to the river, the people

One thing I hope never changes in Nenana is the sense of community, small town character, respect for one another, caring attitudes, unique culture, and closeness and reliance on our natural resources...

Setting a direction for Nenana's future:

Some of the most critical issues facing Nenana are the lack of commerce, economic base and job opportunities, limited availability of affordable housing, drugs and alcohol, high cost of fuel and energy, lack of police presence, assistance for elders, good examples for children

information gathered from both the initial September gathering and input from Nenana residents focus areas for the Nenana Community Planning Project began to emerge.

On April 10th 2012, the first Nenana community planning meeting was held. At this meeting five specific focus areas were identified for the Nenana Planning Project. These included Economic Development, Education, Housing, Community Infrastructure, and Community Health and Wellness.

On May 14th 2012, residents discussed Nenana economic development priorities and completed a basic analysis of Nenana's economy through which they highlighted the drivers behind Nenana's economy, missed economic opportunities, barriers to economic development, and local businesses.

On June 11th 2012, residents discussed housing and infrastructure priorities. The economic development, housing, and infrastructure priorities that were identified at these two meetings were used to create the Nenana Community Development Survey that was distributed at the July 16th, 2012 Nenana Quarterly meeting. Results from this survey are included throughout the Nenana Community Development Plan.

On August 14th, residents discussed vocational education priorities utilizing the information gathered from the community development survey. Based on responses two questions in the survey it became apparent that community health and wellness encompassed nearly every facet of the community.

1. What do you think are the most important factors of a healthy community?
2. What are your top 3 health and wellness concerns in Nenana?

On October 10th, residents took a closer look at the responses to the surveys. After organizing the responses into categories based on the similarities of each response, participants in the October 10th meeting developed statements that summarized each category. Once these

Nenana Community Planning Meeting
Where: Chief Demientieff Tribal Hall
When: Tuesday October 10th, at 5:30

You are invited to participate in the Nenana community planning work session to give input on Nenana community priorities.

NENANA PLANNING FOCUS AREAS

- Economic Development- May 14th
- Infrastructure Development- June 11th
- Housing- June 11th
- Youth & Adult Education- August 14th
- Health & Wellness

TUESDAY

- ◊ Review questions
- ◊ Cater
- ◊ Identify

August 14th

Objective #1: Create education and job training opportunities

Actions:

- Identify potential
- Identify staff
- Nenana Native
- the Nenana School
- Identify the

Objective #2: Promote growth both in Nenana and in the surrounding area

Growth areas for the community:

- General Job Training
- Health Care Services
- Construction
- Oil & Gas Support
- Small Business

Nenana Community Planning Meeting
Where: Chief Demientieff Tribal Hall
When: Monday June 11th at 5:30 PM

You are invited to participate in the Nenana community planning work session to give input on Nenana community priorities.

NENANA PLANNING FOCUS AREAS

- Economic Development
- Community Development
- Housing
- Education (Early Head Start, Youth, & Adult)
- Health & Wellness

Monday June 11th MEETING OBJECTIVES

- ◊ Review housing concerns and identify housing priorities.
- ◊ Identify community facility and infrastructure priorities.

May 14th Meeting Recap: Identified Community Priorities

Community Development Priority

Priority #1: Continue keeping communication open between local entities: the success of any project is based on the community being able to work together.

Economic Development Priorities

Priority #1: Reduce energy costs to the School, City, and Tribe through biomass.

Priority #2: Assist and encourage continued support of community development carried out by Toghotele Corporation.

Priority #3: Continue to be involved with gas and oil development potential that affects Nenana.

Priority #4: Encourage and support tourism partnerships.

Priority #5: Continue to promote and develop educational resources to students of Alaska.

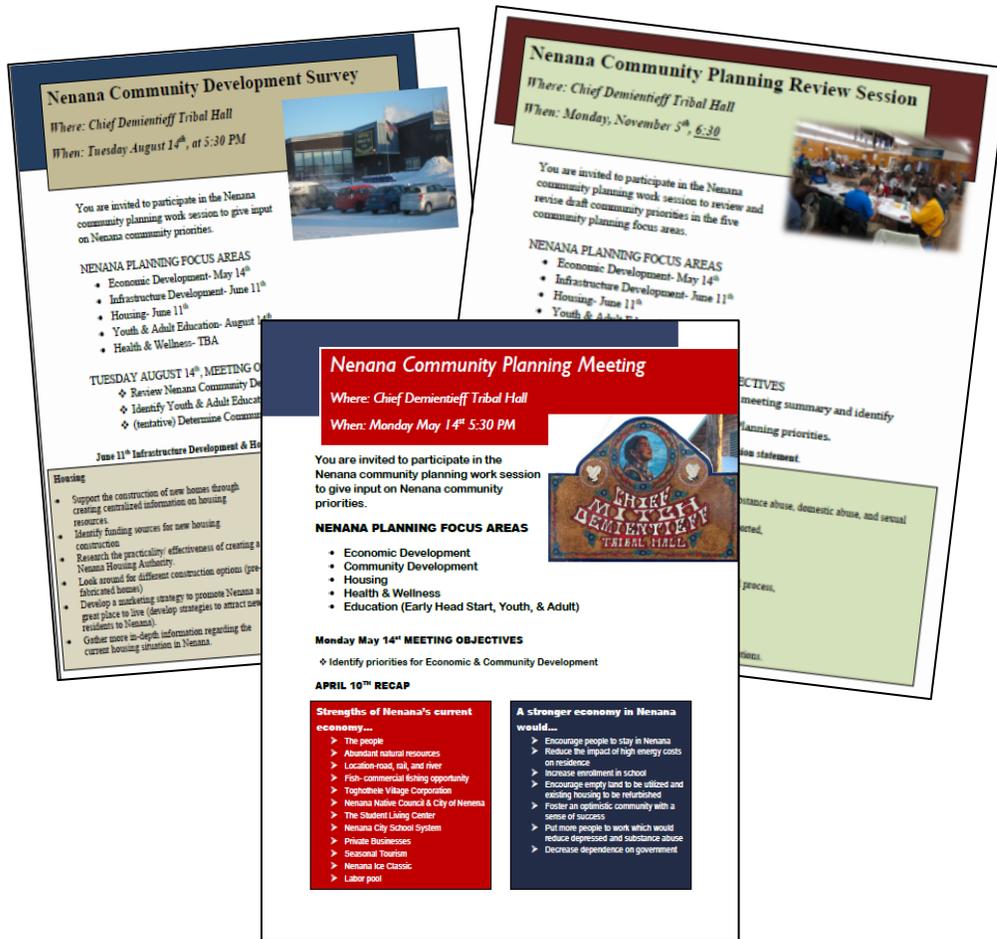
Priority #6: Promote the passage of the General Obligation Bond that includes the construction of the bridge over the Nenana River.

Priority #7: Address the lack of housing in Nenana.

Priority #8: Promote alternative energy projects that reduce heating and energy costs in Nenana.

statements were written it became apparent that combined they became a strong vision statement for the community of Nenana.

November 5th the first review session was held. During this session the Economic Development and Education priorities were reviewed and amended. The first draft of the Nenana Community Development Plan was distributed at the December 31st, 2012 Nenana Quarterly Community meeting. The next review session was held on March 26th, 2013.



SUMMARY OF NENANA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

Nenana Health & Wellness Priorities

Priority #1: Encourage and expand culturally relevant recreational opportunities.

Objective #1: Encourage kids to learn local subsistence practices such as fishing, hunting, outdoor safety, and food preservation.

Objective #2: Encourage local potlatches and the use of local dialect.

Objective #3: Encourage local teachers, parents, and students to participate in cultural activities and events.

Priority #2: Effective solutions to issues of abuse (substance abuse, domestic abuse, and sexual abuse) are readily accessible in Nenana.

Objective #1: Continue to encourage and support events and activities in Nenana that promote healthy choices.

Objective #2: There is a responsive justice system with open communication.

Priority #3: There is adequate physical and mental healthcare available.

Objective #1: Ensure that healthcare facilities are adequate and well staffed.

Objective #2: Collaboration between Railbelt Mental Health, City, and Tribal for funding solutions.

Priority #4: There is open communication with active participation from residents of all ages in community decision making.

Nenana Economic Development Priorities

Priority #1: Promote alternative energy projects that reduce heating and energy costs in Nenana.

Objective #1: Reduce energy costs to the School, City, and Tribe through biomass.

Objective # 2: Further pursue the development of other alternative energy.

Priority #2: Continue to be involved with gas and oil development potential that affects Nenana.

Objective #1: Continue to support the Nenana Basin oil and gas development
Objective #2: Support long-term energy solutions that will affect our community.

Priority #3: Encourage and support tourism partnerships.

Objective #1: Encourage and support the development of local attractions.
Objective #2: Seek potential partnerships that could assist Nenana in developing accommodations such as hotels and meeting spaces.
Objective #3: Develop market research survey asking outside businesses interests what would make Nenana a more attractive location to open a small business.

Priority #4 : Assist and encourage continued support of land development.

Nenana Education Priorities

Priority #1: Continue to develop strategic partnerships that promote vocational education/job training opportunities for Nenana residents that increase access to employment statewide.

Objective # 1: Promote vocation education opportunities that support areas of economic growth identified both in Nenana and statewide.
Objective #2: Continue to support workforce development in Nenana.

Priority #2: Continue to promote and develop educational resources for junior high and high school students of Alaska.

Objective #1: Nenana City School: Stay involved with conversations regarding the regional high school model.
Objective #2: Develop strategic partnerships that promote vocational education opportunities in Nenana.

Nenana Infrastructure Development Priorities

Priority #1: Upgrade Nenana’s city water and sewer systems. Current facilities exceed forty years of age and are in need or rehabilitation and upgrade.

Priority #2: Improve and expand the Nenana Cultural Center.

Objective #1: Upgrade museum facility to meet museum standards.
Objective #2: Expand museum exhibits to enable the display of local collections and artifacts.

