

# **2018 Annual Corporate Report**



**Trapper Creek Community Services  
Association, Inc. (TCCSA)**

**Trapper Creek Community Services Association, Inc. (TCCSA)**

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## **2018 ANNUAL CORPORATE REPORT**

The Trapper Creek Park and Cemetery is managed by Trapper Creek Community Services Association, Inc. (TCCSA), which in 2018 celebrated thirty-two years as a corporation. Our Park is one of a few parks in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough that is not maintained by the borough itself. As such, fundraising for the upkeep of the buildings and development of the grounds is largely the responsibility of the Board of Directors and the membership of TCCSA for the benefit of the residents of the Trapper Creek area.

Trapper Creek Community Park is located on 87.7 acres at 9971 E. TC Park Circle just off Milepost 115.2 George Parks Highway. The Park grounds include a covered picnic shelter, playground area, a Free Box building, an outhouse, tool shed, Conex container, warm storage building, and the Trapper Creek Community Building, which is surrounded by a gravel parking lot. The Park has a ten acre, cleared recreational area, a community garden, 2.5 kilometers of winter and summer trails through a wooded area, and the Trapper Creek “Alaskans Forever” Cemetery, which has been in existence since 1991.

Bylaws provide that “the Secretary shall prepare an annual report and submit it to the membership for the Association.” Following is the 2018 Annual Corporate Report for Trapper Creek Community Services Association, as provided by the Board and Directors: James Morrill (Chair), Elise Dooley (Vice-Chair), Paula Glenka (Treasurer), Elizabeth Marsh (Secretary), Rocelyn Daniels (Director), Darlene Rich (Director), Shawn Stankowitz (Director), Tammy Morrill (Director), Debbie Filter (Director), Deborah Roberts (Director) and Lon McCullough (Director).

Respectfully submitted by,

Elizabeth Marsh, Secretary, TCCSA

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## ORGANIZATION AND MEMBERSHIP

In February 1986 the desire to establish a cemetery led the Trapper Creek Community Council, under the Chairmanship of Marino Sik, to “support the formation of a community non-profit organization to promote the common good of the Trapper Creek Community.” Two months later, TCCSA was formed on April 18, 1986. By March 6, 1987 it was determined to be a non-profit Corporation exempt from Federal income tax under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

The purpose of the association, as indicated in the bylaws “shall be to provide recreational and community services for the general well-being of the Trapper Creek area.” Membership is confined to those who have paid their lifetime dues and reside within the area bounded by the Susitna River on the east, Chulitna River on the north, Peters Creek on the west, and where the Parks Highway crosses the Susitna river to the south.

Our membership currently consists of ninety-two lifetime members.

At the risk of omission, the volunteers, who served on the TCCSA Board of Directors during the early formative years from the conception of the Park in the 1980’s through the present, include at least Bill Devon, Denvy Saxowski, Jack MacDonald, Patti Christensen, Earl Theroux, Joyce Nash, Pauline Floyd, Ginny Robson, Terry Miller, Dave Porter, Glenn Turner, Lynn Moore, Tom Taylor, Allan Ruhter, John Moore, Kurt Devon, Duronda Twigg, Martin Bee, Dawn Fitzpatrick, Diane Bee, Mary Anna Jurasek, Dave McCown, Susan Henderson, Amy Jurasek and Cricket Stankowitz, Robin Watkins, Rocelyn Daniels, Brandy Dalrymple, Lon McCullough, John White, Tom Michaud, TeriLynn Dyrud, Paula Glenka, Klondike Hughes, Michele McCullough, Darlene Rich, Shawn Stankowitz, Jennie Earles, Debbie Filter, Elaine Yelverton, Tammy Morrill, and Elizabeth Marsh.

Over the last thirty-three years, many of these members have held multiple offices and have served several terms.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of our non-profit organization. Although many people are mentioned in this annual report, there are others, who have contributed significantly by offering a “helping hand,” services, donations, personal time and care over the last thirty years. To all our volunteers and active members, we offer our great appreciation.

