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# TANANA COMMUNITY PLAN 2023-2028

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Figure 1 Photo by April Jordan



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## MISSION STATEMENT

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We, the Sovereign Native Village of Tanana, are committed to protect, perpetuate, and exercise our Tribe's inherent sovereign rights; to exercise our Tribe's power to promote healthy pride for future generations; to sustain, educate, and enhance our spirituality, culture, and wellbeing of our tribe; to protect and prevent encroachment on Dene' country, and our traditional way of life.

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## COMMUNITY VALUES

---

- |                                 |                                 |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ❖ People                        | ○ Scenery                       |
| ○ Our elders                    | ○ Strong Athabascan culture     |
| ○ Large family                  | ❖ Community                     |
| ○ Friendly and wonderful people | ○ Location                      |
| ○ Sense of community support    | ▪ Center of Alaska              |
| ○ Kinship ties                  | ▪ Middle of the Yukon River     |
| ❖ Lifestyle                     | ○ Population size               |
| ○ Native dancing                | ○ Good place to raise kids      |
| ○ Eating good                   | ○ Close to Fairbanks            |
| ○ Free to live as you like      | ○ Slow pace of living           |
| ○ Employment opportunities      | ○ Cold, fresh air               |
| ❖ Land                          | ○ Most beautiful spot in Alaska |
| ○ Subsistence activities        | ○ Great school system           |
| ○ The land is home              | ○ Elders residence              |
| ○ Can walk anywhere             |                                 |

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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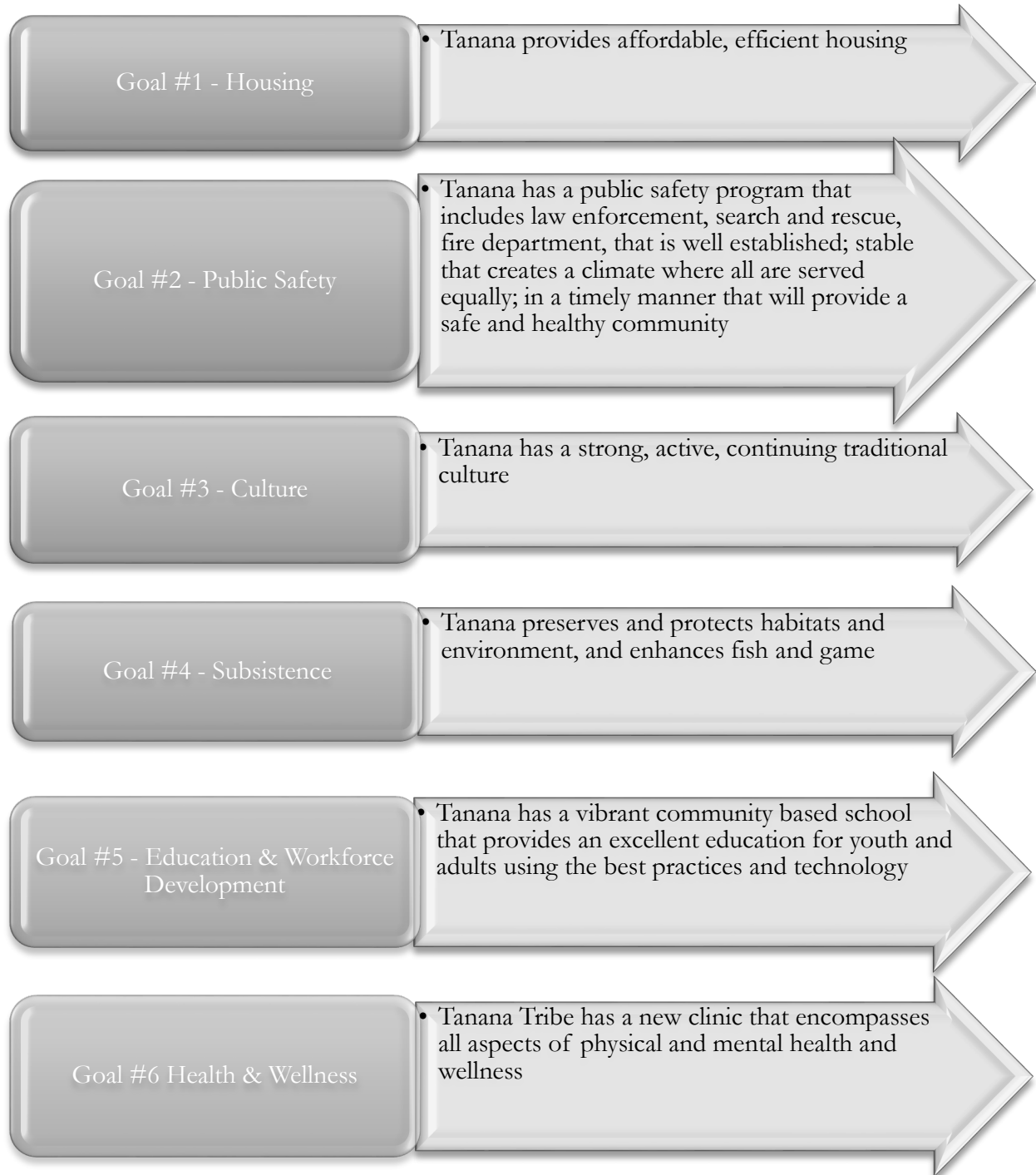
The Tanana Community Plan was completed with the help of Tanana Chiefs Conference Planning and Development Program, Tanana Tribal Council (TTC), Tozitna Limited. The community has been instrumental in developing a community plan through community planning meetings and surveys. The plan was reviewed and adopted as an official document by TTC on 01/19/2023.

The Tanana Tribal Council will implement this community plan by utilizing it as a living document. The community plan should be updated yearly and utilized to move the goals and objectives forward in order to develop projects and proposals. Implementation of the Community Plan also opens up capacity building and funding opportunities, including the Tanana Chiefs Conference Planning & Development Grant Development Specialist position, which provides funding for the Tribe to employ a community-based Grant Writing Specialist (GDS) that works closely together to write a grant for the Tribe to carry out the top goals and priorities in the community plan.

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## COMMUNITY GOALS SUMMARY

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## RESOLUTION

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Tanana Tribal Council  
PO Box 130  
Tanana, Ak 99777  
PH: (907) 366-7170

### Resolution # 23-02 Adopting Community Plan As A Draft

**Whereas**, this Community Plan is important to the future growth and development of the Native Village of Tanana; 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**; it is understood that this document was created for public use and will be made publically available and,

**Whereas**, we ask all public, private, and nonprofit 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 expressed in this plan.

#### Certification

We hereby certify that this resolution was duly passed and approved 6 in favor, 0 opposed by the following parties:

  
Lois Huntington 1<sup>st</sup> Chief

1-19-23  
Date



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## COMMUNITY PROFILE

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### HISTORY

The village of Tanana has served as a juncture of boundaries for the Koyukon, Gwichin', and Tanana groups of the interior Alaskan Athabascans. The annual celebration of this traditional gathering place was usually a month long in the spring before everyone went to their summer camps to fish. The chiefs would discuss important issues. During these times, people also traded household, food, and clothing items. Different clans traded sable, wolverine, land otter, beaver, fox, wolf, and other types of furs. Other trade items included oils from the coast; moose, caribou, and sealskins, parkas, tobacco, copper bladed spears, natural paints and various dried foods. Young boys and men were encouraged by elders to play games to improve their endurance and strength. At this celebration, locals also performed pre-arranged marriages. In honor of the old traditional celebration the community still holds a three to four day event every June, called the Nuchalawoyya Celebration.

In 1869, a French-Canadian fur trader named Francois Mercier established the first trading post on the north bank of the Yukon River, where part of the community is still located. In 1880, Harper's Station, an Alaska Commercial Company trading post was established 13 miles downriver from the present site. Then in 1881, Church of England missionaries from Canada built a mission 8 miles downriver. Between 1887 and 1900, an elaborate school and hospital complex, the St. James Mission was constructed. It became an important source of services and social change along both rivers. In 1898, Fort Gibbon was founded at Tanana to maintain the telegraph line between Fairbanks and Nome. A post office was also established, and several other trading posts later developed.



Archives, University of Alaska, Fairbanks

Figure 6 Ft Gibbon from radio tower. Alaska Digital Archives

During World War II, an air base was established near Tanana as a refueling stop for the lend-lease aircraft program.

The Tanana Tribe was federally recognized in 1939 under the Indian Reorganization Act. After WWII, on April 5, 1947, the Charter of the Native Village of Tanana was ratified by a vote of 23 people, who were over 30% of the known native voters. Tanana Tribe became Tanana's first recognized non-military government.

Following WWII, the military constructed a series of early missile detection and communications sites throughout Alaska. The Bear Creek station (approximately six miles northwest of Tanana) was constructed in 1959, it is known by local residents as the “White Alice Site”. Access was provided by a single lane dirt road from Tanana, an emergency landing strip near the site’s two main buildings, and large disk antenna.

Also, in the 1950’s the U.S. Bureau of Land Management Division of Forestry began using local Native crews to fight wildfires in Interior Alaska. Prior to this the government’s attitude had been that people caused wildfires, but better information about weather and lightning strikes proved that to be wrong. Native crews’ knowledge of the remote wild areas prone to fires made them ideal firefighters. Soon, working Emergency Fire Fighting crews was a major source of income for men in Tanana and surrounding villages.

Alaska gained statehood status in 1959. Soon after, in 1961, Tanana was incorporated as a second-class city under state statutes. It later became a first-class city to assume control over the local school system. In 1971, Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act established local and regional native corporations, with Tozitna, Limited being Tanana’s village corporation and Doyon Limited, at the regional level. The Tanana Tribal Council remained the governing entity for matters concerning health, physical and economic welfare of residents enrolled to the Tribe.

