

Wasilla Sunrise
Rotary
Club



November 7, 2018

Matanuska Susitna Borough
350 E. Dahlia Avenue
Palmer, Alaska 99645

Re: Williwaw Children's Playground and Park – a proposed Rotary project

Dear Honorable Assemblypersons:

Approximately two years ago, it was brought to the Wasilla Sunrise Rotary Club attention by the Executive Director of the Mat Su Health Foundation, that there is a need for a children's playground and park in the challenging Williwaw subdivision. Specifically, there is no bike trail along Bogard Road for young children to safely ride bikes or walk to the premier inclusive playground at Newcomb Family Park on Wasilla Lake.

The Mat Su Community is well aware of the social problems and crime within Williwaw. Experts have told us that a neighborhood playground and park can help lead toward community revitalization. Several stories have been published in The Frontiersman as to families' efforts to correct the neighborhood problems.

As you may be aware, Williwaw is not within the City of Wasilla boundary. Furthermore, other local government officials and community leaders approached our Wasilla Sunrise Rotary Club for a possible solution since we built a very successful and highly utilized inclusive playground at Newcomb Park.

Now after a year, we have thoroughly studied and discussed the playground opportunity with even more concerned citizens and particularly Cottonwood Creek School and Wasilla Middle School officials. The 53 women and men of the Wasilla Sunrise Rotary Club have vast experience with fundraising and completion of community projects just like we propose for the Williwaw playground and park.

Accordingly, we have already obtained a \$2,500 Rotary District grant toward the initial work with the project. We believe that we can obtain much greater funding from Mat Su Trails and Park, Inc. and other sources in the private sector to complete an estimated \$40,000 - 50,000 asset for the Williwaw subdivision. Attached are initial estimates for the playground equipment. Several Rotarians are experienced contractors who will donate construction and maintenance expertise.

Williwaw owners have formed Families for Improvement of Safety & Health (FISH), a new nonprofit organization in accordance with 501(c)(3) IRS requirements. Rotarians have met several times with the FISH board. The Wasilla Sunrise Club is excited to team up with FISH for the development of the playground and park. Rotary completely supports the request by this Williwaw organization for B14, Lot 11, Williwaw #2 – the parcel designated for the playground and park.

Wasilla Sunrise Rotary is fit, willing and able and has decades of sustainability to complete the project. We believe FISH will properly maintain all aspects the playground and park well into the future. Rotary will always be available to further support this important community endeavor.

Please transfer ownership of the Borough property to the FISH on behalf of the Williwaw community for the development of children's playground and park.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Janet C. Kennedy, President
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<http://www.wasillasunriserotary.com/>
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rmonn_MHJY0