## **TRAPPER CREEK "ALASKANS FOREVER" CEMETERY**

In 1983, the Trapper Creek Community Council requested classification of some Borough land specifically for a cemetery. At the time of filing, the Borough indicated that due to their lack of cemetery powers, they could not make land available and requested that TCCSA approach the State of Alaska to ascertain the availability of land for community use. Finally, in 1991 after much effort by TCCSA Board members, the State of Alaska Division of Land notified the Borough of intent to sell a parcel of land to Trapper Creek Community Services Association, as a tax-exempt, non-profit corporation organized exclusively for the operation and management of a community cemetery. On August 16, 1995, the State of Alaska issued a patent to TCCSA for the 20.2 acres of land that is reserved for our community cemetery forever.

The original plat of the cemetery consisted of ten plots, which were laid out by Jack Brockman. The first burial of Jan McKenzie occurred on May 4, 1991, before the final approval by the state. Ten additional plots were added in 2010. The next year land was cleared for graveyard extension 100 feet to the west of the original clearing and access roads constructed. In 2016 twenty graves were plotted in the new section.

In May 2017 another forty full graves and sixteen half plots for cremains were plotted and staked with rebar. Several older grave markers were restored and repainted. In October the cemetery received a donation of two beautiful, handmade benches, which complement the grounds nicely.

Alan Ruhter, a well-loved Trapper Creek pioneer, was buried on October 21, 2018.

Currently in the cemetery there are twenty-three burials and nineteen plots reserved. There remain fifty-six graves and sixteen cremains plots in the new section, which are not reserved.

A gravesite is now \$400 or \$1000 for nonresidents and a cremains plot is \$300 for residents. Graves can be reserved for a \$100 to be verified every five years. Digging a grave in the summer is \$400, if dug by TCCSA. Winter arrangements must be approved by TCCSA and the purchaser must bear all costs. Purchaser has one year to erect a headstone or grave marker.

## **PARK GROUNDS AND STRUCTURES**

After some development of the Park even before the official acquisition of the cemetery parcel, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly on March 19, 1996 formally approved the sale of 60.68 acres of Borough-owned land to TCCSA for a sum of \$2000. This parcel of land, located adjacent and north of the cemetery plat, was patented on May 12, 1997 by the State of Alaska to Trapper Creek for perpetuity. Subsequently, on October 9, 1998 Kurt Devon and Duronda Twigg, as Officers of the organization, signed the quitclaim deed that conveyed the land to TCCSA for the benefit of the residents of Trapper Creek.

The park is situated mostly on high ground covered with an original growth forest of spruce and birch. A two and half kilometer trail winds through the woods from near the southwestern corner of the park parcel to north along the floodplains of Trapper Creek and then circles back to a separate opening onto our clearing. This non-motorized trail is available for walking or hiking in the summer and is groomed in the winter for cross-country skiing and ski races during the Cabin Fever Reliever in March.

On the southern border of the parcel, there is approximately ten acres that is cleared, leveled, and sodded. Aside from the community garden on the north end of the open acreage, there are two structures and a playground.

The Park Shelter, dedicated to the memory of pioneer Rinda Hasson, was built in 1991 by a group of volunteers under the chairmanship of Terry Miller. The structure is of beam construction with a northern wall holding two windows covered with greenhouse plastic. It houses picnic tables and has a nearby BBQ grill. In the last several years the building was roofed with metal, sprayed and additional electrical outlets were installed, which required running another line. It has served as the location of many a birthday party and the staging of music by the Fireweed Arts Festival and a central part of Cabin Fever Reliever.

To the north is the playground area with a large play apparatus with slides and climbing areas. This was obtained and set up, again by volunteers, under Chair Martin Bee in the early 2000's. Additional playground equipment will be added this summer.

The remaining building was designed and built by Klondike Hughes as a moveable 12' x 20' building in 2013 for a Free Box, which it is today. All construction was done on a volunteer basis. Subsequently, the interior was finished, electric and heat added, and the whole building was spray preserved. Upgrades in 2018 include roof weatherization and interior.

At a lower level of the grounds on the southeastern corner of the park parcel is a gravel pad that holds our well, community building, tool shed, a Conex storage container, and a warm storage building that houses the tractor, implements, and a back-up generator. The lower level also includes a septic field and an outhouse.

A two-sided outhouse was constructed in 2000 to accommodate the park before water was installed in the original building. In 2009 two large panels donated by the Fireweed Arts Council were added to its eastern side. On these, Sandra May, our venerated local artist, painted fireweed stalks and blooms, which fit nicely into the decor of the park. In 2016, the outhouse was upgraded to cedar siding to match the community building, the roof replaced, and new metal roofing added.

