
Shungnak Community Comprehensive Development Plan 2006-2016

Top 10 Overall Community Development Projects for 2006-11

1. New Dumpsite needs to relocate and move further away from the village and it is to close to the gravesite
2. Multi-purpose office building with the City and Tribe for additional office space to support more jobs in the community, centralize the utilities local government office
3. Housing/Lodge – Over crowding for substandard for arctic conditions and lack of rental housings and lodging for visitors
4. Cement and Basketball Court- for physical activity for youth and young adults also gives a social interaction for the community
5. Road to Bornite Road – Poor trail access, Shungnak supplies power to Kobuk
6. Culture Camp- to continue Inupiaq values for youth a place to learn survival skills from Elders and preserve our cultural traditions
7. Water Sources- lack of water source and poor water quality during high water
8. Youth Employment – We need more employment and income from our youth to become more independent
9. Village Law enforcement to reduce crime and enforce laws including curfew – VPSO and VPO
10. New Grave Site- the grave site is overcrowded and to close to the dumpsite and private property

Prepared for

Shungnak Residents, Organizations and
Community,
Shungnak Native Community,
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Introduction and Background

The Northwest Arctic Borough Planning Department (NABPD) intended to work with the community of Shungnak in updating its Comprehensive Economic Development Plan (CEDP). This was envisioned to aid in pro-actively analyzing community conditions; in comprehensively identifying problems and opportunities; and in updating goals, strategies and community projects to address Shungnak development and economic issues. The NABPD contracted with Tom Okleasik, principal of Northwest Planning and Grants Development (an Inupiaq owned and managed firm), to work with Shungnak in facilitating a comprehensive update to the community plan.

By creating a CEDP for Shungnak as a community, local governments (both tribal and city) and entities (local organizations, ANCSA corporation and community members) worked to develop a tool to identify collective community needs and strategies for sustainable development. The CEDP process facilitated a consolidated effort to implement community strategies that will subsequently increase cultural heritage, sustainable economic opportunities, increase employment and self-sufficiency, and encourage collaboration of efforts in various projects and programs. Overall, the goal is to improve the cultural, economic and social well-being of the community.

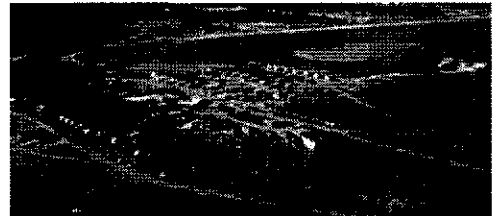


Figure 1: Aerial picture of Shungnak on the Kobuk River.

Planning Methods

The planning methods and processes were based upon (a) the Technology of Participation methods developed by the *Institute of Culture Affairs*, and (b) Denali Commission-USDA-RD-Alaska Humanities Forum *Community Strategic Plan Guide and Form* (May 2001). These combined methods are proven to be effective in encouraging full participation from diverse groups and are best applied with community based organizations.

This facilitation process was implemented among participant's first brain-storming ideas individually, then sharing and weaving ideas through group discussions, and finishing with review by the full group confirming new resolves and decisions.

The following Foundational Values or Ground Rules were applied during each planning session:



Figure 2: Clara Williams facilitating the planning sessions.

* **Participation:** each person brings a different and valued insight, perspective and knowledge that formulates the larger community picture.

- Elders
- Youth
- Community members
- Board/council members
- Staff: tribe, corporation, city, school

* **Respect:** respect and honor each person, view and idea

- Empower each other

* **Teamwork:** each person and role needs to work together to accomplish the goals of the community.

- Sharing information and ideas

* **Creativity:** giving permission for the dialogue between the rational (mind) and intuitive (heart) perspectives.

- Keep our eyes open
- New ways of thinking and

approaching subjects

* **Action:** moving economic development towards local responsibility and positive accountability.

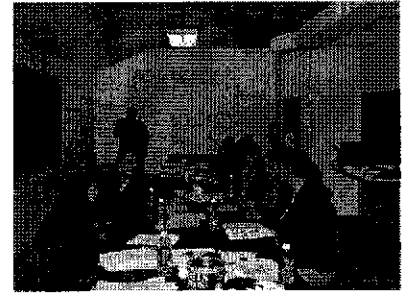


Figure 3: Shungnak residents' participants during the planning sessions.

