

2025-2030 Local Economic Development Plan, Koyuk, AK

Prepared for:

The Community of Koyuk

The Bering Strait Development Council

Facilitated by
Gabriel Smith,
Community Development Specialist
Kawerak Inc.
PO Box 948
Nome, AK 99762
(907) 443-4254
gsmith@kawerak.org



Table of Contents

Community Vision.....	6
Community Goals	6
Priority Lists.....	6
Introduction and Purpose of the 2025-2030 Local Economic Development Plan	7
Planning Process and Public Involvement	8
LEDP History and past accomplishments.....	8
Planning Committee and Staff Description.....	9
Method for Plan Development	9
Comprehensive Development Status	10
Community Descriptions	10
Location	10
History and Culture	11
<i>Government, Corporations, and Service Providers</i>	12
Native Village of Koyuk	12
City of Koyuk	14
Koyuk Native Corporation	14
Regional Corporations	15
Community Infrastructure	15
Housing Characteristics	16
Schools	17
Water and Sewer	18
Landfill.....	21
Electricity.....	22
Fuel.....	23
Existing Transportation Systems	24
Communications	26
Health Care	27

Public Safety	29
Koyuk’s Public Buildings, Lands, Churches and Recreational Areas.....	29
Population Growth and Trends	31
Koyuk Census Data.....	31
Employment and the Economy.....	32
Environmental Scan.....	33
Soils and Topography	33
Vegetation.....	34
Climate	35
Wildlife	35
Seismic, Flood and Wetland Information	36
Land Status	37
Designated Land Status and Management Issues	38
Land Use Potential	38
Strengths, weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats	39
Development Opportunities, Trends, Strengths	39
Development Barriers and Threats	39
Koyuk’s Vision, Goals and Values.....	40
Vision Statement.....	40
Development Goals	40
Koyuk Community Values.....	42
Development Priorities and Implementation	43
Early Childhood Education Facility	43
Implementation Strategy.....	45
14 (c) 3 - For more Residential Housing Lots	45
Development Implementation.....	46
Elder care program.....	46
Implementation Strategy	46
Road Improvements	47

Development Implementation.....	47
Beach Erosion Control.....	48
Development Strategy	49
The Multi Use Facility Building.....	49
Development Implementation.....	51
Sanitation facilities.....	51
Project implementation.....	51
Emergency Response Program	51
Implementation	51
Culture Camp Program	52
Implementation Strategy	52
Boat harbor/dock and barge landing	52
Implementation strategy	52
Developing natural resources	53
Development Implementation.....	53
Developing Economy to Allow for more Local Jobs and Careers.....	54
Development Strategy	54
Other Development Goals.....	55
Garage for heavy equipment	55
Implementation	55
Re-level buildings that are settling	56
Implementation	56
Tribal court	56
Implementation	56
Washeteria	57
Implementation	57
Remove the old school building	57
Implementation	58
New Cemetery.....	58

Implementation Strategy	58
Food Security	59
Development implementation strategy	60
A New Teen Center	60
Shelter cabins at Granite Mountain Hot Springs and other subsistence areas	61
Implementation	62
Current and On-going Projects	62
Public Meeting Participants.....	63
Works Cited.....	64

Community Vision

The community of Koyuk implements the wisdom and knowledge of Elders to teach our traditional way of life respecting the land, sea, and animals. We support quality educators and education and strive to support employment opportunities, and safe, healthy families and homes through economic development for all generations.

Community Goals

- Continually strengthen our infrastructure for a higher quality of life with more healthy activities such as providing youth with stronger social connections to the community and each other.
- Connect youth with elders to preserve our cultural aspects of life and traditional knowledge.
- Teaching our youth how to protect and respect our environment.
- Build the local economy to provide prosperity to our families with increasing local employment.
- Respecting each other to build stronger relationships with each other and other communities.

Priority Lists

The Native Village of Koyuk, City of Koyuk and Koyuk Native Corporation all have their own signed copies of Joint Resolution #25-04-17-01 on hand from the 4/16/2025 tri-organization public meeting that took place in the Koyuk City Hall. This joint resolution identifies the top 13 development priorities for the community which were agreed upon during the meeting. Each entity provided their input and agreed that the list of development priorities are in order as follows:

1. New Early Childhood Education Center
2. Complete the 14 (c) 3 Land Conveyance for more residential housing lots
3. Elder care program
4. Road Improvements (dust control) /Airport/ New barge access road
5. Seawall/ beach erosion control
6. Multi use facility building
7. Sanitation facilities
8. Emergency response Program (fire dept. Search and rescue)
9. Culture camp/ Program
10. Boat harbor/dock and barge landing
11. Developing natural resources
12. Developing the economy to allow for more local jobs/careers
13. Clinic expansion

Below are the honorable mentions beyond the top 13 that are in prioritized order approved by the joint entities;

- Garage for Heavy Equipment
- Re-leveling buildings that are on settling/sinking ground
- Tribal Court
- Washeteria
- Demolish and remove the old school building
- New Cemetery
- Food Security
- A new Teen Center
- Replacing or rebuilding shelter cabins

Introduction and Purpose of the 2025-2030 Local Economic Development Plan

Koyuk is located at the mouth of the Koyuk River, at the northeastern end of Norton Bay on the Seward Peninsula, 90 air miles northeast of Nome. It lies at approximately 64.931940° North Latitude and -161.15694° West Longitude. (Sec. 32, T006S, R012W, Kateel River Meridian.) Koyuk is located in the Cape Nome Recording District. The area encompasses 4.7 sq. miles of land and 0.0 sq. miles of water.

The site of "Iyatayet" on Cape Denbigh to the south has traces of early man that are 6,000 to 8,000 years old. The villagers were historically nomadic. Lt. Zagoskin of the Russian Navy noted the village of "Kuynkhak-miut" here in 1842-44. A Western Union Telegraph expedition in 1865 found the village of "Konyukmute." Around 1900, the present town site began to be populated, where supplies could easily be lightered to shore. Two boom towns grew up in the Koyuk region around 1914: Dime Landing and Haycock. The "Norton Bay Station," 40 miles upriver, was established to supply miners and residents in 1915. In addition to gold, coal was mined a mile upriver to supply steam ships and for export to Nome. The first school began in the church in 1915; the U.S. government built a school in Koyuk in 1928. The City was incorporated in 1970.

Koyuk is a traditional Malimiut and Unalit Eskimo village that speaks a dialect of Inupiaq Eskimo. Residents maintain a subsistence lifestyle. The Koyuk economy is based on subsistence, supplemented by limited part-time jobs. The main sources of meat are fish, caribou, seal, beluga whale and moose.

Regular air services are available out of Unalakleet and Nome. A 3,000-foot gravel runway, owned by Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, is located north of the Community. The runway is maintained year round.

The LEDP is a critical step in the on-going development of the tribe and its efforts to improve community conditions and the well-being of its members. It is structured to:

- Provide the community with a complete inventory of existing demographics, races, social conditions and services, economic conditions and activities, public services provided, and public and private facilities;

- Equip the community with the basic informational tools of local planning that accurately show land status and ownership as well as traditional resources and subsistence areas;
- Provide a section setting forth policies, goals, and standards for the community relative to each major component of the plan.
- Provide implementation strategies for development priorities; including land use, public facilities and services, capital improvements, economic development and community governance;
- Place emphasis on the crucial development issues; economic and resource development, land use planning and needs of the community with regards to infrastructure, and priority capital improvement projects;
- Involve key decision makers to assist in the identification of common goals and direction to achieve those goals.

Planning Process and Public Involvement

LEDP History and past accomplishments

The Community of Koyuk developed its Local Economic Development Plan (LEPD) with the assistance of Kawerak's Community Planning and Development Program (CPD). LEDPs analyze local conditions, identify problems and opportunities, and develop goals, strategies and outcomes to address community issues, on-going development, and future development.

Koyuk's last LEDP was completed in 2012. The Koyuk IRA Council and the City of Koyuk regularly updated the priorities of the community and the Tribe. Below are some of the major accomplishments toward these goals between 2012 and 2025.

Energy – Wind and solar feasibility studies are completed, solar array and BESS will be completed soon

Communications – Repeater relay station installed for better cell phone and Internet reception

Cultural – Recording of elder knowledge, new church construction completed

Economy – Commercial fisheries, herring and salmon

Educational – Increased job/career training; increase scholarship opportunities, improved internet access for continuing education

Food Bank - New freezer and shelving

Power and Bulk Fuel – Oil delivery to more homes, tank farm expansion, waste-heat recovery system installation in progress

Environment – Dust control; IGAP recycling program, Brownfields cleanup program

Health – New water treatment plant, dust control. The clinic has a resident Physician’s Assistant

Housing – 14 c (3) land conveyance for new subdivision with 20 individual lots for residential housing

Employment opportunities – More employment training available, both virtual and in person events including traveling to institutions, possible new store from native corporation

Natural Resources – Gravel development; free gravel for KNC shareholders, gravel available for purchase to commercial vendors and non-shareholders

Public Facilities – City Library, old clinic, pool hall/teen center remodeled for temporary rental housing, new clinic remodeling coming soon, Brownfields program assessing the old high school site

Public Safety – VPSO, upgraded channel markers, dust control, public safety building will receive water and sewer services

Transportation – Airport extension plan, airport improvement, upgraded channel markers, road improvements, dust control, culverts cleaned out, winter trail markers installed

Waste Management – IGAP recycling program, landfill improvements, two new 10-yard dump trucks for the Koyuk IRA Council, wastewater lagoon improvements and expansion, new monofil staging area at the landfill

Planning Committee and Staff Description

Community Development Specialist Gabriel Smith of Kawerak reached out in January 2025 to see if the Community of Koyuk wanted to update to the overdue LEDP. With assistance from Kawerak’s community planning and development staff, public planning meetings were held with the Native village of Koyuk, City of Koyuk and the Koyuk Native Corporation on 4/16/25 and 4/17/25.

Method for Plan Development

The planning organizations in Koyuk sought a strategic planning process based upon:

- Technology of Participation (ToP) methods developed by *the Institute of Cultural Affairs*
- Alaska Humanities Forum *Community Strategic Plan Guide and Form*
- CoCreative *Facilitation and Collaborative Innovation*

The methods listed above are proven to aid the facilitation of public meetings, keeping participants on topic and kindly direct conversations to benefit the entire party. Most notably these methods are taught in classes that direct participants through actual meeting scenarios including engagement, conflict navigation, diversifying perspectives, building trust, and creating a space where participant’s voices are heard.

Values and goals of the meetings

- Participation
- Respect
- Teamwork

- Creativity
- Action

It is expected that the Local Economic Development Planning document should include:

- Community profile and assessment data
- Community vision, value statement and goals
- Updated community priorities for community and economic development
- Top priority implementation strategies for guidance in community development projects

Comprehensive Development Status

As a second-class city in the unorganized borough, the City of Koyuk has optional powers under the state law for planning, platting, and land use regulation within municipal boundaries. The City of Koyuk has assumed some of these powers. As the federally recognized governing body of the tribal members of Koyuk, Alaska, the Native Village of Koyuk Tribal Council shares some of these responsibilities and powers.

A Comprehensive Economic Development strategy (CEDS) was updated and approved for the Bering Strait region communities by the Bering Straits Development Council in 2025. The document can be found at <https://kawerak.org/cultural-development/community-planning-and-development/>. The next CEDS update will be in 2030.

Koyuk's first published LEDP happened in May 2004. Many of the priorities in it turned into successful development projects that were completed.

The approved 2025-2030 Priorities

1. New Early Childhood Education Center
2. 14 c 3 land conveyance for more residential housing lots
3. Elder care program
4. Road Improvements (dust control)/Airport/New barge access road
5. Seawall/ Beach erosion control
6. Multi-use facility building
7. Sanitation facilities upgrades
8. Emergency response Program (Fire department, Search and Rescue)
9. Culture Camp Program
10. Boat Harbor/Dock and barge landing
11. Developing Natural Resources
12. Developing Economy to allow for more local jobs/careers
13. Clinic Expansion

Community Descriptions

Location

Koyuk is located at the mouth of the Koyuk River, at the northeastern end of Norton Bay on the Seward Peninsula, 90 air miles northeast of Nome. It lies at approximately 64.931940° North

Latitude and -161.15694° West Longitude. (Sec. 32, T006S, R012W, Kateel River Meridian.) Koyuk is in the Cape Nome Recording District. The area encompasses 4.7 sq. miles of land and 0.0 sq. miles of water.

Koyuk has a sub-arctic climate with a maritime influence. Average summer temperatures range from 46 to 62; winter temperatures average -8 to 8. Annual precipitation is 19 inches, including 40 inches of snowfall. Extremes from -49 to 87 have been recorded. Norton Bay is usually ice-free from May to October.

Regular air services are available out of Unalakleet and Nome. A 3,000-foot gravel runway, owned by the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, is located north of the Community. The runway is maintained year-round.

Koyuk is very windy with winds from the north and northeast dominating at an average velocity of 15 knots. The community has expressed interest in using the wind as a power generation source. A one-year feasibility study is currently underway.