New hospital facilities were built in 1949. During the 1950’s, the hospital administration was transferred to the U.S. Public Health Service. The hospital complex was a major employer during this period, employing 54 persons with a payroll of \$1.6 million. The Tanana hospital served most communities in the region, but it unfortunately closed in 1982. The hospital facilities were remodeled for use as a health clinic, counseling center, tribal office, regional elders’ residence and housing for Tribal Administrators and local Health Care Providers.

## CULTURE

Presently, Tanana’s population is predominantly Alaska Native, mostly Koyukon Athabascan. The Koyukon Athabascan Indians inhabited the interior for thousands of years. Russian explorers traveling up the Yukon River first documented their presence in the early 1800’s. There is archeological evidence of the Koyukon people on an island near Tanana called Bull Island. The archeological evidence indicated that the Dene’ had lived in Alaska’s interior for over 10,000 years prior to contact of the first non-native explorers.

The Koyukon Athabascans were semi-nomadic people who traveled with the food they needed to gather for the year according to the season. Traditional hunting practices are preserved as local area residents still rely heavily on subsistence activities to feed their families. The Koyukon Athabascan

dialect, one of several dialects within Alaska is the language spoken in Tanana. Tanana has a large Traditional Dance Group that performs at many events and gatherings throughout the state. The tribe actively supports the preservation of the Koyukon language and culture.

Historically, the people had a “high language” that was understood by all Athabascans, despite geographic origins. Dialects were different in each area but through contact with other clans the language used became a common language. The main clan from Tanana is the Bidziyh’ to *ho’taana* or “the Caribou Clan”. The other clan is Yukon *dona ho’taana* or “the Middle of the River Clan”.

The area around Tanana had several Indian names:

- Bughu Nelagahedelenee “That at which streams meet”
- Hohudodetlaatt Denh “Place where area has been cleared”;
- Noochu Gholoyet (modern spelling Nuchalawoyya) ”Where the two Rivers meet”. The people of the region considered Nuchalawoyya neutral ground where all the tribes came to trade

## LOCATION

Traditionally Tanana was known as *Nuchalawoyya* meaning “Where the Two Rivers meet.” Tanana is located in the interior about two miles west of the junction of the Tanana and Yukon Rivers. This made it a natural meeting place for all Athabascans along the Yukon River and its tributaries. It is located at Latitude: 65.1719 and Longitude: 152.0789. The community is in Senate District and House District 6, and Judicial District 4. Tanana is part of the Ft. Gibbon Recording District and Yukon-Koyukuk Census District. The area encompasses 11.6 square miles of land and 4.0 square miles of water. Tanana is on the North Bank of the Yukon River. Tanana is 130 air miles west of Fairbanks.



Figure 7 Mission Hill View by Denise Newman



## POPULATION

According to the State of Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, the Tanana population in 2020 was 190. The population is predominantly Koyukon Athabascan Indian with a small non-native population. Population over the years have fluctuated.

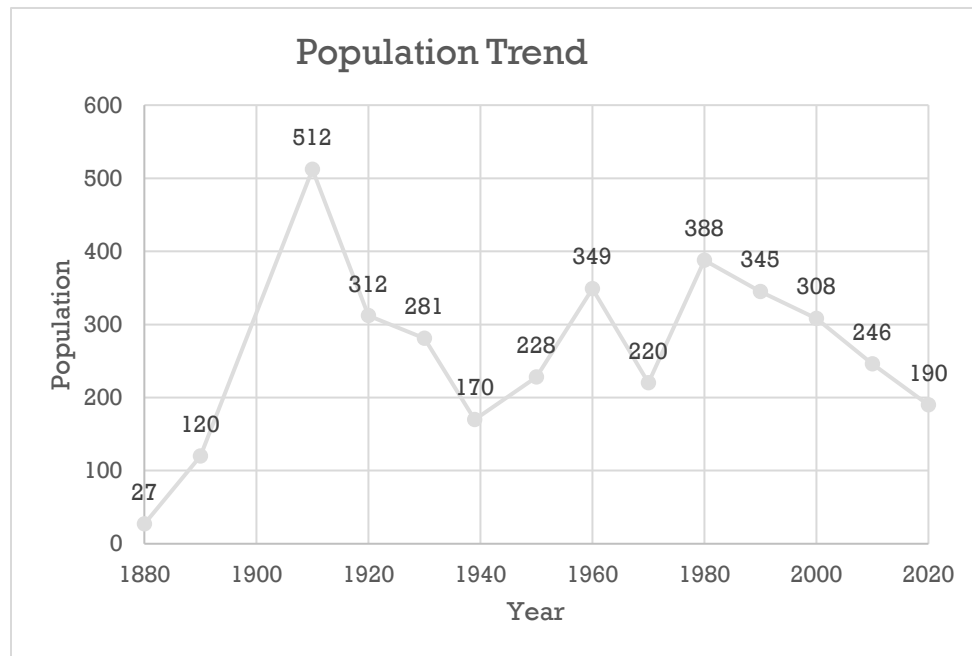


Figure 8 Native Dancing by Rebecca Chandler

#### CURRENT POPULATION BY RACE

| Race                                | Percent of Population |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| American Indian or AK Native        | 79.77%                |
| Asian                               | 0.0%                  |
| Black or African American           | 0.58%                 |
| Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander | 0.0%                  |
| White                               | 13.87%                |
| Other Race                          | 0.0%                  |
| Two or More Races                   | 5.78%                 |

#### CURRENT POPULATION BY AGE

| Age                  | Percent of Population |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Under 5 years of age | 8.09%                 |
| 5 to 9               | 9.83%                 |
| 10 to 14             | 5.78%                 |
| 15 to 19             | 1.16%                 |
| 20 to 24             | 5.2%                  |
| 25 to 34             | 8.09%                 |
| 35 to 44             | 8.67%                 |
| 45 to 54             | 15.61%                |
| 55 to 59             | 4.62%                 |
| 60 to 64             | 6.94%                 |
| 65 to 74             | 16.18%                |
| 75 to 84             | 5.2%                  |
| Over 85 years of age | 0.05%                 |

#### CURRENT POPULATION BY GENDER

|        |        |
|--------|--------|
| Male   | 43.93% |
| Female | 56.07% |

## CLIMATE

Tanana experiences a cold continental climate with extreme temperatures.

Daily maximum temperatures during July range from 64 to 70 F; daily minimum temperatures during January are -14° to -48° F. Extremes have been measured from -71° to 94° F. Average precipitation is 1 to 3 inches with 50 inches of snowfall. The river is ice free from mid-May through mid-October.

The west side of Tanana has good gravel, which allows for building slab on grade and basement foundation systems that are not affected by permafrost. Other portions of the area have less desirable soils for building.



Figure 9 Landing into Tanana by Barbara George



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## GOVERNANCE

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### TANANA TRIBAL COUNCIL

The Tanana Tribal Council is one of three local governing entities in Tanana, Alaska. The Tribal Council consists of a seven-member board elected by the community members and an Executive Director hired by the council. The Executive Director is responsible for overseeing day-to-day operations of the Tribal Office and the programs that they offer and reports directly to the elected council. The Tanana Tribal Council, City of Tanana and Tozitna, Limited collaborate on projects throughout the village. Twenty-three fulltime permanent positions and sixty temporary/seasonal employees.



"Strengthening Family Unity"

#### Programs & Staff Positions (June 2022):

##### ❖ Administration

- Executive Director
- Executive Assistant
- Receptionist
- Comptroller

##### ❖ Membership Services

##### ❖ Housing Manager

- Medical Receptionist
- Behavioral Health Aide
- Community Health Aide Practitioner

##### ❖ Transportation Manager

##### ❖ Environmental Manager

- Elders Director (2)

- Accounts Payable
- Maintenance
- Janitor

##### ❖ Realty Manager

##### ❖ Health

- Physicians Assistants (2)
- Janitor

##### ❖ Elders Center

- Caregiver

#### Current Projects (June 2022):

##### ❖ Renovations

- Detour Inn
- Health Clinic

##### ❖ Summer Employment Opportunities

##### ❖ New Health Center Conceptual Design – Partnered with Bettingsworth, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC)

##### ❖ Replacing all of internet infrastructure inside tribally owned buildings – cables, wires

- Water Treatment Plant

- ❖ Expanding/establishing broadband – fiber optics
- ❖ ANTHC and Indian Health Services (IHS): increase space for space validation
- ❖ Water treatment program – immediately doing a tech memo for the 5 homes not connected to water services and community well (Village Safe Water), drilling a community well, expanding water and sewer system for 12 houses currently not on water grid, looking at lagoon, P. engineering report for 12 homes
- ❖ Landfill upgrades
- ❖ Homes – developing a plan for FEMA grants, Hazard Mitigation Plan – due this year
- ❖ Exploring funding opportunities for Transportation Program
- ❖ Big 3 Entities Meeting - Tribe, City, Tozitna

## CITY OF TANANA



Figure 10 City of Tanana Building

Tanana's city government was incorporated in 1961 and consists of a six-member council, a mayor and a city manager. The city manager and mayor report directly to the council. Regular elections are held in October. The City imposes a 2% sales tax.

The City of Tanana is currently in the process of transferring out of a first-class city to a second-class city, as of June 2022. The City is also allowing the Maudrey J Sommer School be transferred out of the Tanana City School

District to the Yukon Koyukuk School District.

The City of Tanana operates the following services:

- |  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| ❖ Airport Maintenance (State Contract) | ❖ Liquor Sales                |
| ❖ Public Safety Building               | ❖ Jailhouse                   |
| ❖ Fire Station                         | ❖ City Shop/Mechanical Work   |
| ❖ Road maintenance                     | ❖ Construction/Rehabilitation |
| ❖ Street lights                        | ❖ Biomass installation        |
| ❖ Equipment rental and sales           | ❖ Process firewood            |
| ❖ Teacher housing units                | ❖ Office Rentals              |

## VPSO/ LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Tanana Chiefs Conference Public Safety Program funds a Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) position to be stationed in Tanana. In July 2022, a VPSO was hired for the village of Tanana.

