

# MANLEY HOT SPRINGS VILLAGE COMMUNITY PLAN 2023



The Manley Hot Springs Village Community Plan was prepared in partnership by the Manley Village Council and Tanana Chiefs Conference.







**Manley Village Council - P.O. Box 105 - Manley Hot Springs, Alaska 99756**

Voice: (907) 672-3177 Fax: (907) 672-3200

**Resolution No. 2023-09**

**Adopting Manley Hot Springs Village Community Plan**

**Whereas**, this Community Plan is important to the future growth and development of Manley Hot Springs; and,

**Whereas**, this plan was created through a public process that captured the values and goals of our community; and,

**Whereas**, this plan is a tool that helps us manage change in our community; and,

**Whereas**, this plan is intended to coordinate future community development and service delivery; and,

**Whereas**; it is understood that this document was created for public use and will be made publicly available and,

**Whereas**, we ask all public, private, and non-profit entities serving our community to recognize and use this plan; and,

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

**CERTIFICATIONS**

We hereby certify that the Manley Village Council duly passed this resolution on this date

August 24<sup>th</sup> For 2023 Against 3 Abstain \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: Raymond Pedersen Title: 1st chief Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature: [Signature] Title: 2nd chief Date: 8/24/23

Figure 2: Tribal resolution - Manley Hot Springs Community Plan

## Contents

Vision .....	7
Values .....	7
Executive Summary.....	7
Acknowledgements .....	8
Community Profile.....	9
CULTURE.....	10
HISTORY .....	10
LOCATION .....	12
POPULATION.....	13
GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.....	14
MANLEY VILLAGE COUNCIL .....	14
Manley Fire Department & Rescue Squad.....	15
Village Public Safety Officer / Law Enforcement.....	15
CORPORATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS .....	16
MANLEY HOT SPRINGS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION.....	16
BEAN RIDGE CORPORATION .....	16
TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE .....	17
INTERIOR REGIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY .....	18
DOYON LIMITED.....	19
LAND DESCRIPTION & LAND STATUS .....	20
PUBLIC UTILITIES .....	20
POWER.....	21
TELECOMMUNICATIONS .....	21
WATER / SEWER.....	22
WOOD / BIOMASS .....	22
PROPANE .....	22
TELEVISION .....	22
PUBLIC FACILITIES.....	22
WASHETERIA.....	23
MANLEY VILLAGE COUNCIL OFFICE BUILDING.....	23
GLADYS DART SCHOOL .....	23
MANLEY PUBLIC HEALTH CLINIC .....	24
UNITED STATES POST OFFICE.....	24

MANLEY HOT SPRINGS PARK ASSOCIATION.....	25
WALTER WOODS RV PARK.....	25
HOUSING .....	25
ECONOMY .....	28
LOCAL STORES AND BUSINESSES .....	29
DART AM FARM.....	29
MANLEY ROADHOUSE .....	30
MANLEY TRADING POST .....	30
HOT SPRINGS VILLAGE MARKET .....	30
TRANSPORTATION.....	31
Manley Village Express .....	32
State of Alaska Department of Transportation (DOT).....	32
Community Well Being .....	33
Manley Baptist Fellowship/ Catholic Church .....	33
SALLY HUDSON CRAFTERS GUILD.....	33
THE MANLEY HOT SPRINGS RESORT .....	34
EDUCATION .....	35
MANLEY FIVE YEAR COMMUNITY GOALS.....	36
HOUSING .....	37
ELDERS AND YOUTH .....	38
ENERGY.....	39
EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE.....	40
COMMUNICATION.....	41
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT .....	42
COMMUNITY PLANNING MEETING .....	43
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS FROM LOCAL ENTITIES.....	44
REFERENCES: WORK CITATION .....	46
APPENDIXES.....	47
LOCAL BUSINESS INFORMATION.....	48
COMMUNITY MAPS .....	49
COMMUNITY CONTACT INFORMATION: .....	50

## Table of Figures

Cover page: Figure 1: Manley Hot Springs Slough.....	2
Figure 2: Tribal resolution - Manley Hot Springs Community Plan .....	3
Figure 3: Community Planning Meeting .....	8
Figure 4: Fall landscape near Manley Hot Springs.....	9
Figure 5: Koyukon Athabaskan Fishwheel .....	10
Figure 6: Community survey question I .....	11
Figure 7: Tanana River boat launch in Manley .....	12
Figure 8: 2020 Census race demographics for Manley .....	13
Figure 9: Village corporation land map .....	20
Figure 10: Winter photo of man walking.....	22
Figure 11: Gladys Dart School .....	23
Figure 12: Newly build health clinic in Manley .....	24
Figure 13: Elliott Highway near Manley .....	25
Figure 14: Community survey question II.....	26
Figure 15: Community survey question IV .....	27
Figure 16: Community survey question III.....	27
Figure 17: Produce from Dart AM Farm .....	28
Figure 18: Community survey questions .....	29
Figure 19: Manley Roadhouse .....	30
Figure 20: Manley Trading Post .....	30
Figure 21: Community survey question V.....	31
Figure 22: Manley Village Express van.....	32
Figure 23: DOT garage and workstation in Manley .....	32
Figure 24: Manley Baptist Church.....	33
Figure 25: Beaded picture frame of Sally Hudson.....	33
Figure 26: Manley Hot Springs Resort .....	34
Figure 27: Community planning meeting January 2023.....	43
Figure 28: Community planning meeting sign-in sheet.....	44
Figure 29: Community planning meeting flyer .....	45

## **Vision**

We, a group of residents of Manley Hot Springs have a common bond of residence, in order to promote our welfare through the development of governmental and economic enterprises. Envision all tribal members and members of the community are receiving adequate services that will help to improve the quality of living for each person that resides in the community. The tribe envisions more economic growth through strategic development plans. The vision is to build upon existing infrastructure while increasing services and businesses for local residents and visitors passing through. The vision is to maximize available resources in the community and apply for funds to complete future project developments as identified. This will increase available jobs for the local workforce and it is the hope that the community plan serves as a tool to advocate for the continuance of a vibrant, healthy, clean community for all to see.

## **Values**

The value of the tribe is to do these tasks for the community in good faith and strive to keep the Athabascan culture and traditional ways of life upheld and alive for the younger generations. The values in Manley Hot Springs include respect for the natural hot springs and cherishing the history of the town. The values of the residents may include but are not limited to choosing to live a healthy lifestyle by keeping active outdoors, eating healthy foods from the land, maintaining a clean community, and working hard to take care of ourselves and the people around us. We the people of Manley Hot Springs exercise our freedom and sovereign powers to promote our Tribe's social, cultural, economic, and political progress, and to protect our people, land, and natural resources now and into the future.

## Executive Summary

In the fall of 2022, the Manley Village Council (MVC) was awarded a contract with the Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) Community Planning Program to develop a five-year community plan. On January 13, 2023 a community planning meeting was held discussing the planning efforts of the MVC and TCC. There were thirteen residents who attended and participated in the discussion of the community plan.

Through continued planning efforts, such as surveys and interviews, the residents of Manley Hot Springs have helped successfully contribute to complete this community plan.



*Figure 3: Community Planning Meeting*

## Acknowledgements

The 2023 Manley Community Plan was a joint effort between the Manley Village Council, Tanana Chiefs Conference, and many community members who participated in the community meeting, feedback survey and answered many questions when called upon.

A special acknowledgment to Danielle Huntington, the Community Planning Specialist who played a key role in researching, compiling data, preparing and updating the final community planning document.

Lastly, thank you to the Tribal Administrator, Leah Woods, and Tribal Council and staff: 1<sup>st</sup> Chief Ray Woods, 2<sup>nd</sup> Chief William Bredeman-Woods, Elizabeth Woods, and Housing Director, Jolene Malamute Tanana Chiefs Conference, Planning and Development staff, Selena Sam, Angela Folger, and Marina Evans.

