

North Pole City Government

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Sidewalks, Bike Paths and Roads. Oh Yes!

Sidewalks, Bike Paths and Roads, Oh yes! Not quite what Dorothy might have said on her travels in Oz, but it is something you might have said in North Pole this summer. Several paving projects delayed last year combined with this year's projects made for a busy sidewalk, bike path and road construction season.

State and federal funding paid for over 90% of the cost of these transportation projects. The City was only required to pay a 9.03% match to help fund the projects. The Department of Transportation (DOT) managed the projects and private contractors performed the construction.

The first project constructed in 2013 was the Bike Trail Rehabilitation and Connections Project. The goal of the project was to expand the connectivity of the City's sidewalks and bike paths. It started on Santa Clause Lane building the final leg of the sidewalk on the east side of the road. Other paths that were part of the project included a new sidewalk on



Building the final leg of the sidewalk along Santa Claus Lane.

East 3rd Avenue; sections of path on Snowman Lane; Davis Road; 5th Avenue and widening the shoulders on part of Park Way.

There were three other road repaving projects constructed this summer that included East 5th Avenue, Yukon Drive; 1st Avenue-Lewis Street-2nd Avenue circle; 8th Avenue and West 7th Avenue.

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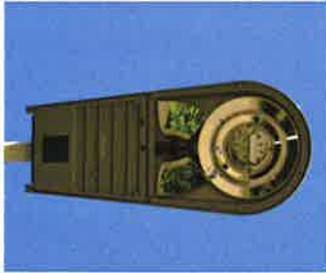
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Man's Best Friend to get his Own Park



The City owns several parcels of land along Santa Claus Lane across from the Post Office. The lots were over grown with brush and were sometimes a site for illegal dumping. To continue the beautification of Santa Claus Lane, the City cleared the thick brush while retaining the mature trees. To put the land to use, the City plans to make several of the lots into a dog park. The dog park will be fenced with fencing salvaged from North Pole High School Boulevard. Final grading and landscaping will occur in spring 2014 with a planned opening summer 2014.

All City Street Lights Upgraded to LEDs



In 2010, DOT funded more than 90% of the cost of a project that replaced energy inefficient street lights in Fairbanks and North Pole with energy efficient LED streetlights. In 2010, about 60% of North Pole's streetlights were upgraded. Phase 2 of the

LED Street Light Replacement Project was completed in June. 100% of the City's street lights are now LEDs.

LEDs reduce electric usage by 25% to 40% depending upon the lights they replaced. LEDs are also more efficient

in cold weather—something North Pole has plenty of.

North Pole received an immediate reduction in its street light electric bill effective July 1st of almost one third by renegotiating its GVEA contract for its unmetered street lights.

Sewer Lining Project Completed

Last summer's newsletter mentioned the City's award of a \$2.56 million state grant and \$1.4 million state loan to line over 7,000 feet of aging sewer mains in the center of town and repair leaking manholes. Bids came in lower than expected and the project cost less than \$2.5 million.

That project began in June. The first stage of the project involved cleaning the mains and then running a robot camera through the mains to identify damaged sections of pipe. Any damaged pipes were repaired before the sewer mains were lined.

Lining the mains used an in-

novative approach. The contractor pulled a fabric tube impregnated with resin through a section of sewer main between manholes. They pumped hot water through the fabric tube which inflated it and activated the resin. The resin hardened producing a sewer main lined with no more leaks.

Exercise Trail

Public Works started constructing a two-mile fitness trail. The trail will include five clusters of 20 pieces of fitness training equipment. The fitness stations will provide guidance about how to use each exercise. The trail will be usable by all ages from youth to seniors as a means to promote health and wellness. The fitness trail will also be a resource to school athletic teams, sports teams or anyone interested in improving their fitness. The fitness trail is part of the City's effort to improve the quality of life within the City and to make the City a destination for visitors.



Public Works funded the ex-

ercise equipment with private donations. The exercise trail will be dedicated to Tom Uptgraft who passed away this spring. He was committed to health and fitness and as part of his estate, he bequeathed \$10,000 for the trail. Mr. Uptgraft's wife, Nancy, has contributed numerous volunteer hours to the City.

Other contributors to construction of the trail included Julie Ament from North Pole Physical Therapy who donated \$2,500 and Willie and Francine Cork who donated \$1,000. Weber, Inc. provided in-kind earth-moving services helping to grade the site. Do-

nations are still being accepted to complete the trail. Contact City Hall at 907-488-8593 to make a donation to the exercise trail.

