



EVANSVILLE TRIBAL COUNCIL
TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE

2025 – 2030



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EVANSVILLE

COMMUNITY PLAN

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A very special “thank you” to the following who worked diligently and in unison on the Evansville Community Plan:

- ❖ Evansville Tribal Members
- ❖ Evansville Tribal Council
- ❖ Evansville Corporation Board
- ❖ Bettles Community Members
- ❖ Tanana Chiefs Conference Planning & Development Team
- ❖ Elder & Ancestral Knowledge



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Evansville Tribal Council, realizing the importance of strengthening and unifying the community, partnered with Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC), Planning and Development (P&D) program to prepare this community plan.

The Evansville Community Plan is a unique plan, because Evansville shares many infrastructures with the neighboring community of Bettles, Alaska.

The goals and objectives included in this plan reflect the top priorities identified by Evansville community members and will be utilized to plan future projects and guide future development.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Evansville is to nurture, develop and protect a thriving, healthy community for our current and future generations.

VISION STATEMENT

To nurture, develop, and protect Evansville as a thriving, health community we endeavor to do the following:

- ❖ Housing for employees, both full time and seasonal
 - ❖ Create diverse jobs and fill current job openings
 - ❖ Promote a safe and healthy lifestyle
 - ❖ Identify transportation needs in both Evansville & Bettles
 - ❖ Diversify energy, strengthening the grid (renewables)
 - ❖ Utilize technology to enter and operate into the 21st Century
 - ❖ Create joint ventures between the village, the corporation, the council, and other native entities
 - ❖ Enhance and preserve cultural values and knowledge through community activities
 - ❖ Develop a community renewal plan for growth and resource protection
 - ❖ Encourage people to move back to Evansville
 - ❖ Increase communication through joint meetings and newsletters
 - ❖ Respect and support our elders
 - ❖ Protect the land
-
-

VALUES

During the December 10, 2024 Community Planning meeting, TCC P&D staff facilitated an exercise to identify the values for the community of Evansville. The top 10 values are as listed:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ❖ Family | ❖ Healthy Lifestyle | ❖ Subsistence lifestyle: |
| ○ Friends | ○ Doing it Right | ○ Hunting |
| ○ Relationships | ○ Trust | ○ Fishing |
| ○ Birth of Children | ○ Caring | ○ Gathering |
| ○ Kids | ○ Happiness | ○ Sharing |
| ❖ Community | ○ Humor | ○ Berry Picking |
| ○ Location | ○ Compassion | ○ Mountain Climbing |
| ○ Quiet | ○ Integrity | ❖ Stewardship of the |
| ○ Peacefulness | ○ Laughter | ○ Land / Water |
| ○ Naturally Beautiful Environment | ○ Responsibility | ○ Plants |
| ○ Solitude | ○ Doing it right | ○ Animals |
| ○ Positive Environment | ❖ Working Together | ○ Resources |
| ○ Enjoying the world around us | ○ For Each Other | ❖ Remembering those who passed on |
| | ○ For Elders | |
| | ○ For Visitors | ❖ Recognizing those who help |
| ❖ Faith/Fellowship | ❖ Education/Knowledge | |



Figure 2 Values Word Cloud

INTRODUCTION

COMMUNITY PLANNING PROCESS

In 2019 TCC P&D staff contacted the Evansville Tribe to offer assistance with creating a community plan. The Tribe agreed and the P&D Staff began to compile data from local, state and federal sources, TCC departments, and other relevant community planning documents. The Tribe also shared other pertinent information that was critical to the development of this plan.

On September 3, 2019, the P&D staff traveled to Evansville to facilitate the Community Planning Meeting. Six people attended, which is almost half of the residents. It was determined that the Vision Statement would remain the same, and the Mission Statement was added.

December 10th 2024 the community came together again to revisit finishing the community plan. This time 18 community members from Evansville and Bettles attended.

TCC P&D Staff used the money exercise to identify the top five Goal Categories. Each community member was given \$50,000 of fake money to place on one of the categories that they deemed to be most important. The top five Goal Categories were as follows:

1. Housing
2. Economy
3. Community Well Being
4. Transportation
5. Energy

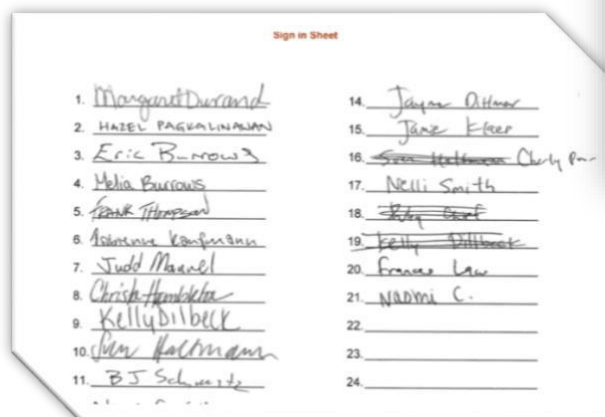


Figure 4 Community Meeting Sign-in Sheet

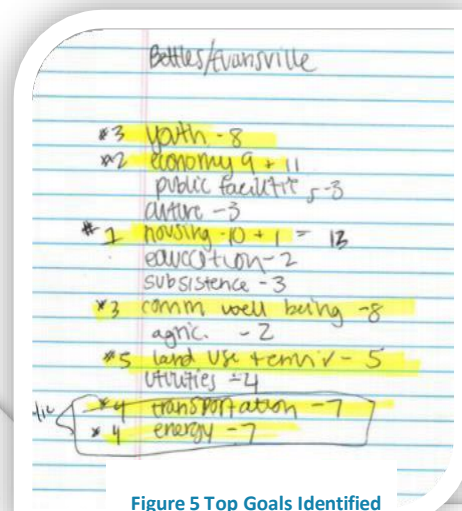


Figure 5 Top Goals Identified

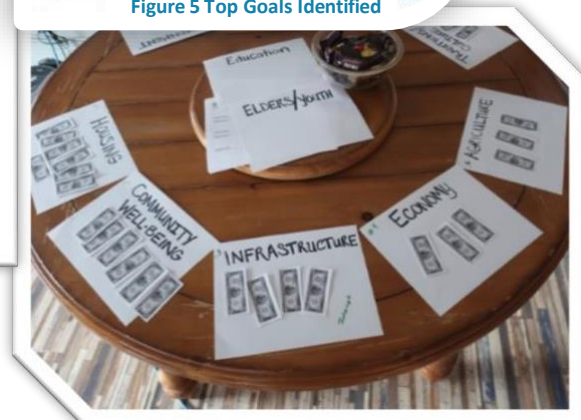


Figure 3 Goal Category

COMMUNITY PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

The Evansville Community Plan is a living document that helps set and achieve identified goals and objectives. The plan should be reviewed yearly as goals and objectives have been completed and implemented.

Implementation of the Community Plan helps to build capacity and identify future funding opportunities. Communities with updated plans are eligible to apply for the TCC P&D Grant Development Specialist (GDS) position, which provides funding for the Tribe to employ a community-based grant-writing specialist. The GDS works closely with the Tribe to write a grant for the community to carry out one of the top goals and priorities in the community plan.

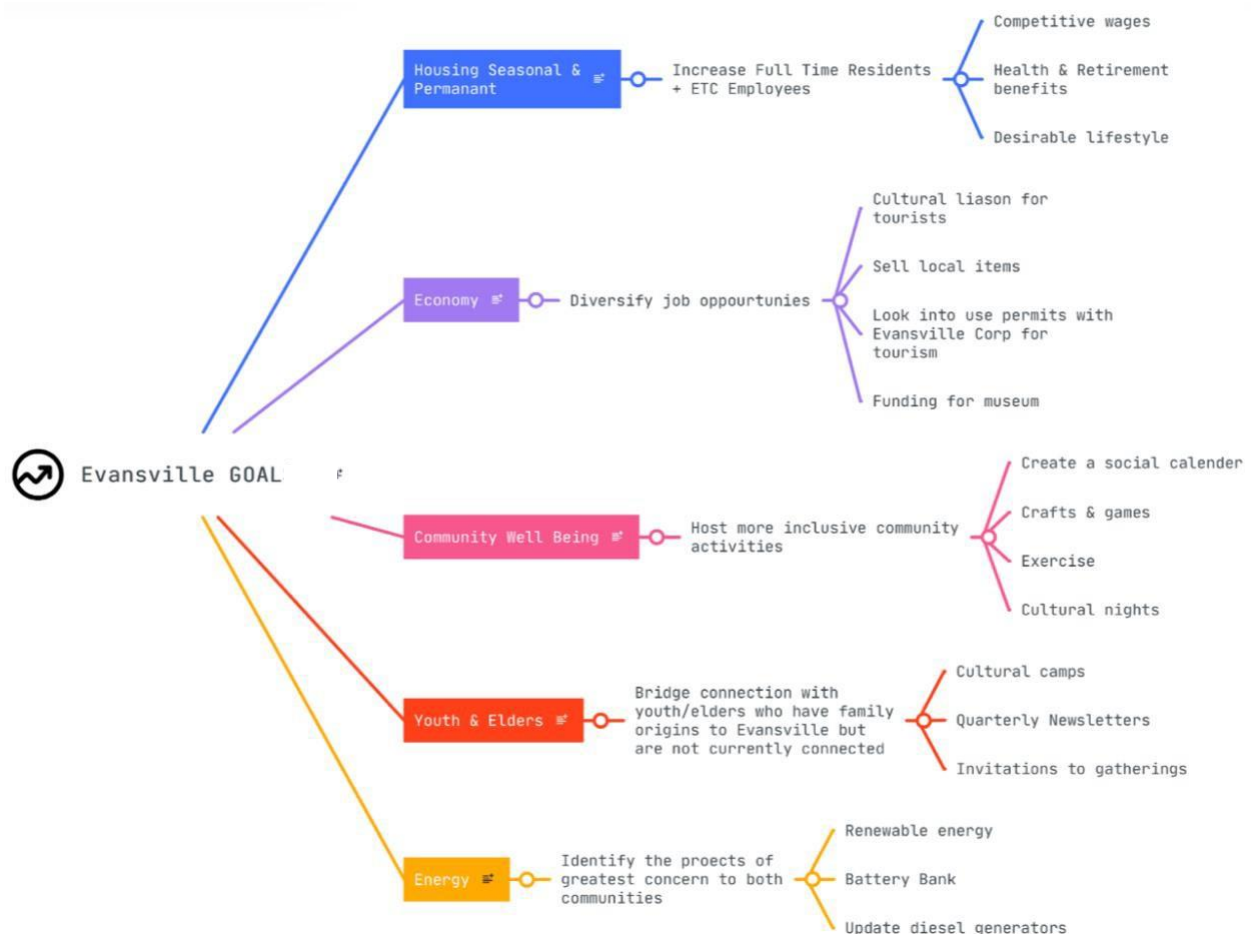


Figure 6 Community Strategy

COMMUNITY HISTORY

EVANSVILLE & BETTLES HISTORY

Bettles and Evansville are connected by the same road system and have long coexisted as one community, sharing many services. Bettles is an incorporated city situated around the state-maintained runway, which both communities share. The community of Bettles is located on DOT lease lots, an island within Evansville Tribal land. Many villages have a city component due to the nature of the runway being on State of Alaska land, however most villages have the same name of the city and the village. Such as City of Allakaket, Village of Allakaket.