Priority #3: Renovate and expand the Chief Demientieff Community Tribal Hall.

Priority #4: Construct a multi-purpose building which could house the Mary C. Demientieff Health Clinic, Railbelt Mental Health & Addictions, and City of Nenana Offices that also include a conference center.

Objective #1: Adapt the Community Multi-Purpose Building design to include the city offices and conference center.

Objective #2: Collaboration exists between Nenana Native Council and City of Nenana to secure funding for the facility through the submission of the Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG), due between February and April and the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) due in September each year.

Nenana Housing Priorities

Priority #1: Nenana is a place where residents and newcomers can find housing that suits their needs and that they can afford.

Objective #1: Support the construction of new homes in Nenana through providing a centralized location for housing assistance programs for new and existing homes such as grants, loans, or other assistance programs.

Objective #2: Research the practicality and effectiveness of creating a Nenana Housing Authority.

Objective #3: Develop strategies that would attract potential investors willing to construct new housing and rental units in Nenana.

NENANA THE PLACE

HISTORY

The history of Nenana stretches back thousands of years as the western most portion of Tanana Athabascan Indian territory. Its Indian name, “Togohotthele”, means “mountain that parallels the river”. It was first called Tortella, an interpretation of Togohotthele. The Athabascan word Nenana means “a good place to camp between two rivers”. For hundreds of years the Nenana tribe traded annually at the gathering of Athabascan tribes in Tanana, down river from Nenana where the mighty Yukon and Tanana Rivers meet. This gathering was known as Nuchalawoyya which means “where the two great rivers meet”. This gathering was held for the purpose of dividing up hunting area and to trade. The presence of white Russian traders at this gathering in the early 1840’s, allowed the Interior tribes to become accustomed to contact with European settlers who started arriving in mass in 1902 in pursuit of gold. The first non-Native American explorers arrived in the Nenana area in 1875 and again in 1885 and engaged in trade with the Athabascan Tribe sited at where the mountain parallels the river and two rivers meet. The area was rich in game for the Athabascans living there as both the Nenana River and the Tanana River were prime salmon sources for the summer and fall of each year.

The subsequent discovery of gold in the Fairbanks area in 1902 brought a rush of activity and white settlers into the Interior region. In 1903 a trading post/roadhouse was constructed in Nenana by Jim Duke to supply river travelers and trade with the Indian tribe residing in the area. In 1915, construction of the Alaska Railroad doubled Nenana’s population. In 1917 the Nenana Ice Classic, an annual betting pool on the time the Tanana River breaks up in the spring, was started by



surveyors from the Alaska Railroad. This contest/tradition continues today with revenues from the sale of tickets bringing several hundred thousands of dollars to the community each year. The cash prize often in excess of \$250,000 is shared by the lucky winners each spring for guessing the correct day, hour, and minute the ice breaks loose and begins moving downriver. Half of the proceeds from this Ice Pool go to the community of Nenana for civic projects.

The community of Nenana incorporated in 1921, the Railroad Depot was completed in 1923 when President Warren Harding drove the golden spike at the north end of the 700-foot steel bridge over the Tanana River. This created the first year-round transportation link between Fairbanks, Anchorage and south to Seward.

In the early 1950's a winter road was constructed between Fairbanks and Nenana that followed the traditional trail used by Natives. In 1960 construction had begun on the Clear Air Force Base, 21 miles southwest of the Nenana. Road travel increased between Fairbanks and Nenana during this time with travel. Until 1968 when a \$6 million dollar bridge was constructed across the Tanana River, travelers crossed the Tanana River by ice-bridge in the winter and ferry in the spring and summer.



The George Parks Highway connecting Anchorage and Fairbanks was completed in 1971 shortening the distance between Alaska's two largest cities by almost 100 miles. The completion of this road and the subsequent increase in tourist travel has enlarged seasonal economic opportunity for the City of Nenana and its residents.¹

LOCATION & CLIMATE

Nenana is located in Interior Alaska, 55 road miles southwest of Fairbanks on the George Parks Highway. Nenana is located at mile 412 of the Alaska Railroad, on the south bank of the Tanana River, just east of the mouth of the Nenana River. It lies 304 road miles northeast of Anchorage.

¹ The History of Nenana excerpted from : *Nenana Community Plan*, 2004.

Nenana is located in the Nenana Recording District. The area encompasses 6.0 square miles of land and 0.1 sq. miles of water.

Nenana has a cold, continental climate with an extreme temperature range. The average daily maximum during summer months is 65 to 70 °F; the daily minimum during winter is well below 0 °F. The highest temperature ever recorded is 98 °F; the lowest is -69 °F. Average annual precipitation is 11.4 inches, with 48.9 inches of snowfall. The river is ice-free from mid-May to mid-October.²

POPULATION & DEMOGRAPHICS

Based on the 2010 U.S. Census the current population of Nenana total is 378. The population is 50.8% male and 49.2% female. The median age in Nenana is 48.

Population by Race:

	Number	Percent
White:	212	56.1%
American Indian and Alaska Native Alone:	142	37.6%
Black or African American:	1	0.3%
Asian:	1	0.3%
Pacific Islander:	0	0.0%
Other:	1	0.3%
Two or More Races:	21	5.6%

Information retrieved from the State of Alaska Community Online Database

Population by Age:

Age 4 and under: 17	Age 5 - 9: 28	Age 10 - 14: 26
Age 15 - 19: 19	Age 20 - 24: 16	Age 25 - 29: 20
Age 30 - 34: 11	Age 35 - 39: 15	Age 40 - 44: 15
Age 45 - 49: 31	Age 50 - 54: 46	Age 55 - 59: 41
Age 60 - 64: 38	Age 65 - 69: 18	Age 70 - 74: 13
Age 75 - 79: 7	Age 80 - 84: 14	Age 85 and over: 3

Information retrieved from the State of Alaska Community Online Database

Housing & Employment in Nenana, Alaska: 2012 Community Questionnaire

Total Surveys: 52 Distribution March 21, 2012

² Source: DECCED State of Alaska Community Database Online.

Less than 18: 2	Age 18-29: 5
Age 30-41: 15	Age 42-53: 15
Age 54-65: 14	65 or older: 7

Gender:

Male: 25
Female: 27

GOVERNANCE & PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

The City of Nenana and Nenana Native Council are responsible for providing a variety of public and social services to Nenana residents. These two entities are committed to collaborating on projects that will enhance the physical and social wellbeing of residents. In pursuance of this effort, joint quarterly community meetings are held to update residents on current or upcoming projects and to gather input.

City Government

Nenana was incorporated in 1921, and is a home rule city. The City of Nenana has a six member council who serve three year terms. Elections are held on the first Tuesday in October and regular City Council meetings are held on the second Thursday of every month. The City of Nenana imposes a 4% sales tax and also a property tax to raise revenues for City operations. Other primary revenue sources include land leases and property rentals. The City of Nenana currently employs six full-time and two part-time staff. Seasonal employees are hired during the summer. The City is the utility operator, provides road maintenance, and is also responsible for overseeing the Nenana City School District, the Nenana Volunteer Fire Department and ambulance service. The City creates and dissolves committees as it sees fit to address priority issues. Current capital improvement projects that are being overseen by the City include renovations on the water plant, airport improvements, and construction of a solid waste transfer site.

Nenana Native Council

The Nenana Native Council (NNC) is a federally recognized tribe. There is an elected eight member council and chief. Council members serve staggered three year terms. Nominations for council seats are open in November and elections are held in December. NNC completed updates on their tribal constitution and codes on November 22, 2011. Programs which NNC operates

through an Expanded Memorandum of Agreement with Tanana Chiefs Conference include Job Placement & Training, Social Services, Wildlife & Parks, Adult Education, Credit & Finance, Self-Governance, Agriculture, and Indian Child Welfare. Other programs that are operated through the NNC include the Indian General Assistance program, the Bureau of Indian Affairs Indian Reservation Roads Transportation Program, and a Family Violence Program. There are currently six full-time and three part-time employees of the Nenana Native Council. Seasonal workers and youth employees are hired in the summer. The Nenana Native Council owns and operates the Chief Mitch Demientieff Tribal Hall which also houses the NNC office and the Mary C. Demientieff Health Clinic. The NNC also owns and operates the Teen Recreation Center facility.

Law Enforcement & Justice

An Alaska State Trooper is stationed in Nenana; however the State Trooper is often called away particularly during summer months leaving Nenana without a law enforcement presence much of the time. The Nenana Native Council through the Tanana Chiefs Conference Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) Program has hired a VPSO. The Nenana District Court is presided over by a magistrate and is a part of Alaska's Fourth Judicial District. The Nenana Native Council has an active tribal court which oversees tribal custody cases. There are eight tribal judges that are appointed by the tribal council. Tribal court judges must be reappointed every three years.

LAND STATUS

Village Corporation

Toghotthele Corporation was established by ANCSA and has a total land entitlement of 138,340 acres surrounding the town site of Nenana. Toghotthele Corporation has a nine member board. Toghotthele Corporation has two subsidiaries including Nenana Gravel and Nenana Equipment Rental. The corporation has lots for sale in two recently developed subdivisions, the Nenana Valley subdivision with lots that became available in 2010 and the Cosna subdivision with lots that became available in 2011. Toghotthele Corporation also has academic scholarships available to shareholders.

City of Nenana

The 14(c)3 re-conveyance of land from the regional corporation to the city has been completed. The City of Nenana is a large land holder. Typically there is always at least a couple of City land lots that are available for purchase.

Land Hazards

In 1967 Nenana was devastated by the largest flood ever recorded on the Tanana River. Smaller recorded flooding events occurred before and after the 1967 flood. The most recent flooding event occurred in 2008. During the high water mark, much of the community was encompassed by flood waters. Many buildings retain flood damage.