A standard "schoolhouse" module, 24' x 40' was moved onto a foundation on the pad in 2000, again, by a cadre of volunteers, under the chairmanship of Martin Bee. Time and equipment were donated by Jim Schorr, Art Porterfield, Allan Ruhter, Jackson Parry and Jay Smith, among others. The ramp at the western end of the original building was made and installed by Bill Devon, "by myself," as he said.

In the summer of 2003 the Upper Susitna Soil and Water Conservation District, Youth Conservation Corporation, under the supervision of Ben Daniels, painted the Community Building and installed the metal reinforced steps up to the upper level and performed the first improvements to the shelter.

In 2008, a group of volunteers headed up by Bob Filter added insulated skirting and two roofs over the porches at either end of the building. In 2009 the building was painted and improved by adding handrails for safety. Finally, in 2010, the interior of the building was refurbished with new carpeting, office space and overall painting.

The addition to the original Community Building was initiated in 2012 by securing a 24 x 40' modular building from the Mat-Su Borough. The Borough's Community Development Department through a series of Capital Improvement grants funded moving the building to Trapper Creek for use as an annex to our existing Community Park Building. Assemblyman Vern Halter, as well as our Board members, and those of the Trapper Creek Community Council were instrumental in obtaining additional funding to completely renovate the whole building.

The new, greatly-expanded building, finished in 2016, was designed for maximum utility, energy conservation, and emergency preparedness. The contractors, who bid on the projects, were all residents. Craig Cebula set the foundation and seated the modular next to the original. Bob Filter, Josh Filter and Rod Thomason constructed the connection between the two modular units, added metal roofing to the whole building and erected the front porch with two large burlled logs supporting the roof. Mark Richter of Glacier Country Construction added an extra restroom, drywalled, plumbed a utility closet with a shower and new pressure tank, wired in a back-up generator with switch, laid a simulated hardwood floor and a pine tongue and groove ceiling over the whole interior, as well as cedar siding, skirting and another ramp and roof to the exterior with blown-in insulation in the attic. Architectural drawings were provided *pro bono* by Gary Wolf of Wolf Architecture of Palmer.

In addition, many others contributed generously and in many significant ways, to ensure that the project was a success. Most of the paid labor was conducted by locals.

The building is beautiful and utilitarian. It houses the offices of TCCSA and of the Trapper Creek Community Council, two restrooms, a utility room, and a high foyer centered between the two wings.

The west wing is currently set up as a museum of Trapper Creek history with yearly rotating exhibits. On display now are photographs and memorabilia of Michigan 59ers, pioneers Marino and Carol Sik. Another exhibit highlights the history of the Cabin Fever Reliever Festival. History of our local dog mushing as a tribute to Trapper Creek's one-time status as the "dog mushing capital of the world" is also on display.

The east wing is used for meetings, bingo, and facility rental. On display are photo reproductions of pastel portraits of seven Trapper Creek pioneers by

local artist Sandra May: Pete Hasson, a self- portrait of Sandra, Red Cooney, Joanne Porterfield, Art Porterfield, Bill Devon and Allan Ruhter. Also, on display is a photo reproduction of a pastel portrait of Judy Stankowitz by local artist Lynn Turner. Pastel image photography by Garry Kinder.

In June 2016, The Mat-Su Borough Assembly proposed a Recreational Bond for the October ballot, which included some \$22 million in Borough-wide projects. Borough Assemblyman Randall Kowalke included Trapper Creek in the bond issue, which passed. By March 2017, Trapper Creek Community Services proposed a warm storage building for the Park to house the tractor, implements, and a back-up generator.

After an as-built survey and some soil testing in the summer, construction of a 20' by 20' building was initiated in August and completed in October 2017. All construction was handled by the Borough.

The building is cedar-sided to match the Community Building and is heated by propane. It is located on the north side of the Community Building in line with the tool shed and storage Conex. This building was a welcome and unexpected addition to the Trapper Creek Park, which serves the recreational needs of many.

## **FREE BOX**

The Trapper Creek Free Box was originally established approximately thirty-five years ago, to provide a public receptacle for donations from area citizens for area citizens. It has been housed in different buildings around the community in different capacities, but always by caring individuals with good intentions to help others.