Bettles was originally established during the gold rush by Gordon C. Bettles, who founded the settlement as a trading hub along the Koyukuk River, just below the John River confluence. Many Native people moved upriver for jobs in Bettles, working on river paddle boats and selling goods. In 1948, the FAA built an airfield and communications facility about seven river miles upstream, now known as Bettles Field, located 180 air miles north of Fairbanks. The airfield was constructed for military use as a refueling stop for aircraft traveling between Fairbanks and Utqiagvik (Barrow) and as a support base for petroleum exploration.



Figure 7 Gordon C Bettles Circa 1898, Courtesy of Candy Waugaman, Bettles Family Collection

Evansville was named after Wilfred Evans Sr., who owned a trading post and river barge business in Allakaket/Alatna. Recognizing new economic opportunities, Wilfred and his brother-in-law, Frank Tobuk, moved their families from Alatna to the north end of Bettles Field in the late 1940s, establishing the village of Evansville. Before relocating, Wilfred had inherited and operated his father John Evans' trading company in Alatna. In Evansville, he opened a timber sawmill business, and he and Frank contributed to building the Bettles



Figure 8 Wien Alaska Airlines Bettles Station at the Bettles Lodge, courtesy of Anchorage Museum

Construction of Bettles Lodge began in 1948 and was completed in 1951. The lodge was built to accommodate pilots, government workers, and travelers using Bettles Field, which had been established in 1948 by the Civil Aeronautics Administration (CAA).

A post office was established at Bettles Lodge in 1950, and a school opened in 1956.

The lodge became a key hub for aviation, exploration, and tourism in the region. Wein Airlines used the Bettles Lodge as a base, the Chief Pilot Andy Anderson was married to Frank Tobuk's niece, Hannah Anderson. They ran the Bettles Lodge and raised their three children, in Bettles Field.

The CAA/FAA maintained a weather station and flight service station, which required full-time staff for air traffic communications, weather observations, and facility maintenance. Employees were stationed at Bettles Field year-round to ensure operations ran smoothly, particularly given the strategic importance of the airfield in remote Alaska. Due to this, Bettles Field has significant weather data records for research purposes in the forever changing arctic climate.

Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve was established on December 2, 1980, at 8.4 million acres it is the second-largest national park in the United States. Bettles Field serves as one of the primary access points to the park, with many visitors flying into Bettles Field before continuing into the park by boat, foot, or bush plane. It is a vast, remote wilderness with no roads or trails protecting the Brooks Range and surrounding ecosystems.



Archives, University of Alaska, Fairbanks

Figure 9 Frank and Dora Tobuk,
UAF Bertha Moses Collection

CULTURE

Several Alaska Native groups have lived in the area, including Koyukon Athabascans and Kobuk, Selawik, and Nunamiut Eskimos. Wilfred and Frank were descendants from the north and northwest who lived with their families in the village of Alatna, which was primarily a Kobuk Eskimo village. They followed the wild game and fish on the Koyukuk River region while living in nomadic seasonal camps. Wilfred and Frank represented a blending of families and native cultures, which gives the village a unique perspective on traditions and customs.

Residents of nearby Bettles are currently both Native and non-Native. The Denaakk'e name for adjacent community, Bettles, is Kk'odlel T'odegheelenh Denh. Those who inhabited the area were nomadic people, following wild game to harvest and support their subsistence lifestyle.

LOCATION 66.9228° N, 151.5081° W

Evansville and Bettles Field are located in the interior of Alaska, 180 air miles (290 km) northwest of Fairbanks and approximately 35 miles north of the Arctic Circle. They sit on the south bank of the Koyukuk River, in the foothills of the Brooks Range, the northernmost mountain range in North America. The Village of Evansville covers approximately 1.6 square miles of land.

Evansville and Bettles Field are 6 miles (10 km) from the southeastern boundary of Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve and 15 miles (24 km)



Figure 10 Evansville on the Map

northeast of Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge spans approximately 1.6 million acres and is known for its vast wetlands, which provide important habitat for migratory birds, moose, bears, and other wildlife. Bettles serves as a common access point for visitors traveling into the refuge by air or river.

The communities of Evansville and Bettles share the same road system, runway, post office, power source, and local phone system. Bettles Field and Evansville are located on the former Hickel Highway, which is no longer a highway but serves as a winter ice road, connecting the two communities to the Dalton Highway during the colder months.

CLIMATE

Evansville, along with most of Interior Alaska, is part of the continental climate zone, known for its temperature ranges of extremely warm summers to extremely cold winters. The average high temperature for Evansville in July is 70°F; the average low during January is -18°F, with extended periods of - 40°F and very strong wind chill factors. The highest temperature ever recorded was 93 °F; the lowest was -70°F

Average annual precipitation is 13.4 inches, with 77 inches of snowfall. North and east winds are persistent in the area during the winter and often bring on a cold wind chill factor.



Figure 11 Bettles Lodge Historic Record Weather and Statistics

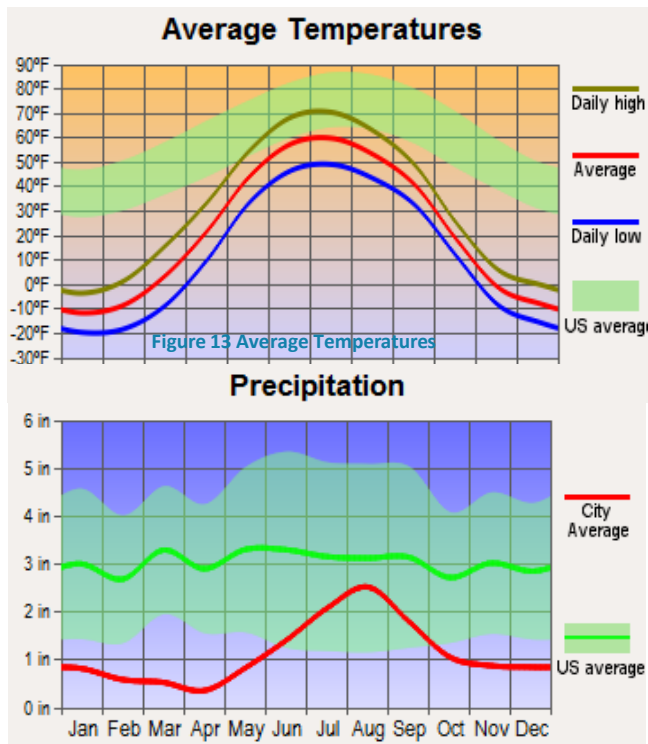


Figure 14 Average Precipitation

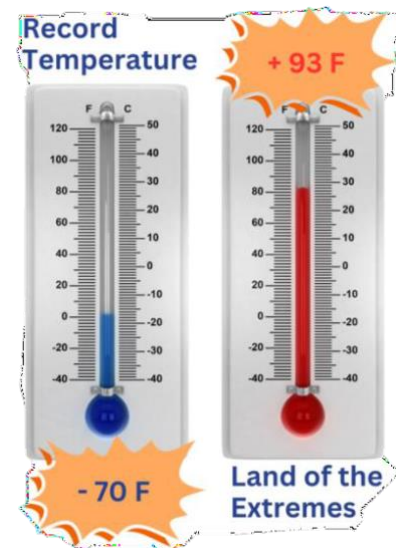


Figure 12 Record High Temp 1975 & Record Low Temp 1986

Being above the arctic circle, the sun does not set for approximately 32 days during the midnight sun period, which occurs from early June to mid-July each year. Longest daylight hours are on summer solstice, June 21 with 24 hours of continuous daylight. The opposite occurs in winter, when the sun does not rise but sits below the horizon creating twilight for a few hours a day from about December 1 to January 7 each year.

DEMOGRAPHICS

CENSUS REGION

Evansville is located within an unorganized Borough, in the Yukon-Koyukuk recording district. This section displays the data collected from the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Evansville-specific data, and the U.S. Census, Yukon-Koyukuk Census area to help identify the economic data, trends, and indicators for Evansville. The Yukon-Koyukuk Census area is different from the TCC Yukon-Koyukuk Subregion. Covering approximately 147,805 square miles (382,810 km²), the Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area is slightly larger than the entire country of Japan. The area is larger than 47 of the 50 U.S. states, with only the reminder of Alaska, California and Texas being bigger.

Despite its massive size, it has one of the lowest population densities in the United States, with only about 0.038 people per square mile (0.015/km²).

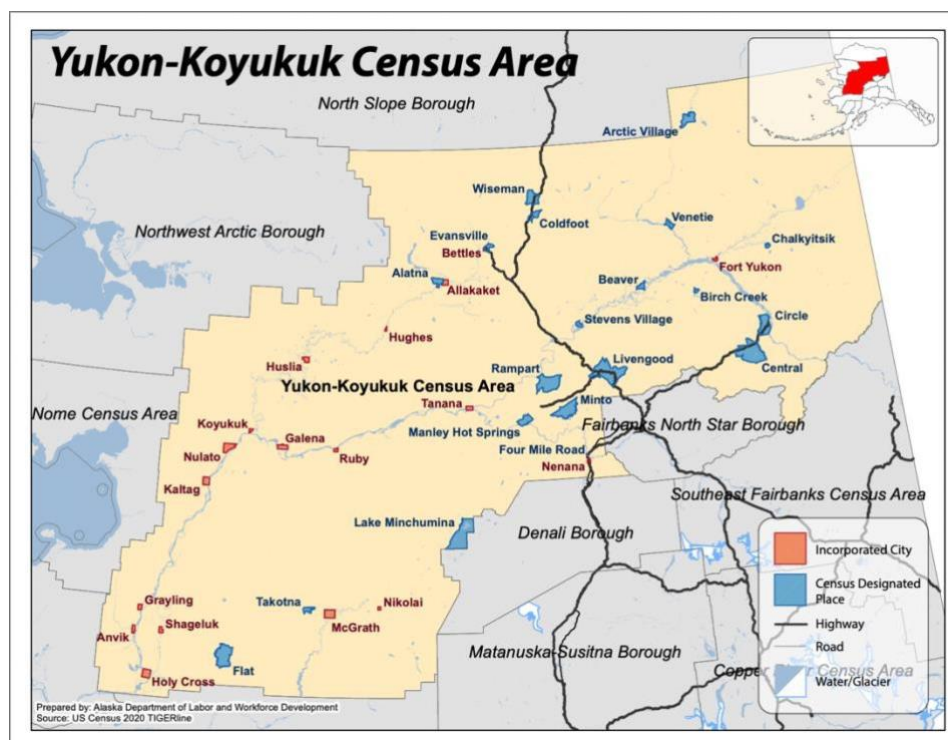


Figure 15 Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area

POPULATION

Evansville first appeared on the 1970 U.S. Census as an unincorporated village. In 1980, it was made a census-designated place (CDP). The data shows that the population count started at 47 in the year 1950, which is within the timeframe of when Evansville was first inhabited. The population decline as shown in the graph below, depicts an 80.5% population decline rate from 1960-2010. The reason for fluctuation in the population chart is unknown and cannot be identified. 2020 U.S. Census the combined population of Bettles and Evansville, Alaska, is 35 residents.