Lodging facilities for the local VPSO is an apartment provided by the City of Tanana, located above

the fire station. In addition to the VPSO, an Alaska State Trooper also serves Tanana and the surrounding communities. There is a jail located in the community, used by both the State Trooper and VPSO as needed.

## VILLAGE CORPORATION

Tozitna, Limited was incorporated in Alaska in 1973 pursuant to that Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) of 1971. Tozitna, Limited has a nine-member board of directors (three year terms) and an office manager. The board sets the overall direction in the conduct of the corporations business, including setting the policies in matters of natural resources, land management, business investments and administration. The total number of Tozitna shareholders continues to grow. The last recorded number of shareholders is 700+ in 2020. The corporation manages its own investments and distributions from 7i revenue. Tanana Gas Company is a wholly owned subsidiary of Tozitna, Limited. The company sells unleaded gasoline, propane, oil products, etc.

Tozitna, Limited's Mission:

“To promote the economic, social, cultural and personal wellbeing of the shareholders of Tozitna, Limited”

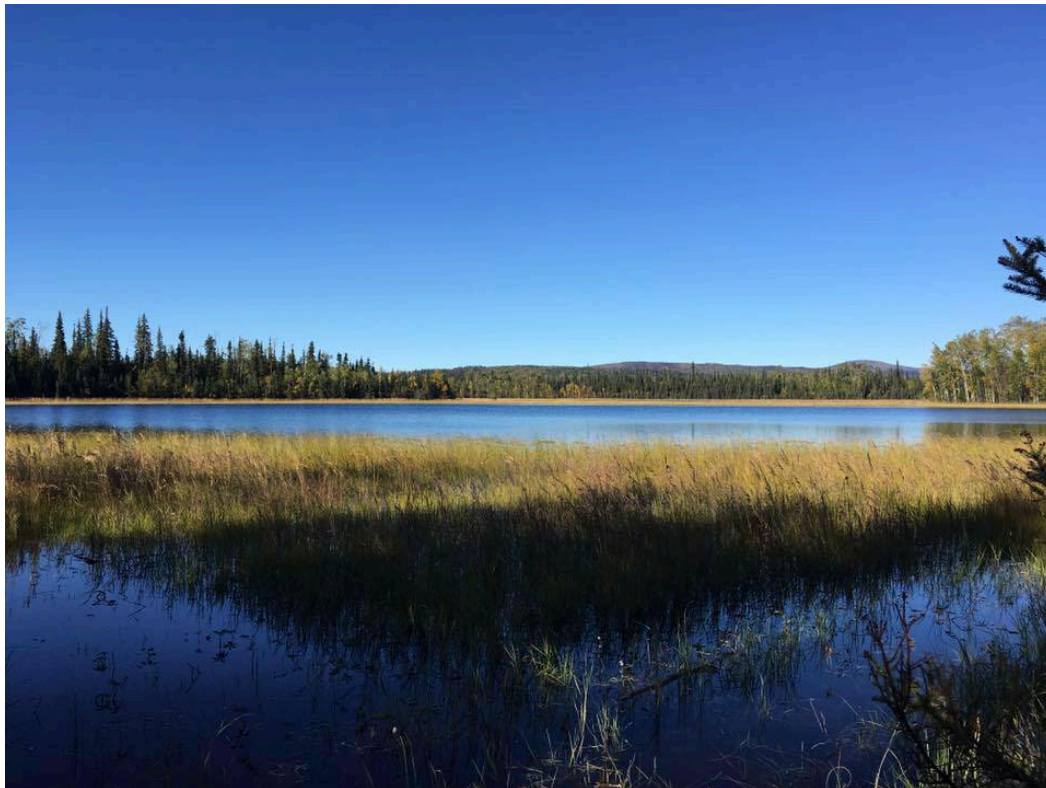


Figure 11 Photo taken by Fred Nicholia Jr.



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## CORPORATIONS

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### DOYON, LIMITED

Tanana is a part of Doyon Limited, the Alaska Native Regional Corporation for Interior Alaska, incorporated in 1972 under the 1971 Alaska Native Claim Settlement Act (ANCSA). From provisions under ANCSA, Doyon is entitled to receive approximately 12.5 million acres of land across Interior Alaska, making Doyon the largest private landowner in Alaska. Management of Doyon's land focuses on the protection of traditional shareholder uses and responsible economic development or natural resources. The corporation currently employs more than 800 persons worldwide and over 550 employees in Alaska.



### DOYON VISION:

Leader in All We Do

### DOYON MISSION:

To continually enhance our position as a financially strong Native corporation in order to promote the economic and social well-being of our shareholders and future shareholders, to strengthen our Native way of life, and to protect and enhance our land and resources.

### DOYON VALUES:

Financially responsible  
Socially and culturally responsible Alaska Native people  
Pride and respect in Native ownership  
Commitment to the long-term sustainability  
Honesty and integrity  
Commitment to excellence  
Respect for employees  
Commitment to employee safety and sound environmental practices

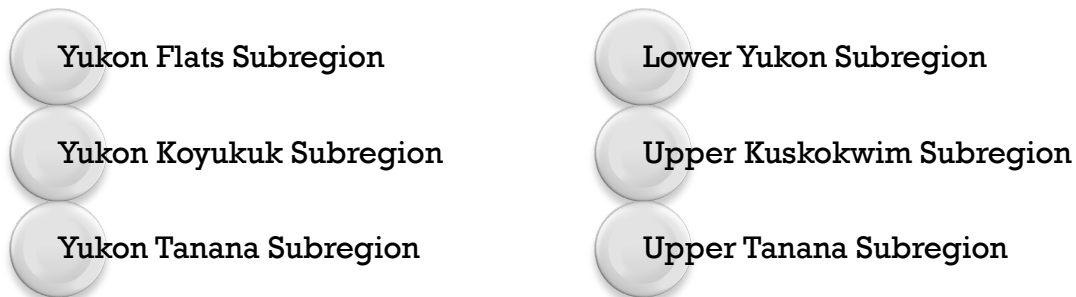
## TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE

Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) was officially formed in 1962 and incorporated under Alaska State Law in 1971. TCC, organized as Dena' Nena' Henash or "Our Land Speaks;" is an Alaska Native nonprofit corporation, charged with advancing Tribal self-determination and enhancing regional native unity. TCC provides a unified voice in advancing sovereign tribal governments through the promotion of physical and mental wellness, education, socioeconomic development, and culture of the Interior.



TCC provides services while balancing traditional Athabascan and Alaska Native values with modern demands. TCC's objectives are to provide health, social, and economic services to the native people and villages of interior Alaska, known as the TCC region, using federal, state, and local resources. TCC is comprised of three core departments: Administration, Health Services, and Tribal Client Services.

The Tanana Chiefs Conference region covers an area of 235,000 square miles in Interior Alaska, which is equal to about 37 percent of the entire state, and just slightly smaller than the state of Texas. Within the TCC region are six sub regions and within the six sub regions are 40 villages, for an approximate population of 6,700. TCC also serve clients in the Fairbanks area.



Health Board of Directors: Curtis Sommer, Tanana Representative

Board of Directors: Julie Roberts-Hyslop

Lois Huntington, Alternate Director

## DENAKKANAAGA

Denakkanaaga, meaning “Our People Speak” in Denaakk’e (Koyukon Athabaskan), is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization which serves as the voice for the Interior Native Elders in the Doyon and Tanana Chiefs Conference region. Denakkanaaga acts on behalf of the Elders, working to ensure their concerns are addressed regarding topics such as Native cultures, traditions, languages, subsistence and social issues. As the population, over the age of 65, grows within Interior Alaska, Denakkanaaga works with other organizations to maximize efforts to advocate for Native Elders.



### Denakkanaaga Core Values/Commitments:

United Voice: Keep Native voice stronger together for positive action  
Continue traditions, art, cultural values, language, and subsistence life  
Unity among Native organizations and people

### Denakkanaaga Core Programs:

Peer support for each other (elder to elder)  
Support/mentor the next generation  
Cultural programs  
Regional voice on issues/concerns



Figure 12 Native Dancing by Faith Peters



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## PUBLIC UTILITIES

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### WATER AND SEWER

Toogha Inc., is a non-profit utility board that operates the water and sewer utilities for the community of Tanana. The community derives water from three wells near the Yukon River and four watering points are available. Toogha Inc. currently has 60+ homes hooked up to a water and sewer system. Residents that live in the outlying areas that are off the piped system haul their own water from the washeteria and use outhouses/honey buckets. The laundromat runs off the biomass wood heater and wood vendors provide wood to operate the laundromat.

Tanana Tribal Council is in the process of assuming ownership and operations of the water utility. The laundromat received new washers, dryers in 2022. There will be new showers installed in 2022.

### SOLID WASTE

Tanana has one class 3 landfill permitted by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC), permit #SW3A063-12. The landfill uses two incinerators and provides recycling services. Adjacent to the landfill is a designated area for aeration of contaminated soil.

The landfill is in need of upgrades. The Tanana Tribal Council is currently looking at replacing and upgrading the landfill as it has reached its life expectancy. The 3 entities, Tribe, City and Tozitna need to come together to do a land use plan to identify land spaces for the next 50 years.

### COMMUNICATIONS

Yukon Telephone Company provides in-state telephone service to Tanana residents. AT&T Alascom supplies long-distance phone service. Starting in 2011, GCI began providing cell phone service.

United Utilities Alaska and Yukon Telephone collaborate to provide local broadband internet service. Tanana residents must purchase television cable in order to receive internet service. The local library has internet access that is available for public use. As of May 2022, the price for 100 GB costs \$314.99 monthly, with a speed of 10Mbps/2Mbps (UUI Offers, n.d.).

According to the TCC Tribal Broadband Plan, only 17 percent of communities have access to an affordable residential internet plan and none of these communities has household access to broadband (25Mbps/3Mbps) speeds (Comprehensive Economic, 2022). Expansion of broadband will increase employment opportunities for rural residents who can apply for and conduct remote work for companies outside the community, and make it easier to access remote training and education opportunities (Comprehensive Economic, 2022).