NENANA COMMUNITY HEALTH & WELLNESS

Content for this section is based on responses from the Nenana Community Development Survey distributed and collected July 16, 2012, and from the community meeting held on October 10, 2012, which focused on community health and wellness. Based on information collected from both sources, it became clear that community health and wellness depended on many things including a thriving economy, a strong education system, well supported public health and safety services, a strong justice system, community gatherings and events, adequate infrastructure, and housing. Based on an exercise completed at the October 10th Community Health and Wellness people taking personal responsibility for their own wellbeing, liking themselves and being willing to care and support each other were identified as a core element to a healthy community.

1. How would you rate the overall health of the Nenana community? (37 Responses)



1) List the people, groups, and organizations that are actively engaged in making Nenana a healthy place to live.

- Nenana Native Council
- VPSO Program
- Student Living Center
- Headstart Program
- School Pre-school teachers
- Railbelt Mental Health
- Clinic Staff, Health Aides, health facilities
- Nenana Fire/ Emergency Medical Services EMS
- Senior Center/ Senior Center Director
- Tanana Chiefs Conference
- City Library
- KIAM
- Coghill's Store
- Ice Classic
- Recreation Center
- Churches
- Volunteers
- Nenana's Lions Club
- Wellness Coalition
- Kat
- Rose
- Jason
- Vickie Moyle
- Laura
- Mary Ellen

2) In just this past year (2011-2012), list the activities and achievements that have supported the overall health and wellness of residents in Nenana.

- Choose Respect
- Pink Activities
- Good help from Senior Center Director
- ETT Class for the school kids
- Cultural activities
- Dancing in the streets
- Wellness Coalition meetings
- AWANA Children's programs
- Boy Scouts
- Basketball and other sports
- Blood drive
- Bible Studies- topics marriage and healing
- The Clinic has been opened to all Nenana residents, now we don't always need to go to Fairbanks
- School prevention program
- Operation HO HO HO
- Annual Health Fair
- Tripod Days
- Hiring a VPSO
- A better plan for the bridge across the Nenana River
- Kid oriented 4th of July and Christmas celebrations by Coghills
- Free stuff for all at Tripod Days by the Nenana Ice Classic
- River Days by NNC and Lions Club
- NNC and City have strengthened their working relationship
- Native Group Dance
- Recreation Center Activities
- Nenana Native Council Fish Camp Activities
- Community Planning
- Potlatches
- Some streets paved
- Teen Center
- Community Trash Cans on streets
- Quarterly Community Dinners
- Sober dances

WHAT IS BEHIND A HEALTHY COMMUNITY OF NENANA?

Responses from the Nenana Community Development Survey (NCDS), “what do you think are the most important factors to a healthy and well community”, and “what are your three top health and wellness concerns in Nenana”, were used to create both the Nenana vision statement for a healthy and well community and the health and wellness priority areas. Participants at the October 10th planning meeting were asked to organize the responses from the Nenana Community Development Survey into categories of similar subjects. Based on the categories that emerged from the exercise, participants decided on statements that summarized the categories created. The categories were then compared to one another using an activity called an inter-related digraph. This was done by asking two questions.

1) Are these two things related?

- a. Example: Is “anyone who wants to work has a job” and “we like ourselves, care, and support each other” related to each other?”

The group had to come to a consensus on whether the two compared items were related. If the answer was no, the group moved onto the next comparison with no action. If the answer was yes, the group answered the next question.

2) Which one has a greater influence on the other?

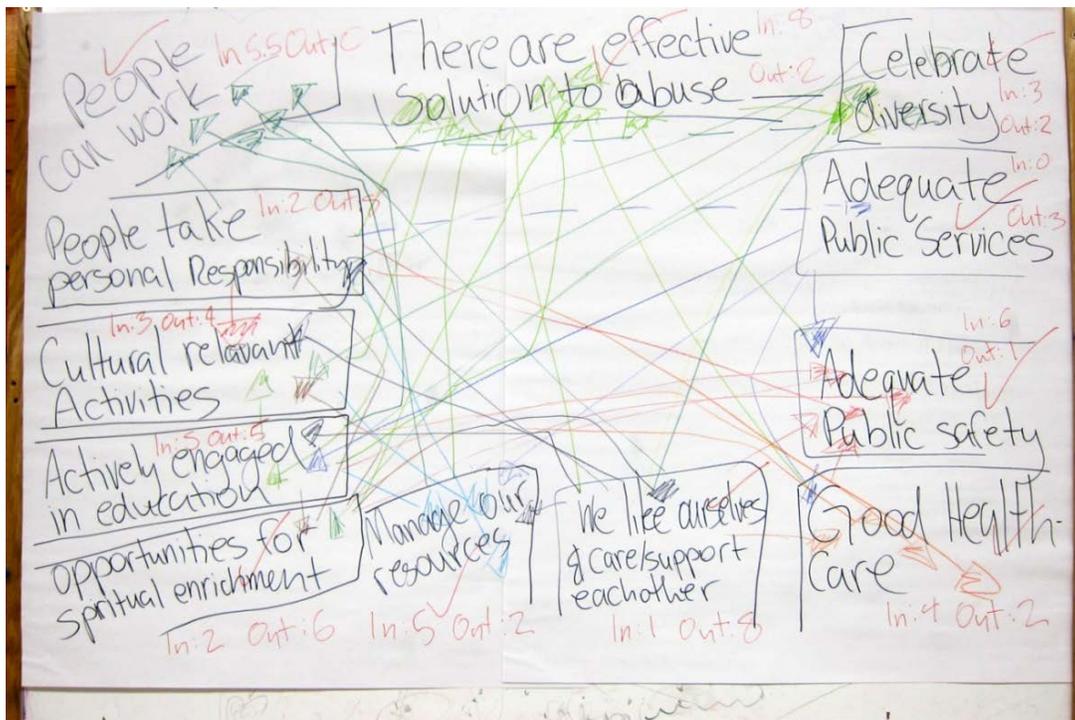
- a. Example: In this comparison the group decided that “we like ourselves, care for, and support one another” had a greater influence on people being able to work that wanted to.

Because “we like ourselves, care and support each other” had more influence on “anyone who wants to work has a job”, a line was drawn from “we like ourselves...” with an arrow pointing to “people can work..”.

In this exercise there is no right or wrong answer. In some cases one member of the group would make an argument in favor of pointing the arrow in the opposite direction as everyone else. In these instances sometimes the consensus would change. Once every category was compared to every other category the arrows coming out of each category and the arrows coming in were all added up. $\frac{1}{2}$ was given to categories that had weak relationships.



Activity identifying key drivers and indicators of community health & wellness



Why is this important?

The purpose of this exercise is to answer this question;

“What are the key drivers behind supporting health and wellness in the community of Nenana”?

At the end of the exercise, categories with the greater number of out arrows can be identified as the key drivers, while categories with the greatest number of in arrows can be identified as likely outcomes, or areas where improvement will be made, when the areas identified as key drivers are focused on.

* Note: The categories include the responses from the Nenana Community Development Survey. If there is a number after one of the responses it indicates there were several responses that were very similar or the same on the survey.

KEY DRIVERS

What this exercise highlighted was the importance of personal responsibility and self respect combined with people taking care of family, friends, and neighbors in creating a healthy community. This exercise also highlighted opportunities for spiritual enrichment, involvement in

the educational process, and culturally relevant opportunities as other important drivers behind community health and wellness.

Several patterns emerged from this exercise:

First, the key drivers behind a healthy and well community of Nenana that emerged included;

- 1. We like ourselves, care for, and support each other. (Out: 8 In: 1)**
 - Communication
 - People caring for each other and the wellness of the whole community
 - Supportive loving families, supportive community members
 - Self-respect and respect for others- 2
 - Healthy families/relationships/home life- 3
 - Barriers to a supportive community; Nepotism, backbiting

- 2. People take personal responsibility of their own wellbeing. (Out: 8 In: 2)**
 - Walking the walk
 - Not sticking nose in other people's business

- 3. There are opportunities for spiritual enrichment. (Out: 6 In: 2)**
 - Good churches

- 4. The community is actively engaged in the life-long educational process. (Out: 5 In: 5)**
 - Education involvement
 - Health Education
 - Youth prevention activities

- 5. There are culturally relevant recreational opportunities. (Out: 4 In: 3)**
 - Cultural activities
 - Recreational activities

INDICATORS/ KEY OUTCOMES

In this activity outcomes (or indicators) are the things that will improve when progress is made in areas identified as key drivers. Completing this exercise illustrated how Community Health & Wellness encompasses many facets of personal and community life. What was surprising about the results was that the two areas identified as the most common health & wellness concerns; substance, physical, and sexual abuse and unemployment were not in fact the *drivers* behind community health and wellness but the indicators. While this exercise certainly does not mean that these two

areas don't deserve focused attention, it does illustrate that there are many supporting components that are essential if steady and sustainable improvement will be made in these areas.

1. **There are effective solutions to issues of abuse available (substance abuse, domestic abuse, and sexual abuse.** (Out: 2 In: 8)
 - Drug & alcohol abuse both individually and combined - 22
 - Smoking - 4
 - Physical, sexual and/or domestic abuse - 4

2. **Anyone who wants to work has a job.** (Out: 0 In 5.5)
 - Jobs - 5
 - Unemployment -3
 - Opportunities for development

3. **Resources are appropriately managed for the benefit of all generations.** (Out: 2 In: 5)

4. **There is adequate physical and mental healthcare available.** (Out: 2 In: 4)
 - Cancer- 2
 - Breathing & skin problems
 - Unhealthy eating practices- 2
 - Depression
 - Longer clinic hours & no onsite doctor

5. **Diversity is celebrated.** (Out: 2 In: 3)
 - Influx of new people- 2
 - Multi-generational activities

6. **Public Safety and public services are adequate and well supported.** (Out: 2.5 In: 3)
 - Adequate Infrastructure
 - Clean healthy water (revamp existing system)- 4
 - Specific items mentioned: housing & paving streets
 - Safety concerns mentioned - 5
 - More responsive 911 system
 - (specific concerns mentioned recreational accidents snow machine, boat, etc.)