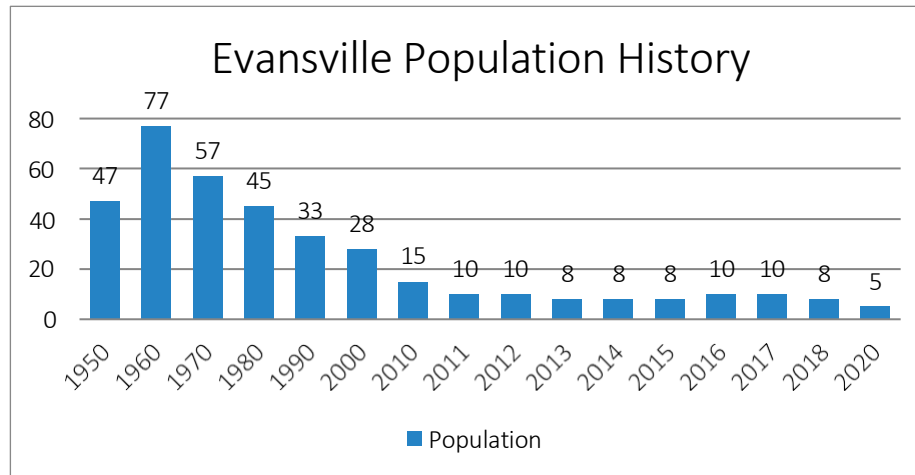


Figure 16 Evansville Population History

The median age for Evansville residents is 54.5 years old. About 36% of the population is between the ages of 45 and 54, and about 18% are 55-59, 18% are 75-84, and 1% are over 85 years of age. Most of the Evansville population is male, 60% are male and 40% are female. As stated in the 2020 U.S. Census, the majority of Evansville community members are Alaska Native. The population by ethnicity was broken into two categories: White (18.18%) and Alaska Native (81.82%)

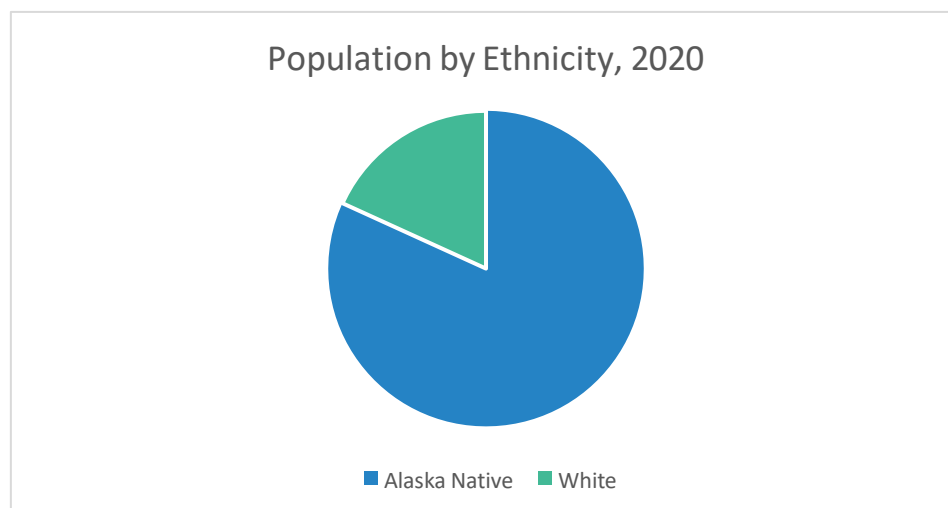


Figure 17 Population by ethnicity

GOVERNANCE

EVANSVILLE TRIBAL COUNCIL

Evansville is an unincorporated native village that has no municipal government. However, Evansville Village, as published in the Federal Register, is a Federally Recognized Tribe according to the notice published pursuant to Section 104 of the Act of November 2, 1994 (Pub. L. 103-454; 108 Stat. 4791, 4792), and in exercise of authority delegated to the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs under 25 U.S.C. 2 and 9 and 209 DM 8.

Evansville Tribal Council consists of five members including a Chief, a Second Chief, a Secretary/Treasurer, and two members. Adult tribal members elect the council members and the Chief in a general election, and the council members choose the remaining officers.

The Council runs the following services out of the Dinook Tribal Hall:

- IGAP Program
- Evansville Solid Waste Landfill and Septic Pit
 - Septic Service/ Garbage Collection
- Tribal Operations
- Tribal Transportation
- Safe House
- Community Meeting Space
- Public Showers
- Public Laundry Facilities

CITY OF BETTLES

Evansville does not have a City Council, but the community of Bettles does, and is located on the southeast bank of the Koyukuk River. The city was founded in 1896 during the Alaska Gold Rush. The airstrip that serves the community was built in World War II and is now used for commercial air service. The Hickel Highway was used to transport equipment and supplies to the North Slope for oil exploration, and to build the Dalton Highway, which is now used as a truck route to the oilfields.

Bettles first appeared on the 1930 U.S. Census. The population of Bettles has decreased since 2000. According to the 2020 census, the population was 13; the latest estimate is 13 residents. About 75% of the population is white alone, 16.7% are two or more races, and 8.3% are black alone.

The City of Bettles is governed by a seven-member City Council as well as a mayor.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Evansville does not currently have the TCC Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) located in the village, who normally serves as the first responder to public emergencies and as the only local law enforcement. The Alaska State Troopers are Evansville's first responders with the closest trooper stationed in Cold Foot, 38 miles by air.

RESOURCES FOR COMMUNITY | CORPORATIONS AND GOVERNMENT ENTITIES

EVANSVILLE, INC.



EVANSVILLE, INC.

Evansville, Incorporated is the Native village corporation for the Evansville Village and was incorporated and organized in accordance with the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA), of 1971, Section 8 and the laws of the State of Alaska. The corporation maintains an office in Fairbanks, Alaska.

Under provisions of ANCSA, Evansville, Inc. received a land entitlement of 69,000 acres. Selection of the final acreage, approximately 5,000 acres, has been made and approved by the federal government. Conveyance of the final 5,000 acres is expected in the near future.

Land and business activities are managed by a seven member Board of Directors elected by the seventy-one shareholders.

The corporation's land base is located near Evansville/Bettles in proximity to the John and Koyukuk Rivers just south of the Brooks Mountain Range. The land lies between the Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve to the north and the Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge to the south.

Protection and preservation of its land base is a priority of the Board of Directors. The Board allows a variety of traditional uses on its land for shareholders and non-shareholders under permit or other formal agreement. However, it is a goal of the Board to retain the land base in Evansville, Inc. ownership to the fullest extent possible. Land related policies and management activities strongly reflect this goal.

Shareholders: Evansville Inc. is an Alaska Native village corporation, Evansville, Inc. represents the Alaska Native shareholders of Evansville, Alaska. The corporation was organized under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) of 1971.

Mission and Priorities: The protection and preservation of its land base are priorities for the board of directors. The board allows a variety of traditional uses on its land for shareholders and non-shareholders under permit or other formal agreements. It is the goal of the board to fully retain land base ownership possible and-related policies and management activities strongly reflect this goal.

Evansville, Inc. Contact:

P.O. Box 72579, Fairbanks, AK 99707 | Phone: 907-374-7084 | admin@evansvillecorporation.com

TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE

Figure 21 TCC Logo

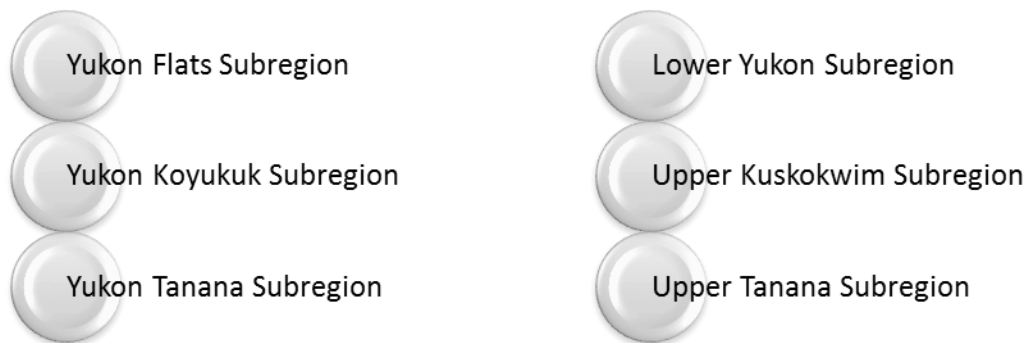


Tanana Chiefs Conference was officially formed in 1962 and incorporated under Alaska State Law in 1972. TCC, organized as Dena' Nena' Henash or "Our Land Speaks;" is Alaska Native nonprofit corporation, charged with advancing Tribal self-determination and enhancing regional Native unity. TCC provides 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.

Within those core departments, TCC offer services in the following categories: Tribal Development; Self Governance; Housing; Public Safety Officer; Natural Resources; Client Development; Elder Nutrition; Employment and Training; Child Development; Child Protection; Head Start; Staff Development; Vocational Rehabilitation; Work Assistance Program and ASAP; Dental; Quality Management; Laboratory; Contract Health; Registration; Environmental Health; Pharmacy; Medical; Family Medicine; Family Medicine RN; Specialty Clinics; Radiology; Community Health Outreach Program; Home Care Provider; Behavioral Health; Old Minto Family Recovery Camp; Psychiatry; SBIRT; Paul Williams House; Community Health Aide Program; Patient Hostel; Eye Clinic; Housing First; Wellness and Prevention; and Willow House.

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 our region are six subregions:



Within our six subregions are 39 villages, for an approximate population of 6,700. Tanana Chiefs Conference also serves clients in the Fairbanks area.

DENAKKANAAGA, INC.

Figure 22 Denakkanaaga Inc, Logo



Denakkanaaga, meaning “Our People Speak” in Denaakk’e (Koyukon Athabascan), 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 of residents over 65 years old 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

INTERIOR REGIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY



The Tribally Designated Housing Entity (TDHE) for Evansville is Interior Regional Housing Authority (IRHA), who receives the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) funds on their behalf to provide housing and housing improvement opportunities to Tribal members.

Figure 23 IRHA Logo

HOUSING

CURRENT HOUSING

According to the 2010 U.S. Census, the American Indians and Alaska Natives by Tribe report recorded 30 housing units in Evansville. By comparison, the 2019 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimate reported a decrease, listing 19 total housing units.

Figure 24 Evansville home, courtesy of Jamie Klaes collection

In 2025 Evansville community still has 19 livable houses or cabins, with 7 currently occupied. The remaining units serve as seasonal homes for tribal members who no longer reside in the village but return to visit. Unfortunately, these homes are unavailable for rent or community use. That means that half our housing sits empty most the year.



In neighboring Bettles, housing primarily supports summer seasonal employees, with approximately five houses occupied by full-time residents. Seasonal accommodations also include housing for National Park Service and Fish & Wildlife Service employees, which remain unavailable for rent, even when vacant. These government facilities consist of eight substantial multifamily homes.

The Bettles School has been shut down since 2002 due to declining student numbers. The building is dilapidated and need of major repair, the City of Bettles purchased it from the State of Alaska but has not maintained it. There is one house in Evansville that will need taken down prior to falling over the eroding riverbank, and another home that is not safe to live in until it has major repairs.

