

Matanuska Susitna Borough Community Development 2016 Recreation Bond A Regional Approach



- ▶ Bond product was an evolution - starting in 2012
 - ▶ Began with 2 pools and an ice rink that had exceeded their useful life
 - ▶ Mechanical failures resulted in closures and maintenance costs increasing annually
 - ▶ Completed Facility Analysis and Restoration Plans
- ▶ Took a few years after the analysis to align the political stars to consider a bond issue for the pools and rink
- ▶ Our initial message for the bond was that we just wanted to fix / replace what was broken to restore functionality at the two pools and ice rink

Palmer and Wasilla Pools



Average of 144,000 patrons/yr*

32,000 Swimming lessons/yr*

*Since 2012

Brett Memorial Ice Arena

Average 57,000 on Ice annually*



*since 2012

The Valve



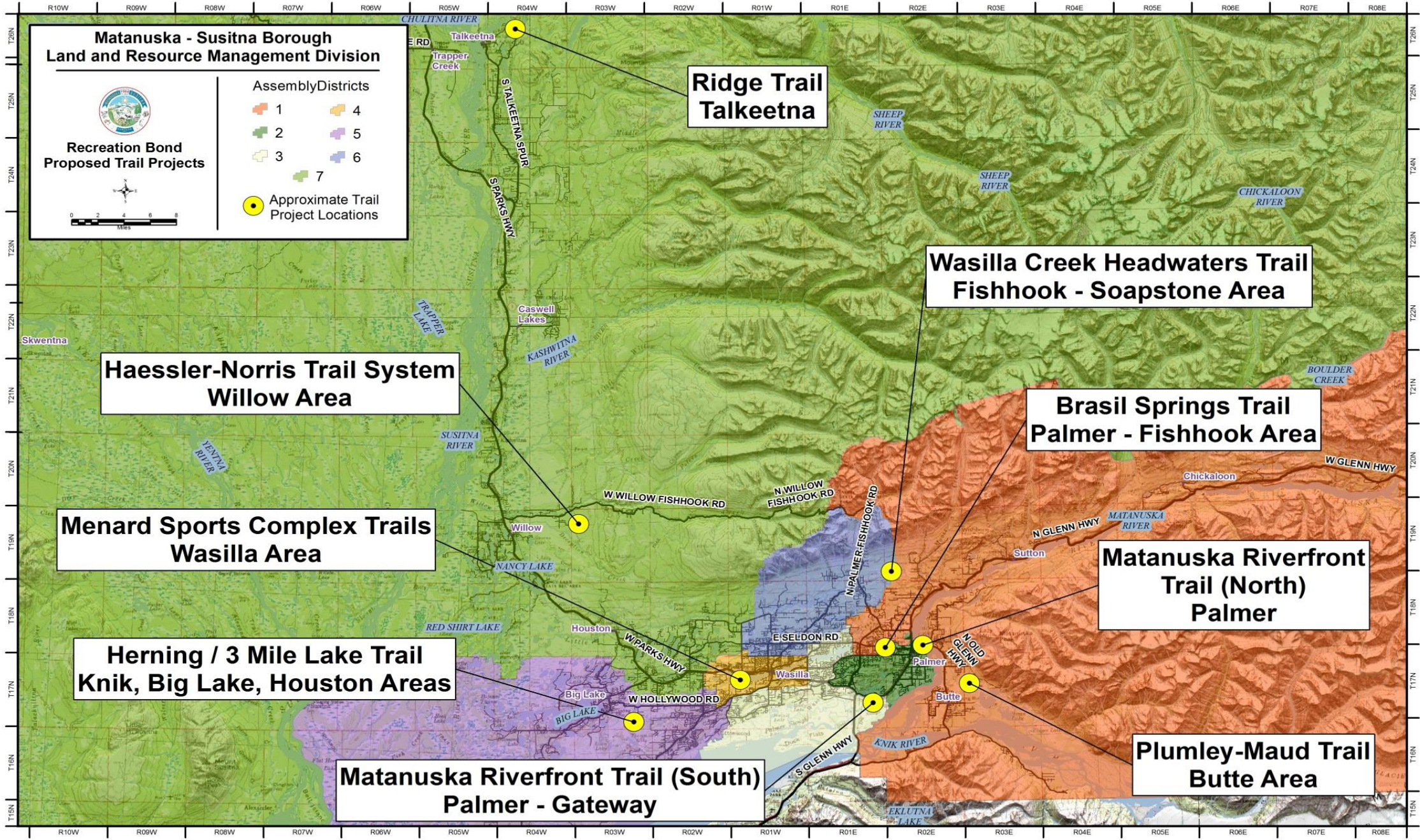
Pools and Ice Rink

- ▶ Initial message to merely fix the pools and the ice rink was not well-received by all. The pools & ice rink were viewed as primarily benefitting the core area (Palmer/Wasilla).
- ▶ Key issue developed - Need for Balance
 - ▶ It became apparent that the Bond had to benefit a wider cross-section of the Borough to be politically successful and get voter support outside of the core area.
- ▶ Our Response....TRAILS!


Trails

- ▶ 2/3 of all MSB Community Survey Respondents use MSB Recreation Trails (MSB Community Survey)
- ▶ Selected nine trail projects with strong community support with an emphasis on critical maintenance of longer trail segments
- ▶ Represent all trail user groups with projects dispersed throughout the Borough













**Matanuska - Susitna Borough
Land and Resource Management Division**

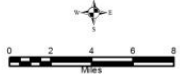


**Recreation Bond
Proposed Trail Projects**

Assembly Districts

 1	 4
 2	 5
 3	 6
 7	

 Approximate Trail Project Locations