The planning process followed a four-step workshop series. Each session built upon the other and provided a comprehensive planning approach taking into account various time frames. The sessions were offered as follows:

Workshop Session	Time Frame
<p>Community History and Environment Reviewed the community's heritage, history and present environment to develop a common understanding of the past including economic development accomplishments from past plans.</p>	<p><i>Past to Present</i></p>
<p>Community Development Strategic Vision, Values and Goals Developed the direction for the community's strategic development with an overall vision, guiding community values, and development goals.</p>	<p><i>Future</i> Next 10-Years (2006-2016)</p>
<p>Strategic Action Plans for Community Implementation Selected priority projects and created strategic action plans to help guide the community in the coming 5-years to launch the economic development projects and aid in initial movement upward towards the vision and goals.</p>	<p><i>Initial Five Years</i> (2006-2011)</p>
<p>Funding and Land Use Considerations Identified potential funding and community investments to implement development goals. Identified potential sites for selection for projects requiring land.</p>	<p><i>Now</i> (2006)</p>



Figure 4: Shungnak residents during the planning session public meeting at the Coffee House

Participant Expectations

In beginning the planning session, participants were first asked to share their expectations for the process. The following were given:

Planning Expectations

- Update the community economic development plan with a document including --
 - Community history and profile
 - Community assessment data utilizing the Denali Commission/USDA-RD guidelines
 - Community vision and value statements
 - Update priorities for both community and economic development
 - Top priority action plans for guidance in community implementation
- Incorporate into our plan the teaching and showing youth our traditional Inupiaq tools and culture – e.g. sleds, hunting, and fishing tools
- Pass on our traditional and cultural knowledge to next generation
- Implement the plan with unity in the future and work together to make things happen
- Come up with a plan that reflects on our past then successfully goes into the future
- Assure Shungnak can get funding with a comprehensive plan in place and address community sustainability considerations
- Community work together to get all done
- More improvements in our water system for the health of our community
- Roads developments and improvements
- Listen and learn (five responses)
- Plan younger group activities and education including our values, everyday living skills, and our Inupiaq language – e.g. grade K to adults – we don't need to have a lost generation and we can keep our youth out of trouble
- Listen and use our Elders now – right now is the time
- Help stick together no matter what the obstacles the are – maintain community unity and cooperation
- Have a successful week in Shungnak and identify the community needs and wants for the future, and improve Borough coordination and communication
- Help the community in the planning process and learn of Shungnak's plans
- Support the community to meet its goals

Community Comprehensive Plan Vision, Goals, Objectives and Priority Projects

Shungnak Community Vision

We, the Inupiaq Community of Shungnak guided with spirituality and utilizing our respect for Elders and Each other strive to ensure a safe, healthy community. While preserving our Heritage and Culture with unity and respect. Also develop responsible economic projects with Respect for our land and environment.

Shungnak Development Goals, Objectives and Priorities

Goal 1: To create infrastructure, facilities and housing for community expansion, jobs and training opportunities, modernization and community well-being.

Community Development Areas: Housing, Capital Projects and Infrastructure, Road and Transportation.

Objective 1.1: To create more facilities, infrastructure and promoter accommodate more housing for future expansion and modernization and community well-being.

Objective 1.2: To address access issues to other communities and developments projects for employment for economic expansion and joint community endeavors.

Goal 2: To encourage community participation and consolidate organizations for the safety and protection of our community

Community Development Areas: Governance, Public Safety

Objective 2.1: To create and sustain law enforcement and programs for safety and protection of life and property in Shungnak.

Objective 2.2: To encourage more public and community participation and inter-agency cooperation for more effective and responsive leadership and decision making.

Goal 3: To create and improve economic stability, self-sufficiency, self-determination and social and economic well-being consistence with our traditional culture.

Community Development Areas: Employment, Education and Training

Objective 3.1: To improve our education and knowledge and provide opportunities for self-sufficiency and self-determination and social and economic well-being.

Objective 3.2: To create jobs skills employability for economic stability in our community.

Goal 4: For our community to work together for our children and community to have healthy lifestyles to strengthen our culture and preserve our land.

Community Development Areas: Social, Health, Culture, Environment

Objective 4.1: To manage and protect our land resources for our livelihood and well-being.

Objective 4.2: To work together to accomplish things on our own and to be accountable and responsible for our children and community well-being

Objective 4.3: To strengthen and preserve our traditional culture for our community's survival and children's future.

Goal 5: To use our natural resources responsibly and sustain ably to create employment opportunities, stabilize our economy and lower our cost of living.

Community Development Areas: Natural Resources Development, Business Development and Tourism

Objective 5.1: To use natural resources responsibly, and sustain ably lowering our cost of living and creating jobs.