HOUSING NEEDS: REBUILD THE POPULATION + FILL OPEN JOB VACANCIES

To rebuild the population in Evansville and Bettles, targeted incentives are needed to encourage both rental opportunities and new housing development. Offering financial assistance or tax incentives for homeowners to rent out vacant seasonal homes could provide much-needed housing for residents and workers. Evansville Tribe and or Evansville, Inc could provide a legally binding lease agreement with clearly defined dates of use, along with a security deposit, ensuring that the property is well-maintained and available when the homeowner needs it. This formal agreement protects both the homeowner and tenant, establishing clear expectations and responsibilities.

Additionally, supporting new home construction through grants, low-interest loans, or land allocation could attract families and skilled workers to the area. By creating affordable, accessible housing options, the community can sustain growth, strengthen its local economy, and ensure long-term viability for future generations.

An interesting fact to consider is that neither Bettles nor Evansville land can be purchased, all homes and businesses reside on leased lots either from the State of Alaska or Evansville, Inc.

TRANSPORTATION

Evansville is accessible by aircraft year-round, boat in the summer months, and an ice road in the winter.

Evansville is not connected to any highway, but there is a 30-mile winter ice road, the Hickel Trail, that connects to the Dalton Highway in February and March. During late winter, the snow is plowed to create a one-lane road that begins about 40 miles south of Coldfoot. The right-of-way clearing through the spruce tree forest connects Evansville to the Dalton Highway. This ice road brings relief to residents as they can haul in heavy items during the winter months for building, heavy equipment and even stockpile fuel.

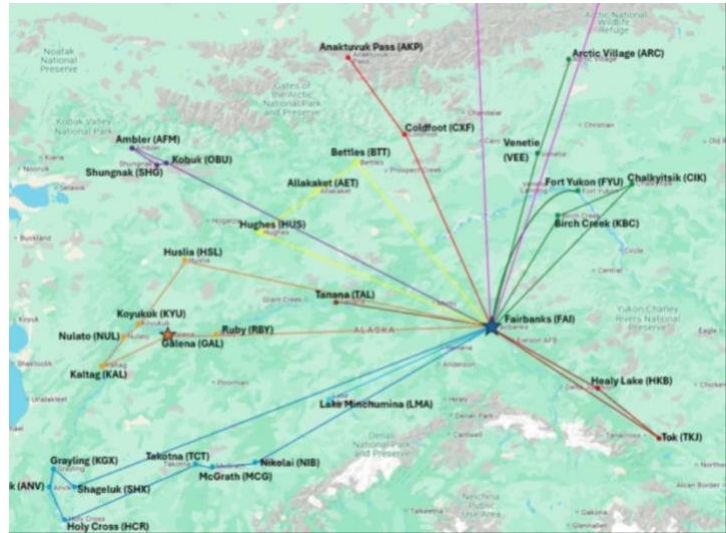


Figure 25 Wright Air Service interior Alaska route

The public runway, owned by the State of Alaska DOT & PF Northern Region, is a 5,190 x 150 ft gravel surface that is in Bettles. The airport is classified as a transport center with a flight service station, float pond for watercraft. Services include fuel availability and parking tie downs. Wright Air Service offers a regular scheduled flight 7 days a week. Regular flights between Bettles and Fairbanks bring mail and goods to the area. Nearby VOR Lake is also heavily used during the summer by float planes carrying tourists to remote areas.

FAIRBANKS (FAI) TO:	ROUTING	DAYS	TIMES			FLIGHT #
			Check-in	Close-Out	Departure	
ALLAKAKET (AET)	BTT-AET-HUS	M/T/W/TH/F	11:45 AM	12:15 PM	1:15 PM	380/381
	BTT-AET	SAT	7:45 AM	8:15 AM	9:15 AM	370/371
ANAKTUVUK PASS (AKP)	AKP	M/T/W/TH/F	7:30 AM	8:00 AM	9:00 AM	300/301
	AKP	SAT	11:30 AM	12:00 PM	1:00 PM	300/301
	AKP	SUN	11:30 AM	12:00 PM	1:00 PM	300/301
BETTLES (BTT)	BTT-AET-HUS	M/T/W/TH/F	11:45 AM	12:15 PM	1:15 PM	380/381
	BTT-AET	SAT	7:45 AM	8:15 AM	9:15 AM	370/371
COLDFOOT (CXF)	FLAGSTOP OFF AKP	M/T/W/TH/F	7:30 AM	8:00 AM	9:00 AM	300/301
	FLAGSTOP OFF AKP	SAT/SUN	11:30 AM	12:00 PM	1:00 PM	300/301
HUGHES (HUS)	BTT-AET-HUS	M/T/W/TH/F	11:45 AM	12:15 PM	1:15 PM	380/381

Figure 26 Wright Air Service weekly schedule as of May 2025

The flight between Fairbanks and Bettles can have stops between Hughes, Coldfoot, Allakaket, and Anaktuvuk. In a rare occasion it could stop in all those places prior to Bettles, and be over three hours of flight time, not including the unloading and loading of freight and passengers onto the small Cessna Caravan. Purchasing a one way ticket from Fairbanks to Bettles costs \$200 per person. Current freight prices are .80 cents per pound, and that arrives as space is available or \$1.80 for excess if you're traveling with more than 40 pounds and don't want to wait on it going freight. There is a frequent flyer program, buy 10 roundtrip tickets, get one free. Other transportation modes such as, trucks, cars, snow machines, ATVs, and riverboats are used for travel, recreation, hunting, fishing, and gathering purposes. The Koyukuk River is also used in the summer months.

PUBLIC UTILITIES

WATER & SEWER

Residents of Evansville and Bettles rely on individual septic systems with leech fields and well water. Some homes are without a water system and must haul water for their daily needs. Homes without plumbing typically use an outhouse, some might use the old method of honey bucket if they don't have an outhouse or its too cold. Access to clean water varies even residents with their own well can have very high mineral content, many use water softeners and filtration systems to manage issues like iron and hardness. In some areas, the iron content is so high that the water appears orange, leading residents to haul drinking water from the Evansville Tribal Hall, which serves as a vital community water source. The Tribal Hall washateria provides essential services, including showers and laundry facilities, ensuring that residents without in-home plumbing have access to basic hygiene. Despite these solutions, the lack of a centralized water and sewer system presents ongoing challenges for long-term sustainability and community growth.

Evansville offers the service to pump septic systems in the community, this service is included for tribal members but costs a fee for Bettles residents. The waste is taken to the landfill, also managed by Evansville.

ELECTRICITY & POWER

Alaska Power Company provides electrical power to Evansville and Bettles with diesel generators that run 24 hours a day. The residential rate is 63 cents per kWh. Compared to Fairbanks that spends \$0.27 cents per kWh. For context, the average residential electricity rate in Alaska is approximately 24.85 cents per kWh, while the national average is around 16 cents per kWh. The rate of 53 cents to the consumer is subsidized by Power Cost Equalization (PCE), the true per kWh is closer to one dollar.

Renewables are becoming more affordable to purchase and easier to install however we have not yet been able to tie them into the grid. Battery bank systems have been tested and used in rural communities in Alaska, and Evansville would like to invest in a similar model to reduce use of the diesel generators, which not only will provide a more peaceful environment to not hear the generator 24 hours a day (current situation) but also reduce our CO2 emissions and costs.

There are solar photovoltaics (PV) for 3 homes; solar PV currently on the Dinook Tribal Hall; retrofits for LED streetlights & exterior lights; a micro hydropower system; and wood pellet production in Bettles. The install was facilitated by a DOE grant and Self-Governance paid wages for employee installation.

BULK FUEL STORAGE

The Tribe owns and operates a 10,000-gallon above ground double wall storage tank for heating oil to supply the buildings operation, and landfill equipment operation. A 5,000 gallon above ground double wall unleaded gas storage tank is for tribal council vehicles. The bulk fuel supply is funded with Self-Governance and Indian Health Service Compacting. Fuel is used exclusively for Evansville Tribal Council operations of vehicles and buildings, funded with Self Governance Tribal Shares.

SOLID WASTE

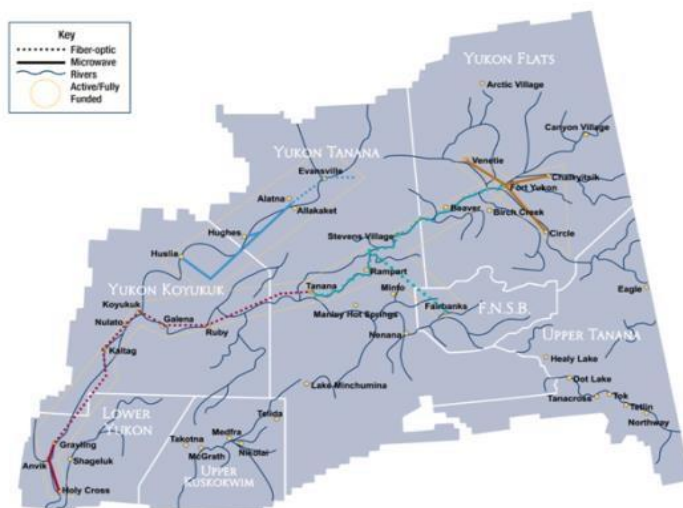
Evansville currently operates a Class III municipal solid waste landfill that was constructed in 1995. The trench and fill type landfill are accessible year-round and the road is actively maintained. It is complete with functional barriers, locking gate, monitored with restricted hours and is equipped with a Burn Unit. The landfill permit was renewed March 18, 2021 and expires March 18, 2026.

This landfill serves about 21 residents from both Evansville and Bettles and receives about 100 tons of solid waste per year. The landfill is south of Evansville about one mile on a gravel road that also connects the communities to VOR lake. The land is leased by Evansville Tribal Council from the State of Alaska Municipal Trust 14(c)3 land, the 13.47 acre site is equipped with waste disposal cells, an enhanced burn unit, a glass crusher, a salvage area, and storage shed all within a fenced in area. The landfill is funded by IHS Tribal Shares and EPA Indian General Assistance Program.

COMMUNICATIONS

Telephone service in Evansville and Bettles is provided by Alaska Power and Telephone, with landlines available throughout the communities. When long-distance calling fails, local lines typically remain functional. Unfortunately, long distance failure is common and can last for a partial day or many days. There are no cell phone towers nearby to provide service to this area. The strongest radio signal comes from Voice for Christ Ministries, with KIAM in Nenana as the primary broadcast station. Satellite TV is available through Dish Network, while internet access is provided by HughesNet and Starlink. Many residents prefer Starlink for its better connectivity, affordability, and ease of maintenance. The use of Star Link has also alleviated the problem of when the landlines fail, previously the internet was not fast enough to facilitate phone calls.

Funded Projects to Date in the TCC Region



Although broadband funding is available, infrastructure is not yet in place. In June 2023, Alaska was awarded over \$1 billion through the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program, funded by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, to expand high-speed internet statewide. Plans are in place to install in our region.