## Community Profile



*Figure 4: Fall landscape near Manley Hot Springs*

## CULTURE

The Koyukon Athabascan name for Manley Hot Springs is Too NaaleL Denh, meaning: Place of the Hot Water. The area of Manley Hot Springs was traditional land the Koyukon Athabascan peoples occupied for purposes such as hunting and gathering, raising large families,



*Figure 5: Koyukon Athabascan Fishwheel*

and taking care of one another to survive in the cold climates. The lifestyles of the Koyukon were traditionally nomadic, consisting of traveling by foot, dog sleds, and birch bark canoes. The ways in which to provide for their families was by harvesting fish in summer camps along the Tanana and Yukon Rivers. In winter, the Athabascan peoples traditionally would hunt moose and caribou and trap smaller game animals. During the pre-contact period, the Athabascans would use the hot springs water in times of healing.

## HISTORY

In 1902, a miner, John Karshner, claimed the hot springs and built a homestead and vegetable farm on 278 acres. At the same time, a U.S. Army telegraph station and trading post were made. The area became a service and supply point for miners and the nearby Eureka and Tofty mining districts. The town's name was Baker's Hot Springs, after the nearby Baker Creek. The town flourished, and more businesses became available, including an: Alaska Commercial Company, newspaper, bakery, clothing store, and other local businesses. In 1910, the local population was estimated to be around 500 residents. In 1913, unfortunately, the mining began to decline, and by the 1920s, only 29 residents lived in the town. The name changed to Manley Hot Springs (Manley) in 1957. Then a small school opened in 1958 before statehood. In 1959 the State of Alaska built the Elliott Highway from Livengood to Manley. In 1982 the state began maintaining the highway for year-round use.

The first homesteads in Manley Hot Springs were established near the central town's

natural hot springs. The Tanana River supplies king salmon, silver salmon, sheefish, white fish, pike, chums, and burbot. The first homes and businesses in the area were established close to the natural riverine. The Tanana River has provided sufficient amounts of food (subsistence) for families locally and people living off the road system, as well as a form of transportation route.

The Hot Springs Slough runs right in the middle of town and is a landmark because of the beautiful birch and spruce scenery along the edges. It is a natural habitat for moose and other wildlife. It is also the reservoir of the hot spring's drainage.

The slough is mainly used by residents and visitors to access the Tanana River and to park boats and other water recreation. The slough follows six miles down until it meets the Tanana River, also known as the mouth of the slough.

Manley Hot Springs is beautifully draped with birch, cotton, and spruce trees. In the spring and summer, the birch trees are filled with lush green leaves, and during the fall, the leaves turn a golden color almost everywhere. The country in Manley Hot Springs is beautiful.

The small-town life is desirable for residents here because it is a place that feels free. A lot of hard work and dedication goes into establishing a homestead here comfortably. Being able to overcome the challenges of living here; is rewarding, and the most simplistic things are even more appreciated. It is by hard work that knowledge is gained. The community residents love where they live; this has always been true.

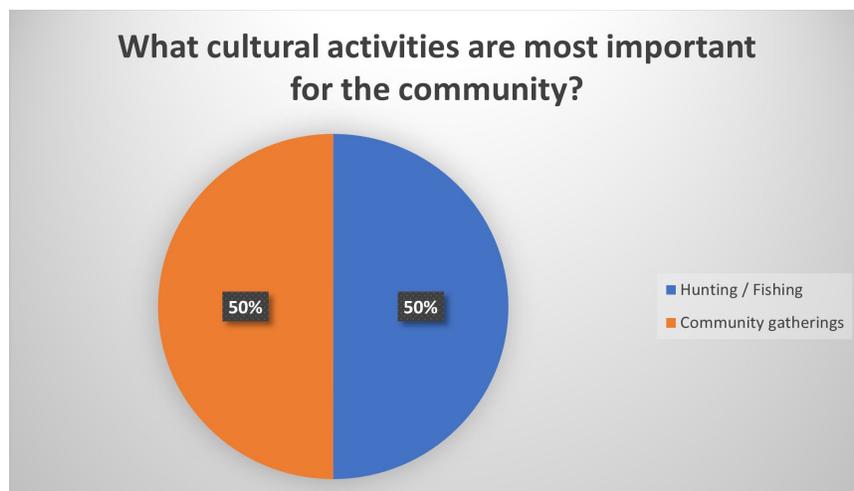


Figure 6: Community survey question 1

## LOCATION

Manley Hot Springs is approximately 156 miles northwest of Fairbanks, along the Elliott Highway. The community is nestled in the foothills of the Alaska Range, surrounded by breathtaking natural beauty. The Hot Springs Slough intersects with the Elliott Highway in the center of Manley Hot Springs at mile



*Figure 7: Tanana River boat launch in Manley*

150. The Elliott Highway continues for three more miles until it ends at the Tanana River; where a designated parking lot is available for travelers, and a newly built restroom facility.

In 2016, a new road was built connecting the community of Tanana to Manley at the Tofty and Elliott intersection. Finally, there is the community of Rampart, which has an unmaintained road connecting in Eureka to the Elliott Highway.

- Manley Hot Springs is located at 65.0067° N latitude and 150.6183° W longitude.
- The area is characterized by a diverse topography, with rolling hills, forests, and nearby mountains. The landscape is dotted with lakes, rivers, and streams, including the Tanana River, which flows near the community.
- Manley Hot Springs experiences a subarctic climate, with long, cold winters and short, mild summers. Winter temperatures can drop well below freezing, with heavy snowfall. Summers are relatively short, with temperatures ranging from mild to warm.
- The community is named after the natural hot springs located nearby. These hot springs are a significant attraction and provide a unique recreational opportunity for residents and visitors.
- Manley Hot Springs is accessible primarily by air and by road. The Elliott Highway connects the community to Fairbanks, providing a transportation route for supplies and services. The community also has a small airstrip, allowing for air travel to and from Manley Hot Springs.
- The area surrounding Manley Hot Springs is rich in natural resources, including timber, minerals, and wildlife. The community is surrounded by vast wilderness, offering opportunities for outdoor activities such as hunting, fishing, and hiking.

## POPULATION

According to the 2020 US Census data, the population in Manley Hot Springs was 169 residents, including 41 households and 23 families. It is situated in the Yukon-Koyukuk Census area. Recent trends show that more residents only reside in Manley during the summer and leave (snowbird) during the cold winter. The migration of resident's attributes to a population boost during the summer months between May-August. The summer months are when the most work is available. The emergency wildfires have also been attributed to an increased number of people. Tourism thrives during the summer months as visitors travel to Manley Hot Springs to explore the town.

