

**SUBJECT:** INFORMING THE ASSEMBLY OF THE SUBMITTAL OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE MAT-SU TRAILS AND PARKS FOUNDATION FOR THE JONESVILLE PUBLIC USE AREA.

**AGENDA OF: January 21, 2025**

**ASSEMBLY ACTION:**

Presented to the Assembly 01/21/25 - EMW

**AGENDA ACTION REQUESTED:** For information only.

Route To	Signatures
Department Director	<div>1 / 3 / 2 0 2 5</div> <div>X J i l l i a n M o r r i s s e y</div> <div>S i g n e d b y : J i l l i a n M o r r i s s e y</div>
Finance Director	<div>1 / 6 / 2 0 2 5</div> <div>X C h e y e n n e H e i n d e l</div> <div>S i g n e d b y : C h e y e n n e H e i n d e l</div>
Borough Attorney	<div>1 / 6 / 2 0 2 5</div> <div>X N i c h o l a s S p i r o p o u l o s</div> <div>S i g n e d b y : N i c h o l a s S p i r o p o u l o s</div>
Borough Manager	<div>1 / 7 / 2 0 2 5</div> <div>X M i c h a e l B r o w n</div> <div>S i g n e d b y : M i k e B r o w n</div>
Borough Clerk	<div>1 / 1 0 / 2 0 2 5</div> <div>X E s t e l l e W i e s e f o r</div> <div>S i g n e d b y : E s t e l l e W i e s e</div>

**ATTACHMENT (S):** Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation Grant Application, submitted on 01/03/2025 (11 pp)

**SUMMARY STATEMENT:** On behalf of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Community Development Department, a grant application was submitted electronically to the Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation for the Jonesville Public Use Area for \$100,000.

This grant will help fund Phase 1 of this project, which will include the design of roads, shooting range areas, restrooms to support the range, information signage, and a separate campground area with restroom facilities.

This grant requires a funding match of 2:1. Full match funding is

available from the Borough's project funding (47031-2300-2301).

Additional legislation to accept and appropriate the funding will be sent forward once the grant is awarded.

# [My applications](#) → Preview application

MSTPF Grant Application 2025

## Jonesville Public Use Area Design: Phase 1

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Project Title

Jonesville Public Use Area Shooting Range: Phase 1

Organization Name

Matanuska-Susitna Borough

Organization Mailing Address

350 E Dahlia St.

City

Palmer

Zip Code

99645

Project Contact Name

Jillian Morrissey

Project Contact Title

***Attachment  
IM 25-027***

Community Development Director

Email

Jillian.Morrissey@matsugov.us

Phone

907-861-8634

Organization Legal Officer

Mike Brown

Title

Borough Manager

Legal Officer Email

Mike.Brown@matsugov.us

Organization Website

<https://www.matsugov.us>

 [Preview of https://www.matsugov.us](https://www.matsugov.us)

Funds Requested

US\$100,000.00

Cash Match

US\$1,000,000.00

In-Kind Match

US\$0.00

Total Match Amount

US\$1,000,000.00

Total Project Cost

US\$5,000,000.00

I confirm that I meet the eligibility criteria for this grant

✓

Application is for (check all that apply)

Park Planning, Park New Construction

3-4 Sentence Summary of the Project (This summary may be used by MSTPF to describe the project to the public)

The Jonesville Public Use Area is owned by the State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR). DNR is working with Matanuska-Susitna Borough to find a local solution for visitors, Alaska residents and community members alike. Currently there is no infrastructure to support health and human safety at this site nor regulations or consistent enforcement. The Borough is seeking funding to support the design of the shooting range, restrooms, campground and appropriate signage. This high priority recreation facility will provide safety for recreational shooters, other users and the neighboring community of the Jonesville area.

## ELIGIBILITY

Identify the type of organization

Government Entity or Community Council

If the applicant organization is a 501c3 you must add the EIN here

n/a

Is the project located in the Mat-Su Borough?

Yes

### GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Location (Address or GPS)

Lat: 61.73684° N Lon: 148.91446° W

Please include an estimate of annual users, and any other relevant user, community, or other demographic data for populations that may benefit from the completion of this project.

