

Wolf Lake Community Park

Discussion with Mat-Su Borough Parks, Recreation & Trails Advisory Board

Prepared: June 23, 2025

Background

The State of Alaska is considering / planning for disposal of approximately 13-acres of property on the Southeast corner of Wolf Lake. Their plan is to subdivide this property for disposal in up to 15 parcels, no smaller than 40,000 SF or one nominal acre. A copy of the State's Project Summary is included as Attachment 1.

Representatives from the State DNR did a presentation to the North Lakes Community Council (NLCC) on March 27, 2024. There was strong public opposition to the State's plan.

Area residents would much prefer the property be dedicated as a Borough owned and well-managed day-use Community Park including controlled public access to the lake. The park land could ultimately be owned by the Mat-Su Borough and, through partnership with the Community Councils, become a well managed day-use community park. The park would be managed consistent with local community values, aligned with the Wolf Lake - Lake Management Plan and respectful of the aviation activity in the area.

The State has initially indicated they have no interest in such land use.

Also at the May 20 meeting, Barbara Doty of D.E. NorthFork LLC, owner of the Wolf Lake Airport, presented a concept to install several new float plane slips in the wetlands area of the subject State property. She also indicated support for the community park concept as long as it was operated in a way consistent with the aviation community and with the lake management plan. Her concept received positive feedback from many members and guests at the May NLCC Meeting.

The NLCC provided email feedback to the State of Alaska on March 28, 2025 and provided a copy to our subscribers and Facebook neighborhood groups.

Since then, we have continued to advocate with the Fishhook Community Council, the Mat-Su Borough Administration, and through our State Senator to encourage the Borough and State to consider the greater public interest and need for parks and recreation in this now significantly developed area of the Valley.

We initiated a hard-copy and on-line survey of local area residents and the results so far are:

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|------------------------------------|-----|-----|
| • Total Responses: | 433 | |
| • In favor of Community Park | 401 | 93% |
| • Opposed to Community Park | 32 | 07% |
| • Live within 3 miles of Wolf Lake | 394 | 91% |
| • Live beyond 3 miles of Wolf Lake | 39 | 09% |

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The NLCC met with Borough Manager, Mike Brown and Land Manager, Joe Metzger. They both expressed support for this concept and felt it was worthy of further evaluation. We testified to the Borough Assembly recommending seeking their support. At least two of the members expressed strong support and ultimately the Assembly agreed unanimously to have the Administration look into it and report back.

Community Park Concept

We have developed a sketch showing the concept envisioned for the Wolf Lake Community Park (see attached). The vision is for a partnership that results in a well-managed and maintained day-use-only Public Park that is aligned with the needs of the local community, respectful of the Wolf Lake Management Plan and the local aviation community.

Request of MSB Parks, Recreation and Trails Advisory Board (PRTAB)

The NLCC is requesting the PRTAB support this concept and prepare a resolution to that effect.

We appreciate your interest and for inviting us to participate in your Advisory Board meeting this evening. We also stand-by for further coordination and any assistance we can provide to advance this much needed recreational opportunity.

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