



Property Transferred to Borough for Parks Management

The Chena Flats Greenbelt Project has currently conserved for future generations over 270 acres between Chena Ridge and Chena Pump Road. These properties not only provide open-space to the neighborhood, but are also high-biological value wetlands, providing wildlife habitat and watershed services such as floodwater storage.



Chena Flats Greenbelt property transferred to the Fairbanks North Star Borough

The Chena Flats Greenbelt completed its first transfer of a property to the Fairbanks North Star Borough for management as a passive public park. The Borough in turn granted a permanent conservation easement on the land to the IALT. The Assembly officially approved the transfer as part of the consent agenda for the June 11th Regular Meeting. We had full support from the Parks Department, the Mayor's Office, and the Assembly. It was very gratifying to see the appreciation of the IALT's work by the local government and the support for greenspace in our community. The Borough ownership will provide more professional management of these large Greenbelt parcels, reduce IALT's tax burden, and yet ensure

permanent protection of the property's conservation values through the easement.

Event to Welcome New Land Acquisition

IALT will be holding an Outdoor Open House to introduce people to the north end of the Chena Flats Greenbelt, 2-5 pm on Saturday September 26th. This 89-acres parcel has been recently added to the Greenbelt, and includes a portion of Lower Cripple Creek and the Cripple Creek Ditch. It is a mix of woods and wetlands, with numerous trails. Come learn about the property and tell us what you know about it. What is your vision for how this property can be best enjoyed and conserved? There will be snacks and games for kids. To get to the Open House, take the first right off of Chena Pump Road after you pass Chena Ridge Rd., just before the transfer station. Look for the signs and balloons!

Statewide Land Trust Meeting

The Interior Alaska Land Trust (IALT) is helping organize this year's gathering of the Alaska land trusts. It will be held in Anchorage 18-19 September 2009. Wendy Ninteman, the Land Trust Alliance (LTA) Western Regional Director, and Sylvia Bates from LTA will attend and help present workshops and training to the attendees. All 6 Alaska land trusts will be sending representatives. There will be training on wetland conservation in Alaska.

The land trusts will also work together on standards and practices that can lead to accreditation by the national Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance. Independent accreditation provides the assurance of quality and permanence in land conservation which lawmakers and the public are looking for. This process publicly recognizes a land trust's ability to protect

important natural places and working lands forever.

The IALT has received \$2500 grant from the Pacific Coast Joint Ventures and Ducks Unlimited to help put on this conference.

Army Compatible Use Buffer Program

The IALT has been engaged in discussions with the US Army for a partnership with the Army's Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) program. This could be a powerful tool for conserving land around Fort Wainwright and wetlands in the greater Fairbanks area.

ACUBs establish buffer areas around Army installations to limit the effects of encroachment and maximize land inside the installation that can be used to support the installation's mission. Conservation organizations such as land trusts are becoming the military's most effective partners by collaborating to protect land adjacent to military installations.

An ACUB allows a military base to work with partners to encumber land so as to protect its habitat and permit military training, without acquiring any new land for Army ownership. The program allows the Army to contribute funds to the land trust's purchase of easements or properties from willing landowners. Land trusts provide landowner negotiations, stewardship, legal easement contracts, and experience with local residents. These partnerships preserve high-value habitat and limit incompatible development in the vicinity of military installations.

Sally Andersen, Project Director of the Chena Flats Greenbelt project and IALT Board member Roselynn Ressa attended a meeting on the ACUB at Fort Wainwright. They report that, "the Army is looking to buffer its lands, specifically a small arms training range, and to mitigate its wetlands impacts, by partnering with the IALT. In some cases they have specific parcels in which they are interested, and also need to preserve wetlands in general."

IALT is interested in participating in this program to help with both goals, to decrease land-use conflicts around military land and to preserve threatened and high-value wetlands in the Fairbanks area.

New IALT Stewardship Coordinator

Frank Keim is the IALT's new Stewardship Coordinator. Frank told us, "when the Land Trust Board asked if I would be interested in being their stewardship coordinator, I replied that it was right down my alley, and I'd be happy to do what I loved to do best, walk and ski. And that's what I've been doing as your new land inspector."

IALT Board President Martha Reynolds has been familiarizing Frank with IALT properties. They walked the land that we own in Goldstream Valley, including the Blueberry Preserves and the Peat Ponds. They also talked with landowners who have donated easements to the IALT and visited their properties, to ensure that the conservation values of the property are being safeguarded as the landowners intended.

The IALT greatly appreciates Frank's time, the depth of his experience with natural systems in the Fairbanks area and his sincere concern for appropriate land use. The IALT would not be able to provide this level of land stewardship without help from people like Frank who appreciate and enjoy participating in the conservation of these properties.