Last year Jonesville Public Use Area had over 50,000 visits. The majority of visitors are from the local Mat-Su area, but almost 40% of visitors are from the greater Anchorage area. Jonesville offers a place to recreate that is not otherwise available in the Municipality of Anchorage including motorized use and an area for shooting. With the increased number of visitors and no infrastructure, the need to address health and human safety issues is paramount. The Sutton Community has been advocating for DNR and the Borough to address this critical situation. The Borough has set aside funds to be able to begin the design process and go to RFP, but requires additional funding to manifest every phase of this project.

### DETAILED PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Is this project purchasing equipment like a SnoCat, snowmachine, grooming apparatus, etc.?

No

Please describe the community need and expected results or benefits of the project.

The Jonesville Public Use Area is a highly visited, multi-use area that is used year-round. Currently shooting takes place in and around undesignated campsites, through main access trails and tracks and along the Slipper Lake water body. The design and development of a designated shooting range with restrooms and separated campground with restrooms would provide much needed critical human health and safety facilities to this recreation area.

The Sutton community, the Sutton Community Council, Chickaloon Tribal Village, the Borough, DNR and local legislators have all identified the concerns in the Jonesville area and solutions need to be forthcoming. The Borough has taken a leadership role to provide these solutions to improve conditions in the area.

This project will need consistent and persistent attention and maintenance to support better shooting practices and improved sanitation. DNR will support this project with regulations for the area and enforcement. A multi-agency project of this scale had success in the Knik Area and best practices and lessons learned from that effort will be utilized in development of the Jonesville shooting range and recreation area.

Please provide a detailed narrative description of the project. Your description should explain the 'who', 'what', 'when' (general timing, detailed timeline to follow), and 'where' of the project. If your project concerns trail construction or improvements please include dimensions of the trail or sections of improvement (length and width), and a map clearly showing the location(s).

DNR has worked with the Borough on a signed Memorandum of Agreement for Jonesville and that agreement is attached to this application as a reference. The MOA authorizes the Borough to begin design work and conduct feasibility studies to provide options for recreational development in the area.

The Mat-Su Borough successfully identified funding to be able to go out to bid this winter. The Borough's Public Works and Community Development Departments are actively working on language for an RFP for Phase 1 Design and anticipate having this available for contractors to bid on the winter of 2025.

Phase 1 entails identifying roads, the shooting range areas, restrooms to support the range, informational signage and a separated campground area with restroom facilities. The community has waited long enough for solutions and this starts the development process. If the Borough can secure additional funding from MSTPF for Phase 1 Design, the Borough secured monies can then

be utilized for match for construction and implementation, which will require an estimated \$4 million.

Include a detailed timeline that identifies the overall project start date and completion date, major project tasks with start and completion dates (note that projects are expected to be completed within 18 months of the grant award date).

### **Phase I: Design**

- January 2025: Request to MSTPF to support Phase 1: Design for Jonesville
- Winter 2025: RFP for Phase 1: Design is published
- Spring 2025: RFP is awarded
- Summer 2025: Design work begins and outreach with stakeholders conducted
- Fall/Winter 2025: Design work completed

### **Phase II: Construction and Implementation**

- Winter 2026: Additional funding requests for Construction
- Winter 2026: RFP for Construction and Implementation published
- Spring 2026: RFP for Construction and Implementation awarded
- Summer 2026: Construction begins

Please include plans for long-term maintenance of the project or equipment purchased with grant funds. Include individuals and organizations responsible.

This is a multi-agency effort with the Borough supporting design, implementation, construction and long-term maintenance of the shooting range and recreation area. DNR is committed to providing regulations and enforcement for Jonesville. The Borough will continue to work with local entities including Chickaloon Village and Sutton Community Council to find solutions to the needs of the area.

How will you recognize MSTPF's contribution to the project?