The 2004 and 2005 big fall storms, which caused damage to many villages along the Seward Peninsula and Norton Sound coastlines, flooded parts of Koyuk as well. Both storms flooded King Creek Road along the coastline and eroded the embankment beyond the road. The storms threatened the fuel tank header, where fuel is offloaded at the beach, and all development along the beach. Most of the fish racks and boats were swept away.

New weather anomalies like Tropical Storm Merbok can possibly become more frequent. This anomaly happens when intense tropical storms or typhoons rise in latitude above the Aleutian Chain, crossing over from the Pacific Ocean to the Bering Sea. These kinds of weather patterns are somewhat unpredictable in the matter of the dangers they have and the severity of the effects they carry with them to the coastal villages of Western Alaska.

History and Culture

The site of "Iyatayet" on Cape Denbigh to the south has traces of early man that are 6,000 to 8,000 years old. People lived on Tomcods and may have used the little pearl- like ear-bones for beads. The villagers were historically nomadic. Lt. Zagoskin of the Russian Navy noted the village of "Kuynkhak-miut" here in 1842-44. A Western Union Telegraph expedition in 1865 found the village of "Konyukmute." Around 1900, the present town site began to be populated, where supplies could easily be lightered to shore. Two boom towns grew up in the Koyuk region around 1914: Dime Landing and Haycock. The "Norton Bay Station," 40 miles upriver, was established to supply miners and residents in 1915. In addition to gold, coal was mined a mile upriver to supply steam ships and for export to Nome. The first school began in the church in 1915; the U.S. government built a school in Koyuk in 1928. The city was incorporated in 1970.

Koyuk is a traditional Unalit and Malemiut Eskimo village that speaks a dialect of Inupiat Eskimo. Residents maintain a subsistence lifestyle.

The community used to have an IRA marshal who patrolled the village before 9 p.m. to make sure children obeyed curfew. He carried a whip in the 1940s and '50s. There were no marshals by the 1960s.

The IRA Council used to hold Tribal Court. Children who went to Court were warned that the Council would send for a marshal to discipline them if necessary. Adults were taken to court in Nome. Bootleggers were transported to Nome-court by dogsled.

Young couples were discussed by their families and the IRA Council. They were encouraged to marry and given a wedding date. The community would help them build a cabin.

In the 1920s, many Koyuk residents owned reindeer. The reindeer were allowed to graze the open range. Once they left with the migrating caribou during winter. Future reindeer herds will be corralled in winter and only allowed on the open range in summer.

Alcohol-related violence resulted in Koyuk becoming a dry village in the 1980s. There has been less violence in Koyuk since then.

Government, Corporations, and Service Providers

Native Village of Koyuk

PO Box 53030
Koyuk, Ak 99753
Phone: (907) 963-3651
Fax: (907) 963-2353

The Native Village of Koyuk is referred to as the NVK or IRA (as it was organized under the Indian Reorganization Act). The IRA's #1 role is caring for the community's overall welfare. One of its responsibilities is to make sure that the Koyuk Native Store is prospering. The Store, a member of the Alaska Native Industries Cooperative Association (ANICA), makes a monthly financial report to make sure its money and inventory are good. The success of the store is important to the whole tribe. There is concern over the uncertain future of the bypass mail system because it saves the community a lot of money on bulk freight.

The IRA is like a family service that makes sure the community is doing well. The IRA Council works closely with Kawerak, Inc., the regional non-profit Native organization, making sure Kawerak's Family Services Division visits families who need help concerns do not escalate into major problems. The Council has a Village Based Counselor (VBC) from Norton Sound Health Corporation (NSHC) at the Clinic. If someone needs to leave Koyuk to receive treatment (to prevent suicide, for example), the IRA, the VBC, and the VBC's supervisor ensure that it happens. When there is trouble, like death in a family, the IRA makes sure the VBC visits to help.

The IRA owns the Koyuk Native Store, the IRA Building (where P.O. is also located – the old P.O. burned down in the 1950s or 1960s), the pool hall (currently vacant), and the clinic.

The Bering Straits Regional Housing Authority must make agreements with the IRA, the Native Corporation, and the City before building anything in Koyuk. The IRA is involved in deciding where to bury people in the cemetery. It administers the food bank, located in the IRA building, and it used to operate the pool hall and a sawmill. The Council would like to establish a youth center in the community.



Left to right: Anne Wilson, Mary Lockwood, Laverne Kimoktoak, Susan Hoogendorn. These women run the IRA office in Koyuk being very knowledgeable on activities in and around their community. Photo by Gabriel Smith, Kawerak Inc. 4/17/25

At least four seats are maintained every election to maintain a majority of the IRA Council. The council regularly holds 7 individuals as council members. The Council reorganizes by nominating and voting on President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer at its annual IRA meeting each December. In addition to the 7 council members, the Koyuk Native Corporation also has 9 other employed staff. Those positions are as follows:

- Tribal Coordinator
 - Does Payroll
- Tribal Council bookkeeper
- Tribal Family Coordinator
 - ICWA
- IGAP Project Coordinator
- IGAP Project Assistant
- Maintenance Specialist
- Janitor
- Reindeer Herder
- American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) coordinator
- Tribal Victim Specialist

Other assets the IRA owns in Koyuk include:

Many ATVs and snowmobiles,

Doosan Excavator

Bobcat Track Loader

Doosan Dozer

Champion Grader

Peterbilt 10-yard Dump Truck

City of Koyuk

PO Box 53029

Koyuk, Ak 99753

Phone: (907) 963-3441

Fax: (907) 963-3442

The City of Koyuk was incorporated as a second-class city within the unorganized borough in 1970. City owned/operated services include Village Police & Safety Officer (VPSO), landfill management, and water/sewer service. The City of Koyuk has 7 elected officials.

The City of Koyuk owns the City Building, Library, two old clinic buildings, a washeteria, the old school gymnasium and two garages that are used for storage. The city owns and operates a 960 loader, a small bulldozer and a small dump truck, some of which need small repairs and all need regular maintenance. All three pieces of equipment are available for rent.

Other general municipal information:

- Has a city clerk or “Strong Mayor” form of government
- The City Clerk does most things in the office and is extremely knowledgeable
- The city holds an election the 1st Tuesday in November
- City council meets the second Monday of every month
- 3% city sales tax
- No special taxes or property tax

Koyuk Native Corporation

PO Box 53050

Koyuk, Ak 99753

Knc061880@gmail.com

Phone: (907) 963-2424

Fax: (907) 963-3552

The Koyuk Native Corporation (KNC) board is comprised of 7 members including a president, vice president, treasurer and secretary are the officers and there are 3 other board members.

The Corporation’s businesses include fuel, fuel delivery, propane, motor products, and a convenience store. It is researching selling wood to bring employment to the community. KNC owns and runs the gravel pit. The gravel needs to be tested to find out how much it is worth. Equipment is needed for crushing and transporting the gravel. The corporation owns a D9 bulldozer (in need of repair) and a tank farm with an emergency spill response plan.

Auditors, a lawyer, the Bering Straits Native Corporation, and the BIA assist the Koyuk Native Corporation with business planning. Corporation members are planning to attend a small business workshop in Anchorage to enhance local business-development skills.

The Corporation is interested in multiple avenues of business development. For example, Koyuk is an Iditarod checkpoint and things are needed for Iditarod enthusiasts and tourists to do. Some obtain snow machine rides from locals. E-Commerce is something the Corporation wants to explore. Corporate Board members feel a cultural center is needed in Koyuk. The Corporation building does not contain enough space to house these projects.

Tri-org meetings (City, Corporation and IRA) happen 4 times a year on a quarterly basis to assess past and present community needs.

Regional Corporations

Koyuk is served by several regional corporations, which are located in Nome or Anchorage:

- Regional non-profit: Kawerak Inc.
- Regional for-profit: Bering Straits Native Corporation
- Regional CDQ organization: Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation
- Regional Health Organization: Norton Sound Health Corporation
- Regional Housing Authority: Bering Straits Regional Housing Authority
- Energy Cooperative: Alaska Village Electric Cooperative

Community Infrastructure

Koyuk's housing, like many rural communities in Alaska, is currently inadequate for its needs. The Alaska Housing Assessment defines overcrowding as less than 300 square feet per person in a home. Many multi-generational extended families living in homes make overcrowding common in Koyuk. Constraints to new housing development include material & labor costs, limited number of qualified contractors, land availability, and the short building season. Bering Straits Regional Housing Authority (BSRHA) operates the Village Purchase Homebuyer Program, which leases new housing on a lease-to-own basis over a 20-year period. Purchase cost is based on a sliding fee scale depending on a buyer's income. Eligibility is dependent on credit and criminal background checks.

People with a history of being evicted or convicted have a hard time finding housing, which only adds to the pressure of the situation. BSRHA does credit and criminal background checks on everyone who applies to the Village Purchase Homebuyer Program. People with certain convictions can be disqualified for life or for years depending on the offense. These regulations are in accordance with the Federal Housing Act and enforced by HUD. In some cases, people who seek and complete rehabilitation through Behavioral Health Services can be granted special consideration. But it does not guarantee that the Housing Authority can relax its regulations. Alternative options are limited for people in these situations.

6 older homes are not hooked up to sewer and water because they were built with 2"x4" framing and lack sufficient insulation to keep pipes from freezing. Those not connected haul water from the faucet provided inside the water plant. They also haul their own "honey buckets" to the honey bucket pit at the landfill. Rural Cap and BSRHA often have winterization projects that

these older homes have the potential to be eligible for. These homeowners need to be actively seeking out these opportunities to apply for.

Housing Characteristics

Total housing Units	99
Occupied housing units	93
Vacant housing	10
Vacant due to seasonal use	3
Owner-occupied housing	36
Median Value of owned homes	\$99,700
Renter Occupied Housing	53
Median Gross Rent Paid Monthly	\$525
Average Household Size	3.73
Family Households	63
Non-family Households	26
Population living in Households	332
Homes lacking Complete Plumbing	50.7%
Homes lacking Complete Kitchen	50.1%
Heated using electricity	1%
Heated using fuel oil	80%
Heated using Wood	14%
Other Heating Sources	1%
Use Zero Fuel	0

Housing information taken from the Alaska Division of Community and Regional Affairs (DCRA)

Schools



Pictured: The Koyuk Malimiut School and local puppies.

The Bering Strait School District (BSSD) operates schools in 15 villages in the Bering Strait region. The regional student population is 99% Alaska Native. In 2009 the expense per student annually was \$25,792. Teachers report for duty around mid-August and work a 189-day contract. This includes 180 teaching days, 5 paid holidays and 4 teacher workdays. School started this year on August 12 for teachers, students on 21st. School is usually out by the last week in May, depending on local calendar variations for vacation time and other calendar adjustments.

Built in 2003, the Koyuk Malimiut School offers preschool through the 12th grade all located in the 13-classroom building. In 2025, there are 102 students enrolled in K – 12 in Koyuk with a total of 10 teachers, 1 counselor, 2 cooks, and many other paraprofessional helpers. School hours are 8:50 am to 3:30 pm Monday through Friday (Excluding holidays). The office is open from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. The Koyuk Malimiut School holds a very high graduation rate for grade 12 seniors.

Other facilities for the children of Koyuk are the Head Start, IRA building, outside playground with basketball courts, and Youth Center. Students behave and perform especially well when the school topics and activities interest them. The main school in Koyuk is working with IGAP (a regional recycling and backhaul program) on a student outreach program.

Koyuk has a Head Start program serving children aged three to five. It provides students with an educational foundation that helps them succeed later in their careers as students. The Head Start program is operated by Kawerak in the old National Guard Armory building. This building is very old and barely functions as a safe space for both students and teachers. There is a huge need to have a dedicated Head Start school building constructed to provide students and teachers with proper educational and workplace environments.

Distance learning programs are available through the University of Alaska Fairbanks. The IRA building has computers available for members of the community for the use of continuing their education and to apply for employment opportunities.

Koyuk's school has more students going to Nome to learn trade skills at Northwestern Alaska Career and Technical Center (NACTEC) than any other school in the district. Efforts are being made to increase trade skills and industrial arts in school curriculum to prepare students for jobs available in rural Alaska. Programs include carpentry, plumbing, construction, and other life skills. Students are made aware of opportunities and how to seek them, while given the tools and mentoring they need for success.

Students participate in cross-country running, volleyball, cheerleading, wrestling, basketball, and Native Youth Olympics (NYO), battle of the books, and spelling bee. The school anticipates skiing, biathlons, gun-safety, and shooting programs when positions are filled with qualified individuals.

The Malemute CORRE (Culture of Respect and Responsibility for Everyone) Court is a student-run program that was funded by Highland Tech. Students help each other with problems and serve each other consequences. The school has seen that it is a successful program in the past but has not kept the program going. However, the values that came from it are still present in the school.

Young parents need mentors and community support to help children succeed. Rural families face tremendous challenges beyond their control. If a family vehicle will not start in sub-zero temperatures, students must walk or find another way to school. There is a family advocacy program that tries to help students get to school. It may be safer to keep small children home during adverse weather conditions, especially with the status of the Head Start building.