Figure 27 Funded Broadband Projects TCC Region

PUBLIC FACILITIES

COMMUNITY CENTER



Archives. University of Alaska, Fairbanks
Figure 28 Tiluq (Dinook) with twin girls, Bertha and Rhea, Bertha Moses Collection, UAF

A community center was completed in 1999 and is named Dinook Tribal Hall. It is named after Tiluq (Dinook) Tobuk, wife of Grampa Tobuk. Evansville Tribal Council owns and operates the Dinook building. The building provides four administrative offices, community meeting hall area, public showers, and public laundry facilities. Self-Governance Compacting funds provides the operation and maintenance of the building.

Other services provided out of the building include the Evansville Solid Waste Landfill, Bulk Fuel Storage Facility Maintenance, Safe House Operations, and Road Maintenance.

It is the place for gatherings and important events, such as celebrations, sharing crafts, and general socializing. It also serves as additional housing for traveling medics and TCC employees. This facility is an important gathering place for local residents to socialize and host events.



Figure 29 Dinook Tribal Hall

HEALTH CLINIC

The original Frank Tobuk Sr. Health Center was built in 1985. Frank Tobuk, Sr. was born in 1900 and moved his family to Evansville from Alatna. He was the husband of Dora Tobuk.

The construction of the original Health Clinic was funded by an RDA grant from the State of Alaska. It was retrofitted in 1995. The clinic serves all community residents and individuals who are both Indian Health Services beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries. After the building of the new clinic, the original clinic has become housing for itinerant employees.

Tribal Health Clinics with a Health Aide across rural Alaska can provide:

- **Acute and chronic health problems:** Health aides treat a range of health issues, including minor injuries and conditions
- **Prescription refills:** Health aides can refill prescriptions, and the medicine is mailed to the community if not on hand
- **Preventive care:** Health aides provide routine health screenings and immunizations
- **Laboratory tests:** Health aides perform laboratory tests
- **Referrals to specialists:** Health aides can refer patients to specialists
- **Patient transfers:** Health aides can transfer patients to other facilities for life-threatening injuries or conditions
- **Telemedicine:** Health aides can use telemedicine equipment to provide patient care



Figure 31 Frank Tobuk, Sr. Health Clinic

The Clinic Health Provider is a direct employee of the Tanana Chiefs Conference Community Health Aide Program. The building operation and maintenance is funded with an Indian Health Service Lease.

The new clinic is also named after Frank Tobuk Sr. and has added many amenities and increased space to 1500 square feet. Multiple funding sources came together for the project, including the Denali Commission. Construction started in late summer 2020, and it was ready to move into and use February 2021.

The new clinic provides an office for health care providers, sperate lab and sterilization rooms. In addition there are rooms for exams, dental, and pharmacy. The clinic is handicap accessible bathroom with full shower and laundry, mechanical room.



Figure 30 Frank and Dora Tobuk in Bettles in 1978, Bertha Moses Collection, UAF-Jukebox

POST OFFICE

The U.S. Post Office is a shared service, located in Bettles. The days/hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

SCHOOL

The original one room schoolhouse opened in 1956, in 1982 a newly built school opened with multiple class rooms and a gymnasium. Evansville children shared the Bettles Field School until it closed in the 2002 - 2003 school year due to low enrollment.

The building is dilapidated and need of major repair, the City of Bettles purchased it from the State of Alaska but has not maintained it. It is available for sale from the city, but currently there are no plans to demolish it.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Emergency services include Volunteer Search and Rescue, Bettles Volunteer Fire Department, the Frank Tobuk, Sr. Clinic, and the Alaska State Troopers, if necessary. Medical evacuation (Medevac) services are provided by Gaurdian and Life Med in the region.



Figure 32 Bettles Volunteer Fire Department



Figure 33 Alaska State Troopers, via Facebook

LAND & NATURAL RESOURCES

LAND OWNERSHIP

Under provisions of ANCSA, Evansville, Inc. received a land entitlement. The corporation's land base is located near Evansville/Bettles in proximity to the John and Koyukuk Rivers, just south of the Brooks Range. The land lies between the Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve to the north and the Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge to the south.

Protection and preservation of its land base is a priority for the board of directors. The board allows a variety of traditional uses on its land for shareholders and non-shareholders under permit or other formal agreement. It is the goal of the board to fully retain the land base ownership possible. Land related policies and management activities strongly reflect this goal.

KANUTI NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

The community of Evansville is located alongside the Kanuti Refuge, which straddles the Arctic Circle, with a third of the Refuge above the Circle and two-thirds below. The Athabascan name for Kanuti is Kk'toonootne and translates to "well-traveled river by both man and animals." At 1.637 million acres, Kanuti Refuge is about the size of the state of Delaware. The Refuge was formed in 1980 pursuant to the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) to conserve fish and wildlife populations and habitats; fulfill international treaty obligations keeping in mind fish and wildlife and their habitats; provide the opportunity to continue local subsistence use; and ensure water quality and quantity within the refuge.

The Refuge is spawning area to migratory fish such as, chinook, chum and coho salmon, whitefish and sheefish. The sheefish travels the longest distance of any other sheefish population; and the salmon travel more than 1000 miles before entering the Koyukuk River to spawn. The Refuge also supports other fish species, such as arctic grayling and northern pike.

The Refuge provides an excellent nesting area, and nearly 130 species of birds spend part of the year on the refuge. Due to the loss of wetlands in regions outside of Alaska, the importance of nesting for migratory birds will most likely increase.

The Refuge is also home to 36 species of mammals, including brown and black bears, several wolf packs, moose, wolverine, beavers, muskrats, American marten and mink. The Western Arctic Caribou are generally harvested October through March, they are the primary caribou herd that migrates through the area.

The rich history of natural wildfires occurring in the Refuge during the summer months helps to shape the character of the Boreal Forest, and development of the ecosystem. Fire management allows fires to burn to benefit the wildlife habitat.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

The Mitigation Planning Team updated their Hazard Mitigation Plan in December 2017. The team, consisting of the Native Village of Evansville, State of Alaska, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and LeMay Engineering & Consulting, Inc. met on several occasions and evaluated and prioritized each mitigation actions to be included in the plan.

The only environmental concern stated in the plan was, it was important to consider the "Effect on local flora and fauna" and to be sure they were consistent with community environmental goals and local, State, and Federal laws.

According to the Native Village of Evansville Hazard Mitigation Plan (2017),

"Wildland fires and permafrost are both important issues in the Evansville community and have the potential to be exacerbated by climate change."

In 2017, residents commented that in recent years they have experienced warmer winter temperatures, which has led to drier conditions and a longer growth season of aspen and spruce trees,



which are fuel for wildland fires in the region. According to Inside Climate News, “Increased wildfire activity will change the shape and extent of boreal forests and affect wildlife habitat and Alaska's indigenous residents. And while climate change is the prime culprit, the fires will also intensify global warming. Burning organic soils will send even more CO₂ into the atmosphere, according to Higuera and other scientists who study ecosystem changes in the region. ‘That four-fold increase by 2100, that's just huge. It's indescribable what that would mean to the landscape and the carbon cycle,’ said Michelle Mack, a professor of ecosystem ecology at Northern Arizona University, who was not involved in the study.” (ICN, 2016)

Additionally, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, “the overall average temperature across Alaska increased by 3°F Fahrenheit in the past 60 years, and winter temperatures have gone up by 6 degrees°F in that same span.” Rising temperatures could mean rapid melting of permafrost. This increases the possibility that roads, building, and other structures on thawed areas will collapse. As permafrost thaws, it can release carbon dioxide and methane gases, which could accelerate global warming.”

ECONOMY

EMPLOYMENT

The economic base of Evansville and Bettles is tourism, government and air transportation. Bettles is the drop off spot for tourists, hikers, and campers traveling to the Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve. There is an influx of winter visitors, mainly from Japan for Northern Lights viewing. Full-time and year-round employment is available and seasonal employment in the summer months. The majority of year-around employers include the Evansville Tribal Council, the Frank Tobuk, Sr. Health Center, Bettles Lodge, Brooks Range Aviation, Fish & Wildlife, Gates of the Arctic National Park and Alaska Winter Adventures.

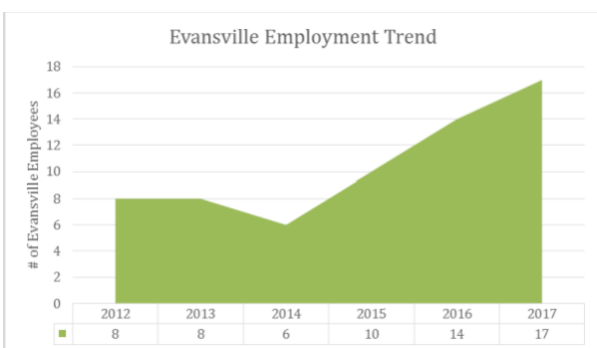


Figure 34: Evansville Employment Trend

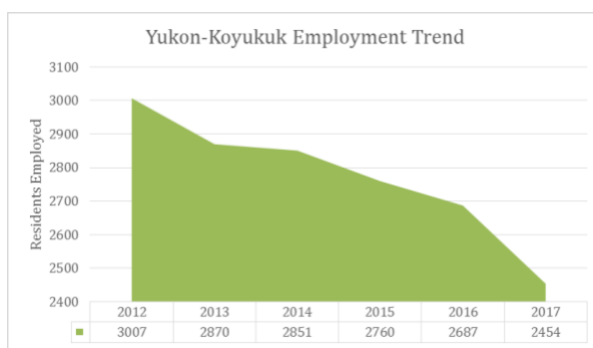


Figure 35: Yukon-Koyukuk Employment Trend

INDUSTRY

Industry in Evansville and Bettles is largely shaped by the region's remote location, small population, and reliance on seasonal economic activity. While there are limited large-scale industries, several key sectors contribute to the local economy.

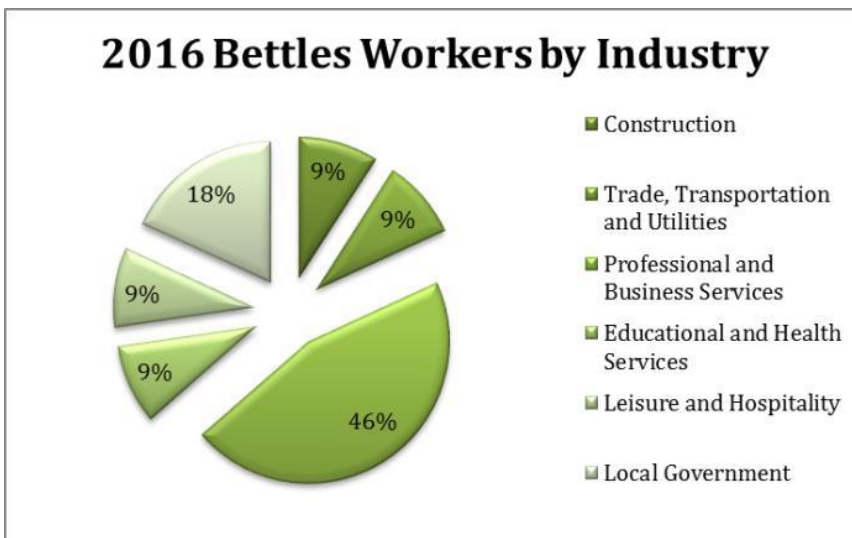


Figure 36 Bettles Workers by Industry

Aviation and air transportation play a critical role. Bettles serves as a key aviation hub for the region, with Bettles Lodge & Air Service providing tourism services. The Bettles Airport is a vital link for residents, businesses, and visitors, as there are no road connections to the larger Alaskan highway system for most of the year. Small charter operations and cargo flights deliver supplies and connect the area to Fairbanks and other remote communities.