In 2012 the Free Box found a permanent home at the Park. Originally set up by Toni Hughes, this valuable resource is now maintained by a Free Box Committee, consisting of Katherine Willie, Tammy Morrill, Debbie Roberts and Debbie Filter. They organize and distribute donations and ensure that the Free Box is kept clean, tidy, and well-tended daily. Seasonal clothing as well as other household items are available.

The Free Box is open 5.5 hours a day, 7 days a week. Ample lighting and outside cameras provide safety and security. An outside receptacle receives donations anytime. With enthusiasm, each holiday is highlighted with the appropriate decorations, costumes and clothing for all ages. A Christmas Gift Give-Away, the first one held in 2016, was so well appreciated by patrons, that it is now set as an annual event. The 2018 Christmas Gift Give-away was held in the community center. The goal being to provide a holiday pot luck dinner and offer an array of gifts for all ages to choose from for their loved ones.

Maintenance and operation of the Free Box requires funding for electricity, heating oil, trash and snow removal. The 2017 Jessica Stevens Community Foundation and the Talkeetna Bachelor Society grant funds were not fully expended, but they were fully used in 2018. In 2018 grants funds were again awarded by the Jessica Stevens Community Foundation.

## **COMMUNITY GARDEN**

Trapper Creek Community Garden was established in 2008 with the tilling of a 100' x 100' garden space near the northeast corner of the cleared park area. The work was done by community volunteers and the Cooperative Extension presented information on composting and gardening in Alaska. Originally, in collaboration with ongoing elementary school projects, the first year allowed students to have their own plots at no charge. There were fifty plots named after the states. Other

community members paid \$25 per 10' x 10' plot. Many vegetables were harvested, and a harvest party was held to savor the fruits of our labors. Potatoes were the main producer.

A 300-gallon tank provides gravity fed water warmed by the sun for light irrigation in the garden. A small compost pile is located north of the garden. Three raised beds were funded by 2010 Revenue Share monies and contain perennials.

The garden participation waxed and waned over the years. In 2016, a group of hearty citizens agreed it was time to make it at least fifty percent perennial food bearing plants. Strawberries, raspberries, rhubarb, sea buckthorn berry, Nanking cherry, service berry and both fruit and nut trees were introduced during the 2016 season. Approximately twenty five percent of the garden is now planted with perennials bearing edibles. Plans include the addition of blueberry, currants, grapes and other possibilities. Unplanted areas continue to be offered to the citizens of Trapper Creek for any additional gardening needs they may have.

Purchased garden implements include hoses, tools, a hose storage wheel, an aeration tiller, plants, manure and potting soil. A regular tiller, and many young plants were donated. Disking is now done with the TCCSA owned tractor. Future plans include an area dedicated to roses and peonies, how to encourage involvement, and the possibility of cash crop fund raising for the non-profit association.

## TRAPPER CREEK ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

*“Trapper Creek is where all Alaskan vectors converge - earliest Athabascans, first Caucasian explorers and miners and settlers, statehood patterns of immigration, hunting, trapping, agriculture, guiding, and recreation. Name it about Alaska and we have it. Except the history.”*  
(2008 Grant application to Alaska Humanities Forum, Rick Leo)

The Trapper Creek Oral History Project (TCOHP) was formed in 2007 by a dozen locals under Humanity Scholars, Sondra Porter and Rocelyn Daniels, with the expressed goal of gathering and preserving the oral history of the area for public access and education. With so many of beloved characters passing, the project members recognized the urgency in documenting the rich but diminishing history of the west side of the Susitna River while there were still indigenous residents and pioneers with exciting and historical memories to share.

In November 2009, the TCOHP was recognized by the Alaska Humanities Forum and the National Endowment for the Humanities with a \$2000 oral history grant. This award enabled the group to formally organize and purchase equipment, including a scanner, computer, and recorders for documenting our fleeting history.

Since the inception of data gathering, many people with ties to Trapper Creek have generously donated oral histories, photographs, newspapers, documents, dog mushing memorabilia, films, ephemera and other physical items that pertain to the early history of the Upper Susitna Valley.