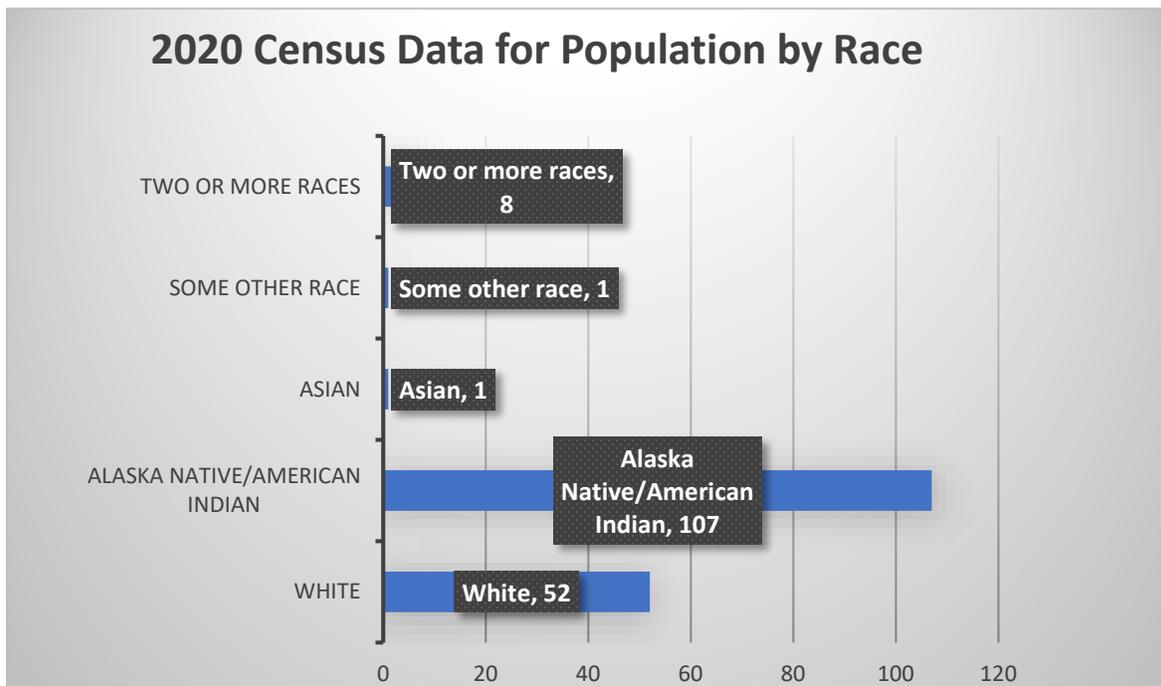


Figure 8: 2020 Census race demographics for Manley

## **GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**

### **MANLEY VILLAGE COUNCIL**

The Manley Village Council (MVC) is a federally recognized Indian tribe organized with sovereign rights located in Manley Hot Springs since 1977. The MVC has an estimate of eighty-one tribal members and three council members. There has been an honorary chief in the past, which made a board of four members. The MVC holds monthly meetings for tribal members and non-tribal members are welcome upon invitation per the bylaws. The MVC adheres to the tribal constitution and bylaws first written in 1977 and since updated in 2015. The tribal membership of the Manley Village Council are direct descendants from the original base enrollee Alaska Native families.

However, the Manley Village Council provides a number of services to both the tribal members and members of the community of Manley Hot Springs, and has done so since 1973. The Manley Village Council operates a for-profit business in the community.

The ability of the Manley Village Council to help offer services to the community have greatly attributed to the MVC being an awardee of regional, state and federal funds which may include but is not limited to: Eliahu Private Grant, the Denali Commission, Federal Highway Administration, and Federal Transit Program, Capitol Improvement grants from the State of Alaska, and Fish and Wildlife.

The current facilities the MVC operates include but are not limited to;

- Manley Village health clinic includes: two health aides, facility and rescue vehicle.
- Manley Village Council main office building includes three office rooms and a kitchen styled area
- Walter Woods Park includes tribal, basketball court, outhouses and camping pavilions
- The Manley Community Hall was constructed in 2016 and is used for community gatherings, potlaches, and public meeting space.

- MVC provides road maintenance for local residential streets.
- Management of the public washeteria: coin operated washer and dryers, and hot showers available to the public, free of charge.
- In 2020 the Yukon Koyukuk School District transferred the ownership of the Gladys Dart School and property. The MVC now owns and operates the building.

The Manley Village Council employs a full-time tribal administrator that oversees and manages these facilities. The MVC has made it a priority to hire members from the community and assist workers by ensuring job training for all departments within the Tribe to help maximize job skills and knowledge for each employee.

### Manley Fire Department & Rescue Squad

In 2015, the City Council of Delta Junction donated an ambulance to Manley Hot Springs to shuttle injured individuals to the local airport to be flown to Fairbanks. The Interior Regional Emergency Medical Services informed Delta Junction there was a need in Manley Hot Springs and the Council fulfilled to meet that in their approval.

### Village Public Safety Officer / Law Enforcement

The Village Public Safety Officer Program (VPSO) was designed to train and employ individuals residing in the village as first responders to public safety emergencies such as search and rescue, fire protection, emergency medical assistance, crime prevention and basic law enforcement. The presence of these officers has had a significant impact on improving the quality of life in the participating villages. As a result, the Village Public Safety Officers (VPSOs) are generally the first to respond to many calls for help from community members; hence their motto: “First Responders – Last Frontier”.

There is currently no Village Public Safety Officer serving Manley. In case of emergency Manley residents must call the Alaska State Troopers.

## **CORPORATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS**

### **MANLEY HOT SPRINGS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

Manley Hot Springs Community Association (MHSCA) was founded in May 1982. The MHSCA is a non-profit organization that oversees and manages the 14(C)3 lands and community facilities. The MHSCA is the appropriate village entity for the State of Alaska concerning 14(C)3 land use. There are six elected board members: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and two Directors. The MHSCA holds a meeting every month on the third Thursday at the townhall. The MHSCA is responsible for the management and operations of these facilities, including but not limited to: Townhall, fire protection shed, wellhouse, and the dump.

MHSCA Info: Jon Dyer (Vice President), 100 Landing Rd., P.O. Box 107, Manley Hot Springs, AK 99756 | Email: [Jon.Dyer@tananachiefs.org](mailto:Jon.Dyer@tananachiefs.org)

### **BEAN RIDGE CORPORATION**

Bean Ridge Corporation (BRC) was established by the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 with 42 original shareholders and selected 69,120 acres of land located around the village of Manley Hot Springs. The BRC has a five-member board with term limits. The BRC has a shareholder land lease program and leases lots to non-shareholders as well as shareholders. The purpose of the leases is for people who wish to have residency and have an opportunity to build a homestead. The BRC is in the process of establishing policies in effort to protect the land. The BRC is one of the few corporations

Bean Ridge Corporation Info: Beverly Woods, 615 Bidwell Avenue, Suite 401, Fairbanks, AK, 99701 | Phone: 907-978-0108 | Email: [beverly@kayutul.com](mailto:beverly@kayutul.com)

## TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE

Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) was officially formed in 1962 and incorporated under Alaska State Law in 1971. TCC, organized as Dena' Nena' Henash or "Our Land Speaks;" is an Alaska Native nonprofit corporation, charged with advancing Tribal self-determination and enhancing regional native unity. TCC provides a unified voice in advancing sovereign tribal governments through the promotion of physical and mental wellness, education, socioeconomic development, and culture of the Interior.



TCC provides services while balancing traditional Athabascan and Alaska Native values with modern demands. TCC's objectives are to provide health, social, and economic services to the native people and villages of interior Alaska, known as the TCC region, using federal, state, and local resources. TCC is comprised of three core departments: Administration, Health Services, and Tribal Client Services.

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

The Tanana Chiefs Conference region covers an area of 235,000 square miles in Interior Alaska, which is equal to about 37 percent of the entire state, and just slightly smaller than the state of Texas. Within the TCC region are six sub regions and within the six sub regions are 40 villages, for an approximate population of 6,700. TCC also serve clients in the Fairbanks area.

## INTERIOR REGIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

The Interior Regional Housing Authority (IRHA) is a regional housing authority and Tribally Designated Housing Entity (TDHE) that serves the interior region of Alaska, including communities such as Manley Hot Springs. Formed in 1974, IRHA implements the Indian Housing Plans to improve and provide safe, affordable, and sustainable housing options for low-income individuals and families in the region.



The primary goal of the IRHA is to address the housing needs of the community by developing, managing, and maintaining affordable housing units. They work in collaboration with federal, state, and local partners to secure funding and resources for housing projects. The IRHA also offers programs and services to support homeownership, rental assistance, and home rehabilitation.

In addition to housing development, the IRHA provides supportive services to help residents achieve self-sufficiency and improve their overall well-being. These services may include financial literacy training, employment assistance, and educational programs.

The IRHA is governed by a board of commissioners, which includes representatives from the communities it serves. This ensures that the organization is responsive to the unique needs and priorities of the region.

### Mission Statement:

To provide housing opportunities and support self-sufficiency through housing.

### Vision Statement:

Thriving families with quality affordable housing.