Tourism and hospitality are also significant industries, particularly during the summer and winter seasons. Bettles Lodge is a well-known destination for visitors seeking access to the Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve and Kobuk Valley National Park. Tourists come for flightseeing, backpacking, dog sledding, aurora viewing, and hunting trips, contributing to seasonal employment and local business revenue.

Government and public services provide additional employment. The National Park Service and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service have a presence in the community, supporting land and wildlife management. Seasonal and full-time government employees contribute to the local economy, although their housing and facilities are largely self-contained and do not always directly support private businesses. The Bettles Post Office serves both Bettles and Evansville, ensuring mail delivery to residents and businesses. Additionally, a 24-hour weather observation station, operating under an FAA contract, provides critical weather data for pilots flying in and out of the area.

The local health clinic, operated by the Evansville Tribe, employs community health aides who provide essential medical services to residents. These jobs are critical for maintaining public health in such a remote location, ensuring that emergency care, basic medical treatments, and preventive services are available locally.

The subsistence economy is also a key part of life in Evansville and Bettles. Hunting, fishing, and gathering remain essential for many residents, providing food security and reducing reliance on store-bought goods. While not a formal industry, the subsistence lifestyle is a vital economic factor, allowing residents to sustain themselves in an area where goods are expensive and hard to obtain.

Tribal and community organizations contribute to local economic development. The Evansville Tribal Council and Evansville Incorporated manage land, advocate for infrastructure improvements, and secure funding for community projects. These organizations provide some administrative jobs and support initiatives for housing, broadband, and local business growth.

The area has potential for economic expansion in renewable energy, cold-weather testing, drone and UAS operations, and broadband-driven remote work opportunities. Investments in infrastructure, housing, and business development could help sustain long-term economic growth for Evansville and Bettles.

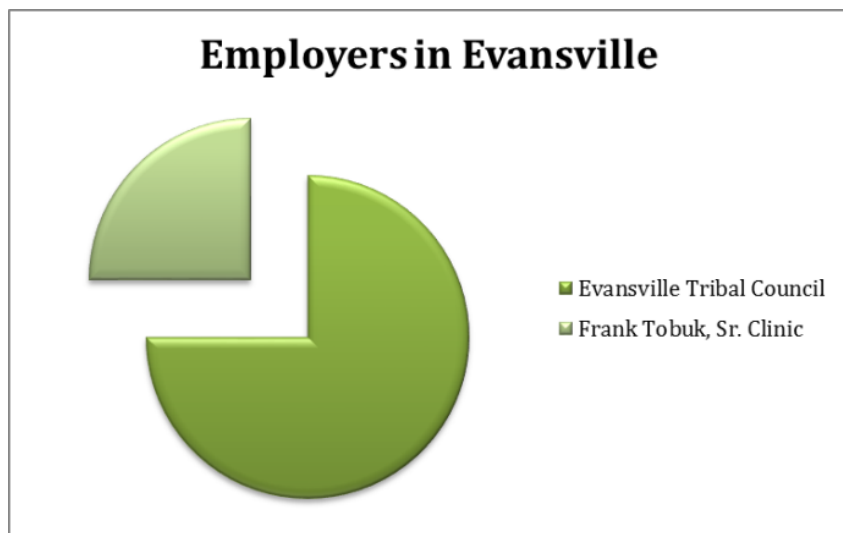


Figure 37 Employers in Evansville

BARRIERS TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Housing Shortages

Limited rental and housing options: Seasonal homes are often vacant but not available for rent, restricting workforce expansion. High construction costs: Building new housing is expensive due to material transport and labor shortages.

Internet & Communication Challenge

Limited broadband infrastructure: While funding is available, high-speed internet is not yet fully established, limiting remote work and business opportunities.

Small & Declining Population

Limited workforce: A small year-round population makes it difficult to fill open job positions. Outmigration: Younger generations often leave for education and job opportunities elsewhere.

Limited Infrastructure

No central water and sewer system: Residents rely on wells, septic systems, and hauled water. High energy costs: Electricity rates are among the highest in the nation, making operations expensive. Lack of year-round transportation: With no road access, goods and services must be flown in, increasing costs and limiting opportunities.

Regulatory & Economic Barriers

Land ownership restrictions: Much of the land is under federal, state, or tribal control, limiting private development. High cost of doing business: Importing goods, fuel, and supplies significantly raises operational costs. Limited access to funding: Small businesses may struggle to secure loans or investment for startups.

Environmental & Climate Challenges

Harsh weather conditions: Extreme cold and permafrost make construction, agriculture, and other industries difficult. Wildfires and natural hazards: Increasing climate risks could disrupt infrastructure and transportation. Addressing these challenges requires investment in infrastructure, workforce development, and innovative solutions for sustainable housing and potential job market growth.

POTENTIAL FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH

The potential for economic growth in Evansville, Alaska, depends on strategic investment, infrastructure development, and leveraging the community's unique strengths. Key areas of opportunity include:

Renewable Energy Development

The high cost of electricity makes alternative energy sources, such as solar, wind, and biomass, a potential solution for lowering costs and supporting economic activity. Grant funding and federal incentives for rural energy projects could make renewable energy a viable industry.

Tourism & Outdoor Recreation

Evansville's location near the Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve and the Dalton Highway corridor provides opportunities for guided tours, outdoor recreation services, and cultural tourism. Expanding accommodations and visitor services could attract more travelers seeking remote Alaskan experiences.

Aviation & Transportation Services

The existing airstrip could be expanded to support charter flights, cargo transport, and drone operations, improving logistics for businesses and residents. Development of drone technology and UAV operations for cold-weather testing could create a niche industry.

Broadband & Remote Work Opportunities

With federal broadband funding available, improved internet infrastructure could enable remote jobs, e-commerce businesses, and online education opportunities for residents. Digital-based businesses, such as online retail, consulting, and virtual services, could provide economic diversification.

Workforce & Skilled Trades Development

Investing in vocational training for trades such as construction, heavy equipment operations, aviation, and mechanics could create local job opportunities. Workforce development programs, especially for youth, could encourage long-term residency and economic stability.

Sustainable Housing & Construction

Building affordable, energy-efficient housing would allow for population growth and attract skilled workers. Local materials and prefabricated construction techniques could reduce costs and create job opportunities.

Natural Resource Utilization

Sustainable harvesting of local resources, such as wood products or renewable energy sources, could support small-scale industry. Environmental stewardship and conservation-based industries could align with funding opportunities for rural communities.

Government & Research Partnerships

Partnerships with universities, research institutions, and government agencies for environmental monitoring, climate studies, and cold-weather technology testing could bring investment and jobs. Additionally, research and development in drones and unmanned aerial systems (UAS) for wildlife monitoring, infrastructure inspection, and remote deliveries could create new opportunities for innovation and workforce development in Evansville. The region could also serve as a strategic site for cold-weather testing of battery and hydrogen technology for aircraft and vehicles, supporting advancements in sustainable transportation. Federal and state programs aimed at rural economic development could provide funding for infrastructure and business growth.

By capitalizing on these opportunities, Evansville has the potential to foster sustainable economic growth, improve quality of life for residents, attract new investment, and create long-term employment opportunities.



SUBSISTENCE

Subsistence remains a critical way of life for the people of Evansville, providing both food security and cultural continuity. The availability of land, wildlife, and traditional hunting and gathering practices is essential for survival, particularly in a remote region where the high cost of store-bought goods makes subsistence not just a choice but a necessity.

Hunting for moose, caribou, and small game provides families with vital protein, while fishing in local rivers and lakes supplements their diets. Gathering berries, edible plants, and medicinal herbs follows seasonal cycles, ensuring that traditional knowledge is passed down to younger generations. Trapping and fur harvesting also play a role in both sustenance and economic trade.

Access to land and wildlife is essential for maintaining cultural identity and self-sufficiency. Federal and state regulations, land management policies, and environmental changes all impact subsistence practices, making it crucial for local communities to have a voice in decision-making processes. Protecting subsistence rights ensures that future generations can continue to rely on the land as their ancestors have for thousands of years.



Figure 39 Article from Anchorage Daily News August 15, 1979, regarding Bettles/Evansville residents granted permission to subsistence hunt in Gates of the Arctic National Park



Figure 38 Examples of subsistence use, snowmachine, gathering blueberries, fishing & hunting, Jamie Klaes private collection

COMMUNITY HEALTH & WELLNESS

RECREATION

Recreation for residents in Evansville and Bettles is deeply connected to the land and the seasons, blending traditional activities with outdoor adventure.

Hunting and fishing play a vital role in both sustenance and recreation, with locals spending time on the land tracking moose, caribou, and small game, as well as fishing in the Koyukuk River and surrounding lakes. Trapping during the winter months is another activity that supports both cultural traditions and economic opportunities.

Snowmachining (snowmobiling) is a popular form of transportation and recreation in the winter, allowing residents to travel between villages and cabins, visit family, and explore the backcountry. Dog mushing remains an activity enjoyed by some, keeping alive a historic mode of travel.

During the summer, residents enjoy boating, canoeing, and hiking along the river and through the tundra. Berry picking is a favorite seasonal activity, with families gathering blueberries, cranberries, and crowberries for winter food storage.

For those who appreciate quieter activities, the Northern Lights provide spectacular nighttime viewing in the winter, while campfires, storytelling, and cultural gatherings offer ways to stay connected to family and community. While access to organized recreation is limited, the natural surroundings provide endless opportunities for adventure, tradition, and connection to the land year-round.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Community events in Evansville and Bettles play a vital role in bringing people together, strengthening relationships, and celebrating local traditions. Despite the small population, residents organize and participate in a variety of gatherings throughout the year that foster a strong sense of community.

Locals often host fun runs and canoe paddles, encouraging outdoor recreation and friendly competition. The 4th of July party is a highly anticipated event, featuring food, games, and fireworks when conditions allow. Another major summer gathering is the annual Evansville Corporation BBQ in July, where families and friends come together to enjoy good food and conversation.

A favorite spot for gathering is Ring Beach, a special place along the river named in memory of the late Chief Rhoda Musser, who once lost—and later found—her wedding ring there. This area has become a cherished site where residents come together to enjoy the water, relax, and celebrate important moments.

Potlucks are also a regular occurrence, with each person bringing their favorite dish to share. These gatherings provide an opportunity for neighbors to catch up, welcome visitors, and celebrate special occasions. Whether it's a holiday, a milestone, or just an excuse to get together, potlucks reflect the generosity and hospitality of the community.

These events, big or small, help maintain a close-knit community, offering moments of joy, connection, and shared tradition in a remote and often challenging environment.

GOALS, OBJECTIVES & ACTION PLAN

GOALS SUMMARY

Surveys and meetings were used to gather vital information to come up with the following goals. The results were tallied based on the frequency the concern was mentioned in both the survey and the meetings held.