Only a fraction of the material archived has appeared on rotating display in the community building. Of significance is a large collection of Michigan 59er items, including an original "Alaska or Bust" banner, that were donated by early settlers Marino and Carol Sik in 2012 with the help of Earl Theroux. Without these photographs TCCSA would have no images of some of the earliest settlers like Shorty and Florence Bradley, Clara Hickok, and others, who were not Michigan 59ers. Also, many newspaper articles were purchased by Trapper Creek Community Services from the Detroit News in 2008. In 2017 we received a donation of over one hundred additional photos of the Michigan 59ers, which had previously appeared in the Detroit News, Anchorage Times, Anchorage Daily News, and other newspapers.

Each year at Cabin Fever Reliever the TCOHP has recognized our early pioneers chronologically by their arrival from the early 50's through the early

1970's with photos, if available, and stories. So far, these honorees include: Oliver and Noah Rabidoux, Shorty and Florence Bradley, Dusty and Mary Ann Robson, Rusty Robson, Ruby Robson, Ray Gatz, Dale Saunders, Curt Wagner, J. B. and Lois Wier, Vera Parris, Jake Jenson, Dean Cook, Phil Brandi, Billy Nicoli, Gerald and Bertha Donaldson, Marino and Carol Sik, Nick and Eleanor Rubino, William Orzechowski, Steve Pankewicz, Ray and Bernice Kula, Anthony and Mary Anna Jurasek, Bob Watkins, Art and Joanne Porterfield, Pete and Rinda Hasson, Joe and Vera Dul, Allan Ruhter, Earl Theroux, Virginia Robson, Mike Carpenter, Burnu Watkins, Royce and Jane Shaw, and Jim "Stosh" Stanley.

The history collections are continuously being enlarged. People have donated additional items after viewing photo and dog mushing exhibits in the West Wing of the community building. Donations of historical items are appreciated anytime. Old photographs of the area, buildings, or our pioneers will be scanned and returned immediately to donors with much appreciation, as we lack photographs of many of our earliest pioneers. All donated photos and memorabilia are entered into the archives of the TCCSA Oral History Project for historical displays and public education of our unique history.

In 2018 the Trapper Creek Oral History Project initiated Facebook posting of bits of Trapper Creek history with archival photographs of pioneers and memorable events.

Anyone with an interest in preserving history is asked to join TCCSA in continuing this critical project. Preservation of our history for public access is a valuable resource for our growing community. If our unique and rich Trapper Creek history is not preserved, it will become lost to future generations.

## **CABIN FEVER RELIEVER**

The Trapper Creek Cabin Fever Reliever annual event is held at the Trapper Creek Park in March. It is a major fundraising effort by the Trapper Creek Community Services Association, Inc. to benefit the Trapper Creek Park and Cemetery.

The event began in 1987 as an outdoor get together to relieve cabin fever after a long winter indoors. Over the years, events have come and gone such as a northern most swim suit contest and the blind snow machine race. Eventually a raffle was incorporated into the event to raise funds to support the park and cemetery. The 2018 event was the 31st Annual winter festival. Happenings included a Chili Cook-Off, Bake-Off, Ski Races, Ms. Cabin Fever Reliever, Poetry Contest, BB shoot, numerous outdoor games, activities and food. A T-shirt drawing contest is held ahead of the event and the winning design is printed on T-Shirts, sweatshirts and aprons for sale at the festival.

The fundraising raffle that accompanies the festivities relies on prizes donated from many generous sponsors both local and within the southcentral area. In addition, the raffle ticket sellers are invaluable in this effort. One raffle was held in conjunction with the 2018 festival. The \$2 per ticket raffle gave away prizes worth \$6,170.46 with 2,000 tickets being sold. The \$5 per ticket Split the Pot raffle sold 166 tickets. The profit for the 2018 Cabin Fever Reliever was \$3,587.61.

Annual planning for this event begins in January. Work continues past the date of the event for cleanup, prize giveaways and accounting. Countless volunteer hours go into the planning, organization and implementation of this event.

Cabin Fever Reliever is just what the name says - a relief from cabin fever - a festival for the health and entertainment of Trapper Creek and the major fundraiser for the Trapper Creek Park and Cemetery.