7. **There is a responsive justice system with open communication.**

NENANA HEALTH & WELLNESS PRIORITIES

Priority #1: Encourage and expand culturally relevant recreational opportunities.

Objective #1: Encourage kids to learn local subsistence practices such as fishing, hunting, outdoor safety, and food preservation.

Objective #2: Encourage local potlatches and the use of local dialect.

Objective #3: Encourage local teachers, parents, and students to participate in cultural activities and events.

Priority #2: Effective solutions to issues of abuse (substance abuse, domestic abuse, and sexual abuse) are readily accessible in Nenana.

Objective #1: Continue to encourage and support events and activities in Nenana that promote healthy choices.

Objective #2: There is a responsive justice system with open communication.

- Support the implementation of Circle Sentencing.

Priority #3: There is adequate physical and mental healthcare available.

Objective #1: Ensure that healthcare facilities are adequate and well staffed.

Objective #2: Collaboration between Railbelt Mental Health, City, and Tribal for funding solutions.

Priority #4: There is open communication with active participation from residents of all ages in community decision making.

ECONOMY

The largest year round employers in Nenana include the Nenana City School District, City of Nenana, the Nenana Native Council, and Tanana Chiefs Conference, making a significant portion of the economy reliant on state and federal funding sources. Nenana has a small year round service industry that supports a couple of restaurants, a general store, heating and fuel service, gas station, and a couple service and repair businesses. Thanks to



Nenana’s strategic location at the intersection of river and railroad, Nenana serves as the transportation center for supplies and gas being transported to over 40 Interior villages. As a result the private sector economy booms in the summer drawing many seasonal employees from outside the community and employing some year round residents. Three barge lines run during the summer months out of Nenana including Crowley, Inland Barge, and Ruby Marine. The Alaska Railroad also hires a large seasonal workforce. Nenana’s natural resources contribute to the livelihood of some residents. Commercial fishing, trapping, and wood cutting for firewood are all subsistence activities that provide income for some residents. In 2010, 19 residents held commercial fishing licenses.³

Nenana has a small tourist economy in the summer. Tourist attractions include the Alaska Railroad Museum, the Golden Railroad Spike Historic Park and Interpretive Center, Alfred Starr Museum & Cultural Center, and the historic St. Mark’s Episcopal Church. Seasonal employees and summer tourists also support a few cafés, inns, and gift shops. Another large seasonal employer during the spring is the Nenana Ice Classic Association which organizes a statewide betting pool for when the ice will go out where the Nenana River meets the Tanana River.

³ (Department of Labor and Workforce Development, 2010)

Income Levels

Economic Characteristics	Estimate	Percent	U.S.	Margin of Error
Median household income (in 2009 inflation-adjusted dollars)	57,946	(X)	51,425	+/-25,218
Median family income (in 2009 inflation-adjusted dollars)	56,875	(X)	62,363	+/-24,579
Per capita income (in 2009 inflation-adjusted dollars)	23,859	(X)	27,041	+/-5,121
Families below poverty level	(X)	22.2	9.9%	+/-11.8
Individuals below poverty level	(X)	26.4	13.5%	+/-10.3

Source: American Community Survey 2006-2010

Worker by Characteristics

	2010
Residents age 16 and over	361
Residents employed	224
Female workers	107
Male workers	117
Workers age 45 and over	121
Workers age 50 and over	99
Total wages	\$6,597,879
Sector employed in	
Private	164
Local government	57
State government	3
Peak quarterly employment	195
Workers employed all 4 quarters	108
New hires	90
Unemployment insurance claimants	72
Worked in an AGIA occupation	191

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

2010 Workers by Industry

	Number of workers	Percent of total employed	Female	Male	Age 45 and over	Age 50 and over
Natural Resources and Mining	10	4.5	5	5	1	1
Construction	20	8.9	3	17	6	5
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	35	15.6	16	19	15	10
Information	1	0.4	0	1	1	1
Financial Activities	10	4.5	4	6	8	6
Professional and Business	10	4.5	2	8	5	5

Services						
Educational and Health Services	29	12.9	23	6	16	15
Leisure and Hospitality	47	21.0	25	22	32	24
State Government	3	1.3	0	3	2	2
Local Government	57	25.4	27	30	35	30
Other	2	0.9	2	0	0	0

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

Top 2010 Employers

Nenana Ice Classic Assoc Inc
Nenana City Public Schools
Tanana Chiefs Conference
Nenana Native Council
Toghotthele Corp
Nenana City of
Crowley Marine Svcs Inc
Nenana A Street Inc
United Ventures Inc
Railbelt Mental Health Association



Source: Department of Labor & Workforce Development.

Housing & Employment in Nenana, Alaska: 2012 Community Questionnaire

Total Surveys: 52 distributed on March 21, 2012

Employment

Seasonal: 6
Part-time: 7
Temporary: 2
Full Time: 21
Not Working: 16

Looking for work

Yes: 12
No: 38
Not Checked: 2

If yes (mark one)

Seasonal: 3
Part time: 6
Full time: 5
Temporary: 1

Commercial Fisheries

Fishman: 4
Crewmember: 1
Other: 7
Not involved: 40
Not Checked: 1

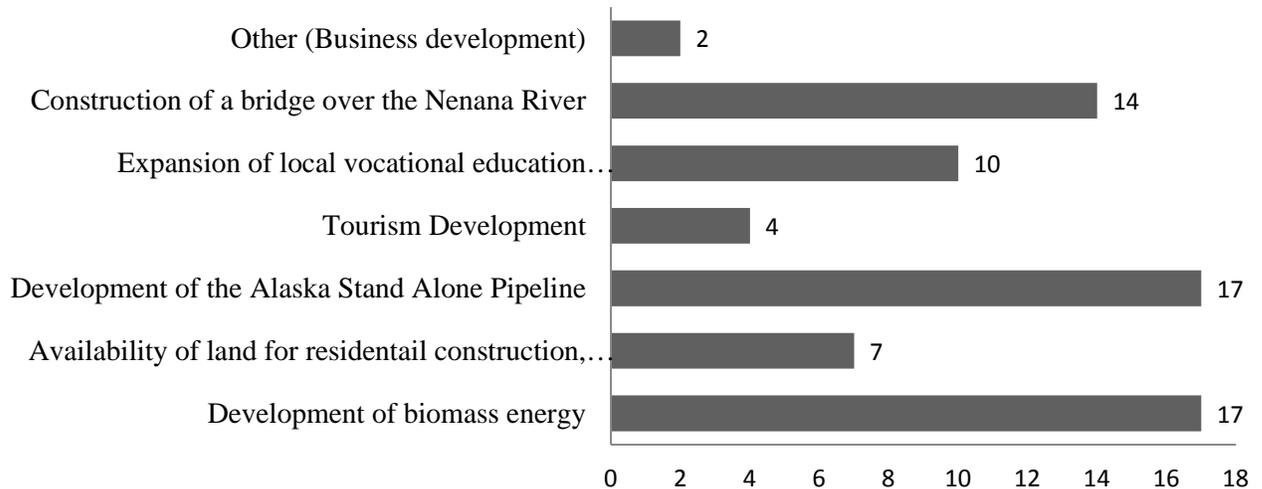
Household income

Less than 10: 13
10-25: 7
26-35: 6
36-50: 8
51-70: 9
70 and over: 5
Not Checked: 4

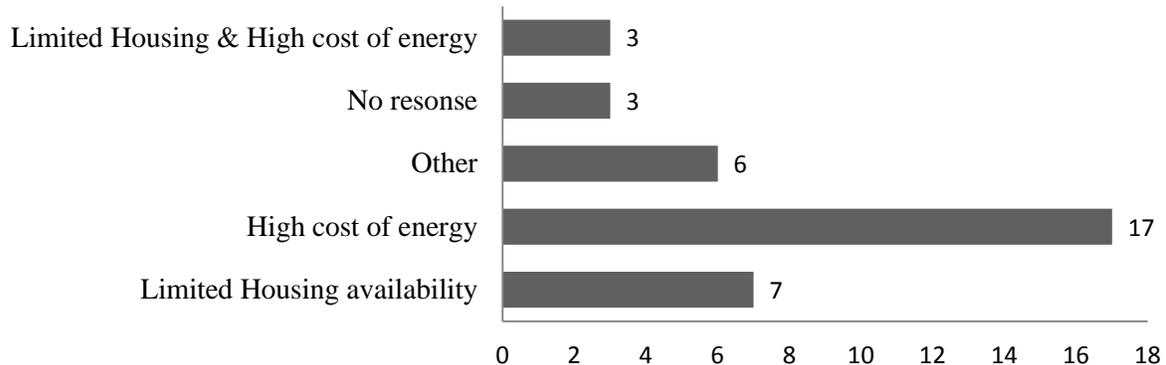
NENANA 2012 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SURVEY

A total of 39 surveys were collected. The total number of respondents to each question is indicated.

Which two economic development opportunities do you believe are the most critical to the future of Nenana's economy?