There is one local radio station in Tanana, KIAM-AM. The Alaska Rural Communications Systems provides television to the community and Supervision, Inc. provides Cable TV. As of May 2022, the price for basic cable services in Tanana is \$40/month with an additional \$25/month for four extra movie channels (Cable TV, n.d.).

## **BULK FUEL**

Bulk Fuel is located at several locations in the community. The Tanana Tribal Council owns a fuel storage tank with the capacity of 191,100 gallons. The power plant has a fuel storage tank with the capacity of 46,500 gallons. The Maudrey J. Sommer School and the City of Tanana both have tanks with a capacity of 25,000. The State of Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities has a tank with a 2,000 gallon capacity.

## **ELECTRIC**

The privately operated Tanana Power Company provides electricity to community members. The company is a corporation with a board of directors that consist of four members. The company generates power using diesel fuel, utilizing four generators to power the community of Tanana. The local utility has a kilowatt capacity of approximately 2,000 kilowatts.



Figure 13 Power Plant

In FY21, there were 106 Tanana residential customers eligible for the Power Cost Equalization Program, 7 community facility customers and 45 other non-PCE customers. Fiscal year PCE payments totaled \$111,436. Each eligible customer saved \$986 annually on average, or roughly \$82/month on average.

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## **PUBLIC FACILITIES**

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### **TRIBAL BUILDINGS**

The Tanana Tribal Council owns, operates and maintains multiple buildings. These are:

- |                         |                           |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| ❖ Elders Home           | ❖ Health Clinic           |
| ❖ Tribal Court Building | ❖ Detour Inn              |
| ❖ Tribal Building       | ❖ Toogha, Inc.            |
| ❖ Tribal Shop           | ❖ Clinic Provider Housing |

## CITY BUILDING

The Tanana City Building is very aged and in need of renovations and improvements or demolition. The City of Tanana has most recently condemned the old log building and has not been renting out any office space or utilizing the office at all.

## HEALTH CLINIC



Figure 14 Tanana Health Center

The Tanana Tribal Council operates the Tanana Health Center. It is staffed with a full-time director, Family Nurse Practitioner, Health Aide, and Medical Records Clerk. TCC medical providers make quarterly visits and the dental/vision staff visits semi-annually to offer additional services to the community. The Health Center is a qualified Emergency Care Center in addition to being equipped with an x-ray machine, laboratory, pharmacy and video teleconference (VTC). The VTC allows for two-way communication between the patient and an offsite provider.

## SCHOOL

The Maudrey J. Sommer School is the only school located in Tanana, Alaska. The school and teacher housing is operated by the Yukon Koyukuk School District. The school board is comprised of nine members from the Yukon Koyukuk region that meet monthly to make decisions on behalf of the students and staff, as well as oversee finances and business affairs for all 11 schools in the district. All final decisions for the school and district are in the hands of the School Board. As of June 2022, there are approximately 30 students enrolled in the Maudrey J. Sommer School. Staff consists of a Principal/Superintendent, maintenance worker, custodian, office assistant, five teachers, and four teacher aids. The school gym may serve as a community shelter if needed.



Figure 15 Maudrey J Sommer School



The school also has a public library, located in the building that is open 3 nights a week. Additional extra-curricular activities include cross-country running, basketball, skiing, and journalism. College courses, through the University of Alaska Fairbanks are also available to students. In 2012, the community chose to rehabilitate the existing facility and now it meets the State of Alaska standards.

The school has a Head Start Program that is funded by Tanana Chiefs Conference. This parent run program was started in 1982. The staff consists of two teachers, who are currently taking UAF courses in Early Childhood Development. The program is overseen by a parent committee of four residents. The classroom is located in the Maudrey J. Sommer School. There are approximately 12 children currently enrolled in the program. In addition to educational services for the children, the staff also provides prenatal education for parents. The Head Start Program offers nutritional snacks and lunches to all enrolled students. Local resident Adele Grant has been the Head Start teacher for the past 30 years. The staff actively engages community members to participate in the program and offers cultural activities.

#### ADDITIONAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

The University of Alaska Fairbanks, Interior Alaska Campus (IAC) is one of five campuses serving rural Alaskan students through the College of Rural and Community Development (CRCD). IAC is a unique campus and has integrated cultural knowledge and practices into the current curriculum. IAC provides distance and place-based education to the Nenana region, including service to Anderson, Cantwell, Clear, Denali Park, Healy, Livengood, Manley Hot Springs, Minto, Nenana, Rampart and Tanana. IAC staff assist with preparing for a University Degree or Certificate Program. The IAC student services staff provide education support including, financial aid, course registration, student advising, UAF admissions, and technical support. The five academic programs offered through IAC are: Associate of Science, Construction Trades Technology, Rural Human Services, Tribal Management, and Wildland Fire Science. Tanana residents have access to Interior Alaska Campus services as needed. IAC has the capacity to offer courses and trainings to Tanana residents in partnership with the Tanana Tribal Council and other local organizations.

#### EMERGENCY SERVICES

Emergency services are limited due to road and river access, air medevac services are the fastest ways to respond to emergencies. With the help of volunteers and clinic staff, emergencies are responded to in a timely fashion. The EMT team obtains recertification every two years. The Health Center has a trainer on staff that offers training for first aid and CPR.

Critical facilities and infrastructure necessary for emergency response efforts and whose loss of function would present an immediate threat to life, public health, and safety, they include: Maudrey J Sommer School, roads, communications, utilities, Ralph M. Calhoun Memorial Airport, community

hall, fire department, police department (VPSO program), DOT maintenance shop, City of Tanana maintenance shop, fuel storage facilities.

Critical infrastructure consists of the various service networks in Tanana, including: Yukon Telephone company facilities, AT&T Alascom, GCI, Supervision Cable ISP facilities, TV station facilities, Too'gha water and sewer facilities, piped water & sewer systems that serve the Tanana Health Center, elders home, Tanana Tribal Council, Washeteria, and Water Treatment Plant.

Cultural and historical assets include facilities that help define the community character that, if lost, would represent a significant loss to the community. These include: Tanana Mission, also known as Mission of our Savior Episcopal Church and Cemetery, community cemetery, St. James Episcopal Mission, and St. Aloysius Catholic Church.

## FIRE PROTECTION



Figure 16 Tanana Fire Department & Village Public Safety Office

The community of Tanana has a local volunteer fire department. The Fire Station is located in the middle of town right behind the City Office and has one large garage that is used to maintain the two available fire trucks. The fire trucks are maintained by the City of Tanana. The Tanana Tribal Council manages the local search and rescue volunteers, in which the community members lend their time and resources during emergencies.

## SEARCH AND RESCUE

Search and rescue activities are presently conducted by village residents on a volunteer basis, with assistance from the Tanana Tribal Council. The Tanana area is served by the Alaska State Troopers and a VPSO when the position is filled. People use their own vehicles and equipment when there is a search and rescue emergency. This is likely to continue in the future, although a more formalized search and rescue response service is needed. Volunteers use their own radios, satellite phones, boats, snowmachines, ATVs and gas.

## POST OFFICE

The post office is open Monday through Friday from 8:30am to 4:30pm. Tanana has one postmaster and one alternate. All freight and mail for the community is flown in through the airline once a day.

## WASHETERIA

The laundromat is owned and operated by Too'gha Inc., a non-profit utility board that also operates the water and sewer utilities. The laundromat is open 5 days a week from 10am to 10pm, it is closed on Tuesdays and Thursdays. It is staffed by two certified water plant operators, one maintenance person, and a full-time custodian. It has washers, dryers, showering facilities and hauling water available.

In 2000, the new water plant and laundromat was built under a Village Safe Water (VSW) grant. In 2007, two wood fired Garn boilers were installed, with the help of the Interior Regional Housing Authority (IRHA). The new system produces enough energy to heat the buildings and the 280,000 gallon water storage tank. Since installation, the heating oil consumption has dropped by 30% annually.

Additional solar panels were installed to help reduce electric costs. The City of Tanana pays local residents to provide the cords of wood necessary to supply the garn boilers. The newly installed wood burning boilers use approximately ten cords of wood each month.

## COMMUNITY HALL

The Community Hall is owned and operated by the Tanana Tribal Council. It was built in the late 1960's and has since received several upgrades. Most community events are held at the hall such as wedding receptions, potlatches, and town meetings. The most recent upgrades to the hall were in 2014 when running water was added to the kitchen and a restroom was installed, before these upgrades were made the hall had no running water. A new community hall is needed in Tanana.



Figure 17 Tanana Community Hall

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## HOUSING

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According to statistics from the Department of Community and Regional Affairs, the total number of houses in Tanana 166. The average value of home is estimated at \$51,700 and the average cost to rent is \$510 monthly. The average household has 2.5 persons, with the average family size being 3.5 persons. Tanana has 69 family households and 52 non-family households. Currently 80% of homes in Tanana lack water/sewer plumbing and 23% lack phone service. Approximately 60% of homes use

wood burning stoves as the main heating source. After doing a physical inventory of the existing homes, 46 are vacant, 42 are used seasonally and 38 are considered unlivable due to age and dilapidation.

Tanana Chiefs Conference Housing Department weatherized 44 homes in Tanana through their Weatherization Program in 2015. Improvements focused on increasing energy star ratings with the installation of new windows, doors; health and safety appliances; addition of insulation; heating system improvements and education on energy efficiency.

Since 2018 there has been 4 small single person houses built by the housing department at the Tanana Tribal Council for residents in multi-generational homes. In late 2022 and early 2023, the housing department plans to add running water to each of the homes.



Figure 18 Triplex Housing Owned by the Tanana City



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## ECONOMY

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### LOCAL STORES AND BUSINESSES

- Tanana Commercial Company is the largest private owned store in Tanana. The store provides groceries, hardware and gas. The current price of gas is \$7.79. Freight is barged in throughout the summer and flown in winter, if needed. Bypass such as milk, eggs, bread and frozen items are flown as needed.