### Values:

Innovation

Respect

Honesty

Accountability

## DOYON LIMITED

Manley is a part of Doyon Limited, the Alaska Native Regional Corporation for Interior Alaska, incorporated in 1972 under the 1971 Alaska Native Claim Settlement Act (ANCSA). From provisions under ANCSA, Doyon is entitled to receive approximately 12.5 million acres of land across Interior Alaska, making Doyon the largest private landowner in Alaska. Management of Doyon's land focuses on the protection of traditional shareholder uses and responsible economic development or natural resources. The corporation currently employs more than 800 persons worldwide and over 550 employees in Alaska.



### DOYON VISION:

Leader in All We Do

### DOYON MISSION:

To continually enhance our position as a financially strong Native corporation in order to promote the economic and social well-being of our shareholders and future shareholders, to strengthen our Native way of life, and to protect and enhance our land and resources.

### DOYON VALUES:

- Financially responsible
- Socially and culturally responsible Alaska Native people
- Pride and respect in Native ownership
- Commitment to the long-term sustainability
- Honesty and integrity
- Commitment to excellence
- Respect for employees
- Commitment to employee safety and sound environmental practices

## LAND DESCRIPTION & LAND STATUS

The area in Manley Hot Springs is considered unincorporated. It is in the Yukon-Koyukuk census area. It lies at approximately -150.6339 longitude and 65.001 latitude. There are 7-8 Native Allotments in the area and several private land-owners and mining claims.

The Doyon Corporation encompasses “an approximate 12.5 million acres across Interior Alaska. To date Doyon has received title to just over 11.4 million acres, primarily around the 34 villages within our region.

Management of these lands is focused on the protection of traditional shareholder uses, and responsible economic development of natural resources.”

- The Bean Ridge Corporation holds title to land encompassing an approximate 69,200 acres.
- The Manley Hot Springs Community Association encompasses an approximate 582.5 acres of land.
- The Manley Village Council encompasses zero acres of land but leases 20 acres from Bean Ridge Corporation.

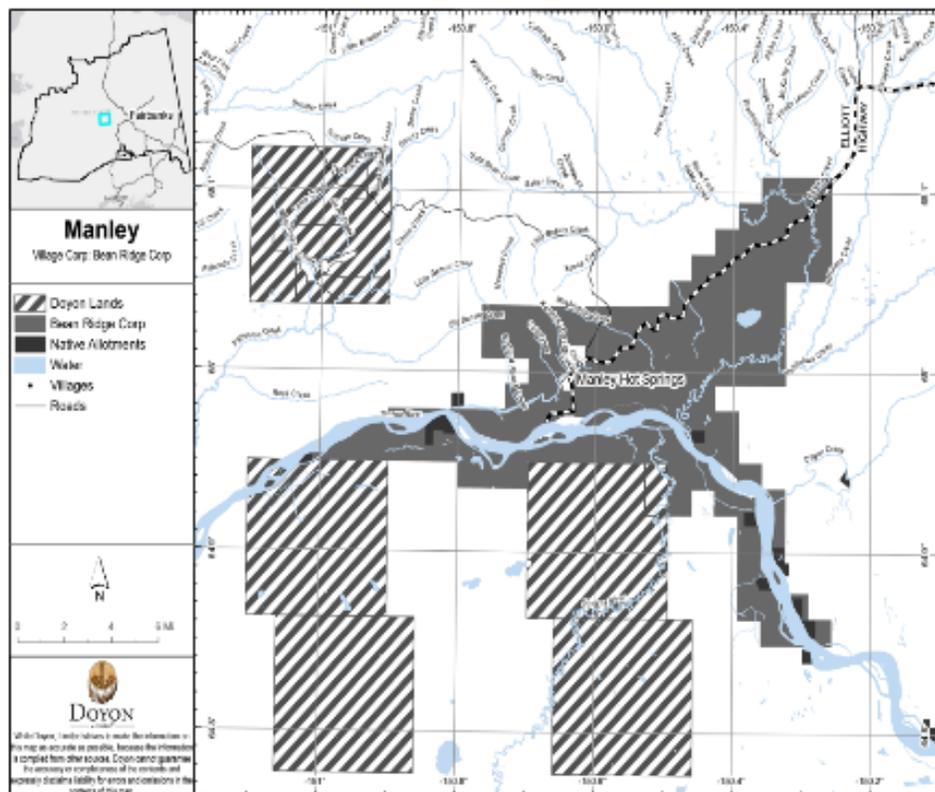


Figure 9: Village corporation land map

## PUBLIC UTILITIES

### POWER

The Manley TDX distributes power to the residents and businesses of Manley Hot Springs. The company acquired the utility and power generator facility in



2008 and has been serving the community ever since. There has been a geothermal study conducted by Willow Stick study group to learn more on alternative energy here.

### TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The local United Utilities serves telephone and internet only. Cable is not available through UUI to date but is possible for future implementation.



GCI serves rural villages including Manley Hot Springs with wireless cell phone services. The GCI telecommunication serves Manley from a tower located at the TDX office building near the center of town. The current location of the tower appears to be too low which causes communication delays and it is the wish from the community customers to resolve this telecommunication issue by installing a second router located at a higher location which will increase distance for cell phone users.

## WATER / SEWER

There is no local public water and sewer utility company. Residential and commercial water wells are drilled, along with private septic systems. The other option for water is through the Village Safe Water Sanitation Program and Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium which helps the Alaska Native/American Indian households through the Scattered Sites program.

## WOOD / BIOMASS

The majority of the homes in Manley are heated by fire wood; secondary to heating fuel. There are reserved areas locally that are opened to the public for residents to collect fire wood. The MVC did a biomass study

## PROPANE

There is currently no propane supply point for households locally expect to import from out of town and the closes place to purchase is a twenty-minute drive from Manley to Eureka or Minto.

## TELEVISION

Cable television is only available by satellites from companies in Fairbanks



*Figure 10: Winter photo of man walking*

# **PUBLIC FACILITIES**

## **WASHETERIA**

The washeteria was established in 1996 and serves the community and the community of Eureka. The washeteria is located in the Manley Village Council complex. Reserved for public use are two showers with hot water provided to the residents at no cost. A coin operated washer and dryer are available at per cycle.

## **MANLEY VILLAGE COUNCIL OFFICE BUILDING**

The Council office building houses three office rooms and an attached kitchenette and restroom. The kitchen does not have an oven. The store, which is currently closed, is attached to the main office building.

## **GLADYS DART SCHOOL**

The Gladys Dart School unfortunately closed in 2019 due to not meeting the quota of students being enrolled. In February of 2021, the Yukon Koyukuk School District gave ownership of the Gladys Dart School to the Manley Village Council.



*Figure 11: Gladys Dart School*

## MANLEY PUBLIC HEALTH CLINIC

The Manley Village Council (MVC) clinic facility is operated by Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC), and is leased by the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium. The MVC has provided healthcare since the early 1970's. The clinic building has been available for the public since 1988.

A medical facility is made available to the public for outpatient care onsite in Manley located in the right-side of the building entrance



*Figure 12: Newly build health clinic in Manley*

same as the washeteria. The clinic facility is equipped with medical supplies and a rescue vehicle reserved for the on-call Health Aid. The clinic is occasionally used by physicians who travel to Manley from Fairbanks to see patients.

Currently, there are currently two community health aides. In an emergency and rescue situation, matters are handled by Life-Flight and the Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center medivac services. The State of Alaska is a resource as well and has nurses who schedule visits to Manley for vaccinations for the public and the school children.

## UNITED STATES POST OFFICE

The mail is flown in by Warbelow's Air Venture cargo planes from Fairbanks. The mail is delivered three times a week, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday each week.