**Ridge Trail
Talkeetna**

**Haessler-Norris Trail System
Willow Area**

**Menard Sports Complex Trails
Wasilla Area**

**Hering / 3 Mile Lake Trail
Knik, Big Lake, Houston Areas**

**Matanuska Riverfront Trail (South)
Palmer - Gateway**

**Wasilla Creek Headwaters Trail
Fishhook - Soapstone Area**

**Brasil Springs Trail
Palmer - Fishhook Area**

**Matanuska Riverfront
Trail (North)
Palmer**

**Plumley-Maud Trail
Butte Area**

Preliminary Bond Package

Palmer & Wasilla Pools	\$ 12,830,900
Brett Memorial Ice Arena	\$ 3,744,649
<u>Trails</u>	<u>\$ 2,128,500</u>
Total	\$ 18,704,049



Add Ons

Trails alone did not create sufficient “Balance”

Regional Rec Project Additions

Talkeetna/Willow Outdoor Ice Rinks	\$1,530,000
Willow Community Park	\$ 325,900
Big Lake Area Trail Bridges	\$1,250,000
Fish Lake Parking (Talkeetna)	\$ 100,000
Trapper Creek Park/Community Center	\$ 75,000
<u>Meadow Lakes Sports Complex Improvements</u>	<u>\$ 175,000</u>
Total Additions	\$3,455,900

Final Bond

Palmer & Wasilla Pools	\$ 12,830,900
Brett Memorial Ice Arena	\$ 3,744,700
Nine (9) Trail Projects	\$ 2,128,500
<u>Added Projects</u>	<u>\$ 3,455,900</u>
Total Bond	\$22,160,000

*“Don’t add so many ornaments to the Christmas tree that it falls over due to the weight of the ornaments.”

*Me

Bond passed with 54% of vote

This Bond has allowed investment in other “Regional” projects...



- Jim Creek Rec Area Master Plan
- Eight years of implementation effort



- Settlers Bay Coastal Park
- Partnership with Greatland Trust
- Developing the only coastal park in the Borough
- Two years into development

Jonesville Mine / Sutton



- Public Use Area Management Plan - not complete - in process
- Mostly State land - Community Need
- Initial efforts may include shooting range, clean-up, bathrooms, more active management
- \$1.5 million in hand. Hope to leverage additional grant funds