## TRAPPER CREEK FIREWEED FESTIVAL

The Trapper Creek Fireweed Festival was founded by a small group of Trapper Creek citizens, who had the desire to see more art and music opportunities in our community. After the idea culminated in the summer of 2004, the Trapper Creek Fireweed Arts Council was established in December 29, 2006 as a registered 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization by the State of Alaska, by Michele Poole, Debbie Filter, and Vicky Watson. In 2016, the Fireweed Festival came under the umbrella of the TCCSA and the Fireweed Committee was formed. The original goal - to bring the public a spotlight on the importance of arts and music as an integral part of an individual's life - still retains that same flavor and inspiration.

Held in July when the fireweed is in bloom, the Fireweed Festival, now in its fourteenth year, entertains folks seeking wholesome outdoor family fun. This one-day event invites craft and food vendors to the Trapper Creek Park for the public to enjoy the festivities while they are entertained by local bands and other types of artists. There are no admittance or parking fees. Craft and food vendors pay a fee and the musicians are paid for their time. A supervised children's tent offers a safe environment for hands-on activities for all ages.

Other activities during the festival includes learning about birds of the area, wild edible plants, and wilderness skill techniques. Along with the informative booths, festival goers can participate in raffles and a silent auction.

In 2018 the Vendor booth fees and miscellaneous sale of Fireweed CD's and hats generated \$120.01. A silent auction of donations yielded proceeds of \$216.00. Planning for this event begins in April each year. Work continues past the date of the event for cleanup, prize giveaways and accounting. Countless volunteer hours go into the planning, organization and implementation of this event.

Proceeds pay for musicians and support the ongoing festival. For the year 2018 the Fireweed Festival had a profit of \$481.68.

## **NORDIC SKI COMMITTEE**

The Trapper Creek Nordic Ski Club was created in 2003 by Ricardo Ernst, long time resident of Trapper Creek. He was an avid skate and Nordic ski enthusiast and had a huge passion to teach children and adults alike. His enthusiasm was very contagious, and his involvement was appreciated by all that knew him. The ski club saw members come and go over a twelve-year period. Kathy Ernst, Debbie Filter, Francine Bennis, Joshua Filter, Dave Porter and Tom Taylor remained active, throughout the years, assisting with clinics, after school ski programs and trail maintenance. Grooming of the Community Park trail and the Trapper Creek Elementary school trails was accomplished by volunteers Bob Filter, Ralph Kolbeck, Tom Taylor and Rick Ernst. Roz Daniels was an active and integral part in the culmination of the sport of Nordic skiing in the Trapper Creek Elementary School program, years before the official club was created. With the help of Karen Mannix of Talkeetna, the acquisition of skis for all the school children came about through community assistance and grants. The club obtained several Borough grants for the creation of signage for the community trails, and procuring equipment such as a snow machine, trailer and groomer. These accomplishments insured access and enjoyment of winter trails for the community and visitors alike.

The club's assets were offered and incorporated into the Trapper Creek Community Services Association, Inc. with the understanding that the club would become an active Ski Committee under the Association and retain the same goals: enthusiasm with our young children to develop an active and healthy appreciation for the outdoors through Nordic skiing.

## **ECONOMICS**

There are three areas where TCCSA receives funding for the operation and maintenance of the Trapper Creek Park and Cemetery – gaming, grants, and operations - each accounted for separately.

### **Gaming**

As a licensee, TCCSA applies and pays a fee for a Charitable Gaming Permit yearly from the State of Alaska. The permit authorizes TCCSA to conduct gaming activities in our Community Building and Park to include raffle sales, Pull Tabs, and Bingo. We also retain areawide permits for raffle sales only that allow us to conduct sales of raffle tickets in the Willow, Talkeetna, and Trapper Creek areas.

Over time the raffle has been the mainstay of our organization for revenue, especially from the proceeds of the popular raffles associated with Cabin Fever Reliever festival and now the Fireweed Arts Festival.

In 2008 the Board initially applied for a Pull Tab permit that allowed annual sales at Cache Creek Lodge, The Big Su Lodge, H & H Lakeside Restaurant, as well as TCCSA. Two of these establishments are no longer in business and the other does not sell tickets anymore, so Pull Tabs are only sold at the Park, during festival times and for Bingo until another vendor is established.

During 2018 we collected \$4,757.00 gross receipts from Bingo, Pull Tabs and Raffles. Of this amount our net proceeds were \$110.00 for Bingo, \$0.00 for Pull Tabs (no games were closed out) and \$4,647 for Raffles, totaling \$4,757.00, which by law is required to be spent to promote the mission of the corporation within a year.