Some residents have expressed the desire to have a baseball park constructed across from the Koyuk Malimiut School. This would open opportunities for both youth and adult city league teams to enjoy a great sport together. To go along with the baseball park, one Koyuk resident explained that this park could double as a hockey rink in the winter. Having two family-friendly sports to play during two different times of the year would be a great way to connect community members while engaging in healthy outdoor exercise.

Water and Sewer

Construction of a new water plant was completed in Summer 2024 and is still operated by ANTHC. It will be re-commissioned to the City of Koyuk in Fall of 2025 after ANTHC finishes the first year of baseline operations.

2012-2017 LEDP water and sewer priorities

- New water plant/ Washeteria with bigger holding tank
- Raise manholes above street level, still needs to happen, not far away

A piped water and sewer system serving 77 households was recently completed for the west side of town. The east loop sewer and water system and school are now connected. Almost all Koyuk's homes are connected to the city and water system, the ones that aren't connected are not up to the standards given by ANTHC for insulation and/or wall thickness.

Water is derived from one 90' deep well right inside the water plant and two 15-20' deep wells about half a mile north of town. It is stored in a 212,000-gallon tank beside the plant. Freezing is not a problem in the pipes unless the water main breaks and water stops moving through. When that happens, a heated high pressure hose system is used to fix the problem. One pressure hose is used for water and another one is used for sewer.

Water is treated with a disinfectant called Hypochlorite Hydrated Mixture (HCH). The water plant operator has the training required for administering fluoride in the community's water system. Fluoride is not currently used.



Koyuk's Water Treatment Plant and a partial view of the water holding tank.

Most of the upgrades needed are required for waste-water management. The manholes off to the side of the streets are sinking below street-level. But they are supposed to be elevated above street-level so runoff water and debris does not flow into them. Every spring, when the ice melts, gravel & sand infiltrates and plugs them. The manholes were supposed to be leveled to or above the road-level when the streets were repaved. Runoff clogs the pipes with debris and floods the manholes, requiring pumps to run 24/7 during the spring melting season.

The 5,900,000 gallon lined wastewater lagoon is located ¼ mile northwest of the community and was constructed in 1996. The liner is a 30 mil polyester based membrane with oil resistant and low temperature coatings manufactured by Seaman, product name – 8228 Orlta.

Some holes were identified in the lining in the summer of 2009. Residents have also stated that people have been spotted shooting the liner. Liner leaks are a concern in this area as soils are fine grained and easily eroded by flowing water. The lagoon slopes appeared to be structurally stable and no erosion was noted, at that time. The bottom of the lagoon was designed with a 2% slope to the discharge pipe located on the south end of the lagoon. Minor sludge buildup was noted where the force main enters the lagoon and the vacuum trailer is dumped. The remainder of the lagoon did not have any excessive sludge build up.

The existing lagoon system has a fence surrounding the lagoon, but 100 feet has been damaged near the landfill access road. The lagoon liner has multiple bulges due to gas build up from underneath the liner. These types of gas bubbles have been observed in sewage lagoons in other communities. The bubbles are believed to be the result of decaying organic materials in the solids. Currently the gas buildup has only reduced the lagoon capacity by approximately 5%.

The lagoon is discharged at a flow rate of approximately 500 to 600 gallons a minute through a 6" HDPE pipe to a 6" HDPE header. The discharge header distributes wastewater evenly over the tundra in an existing natural drainage basin. Wastewater flows approximately 300 feet before flowing into the Koyuk River. A recent repair was made to the drain line; however, the piping system was not reburied after the repair was completed. The lagoon is drained once a year. The City of Koyuk does not have a sludge removal plan for the sewage lagoon.

There are a few problems other than the gas bubble under the liner and the damage to the liner itself. The east wind carries a smell from the lagoon so no one wants to move into the new subdivision nearby. The drainage valve needs replacement on a regular schedule to function properly. Any leakage is a general sanitation problem.

Water Distribution source and treatment systems

Water system operator	ANTHC, city will take over later
Washeteria operator	No washeteria, just a treatment plant at this time.
Piped water system	Yes
Central watering point (for individuals to haul their own water)	NONE
Multiple watering points	No
Water truck (delivering water)	No
Individual wells	No
Surface water source	Yes
DEC Water Permit Number	340167
Water Treatment Plant	Yes

Sanitation Collection Systems

Sewage System Operator	City
Piped Sewer System	Yes
Honey Bucket Haul	Individual Owners
Honey Bucket Pits	Yes
Individual Septic Tanks	No
Community Septic Tanks	No
Sewage Pumper	Yes
Sewage Lagoon	Yes
Sewage Lift Station	Yes
Outhouses	NONE

Honey Bucket pit is located by the landfill.

Landfill

The City of Koyuk has a garbage pick-up service. Refuse is hauled to the landfill half a mile west of town twice a week. The community landfill is 2.5 acres and was constructed in 1992. The landfill appeared to be approximately 75% - 85% full with an anticipated life expectancy of another 3 to 5 years under proper operating procedures. A honey-bucket dump site is located approximately 150 feet west of the main landfill area. The landfill has been unable to operate fully due to lack of functioning heavy equipment to move material within the landfill site. Much of the City's equipment needs some type of repairs. There is not a full-time landfill operator. Temporary hires operate equipment when needed.

The tribally operated Indian General Assistant Program (IGAP) is funded by an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant and is operated by the tribe. It partners with Kawerak and backhauls & recycles solid & hazardous waste & pollution, samples water from different sources

in & around Koyuk for quality and advocates & provides clean air awareness & education. This program also enhances community preparedness for responding to man-made or natural disasters resulting in oil discharges or hazardous substance releases. Koyuk's IGAP Coordinator and Assistant are Denin Prentice and Johnny Anasogak. Currently Koyuk has missed their deadline to secure funding for Fiscal Year 2025 but can apply next year.

Landfill System

Refuse collector	City
Landfill Operator	City
DEC Landfill Permit	Yes
Type of Landfill	Class 3

Landfill Priorities:

- A Re-cycling center
- New Landfill with a smart ash burner
- Clean lakes east of town
- Vanessa Tahbone, from Kawerak, is assisting to consistently maintain IGAP funding for the future

Electricity

AVEC (Alaska Village Electric Cooperative) and the community of Koyuk are actively seeking alternative sources of electricity generation. A solar power project is underway, pending government funding.

Koyuk obtains its electricity through diesel powered generation at a power plant within the village. AVEC orders and purchases 90-110,000 gallons of diesel per year. Everyone who is a member of the community is a member of AVEC. Power Cost Equalization (PCE) is a State program that helps reduce cost. Used oil from power plant engines is mixed with diesel in a blender and recycled for fuel. During the 07/01/2023 – 06/30/2024 reporting period, AVEC received \$285,093.00 in PCE payments.

Electric utility Provider	AVEC
Utility Operator	REA Co-op
Power Source	Diesel
FY 2024 Rate	\$0.6821/kWh
PCE Subsidy	Yes
FY 2024 PCE Rate	\$0.435/ kWh
FY 2024 Total kilo-watt hours (kWh) produced	1,352,681 kWh
FY 2024 Effective Residential Rate	\$0.2471/ kWh

The most current PCE report can be found on Alaska Energy Authority's website

www.alaskaenergyauthority.org

The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) published a feasibility study on a battery energy storage system (BESS) fueled by a solar photovoltaic system in 2023. Grants have been written and Koyuk is currently waiting to find out if their grants will be approved for this project. When finished the solar array and BESS will allow either the tribe or city to own and manage this alternative energy and enable them to sell power to AVEC as an independent power producer to further reduce the cost of power to the community.

The project includes a 360 kW solar array and a 350 kWh BESS, which will reduce the fuel consumption from the AVEC generators by over 22,252 gallons. This independent power producing model will generate about \$74,230.00 of revenue for the power supplier based on the 2023 cost of fuel (\$4.17/gallon). After operation and maintenance there is a projected \$61,360 in revenue which can reduce the energy cost per household by \$750 a year and help to subsidize water and sewer services in the community.

Opportunity for 2 youth to learn about waste heat recovery operations and water treatment operations for the community using waste heat recovery funding is present for youth willing to apply. Waste heat recovery from the power plant will assist heating the water treatment plant's storage tank. Construction is at 75% completion and will be completed by Fall 2025. This will aide in boosting the efficiency of maintaining a constant temperature of the water storage tank. It is currently unpredictable exactly how much fuel this will save at the water treatment plant because of the distance between the power plant and storage tank but optimism is high.

Fuel

AVEC orders and purchases its own diesel for electric generation for the community. The power plant uses 90- 110,000 gallons of diesel every year. The community buys its electricity from AVEC. The City purchases and provides 20,000 gallons of heater fuel #1 for its properties. It heats the city building, library, public safety building, water plant, a rental house, and the city garage. This is separate from AVEC. The current cost of heating fuel for Koyuk is \$5.00 per gallon.

The village of Koyuk will use anywhere between 39,000 and 40,000 gallons of unleaded gasoline annually. The cost of gasoline is \$5.17 per gallon (4/17/2025). Residents of Koyuk recognize the importance of having quality gasoline because the boats, ATVs and snowmachines that are used as subsistence tools for transportation



A photo with a small section of Koyuk's Tank Farm.

require clean gasoline to operate reliably. KNC only offers ethanol free 87 octane gasoline. Many residents purchase octane boosting additives from the store for their higher performance, hard working engines for their snowmachines. Most ATVs and boats do not need octane boosting additives.

Some Koyuk homes use wood-burning stoves for additional heat. Firewood is available because there are trees surrounding Koyuk. Some local residents harvest beach logs for firewood in the summer.

Fuel tanks currently in use

OWNER	CAPACITY (US Gallons)
Bering Stright school District	81,000 (3 separate 27,000 gal tanks)
AVEC	135,000
Koyuk Native Corporation	189,000 (both diesel and unleaded)
City of Koyuk	27,000 (KNC and city share tanks)
AK DOT (Airport)	3,000

Fuel tank data provided from the City of Koyuk, 4/16/25

Existing Transportation Systems

Land

The gravel roads within city limits belong to the City of Koyuk. There are approximately 3.4 miles of roads are maintained within city limits. They require maintenance. Dust control is a major health issue and residents recognize the need for more routine dust control measures. Carefully placed road culverts keep the spring run-off from washing the roads away when the snow & ice melts. The AKDOT&PF maintain the roadway that leads to the airport from 4th avenue. The City of Koyuk purchased new LED streetlights and AVEC did the installation on them in 2017.

Transportation is primarily by ATV in the summer and snow machine in the winter. Lining trails with Geo-Mat would keep them level and designate routes for 4-wheeler use. Traffic circulation in the community involves trips to the airport, stores, post office, school, beach, landfill, cemetery, and health clinic. The majority of these trips are less than half a mile. Light duty trucks are being utilized in Koyuk when snow conditions allow. Wintertime travel is predominantly by snowmachine. On average, residents will put 2000 miles on snowmobiles over one winter season between both subsistence transportation and getting around town. 4x4 ATVs are also used year-round for transportation in and around the community. They cannot handle the deep snow that's off the main roads, but they get around great on the hard packed snow that's on the communities' main roads.



Many residents in Koyuk and the rest of Western Alaska rely on snowmachines as primary forms of transportation during the winter months.

Outside of town there are unimproved roads and trails that provide access to subsistence areas, cabins, hot springs, and the neighboring villages of Shaktoolik, Buckland, and Elim. Travel outside of town is risky in all seasons due to weather conditions and the lack of trail markers.

Traditional unimproved subsistence routes were established by the Tribe long before it settled on its current site.

Air

Koyuk has a State-owned 3,000' by 60' gravel runway. Regular flight service from Nome and Unalakleet is available year-round. Aircraft is the only mode of transportation to Koyuk that can be used throughout the year. The community is discussing extending the runway, but there are land and regulatory issues that need to be addressed. Bering air is currently the only airline that offers daily year-round access to Koyuk. Ryan Air will fly to Koyuk on occasion when there is enough freight to cover their costs but offers no passenger flights.

Sea

Barges deliver the vast majority of the community's bulk cargo during the summer months. Construction materials for village projects, fuel, and annual supplies arrive by barge.

In the summer, boats provide transportation to neighboring villages, lightering services, and access to hunting & harvesting resources. There is no small boat launch in Koyuk so people launch & land all along the shore but mostly on the east end and by the Koyuk Native Store. Koyuk does have a temporary small boat dock that is not being used. There are also buoys that are not being used to mark the deep channel into the river from the bay.

Currently, barges land on the beach to unload and get stuck when the tide goes out. Supplies are lightered approximately 1.5 miles upriver to shore to avoid getting stuck. The community has plans to create a barge-landing at 6 Mile Point, west of town, and build a road to it. The landing would double as a small boat launch. The road to it would provide access to hunting in that area which is currently inaccessible by boat during the critical time when ice is breaking up, flowing down the river, and certain marine harvests are abundant there.

Communications

Mukluk Telephone Co./TelAlaska/Fastwyre provides in-state telephone service while AT&T Alascom, and GCI provide long distance service. About 90% of the residents have cell phones. Unlimited local cell phone service costs about \$40 per month; it is \$1 with “Lifeline,” an income-based service plan. GCI (www.gci.net) provides the majority of Internet service in the village with about 30% of homes having in-house access to the Internet. Starlink is used by many people in Koyuk for fast and reliable wireless internet access.