Manley Post Office hours: Monday – Friday 10 AM – 5 PM

**MANLEY HOT SPRINGS PARK ASSOCIATION**

The Manley Hot Springs Park Association operates and maintains a park, which is; located centrally in the town by the bridge, next to the Roadhouse, and a block from the Manley Hot Springs Resort cabins. It is a highly used camping spot during the summer months. It has camping pavilions, fire pits, and a small playground. The Park Association employs the youth to fill the landscaper position to help keep the park clean and maintenance.

**WALTER WOODS RV PARK**

The Walter Woods RV Park is located near the Manley Village Council (MVC) complex and has a camp site available complete with fire pits, outhouses, and park pavilion. The park is open only for the summer months. The MVC received a foundation grant of \$10,000 to build the pavilions. The MVC has an engineered design to expand the park and accommodate visitors with electricity and cabins.



*Figure 13: Elliott Highway near Manley*

# HOUSING

The housing situation in Manley Hot Springs is characterized by a limited number of available properties and a high cost of living. The homes in Manley Hot Springs are spread across town, alongside the residential streets and a majority of the houses are made from logs. The other house structures are frame. The most unique house in Manley is a house completely covered by plastic and heated from the hot springs, owned by Mrs. Gladys Dart.

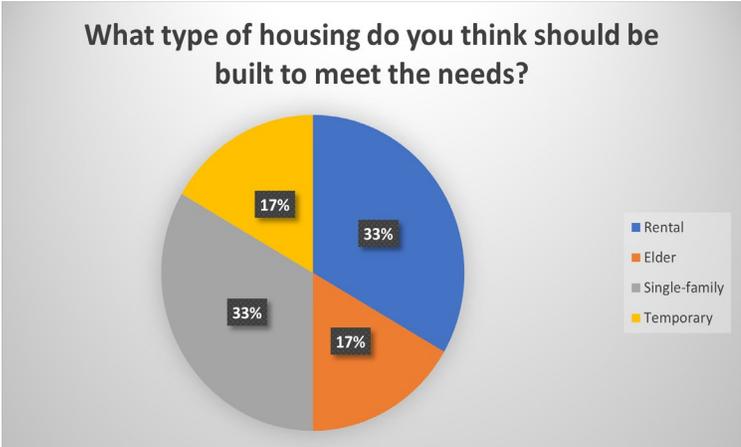


Figure 14: Community survey question II

Due to its remote location, there are not many housing options in Manley Hot Springs. The community primarily consists of single-family homes, cabins, and a few rental properties. The limited supply of housing often leads to high demand, making it challenging for individuals to find suitable accommodations.

Additionally, the harsh climate and extreme weather conditions in Manley Hot Springs pose challenges for maintaining and constructing housing. The area experiences long, cold winters with heavy snowfall, which can impact the durability and maintenance of homes. The majority of the homesteads are occupied by owners who reside here year-a-round or seasonally and do their own personal maintenances. The other house structures that are standing here are considered old and not livable, while some houses were left completely unlivable due to the flood on May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

The majority of the houses that are vacant aren't comfortable enough for families with children and need a lot of work. The most newly built houses are the teacher's house which is located on the school complex. Then there are houses that have been built along the residential street of Cleo's Road which is a subdivision leased and sold from Bean Ridge

Corporation giving the opportunity for home owners to build.

There is a housing shortage for people looking to move to Manley Hot Springs. The Manley Village Council purchased a saw mill in pursuit of reaching the goal of more housing.

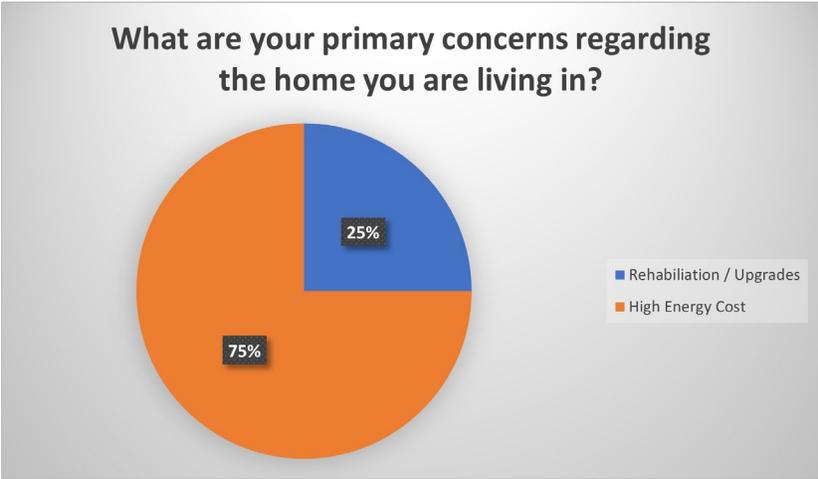


Figure 16: Community survey question III

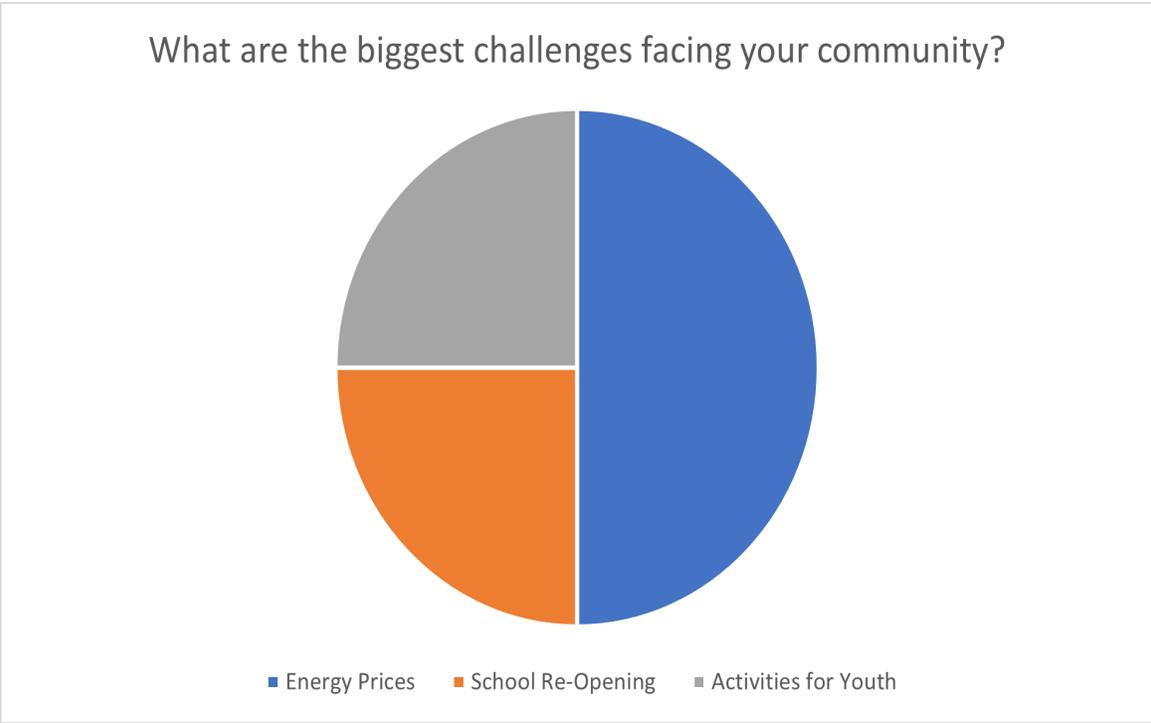


Figure 15: Community survey question IV

## ECONOMY

“Over the course of the past 100 years, Manley Hot Springs has seen periods where the community flourished and jobs were available. In 1910, the local population was in the thousands and had an established law and order enforcement. 100 years ago, there was a 50-room hotel with an Olympic size swimming pool and hot water baths. Food was grown in the ground warmed by the natural hot



*Figure 17: Produce from Dart AM Farm*

springs in quantities sufficient to feed the 200 plus residents as well as the people throughout the Tofty, Eureka, Livengood and Rampart mining districts. Food was grown in Manley and transported by steam boat to the budding community of Fairbanks and the Mission at Tanana.”