In 2018 gaming beneficiaries outside of our organization included: Northern Susitna Institute of Talkeetna, which has held a children’s educational camp at the Park for the last four years; Miss Kenzie Richter and Miss Heather Holcomb, students at Susitna Valley High School, for a scholarship to the University Alaska Fairbanks, and Miss Kaitlyn Moore, a student at Susitna Valley High School, for a scholarship to the Matanuska-Susitna College; KTNA Radio; the Trapper Creek Elementary School split-the-pot donation; and miscellaneous local box store purchases of event equipment. Other expenses paid for by Gaming funds include upgrading security system for the Community Building; ground materials to upgrade stairs to shelter.

## Grants

Detailed elsewhere in this report, grants are an important revenue source for developing the park. We have obtained grants for critical projects over the years, including many from the Community Development Department of the Mat-Su Borough to include Community Assistance Program (CAP) formerly known as Revenue Sharing, which is offered by the State of Alaska to communities and is administered by the Borough, and funding of Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) also through the Borough, which enabled TCCSA to augment, renovate and refurbish our Community Building. TCCSA acquired grant funds from Jessica Stevens Community Foundation, Inc. and the Talkeetna Bachelor Society, Inc. for maintenance and operation of the Free Box.

In the last seven years, TCCSA has received a total of \$310,932.95 in CIP (Capital Improvement Projects) and Revenue Sharing/CAP grants. The 2018 expenditures for CIP were \$6,588.53. CAP (Community Assistance Program) expenditures in 2018 were \$13,336.72 with \$6,387.90 carried over into the new year.

## Operations

Operational monies are discretionary as determined by the Board, that is, TCCSA is not required to fulfill reporting and accounting obligations, other than Federal tax reporting, that are in place for both gaming and grants. TCCSA can direct such monies to where they are deemed necessary for the operations of our organization. Sources of operating money derive from any number of sources, such as donations for food or baked goods from Cabin Fever, personal donations that individuals or organizations make to TCCSA, sales of plots in the Trapper Creek Cemetery, and other revenues.

At the beginning of the year, the balance in the operations account was \$9,046.70. In 2018 we received \$3,962.04 for operations, aside from gaming monies transferred for use in operations. At the end of the year, the balance in the operations account was \$10,014.97.

## REVENUE SHARING

The last seven years have been an exceptionally busy period for the development of the Trapper Creek Park and Cemetery, especially considering TCCSA operates with a very limited number of uncompensated volunteers on the Board, who handle all the daily operations of the park.

Starting in 2011 Trapper Creek Community Services has taken advantage of Community Assistance Program (CAP) formerly known as Revenue Sharing grants offered by the State of Alaska to communities. These grants were administered by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough through the Trapper Creek Community Council. Each project submitted by various entities was voted on by Trapper Creek residents. TCCSA has been the recipient of the following Revenue Sharing grants, totaling \$140,532.95.

### **FY 2009 – Total funds received \$16,200**

Upgrade to the Picnic Shelter (\$7,134.83) - replaced rotten wood on roof, installation of metal roofing, and running of addition electrical lines.

Storage Shed (\$6,252.37) - purchased a shed for the storage of tools and partially finished the interior.

Fixing up Cemetery and Graveling Access Roads (\$2,812.80) - extended the cemetery, replaced broken and missing grave markers and planted a raised bed with perennial flowers.

### **FY 2010 – Total funds received \$14,770**

Trapper Creek Free Box (\$6,000) - constructed a building with unfinished interior.

Playground Equipment (\$1,500) – purchased lumber and hardware to augment playground materials donated by the Borough. This project has not been completed but is scheduled for summer 2017.

Upgrade Interior of Community Building (\$2,480) - installed new carpeting and erected enclosed office space.

Community Garden Upgrade (\$1,435) - constructed a water tower and raised beds.

Utility Tractor and Implements (\$3,355) – purchased a John Deere 1026R tractor, loader backhoe, snow blower, front blade, rotary tiller and a rotary cutter. This project carries over to FY 2011 and FY 2012

### **FY 2011 – Total funds received \$20,200**

Utility Tractor and Implements (\$20,200)

### **FY 2012 – Total funds received \$13,672.16**

Utility Tractor and Implements (\$8,445)

Operating Costs for the Park (\$4,000) - labor, fuel, equipment, and other necessities for the year round operating for the Park.