The Koyuk Post Office is located in the multi-purpose IRA building. There is one employee and the hours of operation are 9am to 4pm, Monday through Friday. The US Postal Service mail is processed and delivered to residents at the post office. Other UPS and Fed Ex mail is delivered to residents here through a bypass mail program run through Bering Air.

The Tribal Library provides computer and internet use to the public. Additional forms of communication in the village include VHF and satellite phone. Public announcements are made with VHF; most residents have VHF radios. Search and Rescue uses satellite phones. Satellite phones are used by some residents when they go out in the country. Garmin InReaches are also very popular for their lower cost and convenience.

Historically, KICY, KNOM, KOTZ radio stations are only received 20 miles south/southeast of town at campsites. A repeater tower was installed for the stations to be received inside Koyuk City limits. Radio garden is a popular internet radio app in Koyuk now that many residents have access to the internet.

Communication Providers

- Mukluk Telephone Co. (Phone service provider)

- AT&T (Phone service provider)
- GCI (Phone, television and internet service)
- Starlink (Internet provider)
- Dish network (Television)
- KICY, KNOM, KOTZ, KOTG radio stations
- United States Postal Service (USPS)
- UPS mail with the Ryan Air agent at the Airport
- Fed Ex mail delivered through UPS, Final delivery through Bering Air

Health Care



Ruth Qumiiggan Henry Memorial Clinic

Ruth Qumiiggan Henry Memorial Clinic has eight staff members: four health aides, and one healthcare provider that takes the roles of a CTC (secretary, patient travel, filing, scheduling, patient registration), the regional village-based travel specialist/supervisor and a Village Based Counselor (VBC). There is also a facilities maintenance technician and a janitor at the clinic. The Clinic is operated by the Norton Sound Health Corporation. There are regular visits to Koyuk made by both dentists, optometrists, audiologists and physical therapists. Patients are flown to Nome or Anchorage for surgery and chronic care check-ups that the clinic staff are unable to do

on their own. The clinic also has a new X-ray machine that one health aid has proper radiology training for and more to receive training on this in the future.

The VBC works closely with the community making sure that people get the support they need including home visits and out-of-town treatment when necessary. The VBC used to organize Family Nights for holidays including Christmas, Valentine's Day, Halloween, etc. They are held at the City or IRA Building and include fun children's activities like tie-dying shirts and making cards. More recently the IRA has been more active with organizing these activities.

The clinic could use more health aids because they can feel overworked by their duties. They receive both appreciation and criticism from the people they serve, and a lot is expected of them. In emergencies, Koyuk could use more trained health aids that are available or on call.

There is a passenger van that the clinic uses to transport patients. This van is used mostly to pick up and drop off prescription medicines at the airport as well as elder transport to and from the clinic for regular check-ups. This van serves as the village ambulance while there is no snow on the ground. Personal snowmachines or ATVs are used in place of the van when ground conditions do not allow the safe use of the van.

Top Clinic Priorities

Currently the clinic's office space is very limited and overcrowded for the number of employees that share that space. The health aids all bunk in the same room and share one office together with one having to be out in the hallway. Another uses the break room as an office. Having a larger workspace will also greatly aid in keeping patient confidentiality. In its current state, the clinic is overcrowded to the point that many patients cannot have a private and confidential conversation with the staff about their own health conditions. The clinic workers listed the following as their priorities:

- Create proper workspace for the overcrowded clinic employees by either or both:
 - Constructing a whole new larger clinic building to accommodate all staff with a proper workspace
 - Adding an addition to the existing clinic to provide more patient confidentiality and introducing more office space for the clinic employees
- New health monitoring machines and equipment
- More office space
- A bunkhouse for health workers
- Possibly moving the VBC office to the IRA building to open up more space for health care providers in the clinic. This can also aid in the community engagement of the VBC by making this individual easier to see by Koyuk residents

Phone: 907-963-3311 or 907-963-2410 (CTC)

Owner: Native Village of Koyuk

Facility Status: Health Aides, Village Based Councilor, Travel Coordinator

Alternative Health Care: Visiting PAs, Dentists, Optometrists, Audiologists, Physical therapists, telemedicine,

Comments: Emergency Services have coastal, air, and floatplane access.

Emergency services are provided by a health aide.

Operated by: Norton Sound Health Corporation (NSHC)

P.O. Box 966

Nome, AK 99762

907-443-3311

www.nortonsoundhealth.org

Public Safety

Koyuk hired and retained a VPSO in 2022. If Koyuk wants to hire another local VPSO there would need to be another VPSO house, and a garage built to store and maintain their search and rescue gear and equipment. The current VPSO house is owned by the City of Koyuk but also needs some remodeling done to keep the water and sewer lines in working condition during severe winter weather.

Koyuk has a volunteer Search and Rescue (SAR) program led by Roger Nassuk, Jr. and Leo Charles. Roger and Leo coordinate with State Troopers and maintain snow machines & other equipment. Their primary objective is saving people from extended exposure to the elements. More volunteers are needed for the larger search and rescue operations. One challenge is the use of personal equipment and gas for rescues; sometimes people have to wait two weeks to be reimbursed for their costs. New equipment, including a boat and a snow machine, are expected from NSEDC this year.

Koyuk also has a volunteer fire department. Sign-up sheets are being updated to find out who is available if needed. The volunteer fire department is now registered with the state. Koyuk's fire department has received funding to acquire new equipment and gear to be able to respond to fires externally. At the moment, the fire department is not trained to enter structure fires. The fire department needs more people to volunteer to receive training to operate the equipment and man a full squad.

Koyuk's Public Buildings, Lands, Churches and Recreational Areas

Koyuk's Public Library

Koyuk stopped operating the public library a few years back due to operational costs. The building is currently being used as a rental home for the ANTHC employees working on installing the waste heat recovery system. Many of the books from the library were made

available to the public. The rest were boxed up and put into storage. The computers were old enough to be recycled through the IGAP program.

The IRA building currently has a small library open to the public. The main resources the IRA has available are the internet access and computers. Many people use these resources to apply for jobs and higher education institutions along with scholarships for more education. Other residents utilize the tools in the IRA building to apply for different housing applications and disaster relief funding, etc.

Library Priorities

- Possibly turn this into a washeteria
- Keep as short term rental housing for as long as ANTHC needs employee housing for Koyuk's projects

Cemeteries and Graves



Koyuk Cemetery is located between 3rd and 4th Avenue and Alder Street. The family of the deceased are able to pick the burial spot for their loved ones and the City helps to provide the operator and equipment to dig the grave.

Koyuk's Church

The entire land, water, and beach area is important for hunting and harvesting the plants and animals that grow there, but the Koyuk Covenant Church is an integral place of fellowship in the community. In October 2023, Samaritan's Purse completed the construction of the new Church building in Koyuk. This project was completely funded by Samaritan's Purse, after a member of the church group witnessed the need for a new church building while repairing homes from the typhoon Merbok in 2022. Now, the church board maintains the service schedule and has volunteers to maintain and clean the building. The Church hosts a Wednesday evening Bible study in addition to the regular Sunday service.



Koyuk's Covenant Church, courtesy of Samaritan's Purse

Population Growth and Trends

Koyuk Census Data

The following population data is from the 2010 U.S. Census. Additional detail is available from the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Census and Geographic Information Network and the U.S. Census Bureau's American Fact Finder. The data lines up perfectly with the 2023 American Community Survey 5-Year estimate.

Population	329
White	2
Alaska Native/American Indian	325
Other	2

Two or more races	0.67%
Alaska Native or Combination	98.67%

Employment and the Economy

The Koyuk economy is based on subsistence lifestyle supplemented mainly by limited part-time and full-time jobs. Norton Sound Health Corporation, the Bering Strait School District, and Kawerak, Inc. are the major employers of the village. Retail and transportation services also provide income throughout the year, while construction, mining, and commercial fishing provide seasonal employment. There is a small amount of commercial fishing, which is primarily for herring. Commercial fishing today is mostly for salmon with the possibility of having a herring fishery in the future depending on the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

According to the United States Census Bureau the mean income per household in Koyuk (2023) was \$51,685 ± \$9,910. Website accessed May 2025.

Businesses include the Koyuk Native Corporation (business office and store), Koyuk Native Store and the US Post Office. Bering Air and Ryan Air have village agents that coordinate with passenger and freight services. Bering Straits School District has two local teachers, and the rest are seasonal. The city has a primary full time powerplant operator and an alternate who only works part time when needed. Both positions are funded through AVEC but employed by the city. Thirteen residents hold commercial fishing permits.

Residents maintain a subsistence lifestyle. Important staple foods include beluga whale, seal, moose, caribou, crab, salmon, and other fish. Eggs and berries are also gathered and seal oil is used for storing greens, roots, and meat as well as being a nutritional staple in the Native Diet.

Many residents sell artwork crafted from subsistence resources. Ivory tusks and teeth are used by the local artists who carve the ivory into figurines, sculptures, tools, and jewelry. Seal, wolf, lynx, wolverine, hare, marten skins are used to make hats, mittens, parkas, and slippers.

Other forms of employment in Koyuk involve various different types of seasonal work from before mentioned commercial fishing, salmon enumeration projects with Alaska Department of Fish and Game and Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation, seasonal equipment operations at the Koyuk Rock Quarry, seasonal laborer and construction projects with ANTHC and AVEC, and a handful of other seasonal positions.

There is a need for more childcare providers, elder assistance workers, and local taxi or ride service. If there were more qualified childcare providers, there would likely be a smaller unemployment rate because parents would have the option to drop their children at a daycare provider's house and be able to join the workforce.

Environmental Scan

Soils and Topography

Koyuk is bound to the east and north by the Koyuk River in a region of low hills which have an elevation range from 400 ft to 900 feet. The hills are primarily underlain by moderately to high metamorphosed Paleozoic sedimentary rocks consisting of calcareous schist and limestone. Regionally, the bedrock beds strike to the north with near vertical dips. Three main types of unconsolidated materials mantle the bedrock hills and occupy the broad lowlands of the Koyuk River valley to the east. These materials become thinner with increasing elevation. They consist primarily of deep deposits of floodplain and marine sediments near sea level and thin deposits of silty colluviums at higher elevations. Alluvial materials consisting chiefly of sands and gravels occupy the King Creek floodplain.

The Koyuk region has not been glaciated and lies within the northern margin of the zone of discontinuous permafrost and permafrost is widespread. Permafrost is generally 100 ft to 200 feet thick on the southern Seward Peninsula although unfrozen zones are present under perennial streams. Based on well records interpreted by HDR (1991), permafrost was estimated to be 75 to 100 ft thick near the village. Permafrost is expected to be deeper on north-facing slopes than on southern slopes which receive more solar radiation. The permafrost under and around the village is beginning to melt slowly, causing minor sinkholes and settling of soil which causes buildings to sink and become unlevel. Most of the buildings in town need to be re-leveled.

Soil around Koyuk consists of a thin organic mat with alluvial silts overlaying a mixture of silts and clays. The north (upland) half of the community lies on a gravel and clay ridge. Bedrock is often found at shallow depths with occasional outcropping at the surface. Soils studied in the area demonstrate that Koyuk is largely underlain with continuous permafrost at a depth of 18 to 24 inches, and even deeper in lower parts of the community.



South and southeast of Koyuk, the land is low, marshy tundra covered with hummocks, numerous small lakes, and sloughs. The lower Koyuk river valley northeast of the community is also very swampy and poorly drained. In all of these areas, vegetation is limited to the grass and low bushes typical of wet tundra. North and northwest of Koyuk, the land rises quickly, with a corresponding change in soils and vegetation. The soil is dryer and supports upland spruce and hardwoods.

Vegetation

The vegetation on the hills around Koyuk consists of moderately dense stands of black spruce, which can reach heights of more than 40 ft. The flatter areas typically are covered with thick mat tundra vegetation with sedges, lichen, and low bushes.

Vegetation on the Seward Peninsula is principally tundra, with alpine dryas-lichen tundra and barrens at high elevations and moist sedge-tussock tundra at lower elevations. Patches of low-growing ericaceous and willow-birch shrubs occur on better-drained areas.

Vegetation follows similar patterns consisting primarily of moist (mesic) tundra. Dwarf birch, low willows, blueberry, crowberry, bearberry, cranberries, salmon berries, currants, Labrador tea, cottongrass, and sedges are common. Other grasses, forbs, mosses and lichens make up the vegetative communities of the region. Occasional patches of alders and shrub willow grow in sheltered areas and along the riparian zones.

Residents harvest a variety of plant species from the land including berries, greens, herbs, wild rhubarb, mushrooms, roots, curly docks, cat tails, moose roots and wild onions. These plants are the traditional foods that are harvested from the land. They are vital to the local traditions of the residents of Koyuk and the rest of the region.

Climate

Koyuk has a sub arctic climate with a maritime influence. Average summer temperatures range from 46 to 62; winter temperatures average -8 to 8. Annual average precipitation is 19 inches, including 12 to 40 inches of snowfall. Extremes from -49 to 87 have been recorded. Norton Bay is usually ice-free from May to October. Koyuk is very windy with winds from the north and northeast dominating at an average velocity of 10-15 miles per hour.