Listed below are the active business licenses in Tanana:

| License #         | Business Name                                     | Line of Business   |
|-------------------|---|--|
| 954894            | Tanana Native Council                             | Civic and social programs, homes for the elderly         |
| 2115042           | Detour Inn  | Bed and Breakfast Inns                                   |
| 915105<br>2121804 | Tanana Commercial Co LLC                          | Grocery and other grocery stores, bed and breakfast inns |
| 1052886           | Tanana Commercial/Environmental Management LLC JV | Environmental consulting services                        |
| 227564            | Tanakon, Inc                                      | General warehousing and storage                          |
| 1031676           | Wood Solutions                                    | Forest nurseries and gathering of forest products        |
| 1015487           | Mood Solutions                                    | Floriculture production                                  |
| 2113350           | Kozevnikoff Krew                                  | Other airport operations                                 |
| 290372            | Tanana Sandbar                                    | Beer, wine and liquor sales                              |
| 2091260           | Melozie River Recreational Lodge                  | Traveler accommodations                                  |

- There are no physical shops in the village of Tanana, but there are artists who operate most of their business online that sell native art locally and sometimes send out their art through the post office
- Potential business opportunities that are most commonly requested or recommended fall under food service and temporary housing for travelers.

### COMPOSITION OF EMPLOYMENT

- Most job opportunities are provided through the Tribal Council and secondly through the City of Tanana.
- Jobs that are most commonly available are substitute teachers, teaching assistants, elders' residential aides, cooks for construction projects, and substitutes for employees that are traveling.
- A majority of jobs for community members are short term projects, but there are always new projects happening and there are always job opportunities for those who apply.

- Other industries that are pursued for income are mainly wood for community members and the local washeteria.
- Most recently the clinic and well house for the Tribal building have been renovated by GHEMM company and other projects that are underway are Toogha hooking up some houses around town recently built by the housing department. Both projects have hired locally to complete.
- Some residents have been able to find employment out of town guiding hunting expeditions and work through the end of August and into September. Throughout the spring and into fall, Tanana is able to provide a forest fire crew that partners with other surrounding villages for the Borough of Land Management to fight forest fires around the state of Alaska.

Tanana's economy is based on subsistence and supplemented by local government employment. The total potential work force provided by the Department of Labor Division of Research and Analysis in 2016 was 183; 128 residents were employed. The unemployment rate provided in the 2013 State of Alaska HMP is 24% although practical unemployment or underemployment is likely to be significantly higher. Approximately 13% of residents live below the poverty line. The per capita income is \$20,250 with a median household income of \$45,000. Some residents supplement their income by selling arts and crafts (such as moccasins, beaded gloves, and woodwork).

Local government is the main industry providing employment to residents of Tanana, which is 70 percent of the jobs. The majority of the workers are employed by the City, NVT, or the Maudrey J. Sommer School District. Seasonal jobs include BLM firefighting, trapping, wood cutting, and construction.

The City employs some individuals to gather and to cut wood for use in the biomass systems, wood boiler installers and operators, forestry management and engineering biomass systems. In 2017, about 312 cords of wood (fuel equivalent of 46,800 gallons) per year has been harvested from the Yukon River. Annually, the community burns about 400 cords of wood for residential heating.

Tozitna, Limited, the village corporation for Tanana, runs a gas station and fuel delivery. Another private business also has retail gas sales. Most of the Tanana residents maintain their subsistence lifestyles—hunting, fishing, and harvesting wild berries for food.

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## TRANSPORTATION

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### EXTERNAL TRANSPORTATION

The main mode of transportation for local residents traveling out of Tanana is air. The State of Alaska owns and operates the Ralph M. Calhoun Memorial Airport. There is air service in and out of Tanana seven days a week. Wright Air Service, Era Aviation, and Everts Air Fuel, as well as a small number of private planes travel to Tanana. A one-way adult ticket between Tanana and Fairbanks is \$120 with Wright Air. Freight is \$0.67/lb for 54+ lbs at Wright Air. The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities expanded the local runway in 2007 and 2008.

The road to Tanana was constructed and officially opened to the public in August 2016 and extends Manley Hot Springs existing Tofty Road, to a location on the south bank of the Yukon River approximately six miles from Tanana. The State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (AK DOT&PF) partnered with Tozitna, Limited and Doyon, Limited to construct the road as it is on a mixture of public state land and private native corporation land. AK DOT&PF constructed 20 miles of new road.

The road allows residents of Tanana to enjoy a more affordable and more efficient transportation for passengers and commodities. The road is not open year round and requires extensive work each season. The terrain of the road is over hills, gets blown in throughout the winter, and washed out in the spring. Manley Hot Springs and Tanana DOT employees and volunteers do work on their end of the road. Passengers need to arrange a boat ride into the village during the summer or cross the river in the winter. Due to the windy nature of the Yukon River, the crossing must be cleared often.

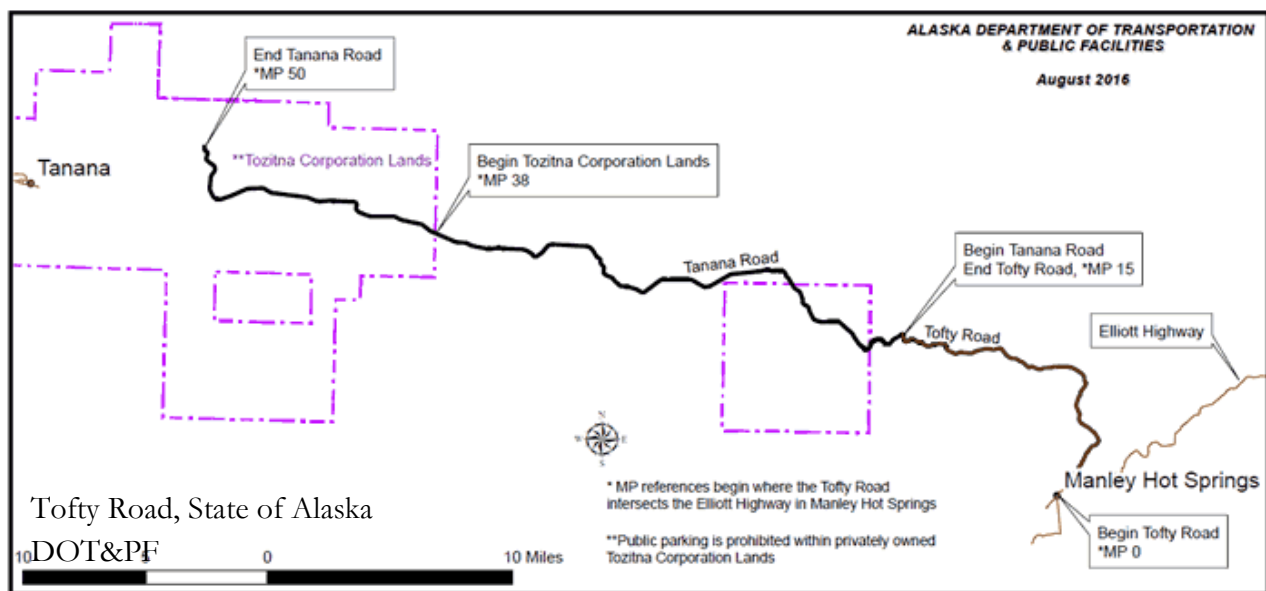


Figure 19 Road to Tanana From Manley Hot Springs

There is a main docking area in Tanana. Seasonal variations dictate barge schedules. In the summer season, May/June through September/October, there are almost weekly barges of goods and supplies to Tanana and downstream communities. Several barge companies serve the people of Tanana, such as Crowley Marine, Inland Barge, and Ruby Marine. There are no barge services throughout majority of the year until the Yukon and Tanana Rivers are ice-free.

## INTERNAL TRANSPORTATION

According to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the roads in Tanana are comprised of approximately 25 miles of road and trails. Community members use cars, trucks, snow machines, AIVs, and riverboats for local transportation.

According to the State of Alaska DOT&PF page (Needs List Search, n.d.), there are improvements needed. The Tofty Road needs moderate updates to conform to pioneer road standards. The landfill road needs improvements to the existing 2 mile road including resurfacing and improving drainage. The community roads need rehabilitation and resurfacing to 4 miles of roads in the community. Drainage and dust problems need to be addressed.

Most recent projects include Tofty Road MP 15.4 Sullivan Creek drainage improvements. The project has provided a reliable crossing and improve draining across Sullivan Creek on Tofty Road, which has presented a significant problem with ice building within the roadway and making traffic passage difficult in the winter and spring. New drainage features have been installed and adding several feet of gravel to the roadway maintains the flow of the creek, resulting in reduced seasonal icing. The State DOT&PF is currently working to design new culverts and rock drainage structures.



Figure 20 Sullivan Creek, Tofty Road. State DOT &PF website



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## LAND USE AND ENVIRONMENT

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### LAND OWNERSHIP

According to the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development records, Tozitna Limited, under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act 14(c), received title to the surface estate of claimed lands for 138,240 acres. Tozitna Limited is in the process of developing a Land Use Plan that would include identification of commercial, housing, industrial, warehousing, utilities and solid waste use. Tozitna, Limited and Doyon, Limited own the majority of the lands within the community of Tanana.

There is a designated park and recreational area in Tanana that includes campsites for people traveling up and down the Yukon River.

The Community currently has two cemeteries for gravesites. The city maintains what is called the Town Graveyard, it is located above the solar circle subdivision and below the gravel pit. The traditional graveyard is located above the old St. James Mission Church. Local residents believe the Mission Church site is the resting place of many traditional medicine men.

### SUBSISTENCE



Figure 21 Net Checking by Adam Grant

A majority of the residents in Tanana are of Koyukon Athabascan descent. The Koyukon Athabascan people have always depended upon the natural resources and lived off the land. People were traditionally semi-nomadic and followed the sources of food according to the season

The people deeply valued the land and all that came from it. They kept the land clean as they traveled between natural hunting and gathering sites, never leaving their trash behind and always utilizing every part of an animal harvested. The people of the region believed conservation practices would keep the animals, land, and people healthy. Being grateful to the creator was also a large part of the peoples connection to the land and their spirituality.