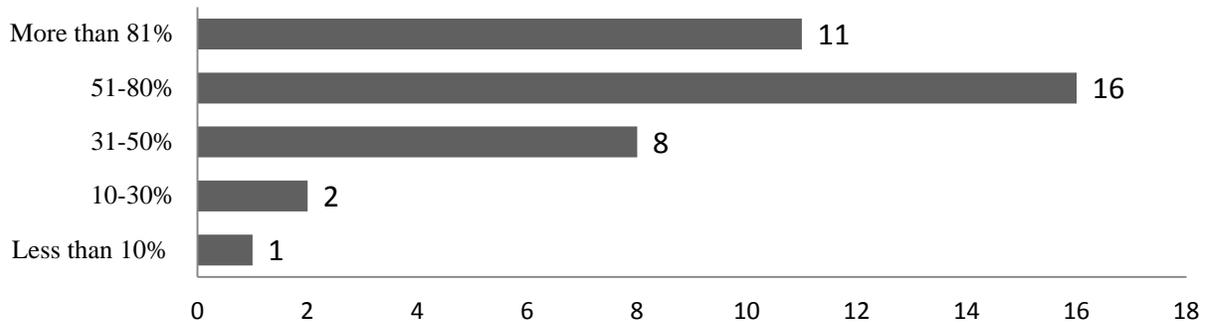
What is the MOST SIGNIFICANT barrier to economic development in Nenana? (33 responses)



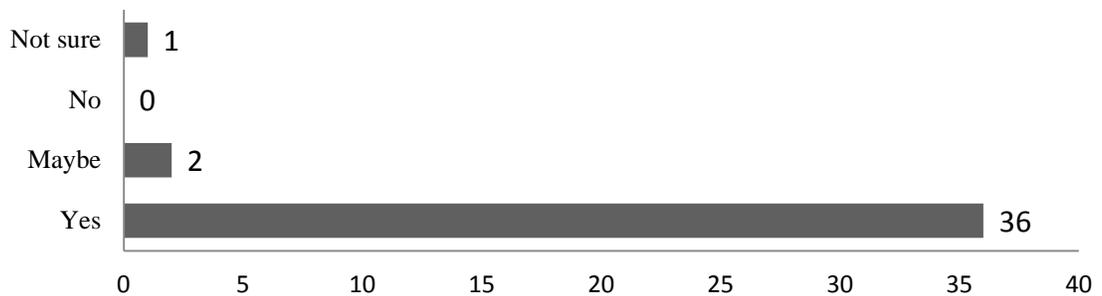
Responses for Other:

- Laziness
- Lack of funding
- Alcohol
- Lack of interest
- Lack of people who really want to work
- Government willingness to give any work input from recipients

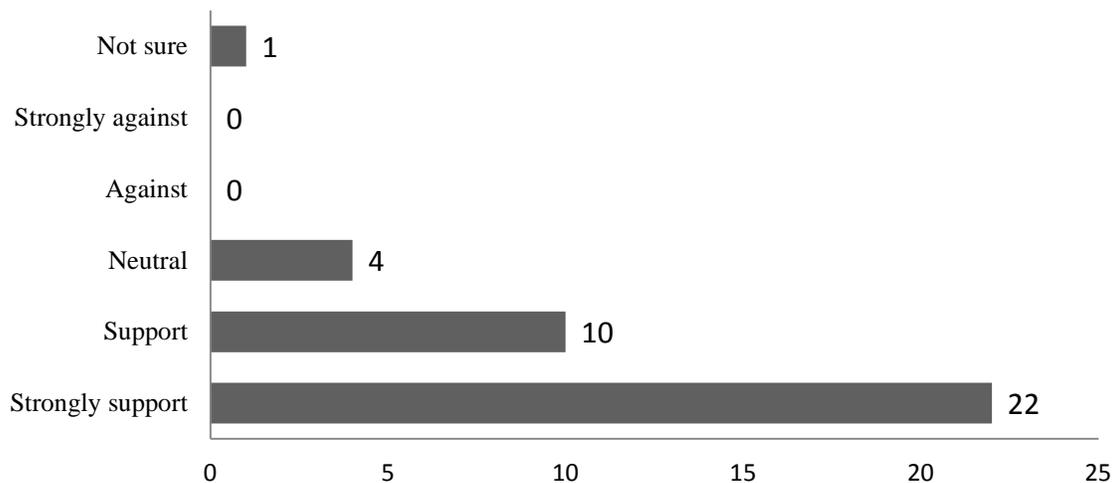
On average, how much do you spend per month on goods and services outside of Nenana? (33 responses)



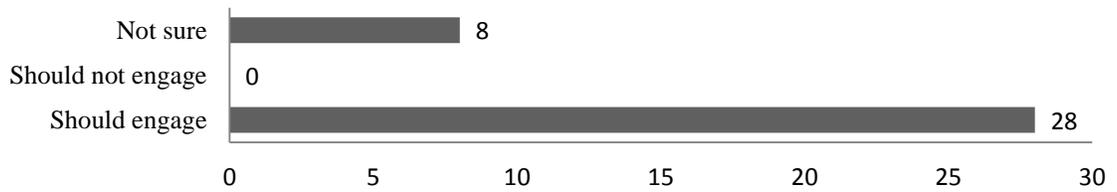
Would you support local efforts to pursue alternative energy projects in Nenana? (39 responses)



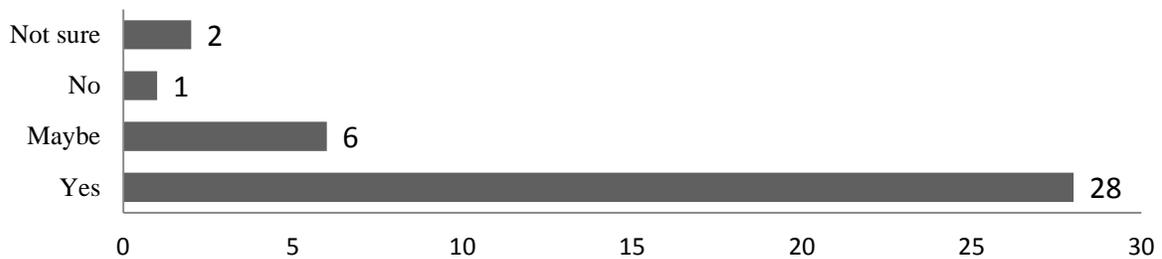
How do you feel about developing biomass energy in Nenana? (37 responses)



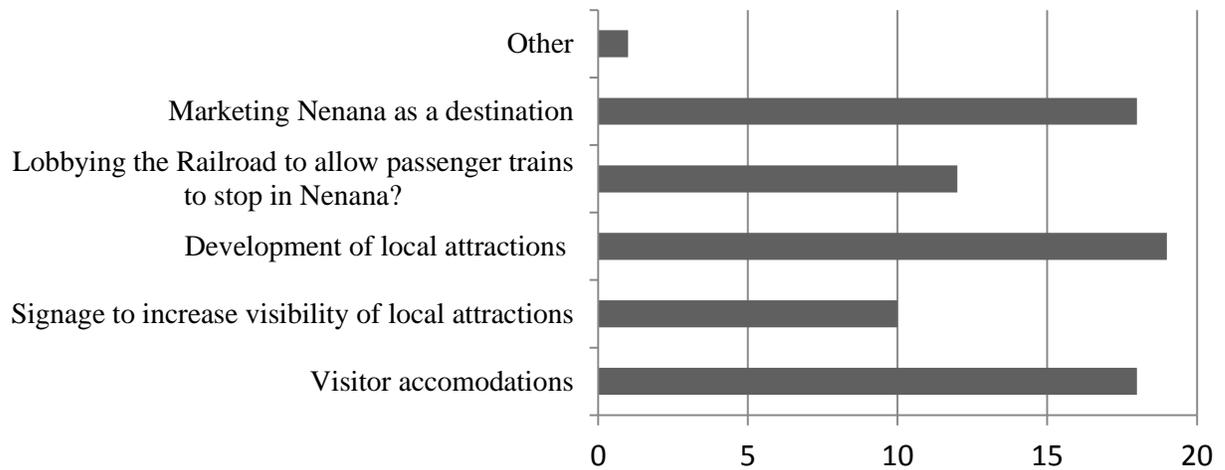
To what extent should the City of Nenana participate in discussions on the development of the Alaska Stand Alone Pipeline? (36 responses)



Would you support local efforts to develop Nenana as a tourist destination? (31 responses)



If yes, what are the most critical needs in Nenana to support tourism development?



What are your ideas for marketing Nenana as a destination?

- Authentic Alaska
- Salmon Bake
- Clean up the town
- Get a marketing train in Alaska
- Develop Railroad Museum into a first-class museum
- Develop a program that attracts people from around the state to visit Nenana.

COMMUNITY ANALYSIS OF NENANA'S ECONOMY

The analysis below includes a community brainstorm regarding different aspects of Nenana's economy. The items in bold were identified as the areas with the greatest potential for growing Nenana's economy. After the analysis was completed, each participant received three voting dots to place on the categories where they believed Nenana had the greatest potential for growth. Participants were then given a different color voting dot to be placed on the category which they believed was the most significant barrier to economic growth. The categories with the most votes then became the focus areas for the identified priorities and are highlighted bold.

Organizations, Business, and Industry that are bringing new money into Nenana's economy

- **Nenana City School District**
- **Toghotthele Corporation**
- Student Living Center
- Nenana Native Council
- City of Nenana
- Seasonal Tourism
- Commercial Fishing
- Barge Lines

Nenana's Economic Resources

- Nenana's Location
- The People (available workforce)

Nenana's Local Business

- Coghill's Store
- A-Frame
- Nenana Heating
- Restaurants & Bars
- Toghotthele Corporation Subdivisions

Missed opportunities in economic development

- **Biomass** (if the bridge over the Nenana River is constructed this would open up Ag land, with biomass infrastructure in place there would be financial incentive to clear Ag land with the "cover crop" of biomass.)
- **Tourism (Conference & Meeting Hub)**
- **Oil & Gas: Alaska Stand Alone Gas (ASAP)**
- Biomass Power-Plant:
- Transportation Hub (Airport, Airlines)
- Agricultural Opportunities
- Clear (servicing)
- Being a supply hub for villages along the river systems (Yukon, Koyukuk, etc.)
- Behavioral Health Regional Center
- Nenana has its own power authority

Barriers to Economic Development

- **High cost of heating and energy**
- **Housing** (lack of housing).
- **No bridge over the Nenana River:** Lack of access to agricultural lands and harvest area for biomass.
- Unorganized Borough: Nenana doesn't have the jurisdiction to benefit from development which occurs in the surrounding area.
- Undeveloped agriculture infrastructure.

Nenana Economic Development Priorities

Priority #1: Promote alternative energy projects that reduce heating and energy costs in Nenana.

Objective #1: Reduce energy costs to the School, City, and Tribe through biomass.

Note: The high cost of heating and energy was identified as the most critical barrier to economic development in Nenana.