The 2004 and 2011 big fall storms, which caused damage to many villages along the Seward Peninsula and Norton Sound coastlines, flooded parts of Koyuk as well. Both storms flooded King Creek Road along the coastline and eroded the embankment beyond the road. The storms threatened the fuel tank header, where fuel is offloaded at the beach, and all development along the beach. Most of the fish racks and boats that were on the beach were swept away.

New weather anomalies like Tropical Storm (Typhoon) Merbok (September 2022) can possibly become more frequent. This anomaly happens when intense tropical storms or typhoons rise in latitude above the Aleutian Chain, crossing over from the Pacific Ocean to the Bering Sea. These kinds of weather patterns are somewhat unpredictable in the matter of the dangers they have and the severity of the effects they carry with them to the coastal villages of Western Alaska. For instance, some communities witnessed extreme flooding that made houses float off their foundations and left them with 3-4 inches of sediment inside the buildings. Other communities witnessed flooding that damaged crucial infrastructure like petroleum tank farms, power plants and water sweeping away many small fishing boats.

Merbok had a significant impact on Koyuk. The seawall that protected the store warehouse was completely wiped out. 5 houses were severely impacted. A total of 51 crosses were damaged in the storm. The barge access road was damaged in the storm as well. Various gravel roads in town experienced large amounts of erosion. The Alaska Air National Guard led a massive effort to help clean up debris around the city and aided in the initial foundation repair to the store warehouse.

Wildlife

Major wildlife on land in the area includes brown/grizzly bears, black bears, moose, muskox, caribou, wolves, wolverine, lynx, coyote, red fox, river otter, pine marten, mink, ermine, red squirrels, parka squirrels, beaver, and muskrat. Sea mammals include ribbon, ringed, spotted and bearded seals, and belugas.

Many birds inhabit the land and air around Koyuk. Willow ptarmigan and spruce hen (grouse) are the most abundant game birds in the area. Many different species of migratory birds travel through or spend the summer near Koyuk including loons, ducks, sea ducks, geese, cranes, swans, gulls, and terns. The most prized species during the spring migration are snow, Canadian,

brant (black) geese, and sandhill crane. Predatory birds include bald and golden eagles, osprey, ravens, snowy and great horned owls. In recent years, migratory birds have been nesting somewhere else. Locals have noticed fewer nesting birds and fewer opportunities to harvest wild bird eggs. Caribou used to migrate closer to Koyuk as well. Now residents need to travel farther away to have successful caribou harvests.

Rivers around Koyuk host all 5 species of pacific salmon, arctic grayling, dolly varden, whitefish, northern pike and burbot. Tom cod, pacific cod, smelts, bullheads, and flounder inhabit the seafloor in the Norton Bay and the Bering Sea. More red salmon in the Angalak River have been noticed in the last 2 or 3 years.

Seismic, Flood and Wetland Information

Koyuk has a low risk of seismic activity and there is no record of damage in Koyuk from earthquakes or tsunamis. On occasion, residents can feel earthquakes that originate nearby. Residents report that wind storms during the fall generally do the most damage when they bring up the tidal surge.

A baseline erosion assessment was performed for the Community of Koyuk in 2007 by the USACE. The paper indicates the riverbank erosion along the Koyuk River and coastal erosion along the Norton Bay shoreline is due to storm surges, high tides, wind and waves. The community is subject to coastal flooding and likely associated erosion about every 10 years, primarily due to wind-driven waves. Residents report that there has been significant beach erosion within the last 5 years, especially at the mouth of the Koyuk River and mouths of other surrounding rivers.

According to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Koyuk has a high flood hazard. Flooding occurred in 1913, 1917, 1945, 1963, 1966, 1974, and 1993. Flooding is a result of coastal storms and increased water levels due to the influence of the Koyuk River. The flooding elevation is approximately 14 to 15 feet above Mean Lower Low Water. Most of the dwellings and other structures are outside of the 100-year floodplain but serious damage to local fishing boats has occurred during storm surges. The USACE website indicates that the community does not participate in the National Flood Insurance Program.

The 1913 coastal storm was the major flood event. There is still the driftwood high water mark in areas away from town. The 1963 coastal storm was the highest in local memory. A cabin near the intersection of First Avenue and Tamarack Street had one foot of water on the first floor during this storm. The November 1974 coastal storm had 50-knot winds and 14 ft waves. A water elevation of 14 to 15 ft MLLW is said to flood the waterfront and three houses at the South East side of the community. Large wind setup occurs due to the shallow depth of Norton Bay. Actual water levels will also be higher than predicted tides due to the influence of the Koyuk River.

Alaska's wetlands occupy 43.3 % of its 403,247,700 acres. This contrasts to the contiguous US where they occupy only 5.2 % of the land surface. Wetlands in Alaska include bogs, fens, wet and moist tundra, ponds, forests, mud flats, fresh and saltwater marshes. Most regions in Alaska have a land surface with extensive areas of wetlands. Expanses of moist and wet tundra underlain by permafrost occur in the northern and western regions. Some of the Nation's most extensive complexes of salt marshes and mud flats occur along the coasts of the Bering Sea.

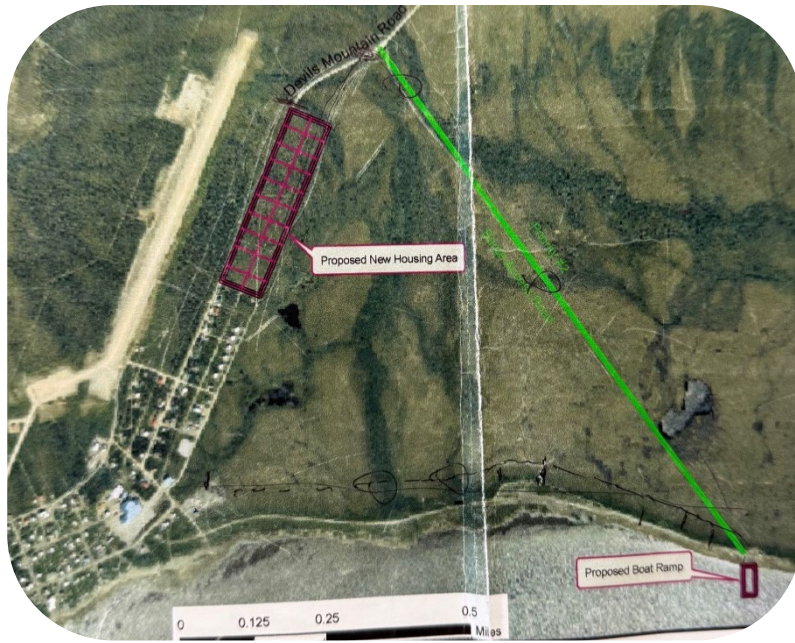
Land Status

Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) Land Status Koyuk Native Corporation

12(a) Land Entitlement:	96,120 acres (see note 1)
12(b) Land Entitlement:	0 acres (see note 2)
14(c)(3) Status:	KNC and City work in progress (see note 3)
14(c)(3) Agreement Signed:	Yes, 336 acres to city, more needed (up to 1280 acres for municipal land development)
14(c)(3) Comments:	Land outside of townsite needs to be identified
Map of Boundaries done:	Yes
Plat Number:	
Recording District:	Nome
Municipal Land Trust:	No
Authorized Village Entity Type:	n/a (see note 4)

Notes:

1. ANCSA 12(a) land entitlement to village corporation from federal government
2. ANCSA 12(b) land reallocated to village corporation from Regional Native Corporation
3. Under ANCSA 14(c)(3), village corporations must re-convey certain land to the local city government or the state in trust to provide for community use and expansion
4. Recognized village group which represents the views of residents on municipal trust land acquisition and management in accordance with AS 44.44.755(b) and 3 AAC 190.110-150.



A picture of the selected 14©3 land conveyance depicted as the Proposed New Housing Area. This will add 20 residential housing lots to Eastern side of the village.

Designated Land Status and Management Issues

Koyuk is included in the Bering Strait Coastal Resource Service Area. Development in Koyuk may be subject to the Bering Strait Coastal Management Plan developed in 1989. The plan specifically aims to mitigate development project impacts on subsistence resources and their use.

The Armory Building site is contaminated by old oil spills and possibly other hazardous materials because it was used for the storage of military supplies. The Alaska Department of Military and Veteran's Affairs along with the City of Koyuk are undecided on whose responsibility it is to have this site assessed for environmental hazards.

Land Use Potential

Within Koyuk, there is not much land available for further development. If the airport were moved, more land would be open for development. West of town is the landfill where people do not want to build or live because of odors from the landfill and wastewater lagoon. East of town the ground is soft and steep. The east side of town would be suitable for development if a seawall were built along Koyuk because the ground would dry up where it is currently flooded. Even further east of town is Corporation land that could be developed if the 14 (c) process were completed for it. That would require contracting a land surveyor to assess the proposed area and its composition. Another site for a new subdivision has been selected east of town that would extend from Cedar Street between Lake and 3rd Avenue. Soil tests are also necessary to avoid

another situation where new construction is built on soft ground and then the foundations shift dramatically.

Strengths, weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats

Development Opportunities, Trends, Strengths

What are development opportunities, current trends in Koyuk, and community strengths and assets that will help us as we plan and complete projects in our community?

Strengths

- Clean air
- Friends
- Small community, most everyone gets along
- Motivated people
- Desire for more infrastructure

Opportunities

- Education
- Jobs
- Technology
- Roads
- Current Infrastructure
- Need for a coffee shop and/or restaurant
- Need a community garden/green house
- Community garage for personal vehicles
- Community freezer and meat processing building
- Good pet training class for dog care and responsibility
- Home maintenance classes

Development Barriers and Threats

What are development barriers, hazards, or areas of concern that we need to consider as we begin development projects?

Weaknesses

- Less employment in the winter
- Hard to attend job training in Nome or other regional training centers
- Motivation to seek employment and/or employment training
- Inflation and shipping costs
- Remote Community, no road into Koyuk or roads connecting communities
- Drug and alcohol abuse
- Only one passenger flight carrier

- Loose dogs getting into trash and subsistence foods

Threats

- Big game (bears)
- Gas and oil costs
- Big storms, flooding
- Littering
- Oil Spills
- Climate change
 - Melting permafrost
 - Diseases in our subsistence food sources

Koyuk's Vision, Goals and Values

Vision Statement

The community of Koyuk implements the wisdom and knowledge of Elders to teach our traditional way of life respecting the land, sea, and animals. We support quality educators and education and strive to seek employment opportunities through economic development for all generations while keeping healthy families and homes.

Development Goals

Goal 1: We improve our infrastructure to meet the demands of growth and needs in the community.

Areas of Focus:

- More housing
- New subdivision to build the housing on
- New head start school building
- Small boat harbor/dock
- New barge access landing road
- New Airport/ helipad

Goal 2: We will investigate natural resource/alternative energy opportunities to lower the cost of living.

Areas of Focus:

- Gravel
- Sawmill
- Alternative energy
 - Solar array with Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) (happening, in progress)

Goal 3: Minimize destruction and health risks.

Areas of Focus:

- Seawall/Erosion Control
- Dust Control
- House weatherization
- Emergency preparedness with structured communication protocols

Goal 4: Secure long-term law enforcement to ensure the safety of our community.

Focus Point ideas:

- Need local law enforcement
 - Need a second VPSO or VPO/Tribal police
 - Need permanent housing for law enforcement
- Emergency planning services
 - Need more active volunteers for the fire department
 - More training opportunities for fire department
 - Need extra fire extinguishers available in the community
- Need fire department, law enforcement and search and rescue to work together
- Fund raising events for law enforcement, Fire Department and Search and Rescue to show them support

Goal 5: Continue our traditional Lifestyle.

Areas of Focus:

- Cultural/ heritage Center
- Youth culture camp
- Re-introduce traditional games in the school
- Elder meal programs with subsistence foods
- Language and oral history preservation

Goal 6: Continue to support our youth.

Areas of Focus:

- Teen Center
- New teachers
- Encourage students to re-start their own Student council
- Get youth more involved in the community planning and government
- Internships and employment opportunities
- Scholarships
- Drug and alcohol awareness/prevention
- Teaching respect for the land
- Teaching proper hunting techniques

Goal 7: Have high quality health care.

Areas of Focus:

- Local health care provider

- Quicker referral times to see more qualified health specialists
- Evaluate quality of health care annually (surveys to community members)
- More dental visits
- More health aides locally and regionally
- Local patient advocate
- Suicide prevention
- Mental health awareness
- Bigger clinic with more office space
- Bunk house for health aides

Koyuk Community Values

Traditional lifestyles

- Subsistence, customary and traditional
- Family, friends, kinship
- Healthy lifestyle and traditions
- Traditional ecological knowledge
- Respect for land and nature
- Knowledge of family tree
- Love and respect for elders and for one another
- Cooperation
- Compassion
- Sharing
- Knowledge of language
- Spirituality and respect for the Church
- Hunting traditions
- Avoidance of conflict
- Respect and knowledge of local organization/ ordinances

Community Lifestyle

- Education
- Pride in our village
- Ability to adapt
- Safety/looking out for each other
- Support and respect for Army guard VETs
- Small town with good neighbors
- Willingness to assist or help those in need
- Community gatherings
- Local holiday events

Partial historical values: these are community values embedded in the traditional livelihoods of the residents of Koyuk. Their resilience in history, past and present passions, and sense of community.