Trapper Creek Oral History Project (\$1000) – purchased recording equipment, scanner, and computer.

Upgrade Interior of Community Building- Additional Funding (\$227.16)

### **FY 2013 – Total funds received \$24,690.79**

Operating Costs for Park (\$7,200) - labor, construction, maintenance, and other necessities for the operation of the Park.

Conex Container (\$5500) - purchased of a Conex container for the storage of the tractor and implements.

Finish Outbuildings (\$6,658.50) – purchased a heater, diesel tank, and sheeting for the Free Box ceiling and gable ends for the Free Box and constructed a work bench and tool storage areas for the shed and completed some interior finish work on the shelter. In addition, all outdoor buildings were sprayed with a protective coating.

Tools and Implements (\$2,000) - purchased maintenance tools for the park.

Additional Implements for the Tractor (\$3,332.29) - purchased a disk harrow, pallet forks, and a filter pack for the tractor.

**FY 2014 – Total funds received \$12,800**

Operating Costs for the Park (\$12,800) - labor, construction, maintenance, and other necessities for operation.

**FY 2015 – Total funds received \$14,400**

Operating Costs for the Park (\$14,400) - labor, construction, maintenance, and other necessities for operation.

**FY 2016 – Total funds received \$13,800**

Operating Costs for the Park (\$13,500) - labor, construction, maintenance, and other necessities for operation. This project is ongoing.

Maintenance of Bearcat snow machine (\$300) – maintenance of equipment and grooming of the TCCSA and Trapper Creek Elementary School ski trails during the winter season.

**FY 2017 – Total funds received \$10,000**

Operating Costs for the Park (\$10,000) - labor, maintenance, and other necessities for operation. There is \$6,447.89 remaining on this project, which is ongoing for the continued maintenance and operation.

## **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT**

There have been major developments to the Community Building during this period, as well, starting in August 2012. Financing for this phase of development was from Capital Improvement monies provided by the Community Development Department of the Mat-Susitna Borough. Funding for this work, totaling \$186,600.00 was obtained in four installments.

A Borough-owned modular building was secured from the sewage lagoon in Talkeetna, moved to Trapper Creek and placed on foundation twelve feet away from the original module. A connection between the two buildings was constructed. The whole building was finished inside and outside. Additionally, the outhouse was upgraded to match the Community Building.

In 2018 the remaining funds of \$6,588.53 on this project, were expended on parking lot improvement and sewer line maintenance.

## **JESSICA STEVENS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT**

The last year has been an exciting year for the continuing development of the Trapper Creek Free Box, especially considering it operates with a very limited number of volunteers who handle the ongoing daily operations.

Funding was made possible by a grant from Jessica Stevens Community Foundation, an affiliate of the Alaska Community Foundation in the amount of \$1,500, which is used for maintenance and operation.

There is \$1,212.01 remaining on this project, which is ongoing for the continued maintenance and operation.

## **TALKEETNA BACHELOR SOCIETY, INC. SHARED FUNDING**

This Shared Funding in the amount of \$750 was awarded in 2017 to the Trapper Creek. Free Box as additional funding to insure the ongoing daily operations.

In 2018 the remaining funds of \$750.00 on this project, were expended on weatherization, painting and janitorial services.

## **Park Improvement Projects Completed in 2018**

- moved and re-plumbed the diesel tank away from Community Building and installed new underground lines
- insulated drain pipes under the Community Building in the utility room area
- repair railing on northeast corner of the east ramp
- installed additional cameras in the Community building
- laid gravel on the stairs to the shelter
- extend, level and gravel parking lot to the south of the Community Building
- Free Box roof weatherization and interior upgrade

## **Projected 2019 Park Improvement Projects**

- design and erect another playground apparatus from materials on site
- paint Conex and replace door
- apply ground-cover matting to the community garden to combat weeds
- put a cement pad in for the diesel tank
- cement at both handicap ramps
- concrete sidewalk and rail along stairs to shelter
- install gutters on the roof of the front porch and water point roof
- repair picnic table
- erect a Memorial Wall for the Cemetery
- upgrades to indoor water system
- safety barriers at corners of building
- backstop for baseball diamond