- Produce a biomass pilot project by 2014.
- Promote local jobs through collecting, processing, and transporting biomass.

Objective # 2: Further pursue the development of other alternative energy.

- Continue to support the river turbine project.

Priority area relates to Nenana's long-term community health and wellness goals of:

- *Anyone who wants to work has a job.*
- *Resources are appropriately managed for the benefit of all generations.*

Priority #2: Continue to be involved with gas and oil development potential that affects Nenana.

Objective #1: Continue to support the Nenana Basin oil and gas development

- Regularly contact oil and gas producers and advocate for the interests of Nenana residents.

Objective #2: Support long-term energy solutions that will affect our community.

Priority area relates to Nenana's long-term community health and wellness goals of:

- *Anyone who wants to work has a job.*
- *Resources are appropriately managed for the benefit of all generations.*

Priority #3: Encourage and support tourism partnerships.

Objective #1: Encourage and support the development of local attractions.

Objective #2: Seek potential partnerships that could assist Nenana in developing accommodations such as hotels and meeting spaces.

Objective #3: Develop market research survey asking outside businesses interests what would make Nenana a more attractive location to open a small business.

Priority area relates to Nenana’s long-term community health and wellness goals of;

- *Anyone who wants to work has a job.*
- *There are culturally relevant recreational opportunities.*

Priority #4 : Assist and encourage continued support of land development.

Note: The City of Nenana releasing land to be subdivided and sold; Toghotthele developing new subdivisions.

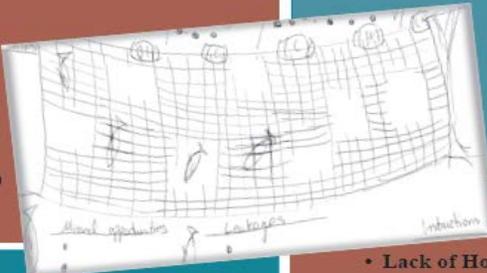
Priority area relates to Nenana’s long-term community health and wellness goals of;

- *Anyone who wants to work has a job.*
- *Resources are appropriately managed for the benefit of all generations.*

May 14th Nenana Community Planning
Focus of meeting: Economic & Community Development
Basic Analysis of Nenana’s Economy: Fish-Net Analogy

The analysis below includes a community brainstorm regarding different aspects of Nenana’s economy. The items in bold were identified as the areas with the greatest potential for growing Nenana’s economy. After the analysis was completed, each participant received three voting dots to place on the categories where they believed Nenana had the greatest potential for growth. Participants were then given a different color voting dot to be placed on the category which they believed was the most significant barrier to economic growth. The categories with the most votes then became the focus areas for the identified priorities.

RESOURCE/ INDUSTRY THAT ARE SWIMMING BY NENANA’S ECONOMIC NET: MISSED ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilization of existing biomass in the Nenana area • Biomass Power-Plant • Tourism (Conference & Meeting Hub) • Transportation Hub (Airport, Airlines) • Agricultural Opportunities • Clear (servicing) • Being a supply hub for villages along the river systems • (Yukon, Koyukuk, etc.) • Oil & Gas: Alaska Stand Alone Gas (ASAP) • Behavioral Health Regional Center • Nenana has its own power authority 	ORGANIZATIONS, BUSINESS, AND INDUSTRY THAT ARE FEEDING NENANA’S ECONOMY: BRINGING NEW MONEY TO NENANA’S ECONOMY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nenana City School District Student Living Center Nenana Native Council City of Nenana Toghotthele Corporation Seasonal Tourism Commercial Fishing Barge Lines
WHERE NENANA’S LOCAL ECONOMY IS “CATCHING FISH” AKA LOCAL BUSINESS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coghill’s Store • A-Frame • Nenana Heating • Restaurants & Bars • Toghotthele Corporation Subdivisions 	BARRIERS TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High cost of heating and energy • Lack of Housing • No bridge of the Nenana River: Lack of access to agricultural lands and harvest area for biomass • Unorganized Borough • Undeveloped agriculture infrastructure



EDUCATION

Two schools are operated under the Nenana City School District. There is a five-member school board and a two-member advisory board. School board members serve three-year terms. The Nenana City School offers K-12 education. During the 2010-2011 school year there was a total of 202 students enrolled. That graduating class of 2011 was 32. The Nenana Cyber Lynx Correspondence Program is also a part of the Nenana City School District which offers K-12 education to correspondence students throughout Alaska. During the 2008-2009 school year a total 800 students were enrolled in the correspondence program.⁴

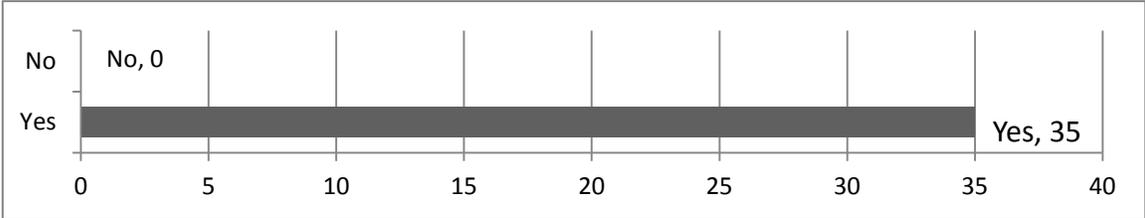
The Student Living Center in Nenana hosts students from around Alaska who attend Nenana City School. The Living Center has the capacity for 88 residents. For the 2011-2012 school year there were 74 student residents.



NENANA 2012 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SURVEY

A total of 39 surveys were collected. The total number of respondents to each question is indicated.

1. Would you support the expansion of vocational educational opportunities in Nenana? (35 Responses)



⁴ (Alaska Department of Education & Early Development, 2009) (Alaska Department of Education & Early Development, 2011)

If yes, what vocational education opportunities would you most like to see?

- Trade skills: welding, cooking, health
- Mining, welding
- Interior-Aleutians Nenana Center located back in Nenana vs. in Fairbanks
- More facilities to promote online classes for students
- Small engine & auto repairs, Building trades
- Construction, Mechanical
- Computers, construction
- Business education, mechanics
- Small engine, nursing
- Housing, building construction training
- One that supports market demands
- State training center, Corporate training/ recruiting, out of state training
- Vocational Education in school
- Maybe, tell how?
- Mechanical
- Construction
- Training for the trades- electrical, carpentry, operating engineers

What community-based education programs would you most like to see in Nenana?

- Domestic violence
- Headstart, Early Headstart
- Health
- Welding/ Carpentry
- G-A Education, Construction Education
- Healthy relationships
- Food preservation
- Economic development
- Parenting



NENANA EDUCATION PRIORITIES

Priority #1: Continue to develop strategic partnerships that promote vocational education/job training opportunities for Nenana residents that increase access to employment statewide.

Current and Potential Vocational Education Resources

- Interior-Aleutians Campus
- Job Corps
- Unions
- Adult Learning Programs of Alaska (ALPA)
- Nenana Native Council Programs: Tribal Workforce Development Specialist, JOM Funds
- Nenana City School District & City of Nenana
- Tanana Chiefs Conference Employment & Training

Objective # 1: Promote vocation education opportunities that support areas of economic growth identified both in Nenana and statewide.

Note: A cluster analysis was used matching the vocational education opportunities identified by Nenana residents through the Nenana Community Development Survey distributed on July 16 2012, with the areas of economic growth identified at the May 14 2012, meeting on economic development generating the focus areas below.

General Job readiness

The importance of job readiness skills were identified as the singularly most important vocation skill to advance employability of Nenana's youth and residents. Examples of job readiness skills identified: Sufficient Math & English skills for job placements, résumé building, Driver's License, and certifications.

Health Care & Behavioral Health

Health-related employment is currently one of the largest employers in Nenana and a growing industry throughout Alaska. Current employment opportunities in Nenana exist for Health Aids, Nursing Assistants, Nursing, and Health Professionals.

Construction Trades

Construction trades education and certification such as carpentry, plumbing and certified electricians, were the most frequently identified vocational education opportunity Nenana community members wanted to see more widely available to residents.

Oil & Gas Support Services

Vocations in support services such as welding, mechanics, auto repair, culinary arts, and construction trades were identified as one of the most employable sectors for both Nenana's current and future economy.

Small Business Development

Small business development skills such as business education, planning & development, computer training combined with trade skills such as small engine and auto repairs were identified as an economic growth area in Nenana. In the Nenana Community Development Survey, 69% of respondents indicated that they purchase over 50% of their goods and services outside of Nenana indicating potential for small business development in Nenana.

Priority area relates to Nenana's long-term community health and wellness goals of;

- *The community is actively engaged in the life-long educational process.*
- *Anyone who wants to work has a job.*

Objective #2: Continue to support workforce development in Nenana.

Nenana workforce development services:

- Employment Counseling
- Keep an up-to-date list of top statewide employment industries.

- Know what top employers in the state are looking for from potential employees and match vocational education opportunities with the desired skill sets wanted by employers.
- Keep an up-to-date list of specific certifications that are recognized by top employers and unions in the state to help ensure that the trainings and certifications received by Nenana residents translate to actual employment.
- Stay informed on Fairbanks job fairs and advertise to community members.
- Create a centralized location of trainings, classes, and certification programs being offered through different institutions

Priority #2: Continue to promote and develop educational resources for junior high and high school students of Alaska.

Objective #1: Nenana City School: Stay involved with conversations regarding the regional high school model.

Objective #2: Develop strategic partnerships that promote vocational education opportunities in Nenana.

Priority area relates to Nenana’s long-term community health and wellness goals of;

- *The community is actively engaged in the life-long educational process.*
- *Anyone who wants to work has a job.*

INFRASTRUCTURE

PUBLIC UTILITIES

Water & Sewer

The City of Nenana is the water and sewer utility operator. Water is derived from a deep well, treated, and then distributed throughout the community via circulating loops. A piped gravity system collects sewage, which is treated at a secondary treatment plant. Most of the city is connected to the piped water and sewer system, 215 homes and the school are served. The remaining homes have individual wells and septic systems.⁵ The Nenana Sanitation Master Plan was updated in 2008.