- Home
- Reindeer herding/ animal husbandry
- Mining/ boom town history
- Caribou grazing area preservation
- Commercial fishing
- Hunting guiding
- Isaac's point roadhouse
- Iditarod Checkpoint
- Historical subsistence value of 6 mile point
- Sacred burial grounds

Family values

- Family oriented
- Church
- Religious values
- Marriage
- Courage and Respect
- Discipline
- Obedience
- Accountability and truthfulness
- Heritage
- Love and care for children, i.e. babysitting
- Knowledge and respect of ancestors and current family
- Traditional values
- Sharing
- Family subsistence traditions

Development Priorities and Implementation

Early Childhood Education Facility

Since the late 1980s, the Early Childhood Education program has been located in the old Alaska Army National Guard armory. The building is too small for the staff and students to be an optimal pre-k school. The staff and community want a whole new building to accommodate two full-time teachers from Kawerak and the one from BSSD. The three full-time teachers share one

office together. There is zero storage space for any teaching or learning supplies in the building. There are supplies stacked in the bathroom and in the boiler room.



The Early Childhood Education (Head Start) facility is in the old National Guard Armory. There is a large desire to build a dedicated school for pre-K students. Photo taken 4/16/25.

On top of this, the building is not equipped with a reliable heat source. School was closed for over a week when the old boiler was out of service. The building is also very drafty. Over the last 30 years the ground underneath the building has settled and as a result of the building shifting the doors no longer close tight. The windows are all very old and faded and are no longer airtight.

The playground at the head start is no longer safe to use. The playground is not up to code and will not pass inspection. The playground at the big (Koyuk Malimiut) school is too large and tall for the pre-K students at the head start to be safe. The only time that the pre-K students get to play at the big school's playground is when their own parents take them.

The staff and students at the Head Start walk to the Koyuk Malimiut School for lunch every day. Having a larger teaching facility properly equipped with a full kitchen to prepare lunch for their own students would provide for more safety during the school day. During inclement weather, all students and staff will still walk over to the other school for lunch, even during severely cold temperatures as low as -30 degrees Fahrenheit.

There have been grants obtained in the past to build a new facility but have failed every time because of the lack of a place to build. Without being able to secure a place for the new construction of the Head Start, the grant money expired before there was ever a chance to make anything happen. The community is growing steadily, and the residents are concerned about the well-being of their youth. The city needs to remove the old school building to make room for a

new head start building project. Currently the old school building is not being used for anything at all and is taking up a large amount of ground that can be used for both a new Head Start school and a new Head Start playground.

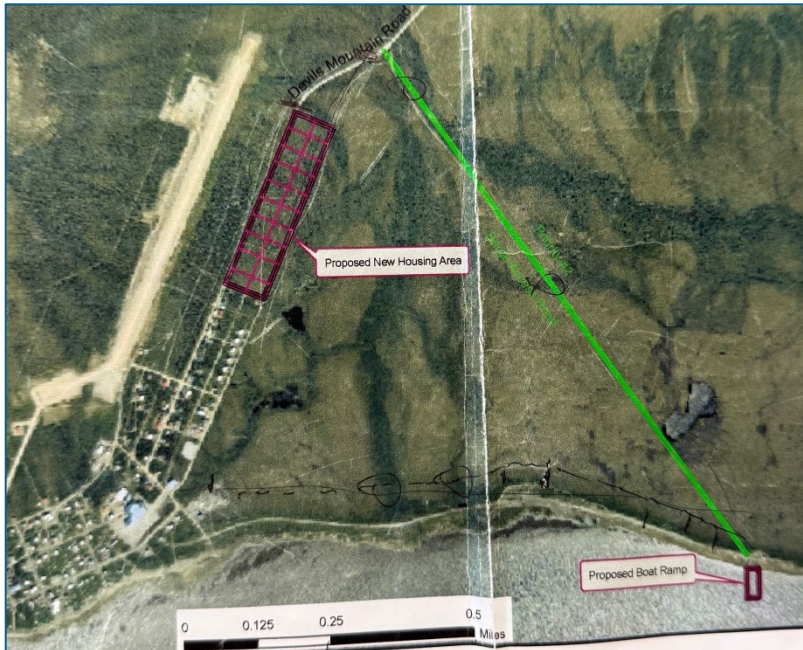
The head start director in Nome, Alaska, has said that every time the opportunity comes up to move the current building to a new site free of any possible previous contamination, they've run into the same problem; no place to put it. She also stated that a whole new building would be more ideal than relocating the current building. Once a location is found or made, the next step would be to start applying for funding through a number of both state and federal grants.

Implementation Strategy

1. Demolish and remove the old school building to make room for a new Early Childhood Education Facility
2. Start seeking grants to fund a new facility
3. Design the new facility to allow for 3 offices, full kitchen, large classroom and appropriate restrooms for both teachers and students
4. Include the extra funding needed for the appropriately sized playground to accommodate pre-K students

14 (c) 3 - For more Residential Housing Lots

The City and Tribe have been working on a 14 c 3 for a few years. There is a selected area on the east side of town below the airport that will provide 20 new residential housing lots. The community has been wanting to expand for a good amount of time, and this opportunity would allow for significant expansion of the community.



Development Implementation

1. Complete the 14 c 3 process
2. Set aside extra land to be developed to allow for long term (10 plus years) housing and population increases
3. Continue to plan for expansion ahead of time

Elder care program

There has been a contract or agreement in the past between IRA and BSSD for the elders to go eat at the school. The IRA will pay the school for each lunch that elders have at the school once the contract is renewed. However, if an elder care program is to be implemented in Koyuk it should be all inclusive by having core principles such as cultural sensitivity, accessibility, and home/community-based care.

So far, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) was used to purchase a truck. This will land in Koyuk on the next barge in the Spring of 2025. This vehicle will be purely to give elders rides to and from the airport, store, landfill, and anything the elders of the community need transportation for around the village.

Implementation Strategy

1. Develop a standing contract with the Koyuk IRA council and BSSD for elders to have lunch with students at the Koyuk Malimiut School
2. Consider chasing grants to construct a new elder care building
 - Include home and community-based services
 - Health and medical care

- Possible new facility to include an elder center or hub
- Adds to infrastructure to be better prepared for emergencies with backup heating, power, food and water storage
- 3. Must be locally rooted
 - Train local caregivers, ideally a handful so that primary caregivers have alternates for days off work

Road Improvements

Dust control is a constant project. The most economical way to mitigate dust generation on local roads is to apply calcium chloride to road surfaces. This agent works by absorbing moisture from the air to keep the road surface damp, preventing dust particles from becoming airborne. However, multiple treatments are required to actively mitigate dust throughout the summer months. For example, heavy rain will wash the agent off the road and once fair weather returns and the road surface dries out again, another application is needed. The City or Corporation desires their own equipment to be able to apply calcium chloride to the roads when it is needed.

Airport improvements that are needed include road maintenance to the airport and possibly an airport extension. Further down the timeline a crosswind runway has already been discussed by the community and is a project that would provide the air carriers more options for safer operations in Koyuk. Currently AKDOT maintains the runway itself but has not run a grader down the airport access road to fill in the big potholes recently. This used to be the norm, but it has not happened in a few years.

A new barge access road has been discussed in city council and tri-org meetings. The new road will provide more suitable access directly from the east end of the new proposed subdivision to the current barge landing. This would provide the community with a quality piece of infrastructure to streamline expansion of the community, provide a safe obstruction free route for delivering building materials to the new subdivision away from powerlines and other utilities but most notably far less children at play in the road while larger equipment is being used.

The Kawerak Transportation Program will use some of its resources to finalize any restorations needed from Typhoon Merbok and aid in some minor road improvements like installing new road culverts and cutting drainage ditches. KTP currently carries out dust mitigation with the calcium chloride. With the current set up, the tribe or City must submit a request to KTP to come and apply the dust control agent. The city hopes to secure their own equipment to apply the dust control measures in the near future.

Development Implementation

1. Continue to apply for funding to improve roads and mitigate dust
2. City or IRA needs acquire equipment to apply dust controlling measures to local roads

3. Keep advocating for youth to get involved in equipment operations and mechanic schools

Beach Erosion Control

The community recognizes the need to mitigate any future beach erosion. They recognize that some of the community's homes and infrastructure are located close to the bank of the Koyuk River and see the need to have a rock seawall put in place to mitigate the large waves that can harm the foundation of the store and some homes. The seawall will be extremely costly but will provide safety to vital resources and structures in the community.

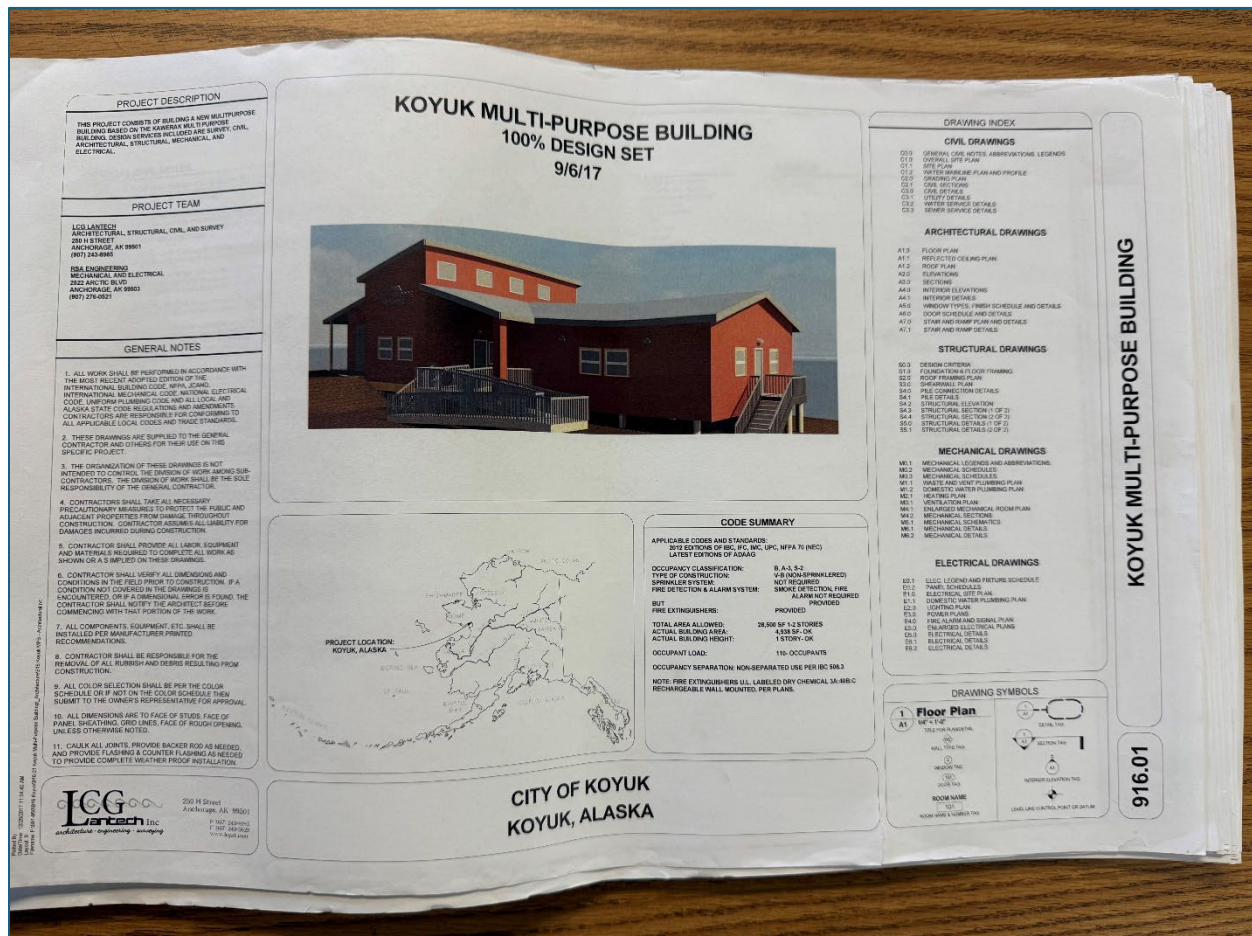
Another proposed method to beach erosion in Koyuk is installing a breakwater in front of town. Having a breakwater would allow people to store their boats more securely in their regular spots in front of town and potentially provide a safe place to install a small boat harbor or a dock. This could also double as creating a safe place for the community to build a dock or small boat harbor. If a breakwater is to be strategically placed in Koyuk, the possibility of building a small boat harbor or temporary floating dock would eventually become a reality.