Subsistence is critical to the long- term sustainability of cultural traditions in rural Alaska and serves as the primary source of food for the people of Tanana. Many of Tanana's elders and adult population grew up spending summers at traditional fish camps. Locals put up a majority of annual catches to sustain

their families through winter months. Villagers store fish strips or prepared dried fish to last the winter and sometimes trade for gasoline, food and other needed items. Dog mushers also catch their own fish (usually summer chum) to help in feeding their dog teams throughout the winter.

Tanana residents rely on their annual fish and game harvests to make it through the winter. Small game including rabbits are trapped throughout the winter. Other animals trapped are wolverine, wolves, lynx, marten for selling furs. Beavers are trapped for meat and fur during winter. Waterfowl is hunted in the spring before the ice breaks in the spring, such as geese. Ducks are hunted after the river becomes ice free. Salmon is fished throughout the summer. Residents gather berries in the summer and fall time, including raspberries, cranberries and blueberries. Moose hunting season is in September.

## FOOD SECURITY

In recent years, people in the community have had to heavily rely on our local store and bringing food in from the city. Subsistence fishing has been regulated and there was no fishing in the summer of 2020, 2021, 2022, all declared federal disaster. Tanana residents have to find fish elsewhere in Alaska, either purchasing or doing fishing day charters in other parts of the State.

## ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

The Tanana Tribal Council has an Indian General Assistance Program (IGAP) that backhauls batteries and old vehicles. Tanana has been actively cleaning contaminated sites since 2000. A multi-agency work group was created to identify and clean contaminated sites in collaboration with the Tanana Tribe.

Currently there is a designated place for contaminated soil to aerate located below the community landfill. A local law was passed to ban the use of plastic bags in the community of Tanana. Many efforts are being made to clean and remove contamination in and around the Village of Tanana.

Like most of Interior Alaska, Tanana sees climate change effects. These include river erosion, warmer winters, disastrous fishing seasons, unfamiliar birds and plants appearing. Tanana has seen weird animal patterns, getting visits from hungry bears, wolves and lynx in town.



Figure 22 Town Visitors by John Erhart

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## COMMUNITY WELL-BEING

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### CHURCHES

Tanana's early history brought both Protestant/Episcopalian and Roman Catholic missionaries from Canada. St. James Episcopal Mission was founded between 1887-1900.

St Aloysius was founded around 1881 and ministered needs to Catholic soldiers, gold seekers and businesspersons who had come to the area. Catholic missions were established downriver and remained predominant, and upriver stayed predominantly Episcopalian, but Tanana is one of the only communities that continues a strong presence of both groups. Both churches hold Sunday services.



Figure 23 St James Episocpal Church by Shawnda Solomon

Tanana children have the option to go to Kokrine Hills Bible Camp (KHBC) throughout the summer. KHBC is about 80-90 miles below Tanana on the Yukon River at the Kokrine Hills. There are elementary, middle school and high school camps.

### ELDER CARE PROGRAMS

The Tanana Elders residential facility, *Dina'Dilna'Kka'Ya*, meaning *Our Parents Home*, is owned and operated by the Tanana Tribal Council. The facility provides care to local elders who need assistance with daily tasks. The assisted living facility focuses their services for individuals who are unable to reside on their own, but do not need the full-time health care services of a nursing home. In addition to providing assistance to those residing in the facility, staff also provides meals to elders throughout the community. That service is funded through state grant funding, local resources and private donations.



Figure 24 Tanana Elders Residence

As of 2022, there are five elders residing in the facility, but it has the capacity to house nine residents. The facility consists of nine bedrooms, a dining room that serves as a community gathering area, kitchen, laundry room, basement (for storage), and a conference room. The Elders Residence employs three Residential Assistants whose duties include cleaning and cooking; two night watchpersons; and a program director.

## COUNSELING CENTER

The Tanana Tribal Council operates the Tanana Counseling Center. In addition to mental health services, the center also offers alcohol and drug addiction assessments. The local counselor is a permanent resident of Tanana and is responsible for planning and coordinating youth and wellness activities such as Nuchalawoyya, Spirit Camp, and holiday celebrations. To provide additional counseling services to the community, Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) sends a Mental Health Professional once a month for three days to do assessments.

## ACCESSIBILITY

The Tribal Court Building added accessibility ramps to the building. The Community Hall, Health Clinic, Elders Center, Detour Inn, School all have accessibility ramps.

## CULTURAL, SEASONAL EVENTS AND GATHERINGS



Figure 25 Bitsy Huntington at 2022 Junior North American Championship by Selina J Sam

The Tanana Dog Mushers Association holds the annual Yukon River Sled Dog Championship in Tanana every last weekend in March or at the beginning of April. Tanana Dog Mushers receives donations from the Tanana Tribal Council, City of Tanana, Tozitna, Limited, and other donations. The weeklong event starts on Tuesday leading to the weekend, where women's and kids races are held throughout the week. The open championship is held on Saturday and Sunday, which draws many out of town mushers and spectators.

Over the weekend, there are other races such as Cheechako, small children's races, snowshoe races, pop scrambles and live rock and roll dances. Awards are held on Sunday evenings. This is a cultural activity that Tanana looks forward to every year.

Nuchalawoyya celebration is held biannually every other June, hosted by the Tanana Tribal Council. The City of Tanana, Tozitna, Limited, Doyon, Limited, and other donations receive donations. The celebration commemorates the traditional event where Chiefs met in early June before going to fish camp. The celebration draws many out of town visitors. There includes strength races, such as arm wrestling, leg wrestling, archery, spear throw, stick pull, canoe races, grease pole walk, tug o war.



Other events include baby regalia contest, princess Nuchalawoyya contest, and Miss Nuchalawoyya pageant, foot races (kids, women, and an open 16-mile race). Traditional potlatch and cover dishes are included in the evenings, as well as traditional dancing takes place. Rock and roll dances are held at night throughout the weekend.

Tanana Tribal Council hosts spirit camp during the summer to engage youth, adults and elders in the Athabascan culture. Spirit Camp is located 16 miles up the Yukon River. Tanana Tribal Council is the main sponsor of the wellness event but receives donations as well. Activities include teaching the kids how to catch, cut, store and process salmon for eating, beading, singing native songs, language learning and hiking.



Figure 26 Fourth of July Celebration by Rebecca Chandler

Tanana holds 4<sup>th</sup> of July events, such as bicycle races, contests including egg toss, gunnysack race, bicycle decorating. Out of towners travel to Tanana to participate in 4<sup>th</sup> of July and Memorial Day. The Tanana road has made it easier to travel to Tanana during these events.

With Tanana's location on the Yukon River, there are stops at Tanana during raceboat seasons. Tanana serves as a checkpoint in the Yukon 800, Tanana 440 and the Manley 140 outboard motor boat races.

Throughout summer and fall, families from the community plan a memorial potlatch for those in their family that have passed which bring many of their family and friends to Tanana to celebrate the life of their loved ones who have passed. During this time, the family prepares gifts and food and friends from surround villages come to Tanana and participate in a three-day celebration with traditional food, singing, and dancing.



Figure 27 Yukon 800 Finish in 2022 by Kathleen Peters Zuray

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## COMMUNITY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

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### HOUSING

Goal: Tanana provides affordable, efficient housing for all members that encourages members to move home and prevent out migration

Objectives:

- Identify funding and combine resources to build homes
- Identify handicapped accessible homes
- Hook homes up to water and sewer line
  - Contact Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium and State of Alaska Village Safe Water Program
- Housing Director can:
  - Identify rental opportunities
  - Identify lots and homes for sale
  - Conduct outreach about available housing
  - Research self help programs for over income individuals
  - Research where to find funds to rehab and renovate homes
- Work with Tozitna, Limited to:
  - Extend Second Avenue
  - Identify lands for logs and gravel
- Training for sawmill
  - Utilize sawmill
- Professional housing
  - Contact and apply for grant funds from Alaska Housing Finance Corporation's Teacher, Health Professional and Public Safety Housing Program (THHP)
- Housing available for safe house
  - Apply for US Department of Office of Victim Crimes program funds for
- Trained maintenance person
- New housing
  - Apply for U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG), Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG)



Figure 28 Housing by Tanana Tribal Council

- Research other programs that offer funds
- Youth Center
  - Contact TCC Wellness and Prevention on any possible funds/opportunities available
  - Apply for ICDBG funds
- More construction training
  - Contact University of Alaska Fairbanks Interior Alaska Campus for construction place-based courses

## PUBLIC SAFETY

Goal: Tanana has a public safety program that includes law enforcement, search and rescue, fire department, that is well established; stable that creates a climate where all are served equally; in a timely manner that will provide a safe and healthy community

Objectives:

- Create a good financial package to attract & retain workers
- Contact Tanana Chiefs Conference VPSO Program to have their VPSO to:
  - Provide prevention outreach
  - Provide rural fire protection training
  - Provide law enforcement services
  - Acquire multiple officers to provide relief and support when needed
  - Provide emergency medical services
  - Organize search and rescue coordination and training
  - Raise awareness of public and health threats
  - Coordinate effort to strengthen relationship with Alaska State Troopers
  - Provide funding for all of the above
- Apply for funding – hire Tribal Peace officer to provide support
- Create good housing for officers
  - Apply for AHFC THHP, as listed in the Housing section
- Create an orientation video similar to Tanana Chiefs Conference
- Restart and implement men’s support group

## CULTURE

Goal: Tanana has a strong, active, continuing traditional culture

Objectives:

- Implement language with a live teacher – real time vs. online
  - Apply for Doyon Daaga’ Grant
- Elder/adult and youth mentorship program
  - Contact Denakkanaaga for more information on their programs and services