Landfill

The Denali Borough regional landfill is located 28 miles south of Nenana in Clear. Due to the distance, solid waste disposal has been an issue. The City of Nenana is nearing the completion of a local transfer station which will greatly reduce the inconvenience of waste disposal for local residents.

Electricity

Golden Valley Electric Association (GVEA) provides electricity in Nenana and has a district office located in Nenana.

Communication

In-State Phone: ACS of the Northland

Long-Distance Phone: AT&T Alascom

Internet Service Provider: MTA Online (www.mtaonline.com) School Only - GCI (www.gci.net)

TV Stations: ARCS, KUAC

Radio Stations: KIAM-AM, KUAC FM

Teleconferencing: Alaska Teleconferencing Network Tok Legislative Information Office⁶

⁵ Source: DECCED Alaska Community Database Online from the Facilities, Utilities and Services page

⁶ Source: DECCED Alaska Community Database Online

PUBLIC FACILITIES & SERVICES

Clinic

The Mary C. Demientieff Health Clinic is operated by Tanana Chiefs Conference and serves



Nenana and the surrounding areas.

Medical staff includes two full-time Health Aides, one full-time Medical Assistant and a Registered Nurse. There are several rotating Physician Assistants, regular visits from a Public Health Nurse, and dentist. The health clinic is housed in the same facility as the Nenana Native Council and the Chief Mitch Demientieff Tribal Hall. Patient demand far exceeds the space available

in the current facility. Providers cannot have more than one patient checked in at any given time due to space limitations. Other concerns include only having one patient room equipped for procedures, one pediatric room, only one patient bathroom, and only four exam rooms. The current facility has frequent electrical shortages. Medical devices and services which require high electrical output include the x-ray machines, radiology center, teleconferencing systems, and telemedicine services which the current facility was not built to accommodate.

Railbelt Mental Health & Addictions

Railbelt Mental Health & Addictions (RMHA) is a non-profit out-patient Community Behavioral Health Center with facilities in several communities along the Parks Highway including Nenana. RMHA offers a variety of programs and services ranging from Community Mental Health, Individual Substance Abuse Out-patient Treatment, Community Alcohol & Drug Prevention, and a Tobacco Program.⁷

Chief Mitch Demientieff Tribal Hall

⁷ (Railbelt Mental Health & Addictions, 2011)

The Chief Mitch Demientieff Tribal Hall is utilized for a myriad of public meetings and community gatherings throughout the year. The tribal hall is housed in a multi-use building which also includes the Nenana Native Council offices and the Mary C. Demientieff Health Clinic.

James A. Coghill Community Hall

The James A. Coghill Community Hall managed by Nenana Ice Classic Association.

Library

The Public Library is operated by the City of Nenana. The Public Library is open from 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM Wednesday-Sunday.



Teen Recreation Center

The Recreation Center facility is operated by the Nenana Native Council. The Rec-Center houses the TCC Preschool and Early Head Start Programs, a fitness center, and a teen center. The Recreation Center Aide organizes a variety of activities in the teen center ranging from fitness games, movie nights, cooking, and cultural activities. Native dance practice and crafts are also held at the center.

Transportation

Nenana has air, river, road, and railroad access. It lies on the George Parks Highway, the road between Wasilla and Fairbanks. The railroad provides daily freight service. The Nenana Municipal Airport offers a 4,600' long by 100' wide lighted asphalt runway and a gravel runway that doubles as a winter ski strip and measures 2,520' long by 60' wide. There is also a float pond with parking basins. The Nenana Port Authority operates the dry cargo loading and unloading facilities, dock, bulkhead, and warehouse. The Tanana River is shallow, with a maximum draft for loaded river barges of 4.5 feet. There is a public boat launch with a recreational area to

provide access to the Nenana and Tanana rivers. Daily buses to Fairbanks and Anchorage are available in the summer.⁸

The City of Nenana performs regular maintenance of community roads including snow removal, road repairs, and road upgrades as needed. The Nenana Native Council is currently updating the 2007 Long Range Transportation Plan. There are over 100 miles of roads on the IRR Road Inventory. NNC has Planning, Maintenance, and Construction Contracts with the IRR Roads Program. Through these contracts NNC has been focusing on addressing bank erosion concerns along K Street and 9th.

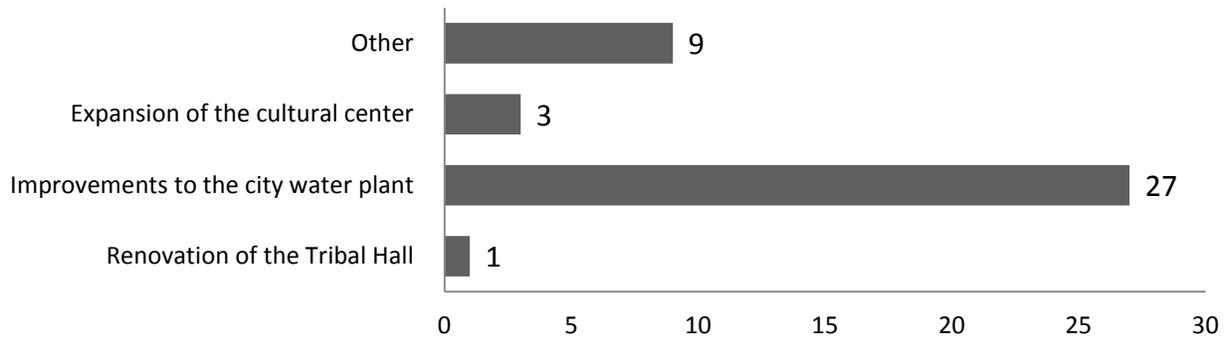


⁸ Source: DCCED Alaska Community Database Online

NENANA 2012 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SURVEY

A total of 39 surveys were collected. The total number of respondents to each question is indicated.

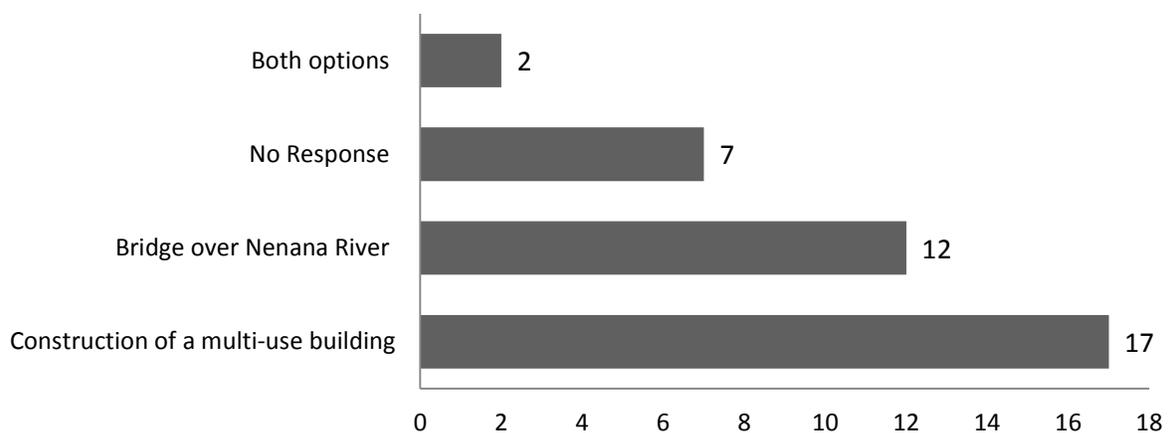
What improvements to community infrastructure would you MOST like to see happen? (39 response)



Responses for Other:

- Renovations of tribal hall & expansion of cultural center
- Renovations of tribal hall & improvements to the city water plant
- Improvements to the city water plant & expansion of the cultural center
- Renovation of youth recreation facilities
- Natural Gas
- Clean the junk off the streets
- No response

What new community infrastructure would you MOST like to see happen? (39 responses)



NENANA INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

Priority #1: Upgrade Nenana’s city water and sewer systems. Current facilities exceed forty years of age and are in need of rehabilitation and upgrade.

*Reference Sanitation Master Plan for detailed objectives and action plans.

Priority area relates to Nenana’s long-term community health and wellness goals of:

- *Public Safety and Public Services are adequate and well supported.*

Priority #2: Improve and expand the Nenana Cultural Center.

Objective #1: Upgrade museum facility to meet museum standards.

The existing Nenana Cultural Center has an outdated security system in addition to lacking museum standard display cases that adequately protect and preserve historical artifacts. Without meeting museum security and display standards, the Nenana Cultural Center is unable to host mobile exhibits or make a permanent home for Nenana area artifacts currently stored at University of Alaska Fairbanks Museum of the North.

Objective #2: Expand museum exhibits to enable the display of local collections and artifacts.

Priority area relates to Nenana’s long-term community health and wellness goals of:

- *There are culturally relevant recreational opportunities.*
- *Diversity is celebrated.*

Priority #3: Renovate and expand the Chief Demientieff Community Tribal Hall.

The current facility is in dire need of renovations. The facility’s bathrooms are in disrepair due to foundation settling, the kitchen needs upgrades to its plumbing, and the hall floor needs to be replaced.

Priority #4: Construct a multi-purpose building which could house the Mary C. Demientieff Health Clinic, Railbelt Mental Health & Addictions, and City of Nenana Offices that also include a conference center.

The current City and Railbelt Mental Health building was constructed in 1955 and is inadequate for its current purpose. The current clinic building has grown past its capacity.

Objective #1: Adapt the Community Multi-Purpose Building design to include the city offices and conference center.

- Potential site for the Multi-Purpose Building, City of Nenana Block 39.

Objective #2: Collaboration exists between Nenana Native Council and City of Nenana to secure funding for the facility through the submission of the Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG), due between February and April and the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) due in September each year.