Today, the economy of Manley Hot Springs is primarily based on a combination of subsistence activities, small-scale businesses, and tourism. Due to its remote location and small population, the economic opportunities in the community are limited.

Subsistence activities play a significant role in the local economy. Residents engage in hunting, fishing, and gathering to provide for their basic needs. The area offers abundant wildlife, including caribou, moose, and fish, which are important sources of food and materials for the community.

Small-scale businesses are another important component of the economy in Manley Hot Springs. These businesses cater to the needs of the local community and visitors. Tourism also plays a role in the economy of Manley Hot Springs. The natural beauty of the area, including the hot springs, attracts visitors who are interested in outdoor activities such as hiking, fishing, and wildlife viewing. Some residents offer accommodations, guided tours, and other tourism-related services to cater to these visitors.

However, it is important to note that the tourism industry in Manley Hot Springs is relatively small and seasonal.

### LOCAL STORES AND BUSINESSES

#### DART AM FARM

The Dart AM farm is a local agricultural business that sells fresh vegetables locally and to Fairbanks and is operated and privately owned.

During the early 20th century, this place was once a supply center for miners in the nearby Eureka and Tofty districts, and at one point hosted a resort built by John Karshner, an enterprising prospector who also grew food for the miners on his homestead. Today, this tiny community hosts a roadhouse, school, post office, gas station, and general store. Adventurous out-of-towners can soak in the hot springs at the bath house. Tubs filled with geothermal hot water take center stage in this greenhouse oasis filled with tropical plants, exotic flowers, and hanging grapevines.

Dart AM Farms is located on the other side of the hill from the bath house. For the past decade, John Robert Dart has grown vegetables on this piece of land chiseled out of the forest. In addition to three acres of field crops, the farm also includes high tunnels and commercial greenhouses heated by geothermal water. A visit to the farm offers a glimpse into the complexity of a commercial-scale vegetable operation in an isolated Interior Alaska community. Each week in the summer, John loads vegetables onto a truck that he drives 160 miles to Fairbanks. Christine, his wife and vice president of the farm, sells vegetables at the Saturday Tanana Valley Farmers Market.

*Q: Where do you spend more money? (Least to greatest)*  
*A: Local store, online shopping, and the city*

*Q: What sort of businesses opportunities would you be willing to support in Manley?*  
*A: Tourism, school, and hotel / restaurants*

Figure 18: Community survey questions

## MANLEY ROADHOUSE

In 1903, Sam's Rooms and Meals, and eventually changed the name to Manley Roadhouse. The Roadhouse served as a rest and meeting place for riverboat crews, miners and travelers. It was a stopping point for the 1925 historic serum run to save Nome.



*Figure 19: Manley Roadhouse*

The Manley Roadhouse is a popular establishment that went under new ownership and reopened its doors July 2023. It is a combination of a restaurant, bar, and lodging facility, offering a range of services to cater to the needs of locals and visitors alike.

## MANLEY TRADING POST

The Manley Trading Post is privately owned and operated centrally in town and sells groceries, tobacco, and liquor since 1975.

## HOT SPRINGS VILLAGE MARKET

Since the recent COVID pandemic, The Hot Springs Village Market has remained closed as of June 2022. It is owned by the Manley Village Council and was established in 2010. The Hot Springs Market serves the community by providing alternative grocery options locally. The Village Market sells tobacco products as well. When open, The Village Market employees a full-time store manager.



*Figure 20: Manley Trading Post*

# TRANSPORTATION

In 1959, the completion of the Elliott Highway gave Manley Hot Springs Road access to Fairbanks during the summer months. In 1982 the road was available to traveler’s year around, as the state began plowing the highway during the winter months. Driving from Manley to Fairbanks on the Elliott Highway takes approximately three to four hours. The Tanana River is also utilized heavily for travelers throughout the year by boat and snow machine. There is a parking lot available at Tanana River landing locally. The Tanana Road will be open for travelers in 2016 destined to the Yukon River, which ends across the river from the community of Tanana. The Tanana Road will increase traffic in the Manley area. The Manley Village Council has a responsibility locally to maintain three residential streets funded by Indian roads program covering: Spring Street, Thermal Way, and Cleo’s Road.

The Transportation Safety Plan was completed in 2015 funded by the Federal Highway Administration and defines all the detailed needs in regards to transportation safety improvement plans for future funding projects. The Long-Range Transportation Safety Plan was created in 2009 has is updated each year and identifies the transportation needs in the Manley Hot Springs area.

Department of Transportation regularly maintains the road during both winter and summer months.

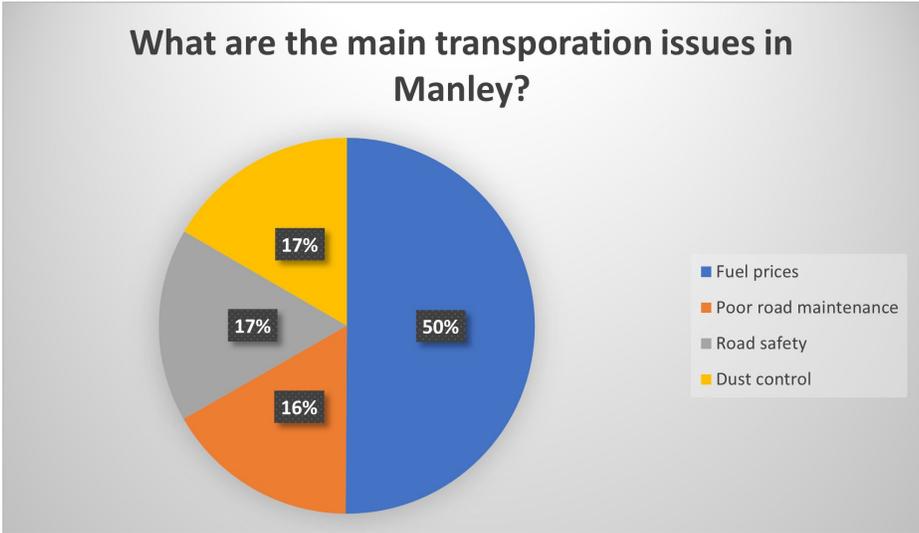


Figure 21: Community survey question V

### Manley Village Express

Manley Village Express is a transportation service with a bus that can carry twenty-six passengers while equipped with a wheelchair ramp, powerful heaters, air conditioning studded tires and plenty of space for luggage and cargo. The bus had one full time



Figure 22: Manley Village Express van

employee that would shuttle the passengers every Wednesday, they would make one stop in Minto before reaching their final destination of Fairbanks. The bus would depart Fairbanks every Thursday taking the same route back to Manley. For the years that it ran, the Manley Village Express proved to be an efficient and successful means of transportation service until it stopped running roughly five years ago. Unfortunately, the highway caused wear and tear to the van and it never got replaced. Although there are no current plans in action to have the Manley Village Express running, the Manley Village Council would like for it to be one day in the future. As of right now, the Manley Village Express is parked outside the shop.

### State of Alaska Department of Transportation (DOT)

The Manley DOT has a work station locally and is equipped with heavy machinery and full-time state employees.



Figure 23: DOT garage and workstation in Manley

## Community Well Being

### Manley Baptist Fellowship/ Catholic Church

Manley Baptist Fellowship is an independent congregation of believers in Jesus Christ, in Manley Hot Springs, Alaska, having no denominational ties with any organization. The church building is available to the Baptist and Catholic following.

Church Hours: Sundays 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM.



Figure 24: Manley Baptist Church

### SALLY HUDSON CRAFTERS GUILD

Sally Hudson first came to Manley in 1929 when she was just fifteen years old, and eventually moved in the sixties where she fought for Manley to have a better school. She continued on to teach sewing, skin sewing, and making traditional garments to the students as she believed it was an important traditional value to be learned. The Sally Hudson Crafters Guild was established in 1997 in honor of her. This organization focuses on encouraging local artist and bringing the community together through local events.