- Start culture class in school – Contact Yukon Koyukuk School District to:
  - Create more community involvement
  - More hands on learning
  - Teach survival skills for all seasons of the year
  - Home Economic – Cultural foods
  - Learn to make indian ice cream, soup, frybread, biscuits, berries, jam, jarring
  - Learn to process game (fish, moose, birds, porcupine, beaver, etc)
- All kids have dance regalia from head to toe
- Everyone learns the meaning and history behind native regalia
- Learn community and family history
- Learn Athabascan language introductions
  - Contact Doyon Foundation Language Program
- Learn traditional place names

## SUBSISTENCE

Goal: Tanana preserves and protects habitats and environment, and enhances fish and game

Objectives:

- Exercise our tribal sovereignty
  - Develop policies for hunting and fishing on tribal land and native allotments
  - Coordinate with Federal and State agencies to take control of our areas for fish and game
  - Identify funding to study climate change
    - Short term impact on fish and game
    - Long term impact on fish and game
    - Learn how to prepare for the future with climate change
    - Contact Natural/Cultural Resource Specialist at Tanana Chiefs to assist with climate change projects
- Clear site road to access berries in the hills
- Get involved with the Tanana/Rampart/Minto Advisory Committee
  - Suggest changing moose hunting season to later dates to when it is colder and when moose are moving



Figure 29 Smokehouse Views by Adele Grant



- Identify places to hunt, fish, pick berries, trapping area, and harvest
  - Privacy and control concerns
- Protect and preserve habitat
  - Protect land and environment – Contact TCC Environmental Health for their services
  - Apply for Brownfield Grants to:
    - Clean up land
    - Clear debris
    - Clean creeks and rivers

## EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Goal: Tanana has a vibrant community based school that provides an excellent education for youth and adults using the best practices and technology

Objectives:

- Guidance counselor
  - Ask school district for service
- Graduates are prepared for advanced educational opportunities
- Have a pool of trained workers to fill local jobs
- Graduates have the opportunity for vocational skills
- Increase parent and community involvement
- Create a small business and entrepreneurship track
  - Contact TCC Economic Development Program to see programs/services available
- Increase enrollment
- Send more tribal members to vocational training to learn:
  - Cooking
  - Shop
  - Drivers ed
  - Publishing
  - Photos
- Improve outreach and communication efforts
- Start partnership with Campfire organization and after school activities



Figure 30 Summer Youth Program at Tanana Tribal Office

## HEALTH & WELLNESS

Goal: Tanana Tribe has an overall goal to build a new clinic that encompasses all aspects of physical and mental health and wellness.

- Complete land transfer from Indian Health Services
  - In progress
- Conceptual plan/build to build a new clinic that will replace 50 year old health clinic
- Obtain funding from Indian Health Services, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, HUD Indian Community Development Block Grant, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Doyon Limited,
- Build building on Indian Health Services compact
- Land blessing held by churches
- Ask TCC Wellness & Prevention for an outreach community meeting or resources to:
  - Create more education and awareness on drugs that are currently affecting community members
  - Provide more services for community members who are battling drug abuse and alcoholism

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## COMMUNITY FEEDBACK SURVEY RESULTS

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The Community Planning Specialist distributed, collected and analyzed surveys. Out of the surveys, there were 18 responses. Here are the responses:

### What do you like about living here?

- The people
  - The elders
  - We're close
  - Family
  - Friends
- Location
  - Being on the river
  - Close to the road to Fairbanks
  - Yukon River
  - Beautiful scenery
  - Close to nature
- Community
  - Doing things together
  - Community Activities
- Support from others
- Working together
- Tight knit
- It's home
  - We raise our kids here
- Safe
  - Can let kids play out without worrying
- Culture
  - Dance Group
  - Spirit Camp
  - Language
- Tribal Council

### What are the biggest issues or challenges facing your community?

- Dysfunctional City Government
- Lack of leadership
- Infrastructure problems
  - Need a new hall
- Food access
  - No fresh food
  - Declining fish seasons
- Housing Shortage
  - Lack of gravel
  - Lack of water services
  - No housing for people to move home
- Population
  - Out migration
- Labor Shortage
- Health issues
  - Lack of mental health care
  - Grief problems
- Expensive
  - Inflation is worse in rural areas
  - Essentials – groceries
  - Utilities (internet, electric, gas, propane)
  - Freight costs
- Not enough daily flights
- Health Care Needs
  - Substances (drugs) problems
  - Alcohol problems
  - No traveling job substitutes in health care

### What would you like to see in your community within the next 5 years?

- Address substance abuse issues
  - Drug control
  - Ban drug dealers
- Transportation needs
  - Ride share service
  - Mechanical care for vehicles
  - Improve the Road to Tanana
  - Improve city roads
- Economy
  - More small businesses
  - Stronger workforce
- Youth
  - Build a youth center
  - Youth Activities
  - Youth leaders
- Food security
  - Open king salmon fishing
  - Teach food preservation (moose and fish)
- Teach harvesting skills
- Cultural
  - Teach language and songs
- Utilities
  - Better internet infrastructure
  - Renewable energy
  - Water/Sewer expansion
- Governing Entities
  - Collaborate on projects
- Infrastructure
  - New Community Hall
  - Treatment Center
- Housing
  - Newer homes should be in Interior Regional Housing Authority
  - Build new houses
  - Housing weatherization

### Housing

#### Rating Housing as a priority on a scale from 1-5:

4.78 average

#### Please describe why you selected that rating:

- People won't stay to work unless there's houses
- Home improvement is needed
- There are no new home projects
- New houses are ineffective
- Keep young couples in Tanana
- Lack of housing for people to move home
- Elders have warm homes
- Weatherization is needed
- There are not enough homes
- No sewer or water services
- Housing services are slow
- Need places to rent out
- Need energy efficient homes
- Need accessible homes

#### What types of housing do you think should be built to meet the need?

Rental: 8

Temporary/seasonal: 2

Elder: 6

Rent to own: 1

Single family: 13



## What are your primary concerns regarding the home you're living in?

Weatherization: 14

High energy cost: 6

No water/sewer: 5

Rehabilitation: 9

Lack of storage/space: 8

Overcrowded: 4

## Infrastructure

**Please rate each facility on their overall condition (1 being poor, 5 being good condition)**

- Clinic: 4.33 average
- Tribal building: 2.63 average
- Community Hall: 2.5 average
- Laundromat: 1 average
- Elders: 2.5 average

## Other comments:

- Need street lights to the circle subdivision
- Need a wood shop
- Need a place for vehicle maintenance
- Need gravel
- Need a new dump
- Need a new community hall
- NC Creek culverts need improvement to prevent spring flooding
- Need new tribal building
- Update elders homes
- Need a new city building (moldy, old)
- Laundromat inefficient
- Transportation to the Tanana Road landing
- Greenhouse management
- Co-op for gas/food
- Broadband improvement
- Fire station improvements
- Youth center

## Transportation

What are the main transportation issues in the community?

- Fuel prices: 15
- Freight costs: 12
- Poor road maintenance: 16
- Airfare/flights: 12
- Dust control: 17
- Winter maintenance on the Tanana road: 1
- Drunk drivers: 13
- Road safety: 7
- Brush: 1

**What transportation needs would you like addressed in the community?**

- Public transportation
  - System for ride to/from work, school, etc,
  - Rides to community businesses (tribe, city, hall, store, etc)
  - Rides for Elders to get out regularly
  - Transit system with Tanana road with Minto/Manley
- Maintenance
  - Roads Maintenance Plan

- Dust control
- More gravel
- Brush cutting around corners
- More street lights
- Tanana Road
  - Winter maintenance
  - Loading Dock
  - Transportation services to the road
- More DOT assistance on Tanana side of road
- Road opening longer throughout the winter
- Improved airline services
  - Two daily flights
  - Weekend service

## **Culture/Tradition**

### **What are the main Health and Wellness issues in the community?**

- Language Preservation & Revitalization
- Keeping potlatch customs
- Story telling
- Subsistence activities
  - Hunting
  - Gathering berries
- Cultural Activities
- Nuchalawoyya celebration
- Dog races
- Singing/dancing practice
- Sewing class
- Beading class
- Spirit camp
- Cultural food making

### **Do you participate in cultural and traditions? If so, which activities?**

- Language
- Potlatches
- Subsistence activities
  - Harvesting
  - Fishing
- Hunting
- Camping
- Sewing
- Dancing/Sewing

## **Health & Wellness**

### **What are the main Health and Wellness issues in the community?**

- Lack of mental health programs
  - Lack of happy get togethers
  - Lack of personal support
  - Substance abuse (drugs/alcohol)
    - Need for wellness outreach services
- Young people dying
- Transportation issues
  - Wreckless driving
- COVID
- Food security
  - Salmon crisis – change in diet
- Domestic violence problems

### **What healthy activities would you like to see occurring in the community?**

- Physical activity
  - Gym use
  - Open gym
  - Biking
  - Sports/games
- Cultural wellness
  - Native dancing mentorship
  - School activities
  - Fish camps
- Healing circle for grieving lost community members
- Dog races
- Gatherings/Events
  - Holiday events
  - Meals together as a community
  - More activities for the kids
- Nuchalawoyya Celebration
- Kids learning leadership roles

## **Public Safety & Enforcement**

### **What are the main Public Safety/Enforcement issues in the community?**

- Public Safety concerns:
  - We need a full time VPSO – no gaps
  - We need an organized search/rescue team
  - Need to enforce curfew to keep kids safe
- Safety:
  - Violence in front of kids
  - Domestic violence
- Substance abuse problems
  - Meth users
  - Public intoxication
- Transportation
  - Drunk Driving
  - Kids driving/speeding

### **Do you feel safe in our community?**

Yes: 10

Most of the time: 6

### **What would help you make you feel safer?**

- Transportation
  - Improved street lights
  - Need street lights to airport
  - Cutting brush
- Substance abuse problems:
  - Stopping drugs from coming in
  - Create a program to support people getting clean/sober
  - Address mentally ill community members
- General:
  - Bear and wolf bounties
  -
- Public Safety Concerns:
  - Should make public appearances
  - Should patrol the town
  - Crack down on drunk drivers
  - Stop people from fighting in public