- 1 • Housing
- 2 • Economy
- 3 • Community Wellbeing
- 4 • Youth & Elders
- 5 • Energy & Transportation

GOAL #1: Evansville Workforce and Housing Development Plan

Evansville Workforce and Housing Development Plan

Establish workforce housing and improve employment offerings to increase population retention and fill local positions with qualified individuals.

Objective 1: Develop Seasonal and Permanent Employee Housing

Action Steps:

1. Conduct a Housing Needs Assessment

Survey existing workforce housing capacity and future needs, such as teachers, public safety, clinic staff, and seasonal workers

Timeline: Month 1–2

Lead: Tribal Council and Community Planning Specialist

Support: IRHA, Denali Commission

2. Identify Land and Infrastructure Readiness

Map available land parcels and assess utility access such as water, sewer, and power
Timeline: Month 2–3

Lead: Village Corporation, City, and Tribe

Support: IRHA, ANTHC

3. Secure Housing Development Funding

Apply for grants or loans such as HUD ICDBG, USDA Rural Development, and BIA Housing Improvement Program

Timeline: Month 3–6, ongoing

Lead: Grant Writer and Tribal Administrator

Support: Rural CAP, Cold Climate Housing Research Center, IRHA

4. Design and Build Housing Units

Phase 1: Construct seasonal workforce bunkhouse or modular units

Phase 2: Build year-round family and single-occupancy housing

Timeline: Year 1–2 for pilot, Year 3–5 for expansion

Lead: Project Manager and Tribal Council

Support: Contractors and energy efficiency experts



GOAL #1: Evansville Workforce and Housing Development Plan

1. Develop Incentive Packages

Include housing stipends, relocation assistance, seasonal bonuses, and job sharing options

Timeline: Month 2–3

Lead: Tribal Council and local employers

Support: State Department of Labor and Workforce Development

2. Seek Wage Subsidies and Training Grants

Apply for rural workforce development funding through programs such as WIOA, STEP, and the Alaska Workforce Investment Board

Timeline: Month 2–6

Lead: Grant Writer

Objective 3: Promote Evansville as a Desirable Lifestyle Destination

Action Steps:

1. Create Lifestyle and Job Marketing Material

Highlight natural beauty, subsistence lifestyle, community culture, internet access, and wellness opportunities

Timeline: Month 2–4

Lead: Community Planning Specialist and local artists or youth

Support: Alaska Tourism Industry Association, tribal tourism program

2. Host “Live and Work in Evansville” Outreach Campaign

Attend job fairs, use social media, and partner with training programs

Timeline: Ongoing, quarterly

Lead: Outreach Coordinator

3. Offer Community Integration Support

Provide welcome packets, cultural workshops, and mentoring from long-time residents

Timeline: As new hires arrive

Lead: Tribal Council, Youth and Elder Committees

Timeline Summary:

Months 1–3: Assess housing needs, research wages, identify land

Months 3–6: Secure funding and finalize incentives

Year 1–2: Begin housing construction and launch outreach Year 3–

5: Expand housing and improve retention programs

GOAL#2: Evansville Economic Growth & Tourism Plan | Small Community & Regional Engagement

Evansville Economic Growth & Tourism Plan | Small Community & Regional Engagement Create local income opportunities by promoting cultural tourism, supporting artisans, and preserving heritage. Involve downriver communities and tribal members living elsewhere. Improve online visibility and revisit tour operator permitting.

Objective 1: Promote Cultural Tourism and Support Local Artisans

Action Steps:

1. Host 1 to 2 small artisan and cultural events each year. Invite neighboring villages and off-site tribal members to participate. Include crafts, food, music, and storytelling. Lead: Tribal Council
Support: Regional arts networks, Alaska Native Heritage Center
Timeline: Month 2–6 and annually

2. Assist local and regional artisans with basic business support such as pricing, product photography, and simple online sales listings.
Lead: Community Planning Specialist
Support: Small business development programs
Timeline: Month 2–4

3. Develop a few guided tourism experiences such as nature walks or cultural storytelling. Led by local residents or returning tribal members.
Lead: Community volunteers or cultural hosts
Support: Alaska Native Heritage Center
Timeline: Month 4–6

Objective 2: Develop a Mini Museum or Cultural Display

Action Steps:

1. Set up a small cultural display in a shared community space. Collect artifacts, photos, and stories from Evansville residents and extended tribal family.
Lead: Youth and Elders
Support: Museums Alaska, regional historians
Timeline: Month 3–6

2. Apply for one to two small grants to fund the display, signage, or recording tools. Lead: Tribal Council and Grant Writer
Support: NEH, IMLS, tribal heritage grants
Timeline: Month 3–6

GOAL #2: Evansville Economic Growth & Tourism Plan | Small Community & Regional Engagement

3. Invite academic or nonprofit partners to support temporary exhibits or oral history work.

Lead: Cultural Liaison

Support: University of Alaska, regional archives

Timeline: Month 6–12

Objective 3: Improve Online Presence and Community Visibility

Action Steps:

1. Create a simple community website with cultural content, contact info, and

visitor information. Lead:

Youth or contractor

Support: Tribal Council

Timeline: Month 2–4

2. Produce one short community video per year featuring local and off-site voices. Lead:

Youth team or volunteer videographer

Support: Alaska Humanities Forum

Timeline: Month 4–6 annually

3. Maintain one active social media page such as Facebook. Share photos, cultural posts, and community updates each season.

Lead: Communications volunteer

Support: Digital media training programs

Timeline: Ongoing

Objective 4: Revisit Tour Operator Permitting on Tribal Land

Action Steps:

1. Hold a community meeting to discuss tour operator expectations. Include voices from Evansville, downriver communities, and off-site tribal members.

Lead: Tribal Council

Support: Regional tribal partners

Timeline: Month 1–2

2. Create a one-page visitor permit with clear cultural guidelines and expectations.

Lead: Tribal Land Office

Support: Legal advisor

Timeline: Month 3–4



GOAL #2: Evansville Economic Growth & Tourism Plan | Small Community & Regional Engagement

3. Share the permit and guidelines online and with local lodges, pilots, and tourism partners.

Lead: Tribal Administrator

Support: Regional tourism association

Timeline: Month 5–6

Timeline Summary:

Months 1–3: Plan events, launch community engagement, begin display and website

Months 3–6: Apply for grants, draft permit, produce video

Year 1–2: Host events, launch online content, finalize permit

Year 2–5: Expand displays, deepen partnerships, grow tourism offerings slowly and sustainably



GOAL #3: Evansville Community Wellbeing Plan

Foster inclusivity and promote healthy lifestyles through regular social activities, cultural gatherings, outdoor challenges, and wellness initiatives.

Objective 1: Build Connection Through Social Activities

Action Steps:

1. Create a monthly community social calendar that includes crafts, games, movie nights, or potlucks.

Rotate hosting and keep events simple and welcoming.

Lead: Community Planning Specialist or rotating volunteer

Support: Tribal Council, Elder and Youth Committees

Timeline: Begin Month 1, ongoing monthly

2. Include at least one cultural or intergenerational activity each month, such as traditional storytelling, beading, or cooking.

Lead: Local Elders or volunteers

Support: Youth leaders, cultural organizations

Timeline: Begin Month 2, ongoing monthly

3. Coordinate a quarterly wellness focus such as mental health check-ins, stress reduction techniques, or movement-based sessions like stretching or yoga.

Lead: Community Health Aide or trained resident

Support: Behavioral health providers, regional clinics

Timeline: Begin Month 4, quarterly

Timeline Summary:

Month 1–2: Launch social calendar, begin cultural gatherings and walking challenge Month 3–4:

Introduce nutrition activities and wellness sessions

Year 1–2: Maintain consistent events, track participation, adjust activities as needed

Year 2–5: Strengthen partnerships and grow wellness resources based on community interest

4. Coordinate a quarterly wellness focus such as mental health check-ins, stress reduction techniques, or movement-based sessions like stretching or yoga.

Lead: Community Health Aide or trained resident

Support: Behavioral health providers, regional clinics

Timeline: Begin Month 4, quarterly

Timeline Summary:

Month 1–2: Launch social calendar, begin cultural gatherings and walking challenge Month 3–4:

Introduce nutrition activities and wellness sessions

Year 1–2: Maintain consistent events, track participation, adjust activities as needed

Year 2–5: Strengthen partnerships and grow wellness resources based on community interest

GOAL #4: Youth & Elders Connection

Youth & Elders Connection Strengthen ties between youth and elders with cultural camps, quarterly newsletters, and invitations to gatherings in Fairbanks and Evansville.

Objective 1: Create Opportunities for Cultural Sharing

Action Steps:

1. Organize small seasonal cultural camps or activity days where youth and elders come together to share skills, stories, and traditions.

Lead: Tribal Council and Elders Committee

Support: Youth volunteers, cultural coordinators

Timeline: Begin Month 3, seasonal

2. Identify and document traditional knowledge such as beading, carving, subsistence practices, and oral history for sharing with youth.

Lead: Elders with support from youth helpers

Support: Alaska Native Heritage Center, language and cultural programs

Timeline: Begin Month 2, ongoing

3. Invite youth and elders from downriver communities or those living in Fairbanks to join Evansville events in person or by video.

Lead: Tribal Administrator

Support: Regional partners and family networks

Timeline: Begin Month 4, ongoing

Objective 2: Maintain Communication and Connection Year-Round

Action Steps:

1. Create a quarterly community newsletter with photos, stories, and highlights from both elders and youth. Include mail and digital versions for off-site members.

Lead: Community Planning Specialist or youth intern

Support: Elders and school partners

Timeline: Begin Month 2, quarterly

2. Offer small tech support sessions so elders can connect with younger relatives via phone or video when travel isn't possible.

Lead: Local youth or volunteer

Support: Digital equity or telehealth programs

Timeline: Begin Month 3, bi-monthly

3. Encourage youth to take part in writing projects, interviews, or short video recordings that preserve family and cultural histories.

Lead: Youth mentor or educator

Support: Cultural heritage or education grants

Timeline: Begin Month 4, ongoing



GOAL #4: Youth & Elders Connection

Timeline Summary:

Month 1–2: Plan newsletter and identify elders and youth participants

Month 3–4: Launch first cultural activity day and begin intergenerational storytelling

Year 1–2: Host seasonal camps, grow newsletter, offer virtual connection tools

Year 2–5: Preserve cultural knowledge, increase regional participation, and deepen engagement



GOAL #5: Energy & Transportation

Identify and address top energy and transportation priorities. Secure funding for renewable energy projects, battery storage, and generator upgrades. Conduct a new transportation survey to assess community needs and collaborate with Alaska Power & Telephone to lower costs and reduce environmental impact.