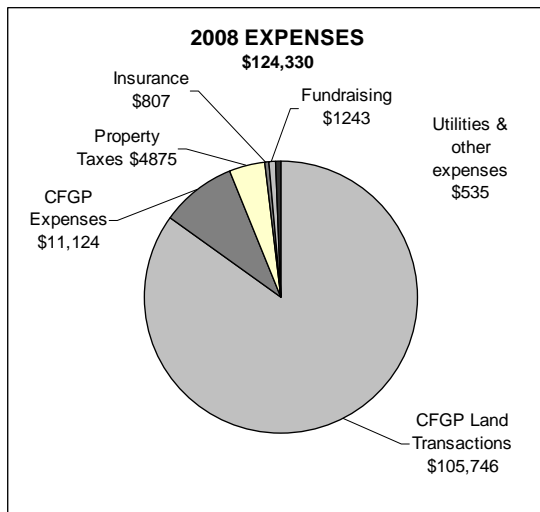
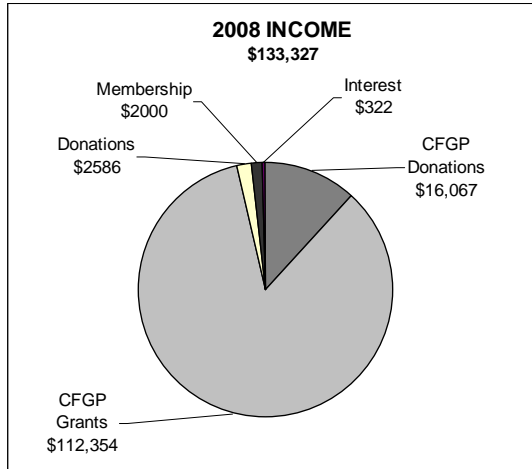
Owner Benefits from Granting an Easement

As a result of granting a conservation easement to the IALT, FNSB property taxes for one landowner dropped 90%, from \$5,717.84 in 2007 to \$582.38 in 2008. This is very persuasive evidence of the immediate tax benefits for anyone interested in granting the IALT a conservation easement on their land.

Your Land Trust Finances

The Interior Alaska Land Trust is financially sound, but we need additional operating funds to support our growing work. As you will see below our primary source of income is grant funds for land acquisition. We are an all-volunteer organization, but are now contemplating hiring part-time staff to accommodate the increase in community land donations and conservation easements to the

organization. Our work with the Chena Flats Greenbelt project has also greatly increased the demands on the volunteer board. We solicit your donations and renewed memberships to support the protection of valuable community assets and to help us to carry out our mission.



Other Chena Flats Greenbelt News

The Interior Alaska Land Trust received four grants for the Chena Flats Greenbelt project in 2008 totaling \$112,345. These funds were used to purchase properties for the Greenbelt. Sally Andersen has continued to be successful in finding and writing grant applications for programs that could provide funding this project. The project received a second small NAWCA grant for \$68,000. Sally's efforts also resulted in a State Trails Grant for \$50,000.

Both of these grants were written for properties under negotiation for purchase.

Sally Andersen continues to work with landowners in the Chena Flats Greenbelt area to find the best vehicle for conserving the land while meeting the landowners' goals. Some properties may be subdivided, with the landowner retaining the upland portion, and the wetlands becoming part of the Greenbelt.

Many of the Greenbelt land purchases have been carried out through a partnership between the IALT and The Conservation Fund. The Conservation Fund is a national organization that works with local organizations to conserve land. The Chena Flats Greenbelt Project has also received support from the US Fish & Wildlife Service.

IALT Monthly Board Meetings

Our Board Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month, starting at 6 pm. The meetings are open to the public. We meet, thanks to Hank Bartos' generosity, at the Century 21 Conference Room on Gillam Way at 6 p.m.

Ms. Nicole Pearce attended a recent meeting of the IALT and introduced herself. She has worked for the Nature Conservancy and the Jefferson Land Trust in Washington State. She was with the latter when they went through the Land Trust Alliance (LTA) accreditation process. She's been to several LTA Rallies, and Statewide and Regional conferences. In Alaska she has worked at Denali National Park, the Alaska Bird Observatory as their outreach and funding coordinator, and is now working at the University of Alaska.

We are excited to have someone with Nicole's experience in our community. She has already helped Sally Andersen on some Greenbelt projects, and had offered to continue to lend her expertise to IALT.

National Land Trust Conference

The Land Trust Alliance's annual Rally will be held in Portland Oregon 11-14 October 2009. This annual gathering of land trusts and other land conservation organizations provides high

quality training, lots of specific advice for land trusts, and inspirational descriptions of the work that land trusts are doing in communities across the U.S.

Anyone with an interest in land conservation is invited, and guaranteed to come away inspired and empowered. Take a look at the web site if you are interested:

<http://www.landtrustalliance.org/learning/rally/rally-2009>

Greenbelt coordinator, Sally Andersen and Board members Martha Reynolds and Roselyn Ressa will be attending Rally. While much of

the cost will be borne by the attendees, the US Fish & Wildlife Service has agreed to sponsor Sally's attendance, and we received a scholarship from the Land Trust Alliance to help defray Roselynn and Martha's travel costs.

Land Trust Website

The Interior Alaska Land Trust web site is: www.interiaklandtrust.com. We've spruced up the old web site, so take a look. We hope the web site has all the resources you need. If not, be sure to let us know. We have a new Google e-mail: interiaklandtrust@gmail.com.



P.O. Box 84169, Fairbanks AK 99709

Outdoor Open House
Lower Cripple Creek Woods
Saturday 26 Sept. 2-5 pm
Food, games & beautiful land!
First right off Chena Pump Road