### **Do you feel that the Public Safety support is adequate?**

- Yes: 5
- Sometimes: 10
- No: 2

## **Economy:**

### **What are the main economy challenges in the community?**

- Need housing for workers
- Not enough jobs
- Low paying jobs
- Expensive
  - Supplies and services
- Utilities
- Food
- Gas and fuel
- Shipping/freight costs
- No one wants to do education or training or apply for jobs

### **Where do you spend more money?**

Local store: 8

Online: 7

In Fairbanks: 9

### **What can be done to create stable jobs in the community?**

- Support job training
  - Encourage people to show up and be dependable
  - Get reliable people on the tribal and city boards
  - Get school district involved
- Support job creation in different sectors
  - Transportation
  - Tourism
- Automotive heavy equipment shop
- Online phone answering services
- More jobs/projects for hire
- Small business creation
  - Coffee shop
  - Restaurant
- Open housing

### **What sort of business opportunities would you be willing to support in the community?**

- Transportation jobs
  - Heavy equipment jobs/training
- Gas station
- Tourism
- Crafts
  - Beadwork, fur, handmade gifts
- Marijuana
- Bed & breakfast
- Logging/sawmill
- Housing Jobs
- Small businesses
  - Bakery/Desserts
  - Coffee Shop/Cafe
  - Restaurant and grill

### **What education and training would prepare you for the workforce?**

- Training
  - Vocational
  - Home & building maintenance
  - Alternative energy
  - Heavy equipment
  - Water and sewer operations
- Electricity
- Small business
- On the job training
- Education
  - Online courses
  - Reading and writing



- Financial literacy
- Communication
- Carpentry
- Electrical
- Tribal Leadership
- Health field
- Administrative
- Computer literacy
- Post secondary

## **Education & Youth**

### **What are the main education & youth issues in the community?**

- Boredom
  - Need opportunities
  - Basketball camps
- Need training/education
  - Send to UAF camps
  - More support un academics
  - Cultural language learning and activities
  - Need different types of activities
- Lack options for classes or extracurricular activities
- Lack parental care for tardiness/absences
- Low enrollment at school
- General
  - Drug and alcohol use
  - Mental health services are needed

### **What are some suggestions for activities that we can do for youth throughout the year?**

- Year long youth work
- Work study program
- Tutors
- Spelling bee
- Math race
- More sports
- Indoor/outdoor gardening in green house
- Small business
- Movie nights
- Open Gym
- Arts & crafts
- Scavenger hunts/races
- Cultural classes
- Job shadowing
- Life skills
- More dog mushing
- Language lessons
- Family events
- Youth council
- Need a youth center
- Music courses
- Small engine repair
- Hunting
- Battle of the books
- Science fair
- Health fair
- Drivers ed
- Dance regalia making
- Visit elders
- Interview elders

### **What ideas do you have about educating youth? Cultural, language, family and parent support?**

- Tutors are needed for academics
- Regular reading club
- Regular language lessons
- Online courses
- Keeping youth interested
- Health & sex education

- More parental involvement
- Teaching kids to respect and good behavior
- Drug/alcohol awareness
- Ask business owners to present in school

## **Public Utilities**

### **What are the main public utilities issues in the community?**

- Water/sewer service
  - No service on east side of town
  - Water lines freezing throughout winter
  - Need new outhouses
  - No plumbers
  - Laundromat needs renovations
- Internet service
  - Unreliable
  - Expensive
  - Residents are stuck with United Utilities
- Electricity
  - Expensive
  - Need solar options
- Landfill issues
  - Gross
  - Need dumpsters in community for members without vehicles
- Accessibility
  - No ramp at store, post office or church buildings
- Gas station
  - Unreliable fuel quantity
- Airlines (Wright Air)
  - Unreliable & expensive

### **What other public utilities are needed?**

- Cell service in all areas
- Docking area at Tanana landing
- More wood vendors
- Community garage
- LED street lights
- New gas station
- Trash service

## **Land Use & Environment**

### **What are the main land and environment issues in the community?**

- Poor road drainage
- Flood and erosion threats
- Gravel source is needed
- Waste disposal needs improvement
- Landfill is too small
- Too many bears/wolves around town
- Elders and mothers need wood
- Tozitna, Limited should open more land for shareholders to build homes on
- Too much brush

### **What idea(s) do you have to help address the issue?**

- Annual maintenance on roads/culverts

- Ask Doyon, Limited for gravel access and land
- Hire crew to haul water and help elders
- Have tribe take over maintenance of the dump

**Additional Comments from residents:**

- Other small business ideas:
  - House keeping
  - Day care
- Our community needs to move towards wellness
- Stop kids from racing on atv's
- Educate people on how to kill and process animals that come into town
- Should have a beach clean up in the falltime before the river freezes
- Tear down old dirty buildings
- Demolish old houses
- Back haul vehicles
- Help Tanana apply for more grants
  - More job creation
- Tribe should rehab homes that are abandoned and rehome people to them

## APPENDIX 2: COMMUNITY MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET

09/09/2022

Florence Grant  
Mary Ann Wiehl  
Phyllis Erhart  
Gladys Erhart  
Lara Martinez  
Henry Martinez  
Fayleen Peters  
Angie Sanders  
Kayla Albert  
Liisia Edwardsen

09/13/2022

Judy Kangas  
Faith Peters  
Mary Ann Wiehl  
Angie Sanders  
John Huntington  
Lois Huntington  
Patti Sam  
Aimee Nollner  
Jeanette Walker  
Patsy Starr  
Julie Roberts-Hyslop  
Lara Martinez  
Henry Martinez  
Stan Zuray  
Kathleen Peters-Zuray  
Marty Scharf  
Bernadette Roberts  
Dwight  
Mary Edwin  
Faith Peters



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## COMMUNITY CONTACTS

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**Tanana Health Center**

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**City of Tanana**

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**Maudrey J Sommer School, YKSD**

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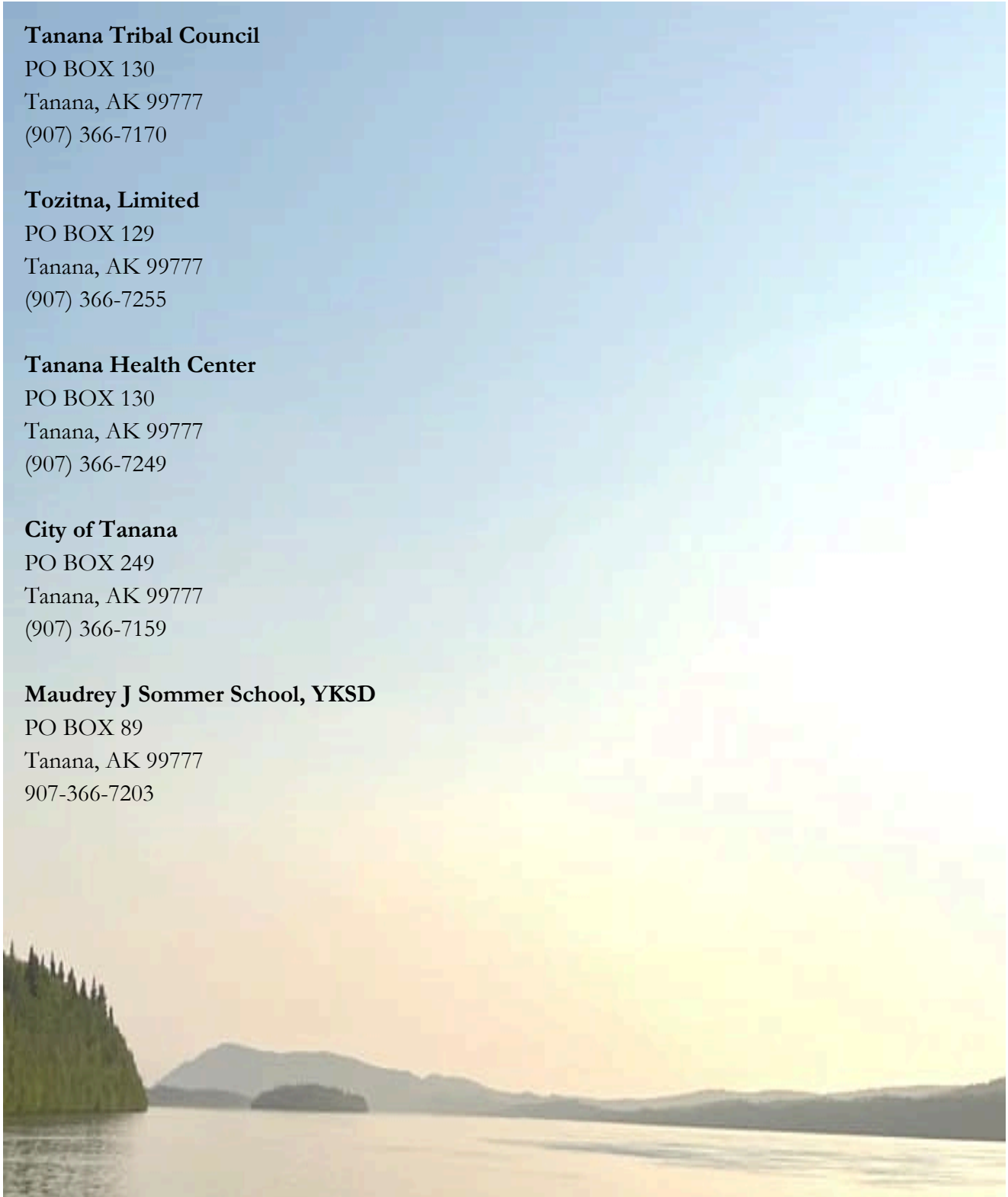


Figure 31 Mission Hill view from boat by Rebecca Chandler