The Mat-Su Borough Assembly has identified Jonesville as a 2025 [legislative priority](#). This is the third year that the Borough has had this as a priority and no other entity has contributed to this ambitious project to date other than the Borough Assembly. The support of the Mat-Su Trails and Park Foundation would be the first entity to contribute to this effort and put actual funding to solutions for the Sutton community. It would please the Manager, the Mayor and the Assembly to offer a public thank you during an Assembly meeting and provide appreciation on our Borough social media pages.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Project Budget -- Please complete the summary budget table below as well as describe the items in the subsequent budget narrative text box. Make sure that the totals here match the coversheet.

		Grant Funds Requested	Cash Match	In- Kind Match	Row Total	Explanation
1	Contractors	100,000	1,000,000	0	0	The entirety of the funding requested is to contract services for design of Phase I
2	Organization Staff	0	0	0	0	This funding has been secured and is being utilized as seed funding, match funding and ultimately construction and implementation funding.
3	Equipment	0	0	0	0	
4	Supplies and Materials	0	0	0	0	

		Grant Funds Requested	Cash Match	In- Kind Match	Row Total	Explanation
5	Organization Travel	0	0	0	0	
6	Column Total	100,000	1,000,000	0	0	

Provide a narrative description of your funding request and matching details. Include a description of each line item so we can clearly understand how the requested funds will be spent.

The Borough will be publishing an RFP for Phase I Design of the project this winter. At that time, we will have quotes from contractors. The funding requested will support the procurement of this contractor.

Can you consider a phased approach with less funding than requested? Please describe.

This is an ambitious project that will require extensive funding. All funding will be utilized to implement solutions.

## ORGANIZATION BACKGROUND

What is the applicant organization's Mission? How do parks and trails help meet this Mission?

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough's mission is "to efficiently and effectively deliver responsive services to the public and to cultivate opportunities for commercial enterprise to prosper". Our vision is to be "the greatest community in Alaska to live, work and play". We value "accountability, customer focus, dedication, integrity, responsiveness and teamwork". We operate under the [FY25-](#)

[30 Strategic Plan](#) that focuses on the following framework: economic growth and diversification, deliver high quality services and managing growth.

The Borough Community Development Department is aligned with the Strategic Plan and is intentionally working towards maintaining and developing resident and visitor recreation infrastructure and opportunities. It was identified in the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats (SWOT) Strategic Plan that one of the Borough's strengths is outdoor recreation opportunities and that we have an opportunity to expand those offerings. With the increase in use of our assets, we recognize the need to develop and upgrade existing infrastructure to be able to deliver high quality services to residents and visitors alike.

Please describe one or two similar projects that your organization has completed in the past, and/or projects funded by MSTPF

In Spring of 2024, the Mat-Su hosted the 2024 Arctic Winter Games. This was a huge accomplishment that involved a small staff and over 2000 volunteers. This international week-long event was profound for our community.

The Community Development is actively working with over 15 non-profit organization partners to provide winter trail grooming, new trail development, trail maintenance and land acquisition to provide high quality recreation services and assets throughout the Mat-Su.

## PERMITTING DOCUMENTATION

Please identify the landowner and land manager (if any) for this project.

Alaska's Department of Natural Resources

Include a letter of support or email approval from the applicable landowner or manager with your application.

The MOA between the Mat-Su Borough and DNR is attached in the Supporting Material of this application.

Reporting Requirements – Applicants will complete Interim and final reports on a schedule appropriate to the project. But no longer than 18 months from the start date on the agreement.

The final grant report must include digital picture(s), GPS track for trails, and other details specified in report form that is provided through this grant portal. Part of this should be suitable for use on our website and other communications channels.

The final documentation for trails should include a digital track (preferably .gpx or .shp) file suitable for adding to a trails map. Newer consumer-grade GPS units provide adequate accuracy for this purpose (but not for easements). The intention is that we can track progress on connectivity throughout the Mat-Su Area.

Check that you agree to the above reporting requirements



Thank you for your interest in helping to create a world-class trail and park system to improve community health and well-being throughout the Mat-Su Borough.

Your thoughts would be valuable as we work to make the application process easy and accessible. Do you have any feedback on the application process and/or this form? Your answer here will not negatively or positively impact your chance for an award.

This grant application software is intuitive and easy to use as an applicant. Thank you.

Do you have any suggestions, feedback, or comments on the Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation grant program.

Thank you for the opportunity.