Figure 25: Beaded picture frame of Sally Hudson

## THE MANLEY HOT SPRINGS RESORT

The Manley Hot Springs Resort opened in the winter of 2021. Elise Wright once owned the land, and her grandchildren fulfilled her dreams of eventually opening a resort. The resort is located in town; you take a right after the DOT building and immediately turn left to continue until you reach the resort. The resort has beautiful cabins you can rent that include access to a private bathhouse for you to enjoy. They also have luxury yurts available to stay in as well. The bathhouse contains a hot tub naturally heated by the hot springs, providing a genuinely once-in-a-lifetime stay. The rates for each cabin vary, and you can book online or by phone. The resort is open year-round.



Figure 26: Manley Hot Springs Resort

## EDUCATION

Since the closure of the public school in 2019, remote learning opportunities in Manley Hot Springs have become essential for the education of local students. The closure of the school was primarily due to a decline in student enrollment and budget constraints.

To ensure that students in Manley Hot Springs continue to receive an education, various remote learning options have been implemented. These include:

1. **Online Learning Platforms:** Students in Manley Hot Springs have access to online learning platforms that provide educational resources, assignments, and interactive lessons. These platforms allow students to access their coursework from home and communicate with their teachers remotely.
2. **Video Conferencing:** Teachers and students can engage in live video conferencing sessions to facilitate real-time interaction and instruction. This allows for virtual classroom discussions, lectures, and Q&A sessions.
3. **Distance Education Programs:** Some students in Manley Hot Springs may participate in distance education programs offered by other schools or educational institutions. These programs provide curriculum materials and support for students to learn remotely.
4. **Homeschooling:** In some cases, parents in Manley Hot Springs have opted for homeschooling their children. They take on the responsibility of providing education to their children using various resources, curriculum materials, and online platforms.
5. Some students attend the public school in the neighboring village of Minto, 50 miles away.

However, it is important to note that remote learning in Manley Hot Springs may face challenges due to limited internet connectivity and access to technology. The remote location of the community makes it difficult to have reliable and high-speed internet connections, which can hinder the effectiveness of online learning.

Efforts are being made to improve internet infrastructure in the area, but it remains a work in progress. Despite these challenges, the community is committed to ensuring that students in Manley Hot Springs have access to quality education through remote learning opportunities.

**MANLEY FIVE YEAR COMMUNITY GOALS**



**HOUSING:** Our goal is to provide safe, affordable, and sustainable housing solutions that meet the needs of our tribal community. We aim to improve the quality of life for our tribal members by ensuring access to adequate housing that promotes cultural preservation, community development, and economic stability. Through strategic planning, collaboration, and effective management, we strive to create a thriving and inclusive housing environment that fosters pride, self-sufficiency, and a sense of belonging for all tribal members.

1. Increase the availability of housing options in Manley Hot Springs over the next 5 years.
  - Conduct a housing needs assessment.
  - Access vacant land and site control for housing projects.
  - Apply for federal and state grant funding for housing-related activities.
  - Develop housing policies and programs for the Manley Village Council.
  - Build new construction single-homes and a multi-family housing unit.
  - Enhance partnerships with TCC Housing, Interior Regional Housing Authority, USDA, Alaska Housing Finance Corporation, and other building contractors.
2. Develop partnerships with local housing organizations to provide resources and support for low-income families and individuals.
  - Increase housing options for individuals with disabilities, Elders, and Veterans.
  - Assist families with Tribal and Alaska rental assistance programs.
  - Assist families with energy assistance, heat and electricity.
  - Assist families experiencing homelessness.
3. Implement a housing rehabilitation program to improve the quality and safety of existing housing stock in the community.
  - Seek funding for the rehabilitation of existing homes.
  - Develop a plan to address the issue of vacant and abandoned properties in Manley Hot Springs, including strategies for rehabilitation or demolition.
4. Build a new centrally-located, multi-purpose building for the community.
  - Designate a site for community building and conduct environmental review.
  - Secure funding and resources for the construction of the new facility.
  - Apply for federal and state grant funding for a community building.
  - Assess all community buildings and infrastructure.
5. Expand grant writing efforts for needed housing and community infrastructure.
  - Utilize TCC Grant Development Specialist program for contract grant writers.
  - Collaboration with IRHA and designate NAHASDA funds towards housing projects.
  - Promote BIA Housing Improvement Program with TCC Housing Manager.
  - Work with USDA and Elderly 62+ in applying for the USDA Home Repair Grant.
  - Apply for Indian Housing Block Grant Funds (ICDBG) for new construction projects.

**ELDERS AND YOUTH:** Our goal is to create and implement effective programs that foster intergenerational connections and empower tribal elders and youth within our community. By providing opportunities for meaningful engagement, mentorship, and cultural preservation, we aim to strengthen the bonds between generations and ensure the well-being and success of both our tribal elders and youth. Through these programs, we strive to promote cultural identity, knowledge transfer, and personal growth, ultimately building a stronger and more resilient community for future generations.

1. Develop a community center in Manley Hot Springs to provide social and recreational activities for youth and Elders.
  - Create a list of events for Elders and youth for Example: Movie night, fiddle/jig dancing, potlatch, cooking, gardening, storytelling, fish-cutting, culture camp, and dog-mushing.
  - Increase the availability of recreational and sports programs in the community.
  - Increase the availability of wellness activities for Elders and youth in the community.
  - Promote TCC Emerging Leaders Program
2. Increase the availability of transportation services for Elders.
  - Business planning for Manley Village Express Bus Service
  - Seek funding for the operation of a transportation service
3. Increase the availability of home care services for seniors in the community.
  - TCC Home Care services
  - RurAL CAP Elders Mentorship Program
  - Denakkanaaga Elders and Youth Conference
  - Work with agencies, such as Fairbanks Native Association, Food Bank of Alaska, USDA, to increase food security for Elders.
4. Continue employment youth programs each summer season.
  - Secure summer youth employment contracts.
  - Develop a summer youth employment plan prioritizing, skills development, training, and mentorship.
5. Open tribal library services for the community of Manley Hot Springs.
  - Seek funding to buy library materials, furniture, fund salaries and training, provide internet connectivity and computers.
  - Improve services for learning and accessing information in a variety of formats to support needs for education, workforce development, economic and business development, health information, critical thinking skills, digital literacy skills, and financial literacy, and other types of literacy skills.

**ENERGY:** Our goal is to achieve energy independence and sustainability for the Manley Hot Springs Tribe by harnessing the power of renewable energy sources and implementing innovative energy solutions. We aim to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels, minimize our carbon footprint, and create a cleaner and healthier environment for our community.

1. Through strategic planning and collaboration with experts in the field, we will identify and implement renewable energy projects that are suitable for our tribal lands. These projects may include solar power, wind energy, geothermal systems, and other sustainable technologies that align with our cultural values and respect the natural resources of our region.
  - Conduct a thorough assessment of the energy needs in Manley.
  - Assess the solar energy potential of the tribal lands by conducting a detailed analysis of solar irradiation, land availability, and other relevant factors.
2. We will also seek partnerships and funding opportunities to support the development and implementation of our tribal energy projects.
  - Partnerships with TDX Manley Generating, TCC Energy, Bean Ridge Corporation.
3. By achieving energy independence and sustainability, we aim to create economic opportunities, improve the quality of life for our tribal members, and serve as a model for other communities seeking to transition to clean and renewable energy sources. We believe that by embracing tribal energy, we can protect our environment, preserve our cultural heritage, and secure a brighter future for generations to come.
  - Community engagement and education
  - Training and workshops

**EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE:** Our goal is to empower the residents of Manley and members of the Manley Hot Springs by providing them with access to quality workforce and education opportunities. We aim to enhance their skills, knowledge, and abilities, enabling them to thrive in the modern job market and contribute to the economic growth and sustainability of our community.