Objective 1: Improve Energy Infrastructure and Affordability

Action Steps:

1. Conduct a community energy audit to identify inefficiencies and priority upgrades

Lead: Tribal Administrator or Energy Coordinator

Support: Alaska Energy Authority, Cold Climate Housing Research Center

Timeline: Begin Month 2

2. Pursue funding for solar panels, battery storage, and generator improvements

Lead: Grant Writer or Planning Specialist

Support: Renewable energy partners and federal programs

Timeline: Begin Month 3, ongoing

3. Partner with AP\&T to explore rate reductions or bulk fuel delivery solutions

Lead: Tribal Council

Support: Utility company representatives

Timeline: Begin Month 4

Objective 2: Strengthen Community Transportation Access

Action Steps:

1. Conduct a local transportation survey to assess current needs and seasonal challenges

Lead: Community Planning Specialist

Support: Elders, working families, and regional transportation agencies

Timeline: Begin Month 1

2. Apply for funding to support shared vehicles for elders, youth transport, and emergency use

Lead: Tribal Administrator

Support: Regional health and transportation programs

Timeline: Begin Month 3



GOAL #5: Energy & Transportation

3. Improve signage, dust control, and road maintenance schedules through collaboration with

Lead: City or Tribal Public Works

Support: Alaska Department of Transportation

Timeline: Begin Month 4

Timeline Summary:

Month 1–2: Launch transportation survey and energy audit

Month 3: Begin grant applications and vehicle access planning

Month 4 and ongoing: Collaborate with AP\&T and DOT for upgrades and improvements



EVANSVILLE SURVEY RESULTS FOR COMMUNITY PLAN

PRIORITIES: GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

As part of a community effort, residents were asked to identify the top priorities for Evansville's future. The following goals and objectives reflect the most common themes shared by community members.

SUBSISTENCE & LAND

Goals:

- ❖ Protect access to clean water, air, and land for future generations
- ❖ Maintain Evansville's natural beauty and subsistence lifestyle

Objectives:

- ❖ Preserve clean water sources and monitor soil health
- ❖ Educate youth on local ecology and responsible land use
- ❖ Maintain control over hunting access, limit non-local harvesting
- ❖ Organize seasonal clean-up days and community stewardship events
- ❖ Promote traditional knowledge through outdoor education and survival skills

COMMUNITY WELL-BEING

Goals:

- ❖ Foster a healthy, active, and connected community

Objectives:

- ❖ Build a community gathering space for wellness, culture, and fitness
- ❖ Support youth and elder engagement through seasonal camps and storytelling
- ❖ Promote cultural learning: language, crafts, hunting safety, and traditional foods
- ❖ Host regular events that bring people together and reduce isolation
- ❖ Encourage mental health awareness and support networks

ECONOMY

Goals:

- ❖ Create meaningful employment and small business opportunities
- ❖ Reduce the cost of living and attract residents back home

Objectives:

- ❖ Support ecotourism and cultural tourism businesses
- ❖ Offer workforce training (e.g., heavy equipment, operator training)
- ❖ Expand broadband and renewable energy projects to create jobs
- ❖ Encourage entrepreneurship through mentorship and microgrants
- ❖ Provide training in business management and grant writing

HOUSING

Goals:

- ❖ Develop affordable and energy-efficient housing
- ❖ Ensure there is housing to bring people back to the community

Objectives:

- ❖ Conduct a housing needs assessment
- ❖ Partner with landowners to resolve land use issues
- ❖ Build single-family, rental, and seasonal housing
- ❖ Use existing COVID housing or temporary units where appropriate
- ❖ Involve youth in the housing development process

EDUCATION & YOUTH

Goals:

- ❖ Increase educational opportunities for all ages
- ❖ Provide safe spaces and skill-building for youth

Objectives:

- ❖ Advocate for reestablishing local or regional school options
- ❖ Provide after-school programs and seasonal activities
- ❖ Offer training in survival skills, cultural knowledge, and trades
- ❖ Support parent and family involvement in youth education
- ❖ Establish distance learning and tutoring access points

PUBLIC UTILITIES & INFRASTRUCTURE

Goals:

- ❖ Improve critical infrastructure and reduce energy costs

Objectives:

- ❖ Support broadband internet expansion
- ❖ Invest in renewable energy like solar and wind
- ❖ Identify sustainable options for water and sewer
- ❖ Improve facilities for sanitation and emergency response
- ❖ Maintain roads and ensure transportation access for elders

WHAT WE HEARD FROM THE COMMUNITY

1. What do residents enjoy most about living in Evansville?

- ❖ Peace and quiet
- ❖ Natural beauty and wilderness
- ❖ Small population and strong community bonds
- ❖ Access to outdoor activities
- ❖ Family connections
- ❖ Freedom and privacy

2. What are the biggest issues and challenges facing the community?

- ❖ Housing shortage – few or no available rental or owned homes
- ❖ Declining population – difficulty attracting and retaining residents
- ❖ Lack of employment – no local jobs, no economic engine
- ❖ High cost of living – energy, freight, and goods
- ❖ No school – impacts youth and family retention
- ❖ Loss of traditional knowledge – cultural erosion
- ❖ Low community engagement – few activities or opportunities

3. What would you like to see happen in the next 5 years?

- ❖ More year-round housing
- ❖ Return of families and population growth
- ❖ Job creation and sustainable employment
- ❖ Clean land and healthy environment
- ❖ Revitalization of culture and language
- ❖ Access to education and youth programs
- ❖ Small business and tourism development

4. What types of housing are needed?

- ❖ Single-family homes
- ❖ Rental housing
- ❖ Temporary or seasonal units
- ❖ Homes for elders and visiting health professionals

Top concerns include:

- ❖ Lack of year-round options
- ❖ No homes for returning community members
- ❖ High energy costs in existing residences
- ❖ Overcrowding, many people in same house

5. What are the main infrastructure and utility needs?

- ❖ Broadband internet access
- ❖ Renewable energy solutions (solar, wind)
- ❖ Improved water/well systems
- ❖ Winter-proof water/sewer systems
- ❖ More public facilities like laundromat, morgue, and fitness space
- ❖ Affordable electricity

6. What economic opportunities would the community support?

- ❖ Ecotourism and cultural tourism
- ❖ Local store or trading post
- ❖ Traditional crafts and guided experiences
- ❖ Renewable energy and broadband-related jobs
- ❖ Business mentorship and microgrants

7. What education and training would help prepare residents for the workforce?

- ❖ Operator and equipment training
- ❖ Small business development
- ❖ Financial literacy and communication
- ❖ Grant writing
- ❖ Technology and remote work skills
- ❖ Trade school access

8. What are the major education and youth concerns?

- ❖ No local school or consistent education support
- ❖ Few opportunities for kids to engage or learn
- ❖ Lack of life skills and job readiness
- ❖ Minimal cultural or language programs

Suggestions included:

- ❖ Outdoor education and survival training
- ❖ Language and cultural camps
- ❖ Parent/family engagement in learning
- ❖ Mentorship and hands-on programs

9. What land and environmental concerns exist?

- ❖ Keeping water, air, and land clean
- ❖ Lack of land ownership or deed clarity
- ❖ Need for sustainable land use planning
- ❖ Limiting outside hunting access

10. What public safety or community health needs were mentioned?

- ❖ Need for better emergency response
- ❖ No full-time law enforcement
- ❖ Isolation and mental health concerns
- ❖ Loose dogs and fire safety
- ❖ Health and fitness space for all ages

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APPENDICES

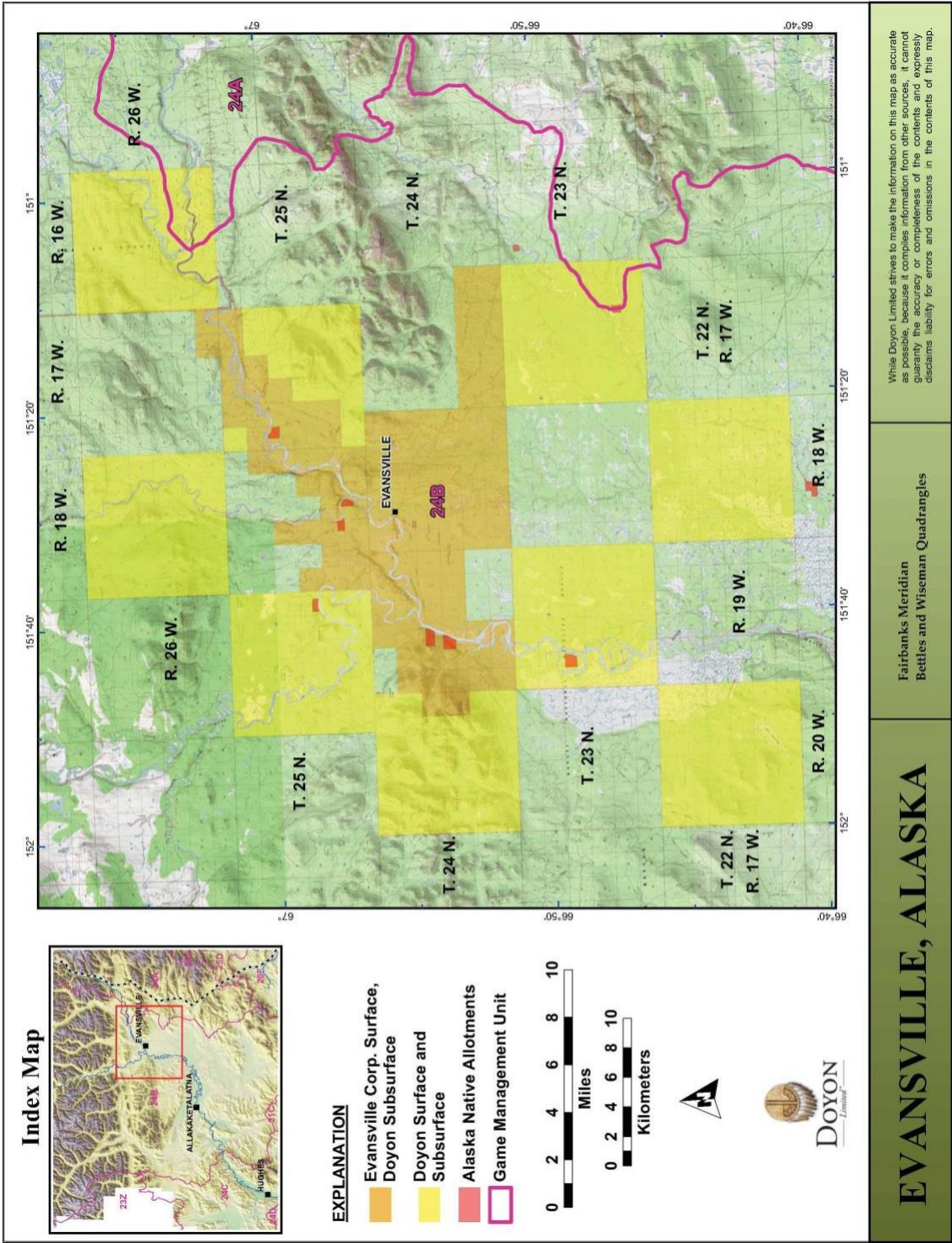
APPENDIX 1: AERIAL VIEW OF EVANSVILLE/BETTLES



Figure 40: Satellite View of Evansville/Bettles

APPENDIX 2: DOYON MAP OF EVANSVILLE LAND

Figure 41: Doyon Map of Evansville Land



EVANSVILLE TRIBAL COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-05-01

A Resolution To Adopt The Evansville Community Plan

Whereas, this Community Plan is important to the future growth and development of Evansville Village, Alaska and,

Whereas, this plan was created through a public process that 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 non-profit entities serving our community to recognize and use this plan; and,

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

Certification

We hereby certify that this resolution was duly passed and approved 5 in favor, 0 opposed by the following parties:



1st Chief



Secretary/Treasurer

5-19-2025

Date

05/16/2025

Date

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