Priority area relates to Nenana's long-term community health and wellness goals of;

- *There is adequate physical and mental healthcare available.*
- *Public Safety and Public Services are adequate and well supported.*

NENANA HOUSING

The limited supply of livable homes in Nenana has been identified as a growing problem. While there are vacant homes within the community most of them are in very poor condition. Due to a shortage in livable homes, some

housing units are occupied by multiple families. The Nenana Native Council (NNC) works through the Interior Regional Housing Authority (IRHA) to utilize NAHASDA funding which assists low income tribal members in accessing affordable housing. With the cost of new construction reaching upwards of \$300,000, NNC hopes to purchase and rehabilitate older homes



in Nenana which can be completed in under \$60,000. Both low income housing units and middle income housing units are in short supply which inhibits the ability of Nenana to sustain a stable service industry.

The Toghotthele Corporation has lots for sale in two recently developed subdivision, the Nenana Valley subdivision with lots that became available in 2010 and the Cosna subdivision with lots that became available in 2011. One of the barriers to new construction of housing identified by Nenana residents was the low housing appraisals in Nenana. New homes may be appraised for less than cost of constructing them, causing a disincentive for contractors to build new homes in Nenana. This may also create a disincentive for developers willing to invest in infrastructure such as multi-family rental units.

Housing Characteristics

Total Housing Units	215
Occupied Housing (Households)	171
Vacant Housing:	44
Vacant Due to Seasonal Use:	14

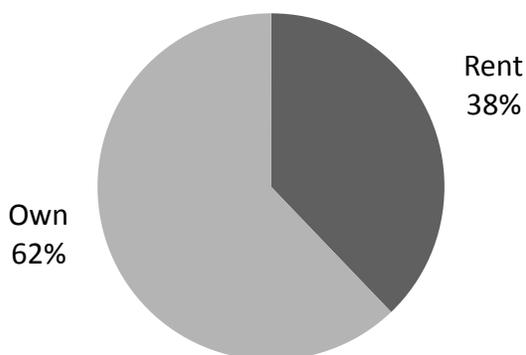
Owner-Occupied Housing:	114
Renter-Occupied Housing:	57
Total Occupied Housing Units:	171
Family Households:	92
Non-Family Households:	79
Average Household Size:	2.21
Pop. Living in Households:	378

Source: Alaska Community Online Database 2010 Population and Housing Characteristics

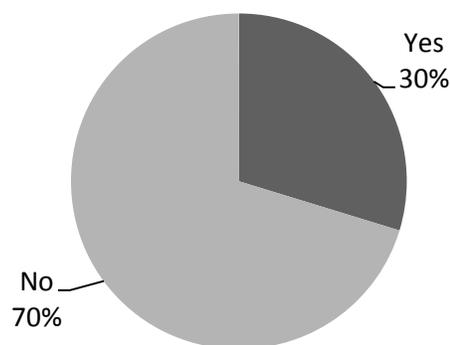
NENANA HOUSING ASSESSMENT

Nenana 2012 Community Development Survey: A total of 39 surveys were collected. The total number of respondents to each question is indicated.

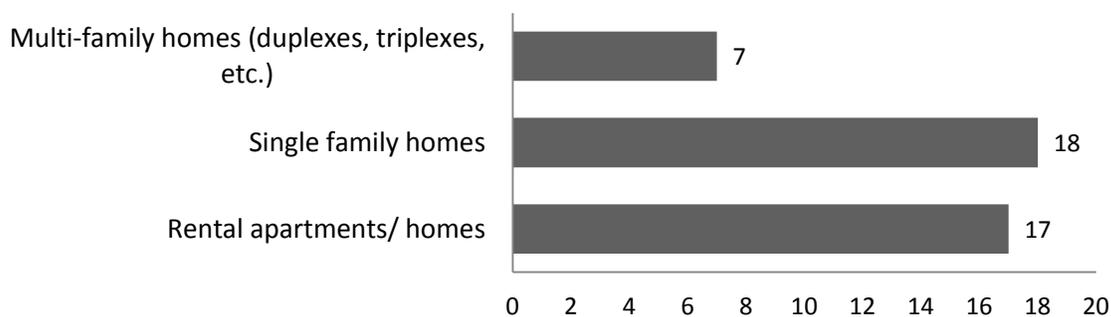
Do you own or rent your home?
(37 responses)



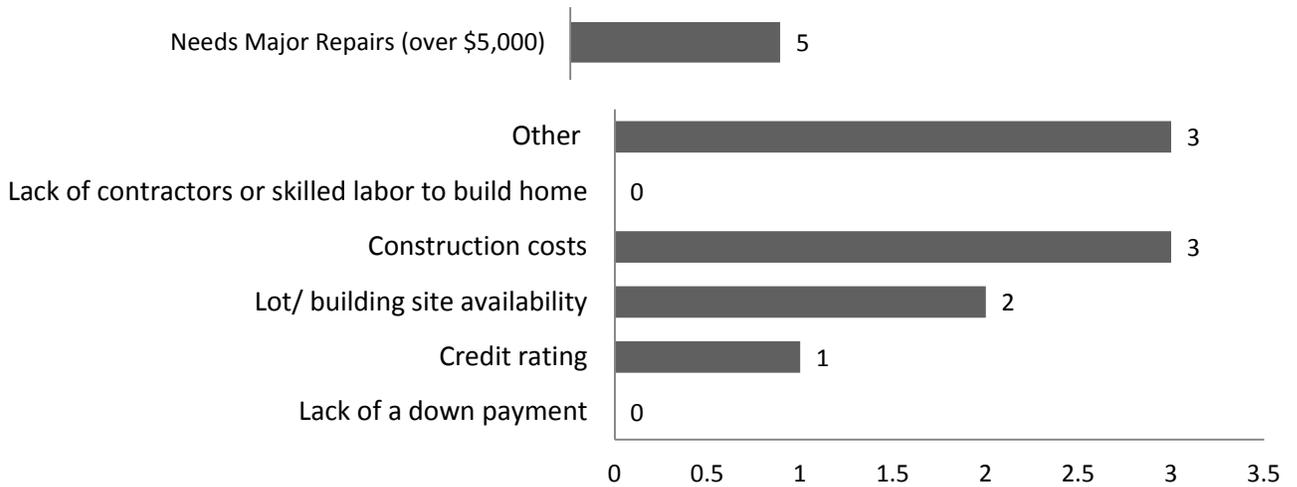
Do you currently own land within the Nenana area upon which you intend to build a home (37 responses)



Which of the following housing is needed in Nenana?



How would you rate the current condition of your home? (36 responses)

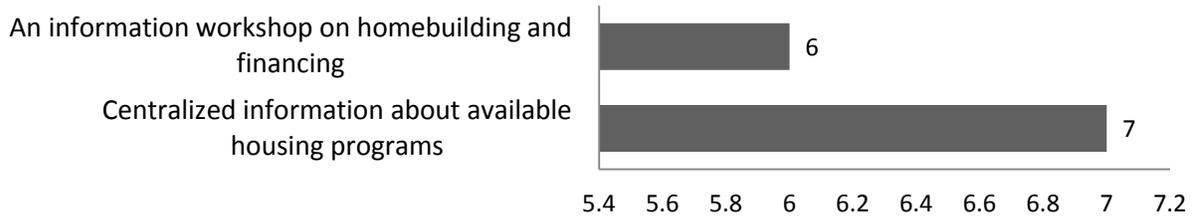


If you do not own a home, what are the barriers preventing you from homeownership? (9 responses)

Responses for other:

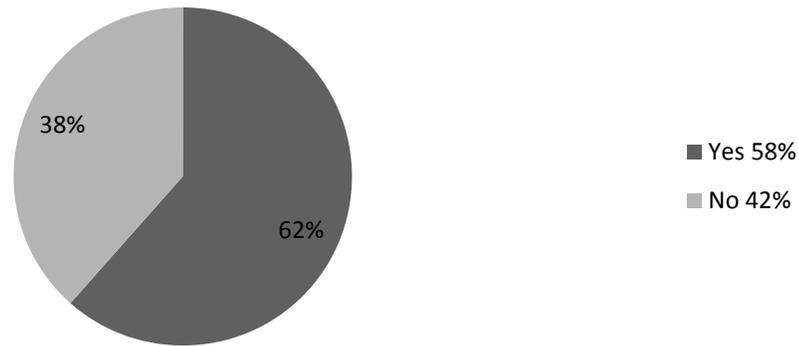
No Jobs, Profession forbids home ownership, Currently building home

Would any of the following be of assistance to you? (13 responses)



Renters Only (questions 24-26)

Does your rental home meet your needs? (13 responses)



What is the most you would be willing to pay for rent per month (not including utilities)? (6 responses)

Lowest- \$450

Highest- \$1,000

Average- \$700

Nenana Housing Priorities

Priority #1: Nenana is a place where residents and newcomers can find housing that suits their needs and that they can afford.

Objective #1: Support the construction of new homes in Nenana through providing a centralized location for housing assistance programs for new and existing homes such as grants, loans, or other assistance programs.

- Gather more in-depth information regarding the current housing situation in Nenana.
- Research and make available information about alternative



construction methods such as pre-fabricated homes which could provide a more affordable solution to new home construction in Nenana.

- Host a housing information session that highlights available resources, and invite guest speakers such as Interior Regional Housing Authority (IRHA) and other housing programs to share about available programs and assistance.

Objective #2: Research the practicality and effectiveness of creating a Nenana Housing Authority.

- Advocate greater representation on the current housing authority board.
- Evaluation of current housing authority.
- Evaluate housing authority alternatives.

Objective #3: Develop strategies that would attract potential investors willing to construct new housing and rental units in Nenana.

- Develop a marketing strategy to promote Nenana as a great place to live to assist in attracting new residents and investors to Nenana.
- Developing a land lottery to promote Nenana.
- Request Toghotthele Corporation board to consider looking into the feasibility of constructing rental units in Nenana.

Priority area relates to Nenana's long-term community health and wellness goals of;

- *Anyone who wants to work has a job*

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