Objective 5.2: To expand and stabilize our economy by creating local jobs for our people and our children's future.

Objective 5.3: To create employment opportunities for community growth and sharing and strengthen our culture.

Top 10 Overall Community Development Projects For 2006-2011 (5 years)

1. New Dumpsite needs to relocate and move further away from the village and it is to close to the gravesite
2. Multi-purpose office building with the City and Tribe for additional office space to support more jobs in the community, centralize the utilities local government office
3. Housing/Lodge- Over crowding for substandard for arctic conditions and lack of rental housings and lodging for visitors
4. Cement and Basketball Court- for physical activity for youth and young adults also gives a social interaction for the community
5. Road to Bornite Road – Poor trail access, Shungnak supplies power to Kobuk
6. Culture Camp- to continue Inupiaq values for youth a place to learn survival skills from Elders and preserve our cultural traditions
7. Water Sources- lack of water source and poor water quality during high water
8. Youth Employment- We need more employment and income for our youth to become more independent
9. Village Law enforcement to reduce crime and enforce laws including curfew – VPSO and VPO
10. New Gravel Site- the gravel site is overcrowded and to close to the dumpsite and private property

Top 10 Capital Project Priorities 2006-11

1. Water Sources – Lack of water source and poor water quality during high water
2. New Dumpsite needs to relocate and move further away from the village and it is too close to the gravesite
3. Multi-purpose Building with the City and Tribe for additional office space to support more jobs in the community, centralize the utilities local government office
4. Road to Bornite Road – Poor trail access, Shungnak supplies power to Kobuk
5. Washeteria -
6. New Grave Site – the grave site is overcrowded and too close to the dumpsite and private property
7. Alternative and Renewable energy development and implementation to help produce electricity – e.g. wind generator and solar
8. New Dock Site
9. Cement Basketball Court for physical activity for youth and young adults also gives a social interaction for the community
10. Work on building new homes for our tribal members, and home weatherization, renovations and/or additions

Top 10 Community Projects/Activities Priorities 2006-11

1. Wellness Program
2. Culture Camp to continue Inupiaq values for youth a place learn survival skills from Elders and preserve our culture
3. Recycling Program
4. Grant Writing
5. Consolidate Services (City and IRA)
6. Youth Employment- We need more employment and income for our youth to become more independent
7. Inupiaq Days
8. Day Care
9. Village Law enforcement to reduce crime and enforce laws including curfew- VPSO and VPO
10. Local control of Fish and Game (Co-Management)

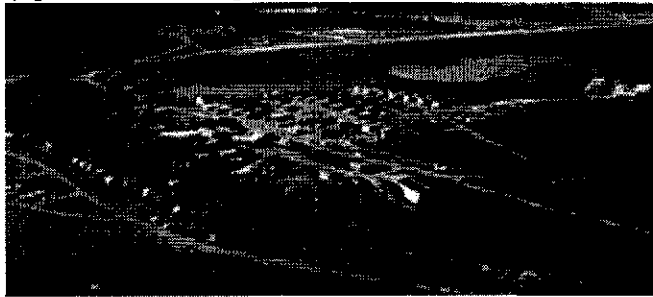
Shungnak Community Overview and Data

The following provides a common grounding of community data and information as it exists now (2006).

Community Profile

History

Long Beach founded in 1899 as a supply point for mining activities in the Cosmos Hills, this Inupiat Eskimo village was forced to move to nuusrviiraq in the 1920s because of river erosion and flooding. The old site, 10 miles upstream, was renamed Kobuk by those who remained there. The new village was named "Kochuk," but later reverted to Shungnak. This name is derived from the Eskimo word



"Issingnak," which means jade, a stone found extensively throughout the surrounding hills.

Shungnak is an Inupiaq community (Inupiaq means "real people",) active in their traditional way of life. They are proud of their culture and rely on their subsistence resources, including various kinds of fish, caribou, moose, bear, berries and other vegetation. Many are skilled in the traditional art of weaving of birch bark baskets, picture frames, carving of antlers, ivory and skin sewing.

Shungnak subsists mainly on fishing, seasonal employment, hunting and trapping. Subsistence food sources include sheefish, whitefish, caribou, moose, ducks and berries. Most full-time employment is with the school district, City, Native Village of Shungnak, NANA, Maniilaq Association and one store. BLM provides seasonal employment in fire fighting, hiring over 30 residents each year. Shungnak also has a strong arts and crafts industry; residents make and sell finely-crafted baskets, masks, mukluks, parkas, hats and mittens. The community wants to develop a visitor center, mini-mall, post office, Fuel Distribution, Jade Shop and clinic complex at Dahl Creek.