1. Through strategic partnerships with educational institutions, vocational training centers, and local businesses, we will develop comprehensive programs that address the unique needs and aspirations of our tribal members. These programs will encompass a wide range of fields, including but not limited to healthcare, technology, trades, and entrepreneurship.
  - Support local students through their distance learning.
  - Explore grade school options for Manley, including Tribal Education Compact.
2. Our workforce and education initiatives will focus on promoting lifelong learning, fostering personal and professional growth, and cultivating a culture of innovation and adaptability. We will provide resources and support to individuals at all stages of their educational journey, from early childhood education to adult learning and professional development.
  - Increase the availability of job training and employment opportunities for all individuals in the community.
  - Partner with Alaska Works Partnership, Rural Apprenticeship Outreach program to promote construction education and training.
  - Increase the number of skilled trades programs offered at the local vocational school to meet the needs of the local workforce.
  - Increase the number of adult education programs offered in the community, including GED preparation and vocational training.
3. Develop partnerships with local businesses to provide job shadowing and internship opportunities for high school students.
  - Develop a mentorship program for students to connect with professionals in their desired career fields.
  - Implement a career readiness program for high school students that includes resume building, interview skills, and job search strategies.
  - Develop a job placement program for recent graduates and adults seeking employment in the community.

**COMMUNICATION:** Our goal is to enhance tribal communications by implementing effective strategies and technologies that promote transparency, inclusivity, and engagement within our community.

1. Increase access to high-speed internet in Manley Village, including partnerships with local internet service providers to expand coverage.
  - Begin planning for fiber-optic installation and service.
  - Explore alternative solutions such as satellite internet.
  - Work with internet service providers to reduce the cost and make broadband more affordable for residents and businesses.
2. Upgrade telephone communication systems in Manley
  - Work with local telecommunications providers
3. Develop a community-wide communication plan to improve communication and engagement between residents and local government.
  - We aim to improve the flow of information, ensuring that all tribal members have access to timely and accurate updates, announcements, and resources.
4. Increase the availability of community bulletin boards and information kiosks in public spaces.
  - Increase the availability of community feedback mechanisms, such as surveys and public forums.
5. Develop a plan to address the issue of misinformation and disinformation in the community, including strategies for education and awareness.
  - By utilizing various communication channels, such as social media, newsletters, and community meetings, we seek to foster open dialogue and encourage active participation from all members.
  - Through these improvements, we aspire to strengthen unity, trust, and collaboration among tribal members, ultimately creating a more connected and informed community.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** Our goal is to promote sustainable economic development for the Manley Hot Springs Tribe, fostering self-sufficiency, prosperity, and a thriving community. We aim to create opportunities for tribal members to engage in diverse economic activities, generate income, and build a strong foundation for future generations.

1. We will prioritize initiatives that align with our cultural values, respect the environment, and contribute to the overall well-being of our community.
  - Develop a plan to re-open Tribal convenience store that outlines goals, start-up costs, target market, products, and pricing.
2. Our economic development efforts will focus on diversifying our revenue streams, reducing dependency on external sources, and creating a sustainable economic ecosystem.
  - Build tribal capacity in financial management and project management.
  - Develop a strategic plan for economic development that outlines specific goals, objectives, and timelines.
3. We will explore various sectors, including tourism, agriculture, renewable energy, and small business development, to identify viable opportunities for growth and job creation.
  - Identify and prioritize key sectors or industries that align with the Tribe's initiatives.
  - Partnership with TCC Rural Economic Development Specialist and Tribal Development services.
4. Furthermore, we will invest in the development of our tribal workforce, providing training, mentorship, and support to individuals interested in entrepreneurship and business ownership. We will also prioritize the preservation and promotion of our cultural heritage, recognizing the unique value it brings to our economic endeavors.
  - Increase the availability of tourism and cultural attractions in Manley Village:
    - Tribal hot springs bath house.
    - Dog-mushing tours.
    - RV Park.
5. By fostering economic development, we aim to improve the quality of life for all tribal members, enhance community infrastructure, and create a sense of pride and ownership within our tribe. We believe that by building a strong and resilient economy, we can ensure the long-term sustainability and prosperity of the Manley Hot Springs Tribe.
  - Provide education and educational opportunities for tribal members interested in starting or expanding businesses, including community-wide workshops, mentorship programs. And access to financial resources.

# COMMUNITY PLANNING MEETING



Figure 27: Community planning meeting January 2023

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS FROM LOCAL ENTITIES**

## Manley Community Planning Meeting 01/13/2023

### Sign-in Sheet

Name & Title	E-mail Address	Survey Completed?
		Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>
David Atteberry VPSO	david.atteberry@tanana chiefs.org	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>
Jacob Chingliak VPSO	Jacob.Chingliak@tanana chiefs.org	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>
✓ William Bredeman-Woods	wlbwoods907@gmail.com	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>
✓ Chris Harris VPSO	Christopher.Harris@Tanana chiefs.org	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>
✓ Gary Tomlin	gtomlin50@yahoo.com	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>
✓ Sarah Ross	sarahr922@hotmail.com	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>
✓ Kristina Andrulli	Andrullit@att.net	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>
Damaris Mortved	damarismortved@gmail.com	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>
<del>John ...</del>		Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Jolene Malamute	jrmalamute@aol.com	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>
Danielle Huntington	dlhun@hotmail.com	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>
Wesley Fuller		Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>
Dale Keely	<del>dale</del> rdalekeely@hotmail.com	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>
		Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>
		Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>
		Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>
		Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>

Tanana Chiefs Conference

Figure 28: Community planning meeting sign-in sheet



# **Manley Community Planning Meeting**

January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023

3:00 p.m.

Manley Tribal Hall

Please come join Tanana Chiefs Conference Planning & Development program update Manley's 5-year Community Plan. We will be working on top five goals for the next 5 years (2023-2028).

Please bring your completed community feedback surveys, or return to Danielle Huntington.

Door prizes and snacks will be provided

For more information, contact:

Danielle Huntington, Community Planning Specialist

907-888-2973

Angela Folger, TCC Community Planning Coordinator

907-452-8251 ext 3099



Tanana  
Chiefs  
Conference

Figure 29: Community planning meeting flyer

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Interview with Jon Dyer, Vice President of Manley Hot Springs Community Association

Nu, J. (2018, November 15). *Dart AM Farm: A Dream and a Promise*. edible Alaska. <https://ediblealaska.ediblecommunities.com/eat/dart-am-farm-dream-and-promise>

## **APPENDIXES**

**LOCAL BUSINESS INFORMATION**

<b>Business Name</b>	<b>License Number</b>
ALASKA GUN WORKS	1048017
CINDY'S COMFORTS AND COLLECTABLES	2162904
HOT SPRINGS VILLAGE MARKET	939732
MANLEY LODGE	2132443
MANLEY TRADING POST	2132450
PURDY SERVICES	2149114
TERRY RUSSELL DBA PALOS VERDES SOLAR N.A.	2117186
WILLARD C. ROSS PUBLISHING	2167012

# COMMUNITY MAPS



Imagery ©2023 Airbus, CNES / Airbus, Landsat / Copernicus, Maxar Technologies, Map data ©2023 2000 ft

## **COMMUNITY CONTACT INFORMATION:**

### **Manley Village Council:**

P.O. Box 105

Manley Hot Springs, AK

Tribal Administrator, Leah Woods

Cell Phone: (907) 385-7142

### **Manley Health Clinic**

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 55, Manley Hot Springs, AK 99756

Street Address: Mile 149 Elliot Highway, Manley Hot Springs, AK 99756

Phone: (907) 452-8251 ext. 3536

Fax: (907) 672-3175

### **Manley Hot Springs Community Association**

Address: P.O. Box 107

Manley Hot Springs, AK 99756

Phone: (907) 672-3003

### **Bean Ridge Corporation**

Address: P.O. Box 82062

Fairbanks, AK 99708