Development Strategy

1. Determine if the community wants a breakwater or a seawall
 - Compile information for feasibility for both to see which is more attainable
2. Apply for different grants to fund the project(s)
3. Plan for long term use; design must include the ability to retract all floating docks to avoid ice damage

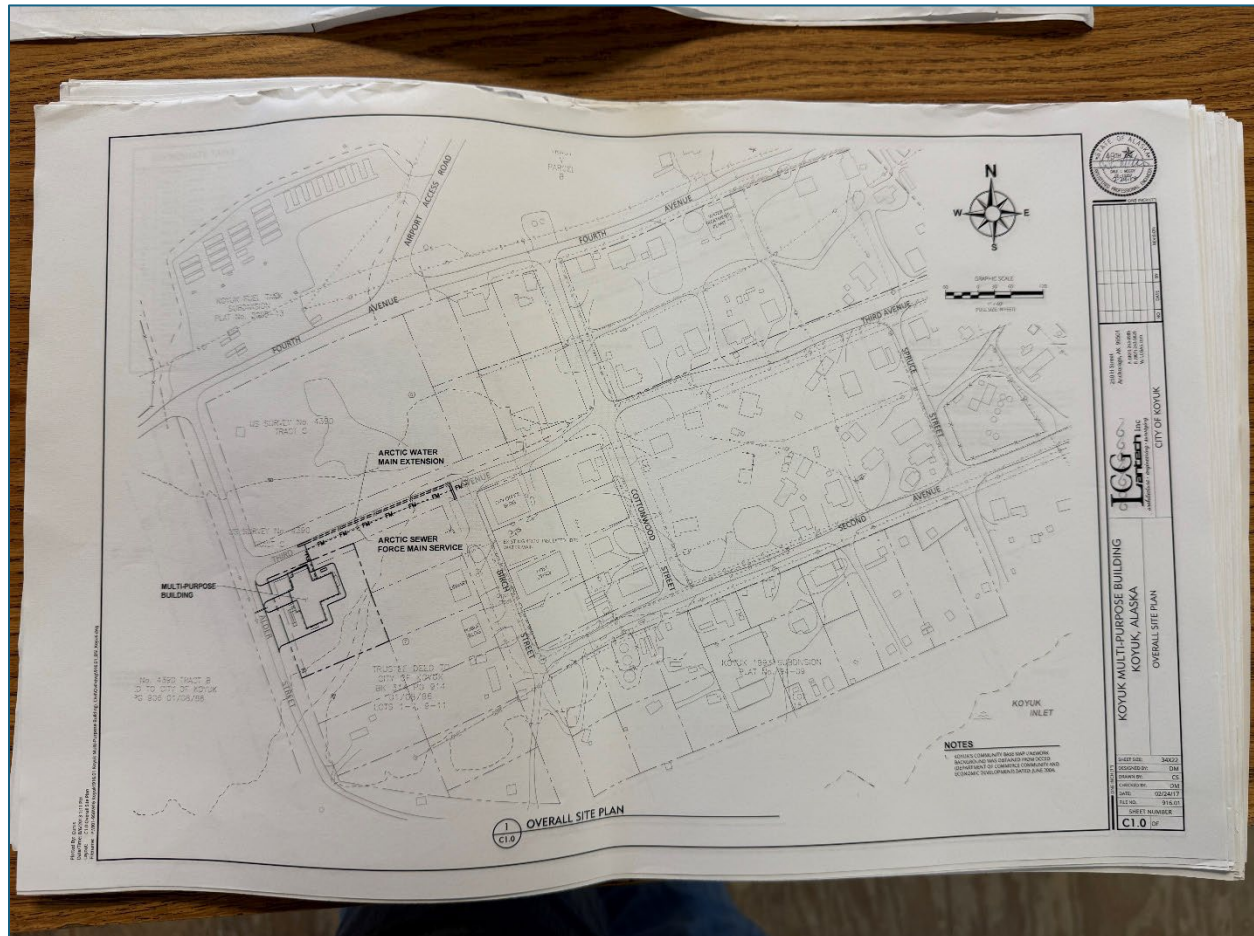
The Multi Use Facility Building

The City of Koyuk has had the idea of a new multi-use facility for quite some time. The design is 100% complete, including all building engineering and final layout, even the location the building will be placed. However, that is all that has been done. There haven't been any physical work done to start building the foundation for the facility itself.



Engineering and design set has all been completed for Koyuk's multi-use building and is ready for the construction phase as soon as funding allows.

The set location is located on the corner of Alder Street and Third Ave. This spot will be very convenient for both the City and KNC to operate the building jointly. This central location will provide the S&R team and fire department with quick response times being on the edge of town close in proximity to the power plant and tank farm, just one block over from the Cities' office building and the IRA/Post Office.



The location is already set for the new construction project. The current restriction delaying the project is proper funding.

This facility will be home to a new youth cultural center, elder dining area, a snack shack store, the community's Search and Rescue team, Volunteer Fire Department, a bingo hall and even a few bed and breakfast rooms for overnight guests. The final layout of the engineered design accommodates for all of these while maintaining proper amenities such as both men and women's bathrooms, a shower room, laundry, and various offices.

Development Implementation

1. Start grant writing to obtain funding
 - a. This will be a multi-year project
2. Survey and fill the area with gravel so the pad has time to settle before construction starts

Sanitation facilities

ANTHC has an ongoing project in Koyuk to relocate the wastewater lagoon to allow for its needed expansion. This will also allow for a new honey bucket dumpsite. This project is staged for summer 2025 but remains a priority because the community has the goal of having every single house hooked up to sewer and water. This is needed for the community's predicted expansion. Having potential for 20 new home sites added to the sewer and water will require more infrastructure to support this new subdivision with utilities, especially because the new subdivision will be located on the opposite side of the community from the wastewater lagoon and water treatment plant.

Project implementation

1. Keep applying for funding to assist with the cost burden
2. Finish the 14 c 3 process to set aside plenty of area for continuous expansion
3. Continue to provide ANTHC and AVEC workers with quality hospitality while they work in the community
4. Sanitation facilities are currently being upgraded, and still need work, including all current projects ANTHC is working on and their short comings

Emergency Response Program

The City of Koyuk has recently acquired some firefighting equipment including various fire hoses, pumps and other gear. The VPSO was previously in charge of this initiative to improve the community's emergency response system. Now the challenge is getting more community members involved in the training that is needed to safely respond to both structure and wildland fires. Other equipment that is still needed are a firetruck, boat and an ATV.

Implementation

1. Have sign-up sheets for more community members to volunteer
2. Designate a new project organizer
3. Continue to provide training to volunteers
4. Acquire more equipment for the program

Culture Camp Program

The culture camp in Koyuk started in the 1990s and ended in the early 2000s. The desire to bring a culture camp back to the community for its youth is strong. Going and learning about the history and culture of the region and taking a step back to get the youth more down to earth at a culture camp will have a huge positive impact on the youth of the community. This will teach youth many lessons about the outdoors including but not limited to respect for nature, traditional ecological knowledge, subsistence harvesting and food storage/preparation, survival skills, and outdoor safety.

Historically the culture camp was located up the Koyuk River about 50 miles. The main cabin is still there in decent condition but the tent frames that served as the sleeping quarters need to be re-built. Other new camping supplies will need to be purchased to restart this program. There is a boat already secured by the IRA council, it will arrive in Koyuk this spring on the first barge so transportation of the campers is possible without the use of personal boats.

Implementation Strategy

1. Begin grant writing to fund building new tent frames and cabins
2. Create a volunteer sign-up sheet to get the community involved in building the new campsite
3. Have community tri-org meeting to discuss sponsorships for
4. IRA has a boat and motor coming in on the first barge

IRA brings youth to campsites to learn about and practice subsistence activities. Started hosting camps in early 1990s. Stopped happening in early 2000s. Large desire to bring this back. The IRA would need a boat or a volunteer with a quality enough boat to safely transport youth to camps. Also need a campsite to host about a dozen youth.

Boat harbor/dock and barge landing

The community has had the need for a small boat launch and a small dock or a boat harbor for many years. Currently the community members with boats have to wait for high tide to launch boats. Potential boat launch by the barge landing area.

Implementation strategy

1. Determine where to place the boat ramp to get estimates on the boat ramp construction cost
2. Apply for grant funding to have equipment dig the boat ramp
3. Determine at a tri-org meeting which entity will manage or maintain the boat ramp.



There are two proposed boat ramps in Koyuk, one right in front of the town and the other is about a mile to the east.

Developing natural resources

The Koyuk rock quarry is located on Devil's Hill just North of Koyuk. It has been increasingly more active the last few summer seasons. The Koyuk Native Corporation owns it and the equipment that operates it. Gravel is planned to be free to KNC shareholders, and they will be responsible for delivering it on their own. The mill at the quarry can sort the gravel into different grades for them to be able to provide different types of gravel for different purposes. Currently, the City of Koyuk and ANTHC have been the only entities to purchase gravel.

Development Implementation

1. Set the goals for pricing, who to sell to, how much to sell, what will get processed in the mill
2. Acquiring funding to purchase more equipment to produce more gravel and to diversify the types or sizes of crushed gravel that can be provided for sales
3. Hire more locals to expand operations
4. Be able to offer gravel sales to more communities in the region

Developing Economy to Allow for more Local Jobs and Careers

Developing any small, localized economy will need a strategic multi-faced approach. To build Koyuk's infrastructure up to provide more local jobs properly to support sustainability starts with an assessment of local assets and the needs of the community to not only identify the strengths but to also to identify any gaps in the community's economy. These gaps need to be seen as business opportunities. Once opportunities are found such as a lack of tourism, auto repair shops, restaurants, commuter lodging, etc., entrepreneurs need to jump on the opportunity they want to build a business plan on.

Development Strategy

There are many resources like the Alaska Small Business Credit Initiative (AK SSBCI) put on by the Alaska Small Business Development Center (AK SBDC), AK SBDC itself, the Small Business Assistance Center operated by the Alaska Department of Commerce, and the USDA all have business planning, small business low interest loan and grant programs to offer to help start or expand small businesses.

Once there is more infrastructure there will be more opportunity for work force development including on the job training. Partnerships can be made with vocational schools and/or regional training centers like the UAF Northwest Campus, AVTEC, NACTEC and Kawerak to offer relevant training for new employees, interns or apprentices. Taking this inclusive and wholesome approach will provide for training for many different career paths including office work, grant writing, equipment operations, mechanics, welders, carpenters, plumbers, aircraft pilots, and even commercial fishing and captaining large vessels. The approach will demonstrate that the development of stable careers or even summer employment will have a great impact on the small rural economy.

Clinic Expansion

The Koyuk-Ruth Qumiiggan Henry Memorial Clinic is currently extremely overcrowded, especially in the summer months when there are additional seasonal employees in the building. To maintain proper work space as well as *proper* patient confidentiality in the clinic, the building needs to be expanded or a whole new larger building constructed. There are many concerns from patients that private

CITY OF KOYUK
PO Box 33888 - Third Avenue and Birch Street
Koyuk, AK 99723
Office 907 863 3441 Fax 907 863 3442
Email: cityofkoyuk@gmail.com

JOB OPENING
Youth Training
Water Treatment Plant- Operations and Heat Recovery- Operations
Two Trainees ages 16-24

Appointment: City Council
Worksite: WTP & Heat Recovery System
Wage: \$20.00 hour
Classification: Short-Term Temporary
Hours: 4 hours per day up to 112 hours total (3 weeks)
Deadline: April 29, 2025

Qualifications:
1. Must be 16-24 years old
2. Have an Interest in becoming a Water Plant Operator someday

Aptitudes:
Learn to do precise work using facts and math skills. Learn to have the ability to pay attention to detailed results of water testing. Physical strength and stamina may be necessary. This training will shadow the Water Plant Operator to learn day to day skills.

MAY INCLUDE BUT NOT LIMITED TO
Work Setting:
The work setting is both indoors and outdoors. May work in noisy conditions. This work requires reaching, lifting and climbing. Exposed to oil, grease, water and disease-causing organisms. Operators may work on water service lines, water breaks, freeze ups and blockage in pipes, overflows, lift station, and heat recovery operations.

Description:
Requires water quality testing data and ensures that the plant is in compliance with regulatory agencies. Operates water and waste-water systems, works with various switches and valves, start & shutdown pumps, fill day tank with fuel, pumps septic tanks when needed, mixes chemical solutions, performs general and preventive maintenance of water and waste-water systems, lubricates pumps, records electrical and meter readings, general maintenance on boilers, flushes and disinfects sewer lines, trouble shooting RO unit when in use, heat recovery system, submersible pumps and boilers, safety checks for chemical feed pumps, chlorine batch mixing, maintenance in the water plant, order parts & equipment (authorization required), thaw frozen water & sewer lines, reports on a monthly basis to City Council and other duties as assigned.

****Pick up and return completed applications to Utilities office 9-12pm & 1-4pm, M-F****

conversations with clinic staff are not possible due to overcrowding in the building. Additionally, to provide staff members with proper workspace to treat patients, there needs to be some type of expansion at the clinic.

Development Implementation Strategy

To provide the additional workspace needed in the clinic, there are the following options:

- Start with re-locating the Village based councilor to the IRA building. The VBC will be able to reach out to the community with greater ease, noting that the post office is in the same building. This move will provide workspace for other health care professionals inside the clinic
- Expand the current clinic building by constructing an addition on the existing clinic building.
- Plan the construction of an entirely new, larger clinic building that will provide employees with all the space they need as well as room for additional staff in the future.