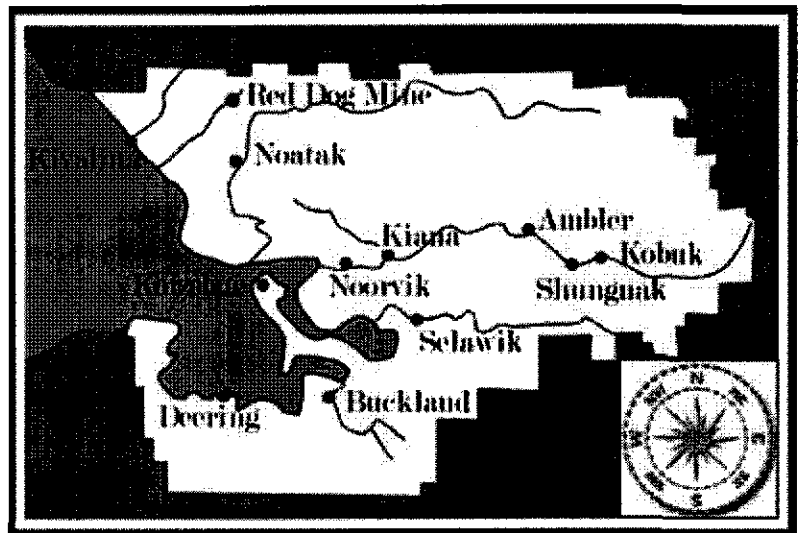
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Shungnak is located on the west bank of the Kobuk River about 150 air miles east of Kotzebue. The original settlement was 10 miles further upstream at Kobuk. It lies at approximately 66.888060° North Latitude and -157.13639° West Longitude. (Sec. 09, T017N, R008E, Kateel River Meridian.) Shungnak is located in the Kotzebue Recording District. The area encompasses 8.4 sq. miles of land and 1.3 sq. miles of water. The community is located in the transitional climate zone. Temperatures average -10 to 15 during winter; 40 to 65 during summer. Temperature extremes have been recorded from -60 to 90. Snowfall averages 80 inches, with 16 inches of total precipitation per year. The Kobuk River is navigable from the end of May to mid-October.

In 1906, the US Congress passed the Native Allotment Act which provided for conveyance of 160 acres of public land to Alaska Native adults; however, few tracts were issued because the Bureau of Land Management refused to recognize subsistence use of land as proof of “use and occupancy.”

On July 24, 1946, the Inupiaq people in Shungnak voted to duly ratify by vote (62 for and 2 against) to reorganize its traditional form of tribal government to an Indian Reorganization Act (IRA) Council (Constitution and Bylaws of the Native Village of Shungnak, Alaska). City of Shungnak was incorporated as a second-class city in 1967 and has a mayor-council form of government. The city employs a city administrator, clerk, water/sewer operator, cable maintenance operator, and a public works operator. The city has a 2 percent sales tax.

Shungnak is accessible by plane, barge or small boat. The State-owned lighted gravel runway is 4,500' long by 60' wide, and has scheduled regional air services. Major airport improvements are completed. Fuel and supplies are barged in each summer by Crowley Marine Services of Kotzebue when the river is high. Small boats, ATVs, snowmachines and dog sleds are used for local travel and subsistence activities. Trails along the river are still used for inter-village travel. Shungnak has no inter-village roads.



2000 Census Population and Housing Data

Shungnak is located in the Northwest Arctic Census Area.

Population by Race:	
Population in 2000:	256
White:	14
Alaska Native or American Indian	242
Black	0
Asian	0
Hawaiian Native	0
Other Race	0
Two or More Races	31
Percent Native*:	94.50%
(*Percent reporting Alaska Native alone or in combination with one or more races)	
All or Part Alaska Native/American Indian	242

Population by Gender and Age:	
Male:	130
Female:	126
Age 4 and under:	31
Age 5 - 9:	30
Age 10 - 14:	47
Age 15 - 19:	23
<i>Subtotal 5-19</i>	100
Age 20 - 24:	15
Age 25 - 34:	27
Age 35 - 44:	34
Age 45 - 54:	28
<i>Subtotal 20-54</i>	104
Age 55 - 59:	3
Age 60 - 64:	2
Age 65 - 74:	11
Age 75 - 84:	4
Age 85 and over:	1
<i>Subtotal 55 and over</i>	21
Median Age:	21.2