The two-mile fitness trail will start near City Hall and proceed along the Beaver Springs Creek Nature Trail to 5th Avenue; east on 5th Avenue to Blanket Boulevard; south on Beaver Boulevard to 8th Avenue; east on 8th Avenue to Snowman Lane; and north on Snowman Lane returning to the starting point.

Making Streets Safer in North Pole

City Services has heard residents' requests to make streets safer. In 2012, Public Works began plowing and sweeping pedestrian paths to create safer paths throughout the city. The construction of new pedestrian paths and widening of road shoulders described on page one has expanded the network of safe pedestrian routes.

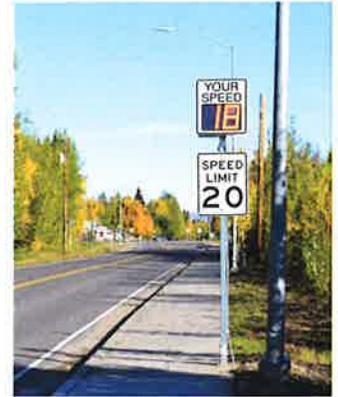
To promote driving at the speed limit, Public Works installed radar speed signs on

Homestead Road, North Pole High School Boulevard and 5th Avenue. There were already radar signs on 8th Avenue in front of the North Pole Middle School.

Radar signs provide feedback to motorists traveling in both directions on the roads. Radar speed signs have proven themselves to be an effective means to reduce speeding.

Public Works working with support from DOT is in-

stalling a new stop sign at the intersection of 5th Avenue and Santa Claus Lane. The intersection originally only had stop signs on the north and southbound lanes of Santa Claus Lane. There were no stop signs on 5th Avenue. The intersection will become a 3-way stop with a new stop sign on the westbound lane of 5th Avenue. Traffic heading east on 5th Avenue coming across the railroad tracks will continue to not have a stop sign.



Radar speed sign on North Pole High School Boulevard

City Hall Received a Facelift



City Hall is the face of North Pole and it is in need of a facelift. The City had not painted the outside of the building in about a decade.

The Public Works Department, assisted by volunteers, painted the City Hall exterior. Over time, black spruce trees along Beaver Springs Creek grew and hide the view of City Hall from Santa Claus Lane. The Public Works Department and volunteers removed a section of trees to make City Hall visible

from Santa Claus Lane. The Master Gardeners Club installed a flowerbed at the entrance to City Hall in memory of Hazel Rosendahl, who for years helped maintain the flower plantings around City Hall. Rosendahl died in early 2013. Future plans for the facelift of City Hall include new flower beds, expanded turf plantings and additional clearing of brush along Beaver Springs Slough.

Snow Plowing Season is upon Us

Snowplowing season is upon us. The City has about 18 miles of roads that take about 20 to 30 hours to plow. This year the City will first plow the roads serving the public schools. To protect City roads, plowing does not typically occur unless there are three inches or more of snow or when accumulated snowfall causes a layer of "hard pack". State-owned roads in the City plowed by DOT include

Hurst Road, Old Richardson Highway, Santa Claus Lane, Saint Nicholas Drive and part of Finell Drive.

The City pushes snow from the roads into the road right-of-ways (ROW) and easements along all City streets. Nothing permanent may be placed in the ROW or easements except mailboxes that meet US Postal Service guidelines. The City is not responsible for damage to

private property placed in the ROW or easements as a result of snow plowing. You can locate the edges of the road ROW or road easement by measuring from the center of the road toward your property. Postal Service mailbox guidelines and ROW and easement information are available at www.northpolealaska.com under the pull-down menu City Government; Forms & Downloads.



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Construction Bullish in North Pole in 2013

North Pole experienced a banner construction year. The date this newsletter was printed, the value of construction was over \$11.7 million. Several of the project's receiving building permits in 2013 will extend into 2014.

The largest project in almost a decade, the North Pole Branch Library, is valued at \$7.29 million. The Library is a Borough project. The second largest building project this summer was another Borough project, re-roofing the



Progress of constructions of North Pole Library as of September 2013.

North Pole Middle School. This project was valued at \$1.65 million. The Borough constructed a third project in

the City, \$110,000 for fire alarm upgrades at the Westcott Pool.

The projects above were pub-

licly funded. There were also a number of privately funded projects. Some of the largest privately funded projects in 2013 included: Two projects at Flint Hills Resources; Universal Welding adding an addition to their shop; and Eagle's Wings Assisted Living is

constructing an addition to their existing facility and converting a second facility.