Other Development Goals

With Koyuk being a small remote community, naturally there will be more development goals beyond top 13 development priorities. These next extra development goals are also vital for our growing community.

Garage for heavy equipment

Having a place to work on equipment safely is key for happy employees. Koyuk has been working on procuring a new garage to be able to work on the heavy equipment that belongs to the City. This summer there will be a new steel building arriving in Koyuk that will be assembled on the old AVEC power plant site. This building will allow the City to safely maintain and store equipment out of the elements. Another will be needed in the future for the KNC gravel operations and equipment.

Implementation

- Clear land of brush where the building will go
- Level and re-surface the gravel pad if necessary
- Continue grant writing to maintain the new building
- Incentivize more local adolescents to go to mechanic school so there are mechanics in the future to work in this new building

Re-level buildings that are settling

Koyuk is located in an area with ground that hosts a predominantly large amount of permafrost. Because of this, many of the buildings and residential areas are slowly sinking into the tundra as the sublayer of permafrost melts or as the gravel pads they sit on begin to settle. With this, many houses and buildings will experience shifting on varying levels. The best way to combat this in the future is to apply a layer of insulation underneath the gravel pads to mitigate the thawing of permafrost.

Implementation

- Begin grant writing to find funding for a contractor to travel to Koyuk to give estimates on re-leveling buildings
- Have local community members job shadow to learn how to level buildings on their own
- Ultimately a local person start their own business re-leveling buildings

Tribal court

The Tribal court in Koyuk has been inactive since about 2009. The court used to have authority over local cases and endeavored to correct the behavior of offenders as much as possible. The court was mostly used for custody cases and had the IRA council make the bulk of the decisions to prohibit the wrongful actions and behaviors of past offenders. Some resources that are needed to restart the tribal court are a courthouse, employees that can conduct all the record keeping and administration, and a judge.

Implementation

- Assess tribal authority
 - Ensure that the tribe's bylaws are still up to date and still allow for tribal authority
- Engage tribal leadership in our community
 - Hold a community meeting to explain the role the court will have and gather input on the types of cases the court will deal with
- Design Court structure
 - Conclude what court model will be used (single-judge, judge panel, council based)
- Secure funding and resources
 - May be the first step in this case to determine the size and what costs will be for training for court employees/volunteers and buildings/facility (where it will be, if there needs to be a separate courthouse and where to build a courthouse if needed)
 - Determine stipends and other hidden costs that will affect budget size
- Create court procedures

- There must be a court procedures manual for filing cases, setting hearings, issuing decisions
- Train personnel
- Coordinate with State, Federal and local agencies
- Launch publicly and begin accepting cases
- Continue to monitor court progress and constantly evaluate effectiveness
 - Keep growing if all is going well

There are many organizations that will be able to help start and consult the Koyuk IRA to help with support in any area of the revitalization project. The Alaska Tribal Justice Resource Center, Alaska Legal Services, Bureau of Indian Affairs, University of Alaska Fairbanks with their Tribal Management Program, and First Alaskans Institute are all organizations that can be a huge aide to this cause.

Washeteria

The need for a central watering station will continue to exist if some of the houses in Koyuk are not connected to the water and sewer service provided by the city. A few homes are still not connected to this service. The people that reside in these homes have the desire to wash their clothes and be able to take a shower or bath in their own house, not to mention being able to wash dishes or just have drinking water readily available.

When ANTHC is done renting the old city library the plan is to turn this into a mini washeteria for people to wash clothes and bathe.

Implementation

- Contact ANTHC to find out if a local grant writer needs to chase funding or if ANTHC can handle it
- Determine a centralized location for washeteria should be placed
- If the old city library building serves as a small washeteria in the future, determine if it needs any further work to support the community's washeteria needs

Remove the old school building

Currently the old school building is just sitting on a gravel pad behind the Koyuk Malimiut School not being used for anything at all. The community needs to determine if there is still a possible purpose for this building, otherwise it needs to be removed from the pad so that this developed area can be used. Now, it is just an empty bill that the City pays rent to the Tribe for the land it is on. This building was planned to be completely removed from the town when the new school was built.



The pad that the building sits on is prime real estate for a new Early Childhood Education Facility being located next to the Koyuk Malimiut School. This area would allow for the younger pre-K students to tour the big school to see what their future looks like and meet their future mentors. With this

location, there would be plenty of space for an outdoor playground for the pre-K students.

Another use for this area the old building is on could be a new larger Clinic. The NSHC employees are in need of more office space to allow for the growing number of health care professionals working in Koyuk. At the moment, they have started using the breakroom and hallways as offices.

Implementation

- Include the demo of this building in a grant budget for any new construction the community decides to build on this lot
- Have community members decide if they want to salvage any usable material from the building for personal use at campsites or for home projects

New Cemetery

The current Cemetery in Koyuk is predicted to last about 50 years. The idea of this being a priority is to set aside more land for the cemetery so that it can host our passed loved ones for a longer period.

Implementation Strategy

- Set aside land next to the current Cemetery
- Designate this land as a cultural sanctuary for our people
- Do not allow the sale, manipulation, or any use of this land for anything other than its purpose

Food Security

The importance of strengthening the food security of the community is critical for a handful of reasons. The first of which is Koyuk's isolation. It is very costly to get groceries and other goods to Koyuk. With the isolation of the community there comes the chance of having bad weather that can last as long as 2 weeks with no regular flights to or from the community to deliver groceries that may have gone bad in transit. Second, food security in all of Rural Alaska is not just about food and eating calories, it's about cultural survival, health and longevity and community strength. Securing sustainable food sources has always been the way of our people in Northwestern Alaska.

The IRA building hosts a small food bank that stores non-perishable goods with a long shelf life. Currently, they are out of storage space at their maximum capacity. The Koyuk Native Store has a good supply of non-perishable foods and has a significant amount of other foods that they sell, but the cost of these store-bought foods are very high.

Development implementation strategy

- Create and build a community garden
- Strengthen and support subsistence practices in the community, including youth
- Support local food preservation initiatives
 - Offer food preservation training
 - Build a processing facility for communal use
 - Cutting tables, cold storage, freezer, chamber sealer, meat mixers and grinders
 - Support the bulk purchase freezers, vacuum sealers and vacuum sealing bags
- Explore small scale, innovative agriculture
 - Have an intro to agriculture or hydroponics class in high school
 - Form a food Co-op or Tribal Cooperative

A New Teen Center

The need for another teen center is large and present in the community. Having a safe place for youth in the adolescent stage of life to make friends and develop their adulthood responsibilities is the priority. Many parents want there to be another place for their children to grow up and play with their friends without worrying about them.

Teen Center Goals:

- Provide academic support
- Life skills development
 - Kitchen and grill for culinary arts
 - Communication skill building
 - Financial literacy
 - Employment preparedness
- Appropriate staff to support teens and allow them to grow
- Lounge with board games and TV for watching sports events on special occasions

Once Rural CAP is done renting this, the youth center will be made into a safe place for teens during the evenings after school, on weekends and during summer

The city office aids with post-secondary training/education and supports youth that want to develop their skills. Doing their part to lower unemployment

ANTHC does summer hires for various positions

Big need for more CDL drivers for these summer projects with ANTHC

Shelter cabins at Granite Mountain Hot Springs and other subsistence areas

There are a handful of public use shelter cabins in the area surrounding Koyuk. These cabins are meant to be used as what their name implies, a shelter. In our region of Rural Alaska, there is a need to be able to make it safely to shelter when adverse weather conditions come up, often completely unexpected. Planning for the worst and hoping for the best on occasion is not enough for the survival of people traveling in our Great Alaskan Wilderness. These cabins need to be in better condition to properly protect those that get caught in changing weather conditions that could last for days at a time. These weather conditions can include severe winter cold, ground storms that form out of nowhere, blinding winter blizzards, windstorms with gusts over 60MPH, and insane rainfall. Some of these cabins are no longer safe to be in or around because they are old and dilapidated. Some have roofs collapsing and others are sinking into the tundra. The locations of these cabins are as follows:

- Haycock, the only building left is the old schoolhouse
- Dime landing
- Granite Mountain Hot springs
- Igwanaq cabin between Koyuk and Shaktoolik, on the Koyuk side of Cape Denbigh



Image shows the condition of the Granite Mountain Hot Springs shelter cabins. The left cabin is not safe with the collapsing roof. The right cabin is being used as a changing room for people soaking in the spring.

Implementation

- Contact Iditarod and Irondog Race Headquarters to see if they would be willing to help with funding and logistics
- Search for grants that can be applicable to this type of emergency preparedness
- Have grant writers target funding for these cabins to be fixed or re-built
- The Tribe may have to spearhead this effort on their own to ensure their people's safety while traveling in the countryside

Current and On-going Projects

Current ANTHC projects in Koyuk

- Water plant
- Waste heat recovery from AVEC powerplant to water plant
- Sewage lagoon relocation and expansion
- Water distribution
- Rural CAP home weatherization and repairs to residential houses

Currently, ANTHC is maintaining the water treatment plant, constructing a waste heat recovery system to aid in the heating of the water storage tank using excess heat from AVEC's power plant, working on upgrading the water distribution lines to individual homes, and the relocation of the sewage lagoon to a new area to also increase its size and operating capacity.

Koyuk Native Corporation already has a sawmill just sitting in storage not being used. In order to start producing dimensional lumber for construction material, KNC will need to set aside some area to build a milling facility. It could be as simple as obtaining a steel building to use as a shell to house the sawmill out of the weather but is also large enough to process whole trees and store cut lumber to allow proper drying time after being processed. Further, more people would need to receive proper training to build their skill set and credentials to operate this sawmill more safely. To date, there have been 3 people that have received training for this project and one individual that has actually used the sawmill.

The City's drainage system needs to be upgraded with more culverts. To keep up with the seasonal maintenance for the roads in the community, some culverts need to be replaced and several new culverts need to be installed to aid in controlling the large amount of runoff water from the spring snow melt. Every spring there is a small amount of residential flooding that happens under and around some of the houses and local buildings that is caused by all the snow from the winter melting in the springtime.

Public Meeting Participants

Participants in the 4/16/25 public meeting:

Gabriel Dewey	Travis Hannon	Christine Nassuk
Warner Swanson	Malcolm Henry	Zayn Nassuk
Clifton Charles Jr.	Molly Nassuk	David Anasogak
April Savetilik	Martin Nanouk Jr.	Ruth Otton
Jimmy Douglas	Robert Hannon	Viola Kimoktoak
Lanae Adams	Anne Wilson	Sydney Dewey
Roy Anasogak	Darold Dewey	William Hoogendorn
Johnny Anasogak	John Kavairlook Sr.	Jeffrey Kimoktoak
Darrell Kimoktoak	Myra Henry	Mary Lockwood
Benjamin Otton	Flora Kavairlook	Jennifer Bell
Lane Douglass	Maggie Otton	Annie Adams
Randall Dewey	Katherine Thiemeyer	Tracey Kimoktoak
Ruby Nassuk	Ramona Nassuk	Colleen Adams
Laverne Kimoktoak	Helena Otton	Gracie Nanouk
Lucius Ervin	Susan Hoogendorn	Morris Nassuk
Nina Nanouk	Aubriana Otton	Gabriel Smith, Facilitator
Lola Hannon	Leia Otton	

Participants in the 4/17/25 public meeting:

Morris D Nassuk, KNC	Leslie Charles, KNC	Darrell Kimoktoak, KNC
Clifton Charles Jr, City of Koyuk	Johnny Anasogak, City of Koyuk	Ruby Nassuk, KNC
Lanae Adams, IRA	Benjamin Otton, City of Koyuk	Lane Douglas, KNC
Robert Hannon, City of Koyuk	Darold Dewey, City of Koyuk	Gabriel Dewey, City of Koyuk
Myra Henry, IRA	Randall, Dewey, KNC	Lola Hannon, IRA
		Molly Nassuk, IRA
		Gabriel Smith, Facilitator

Works Cited

<https://www.samaritanspurse.org/construction/warming-in-koyuk/#:~:text=The%20people%20of%20Koyuk%20watched,a%20brand%2Dnew%20worship%20center.>

Alaska Division of Community and Regional Affairs (DCRA) <https://dcra-cdo-dcced.opendata.arcgis.com/>

Kawerak ARDOR board and the Bering Strait Development Council, *Bering Strait Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy: 2025-2030*, Nome, Alaska 2025

US Census Bureau 2020
https://data.census.gov/profile/Koyuk_city,_Alaska?g=160XX00US0241940

Alaska Energy Authority Power Cost Equalization Program Statistical Report Fiscal Year 2024

Koyuk Solar Photovoltaic and Battery Energy Storage System Feasibility Study, ANTHC

Koyuk Local Economic Development Plan 2012-2017

<https://avec.org/about/communities/koyuk/>

Escapement Monitoring In season and historical Data; Norton Sound & Kotzebue Management Area Commercial Salmon Fisheries

https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareanortonound.salmon_escapement

<https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST5Y2023.S0601?g=160XX00US0241940>