



# MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

## Office of the Borough Manager

350 East Dahlia Avenue • Palmer, AK 99645

Phone (907) 861-8689 • Fax (907) 861-8669

[Mike.Brown@matsugov.us](mailto:Mike.Brown@matsugov.us)

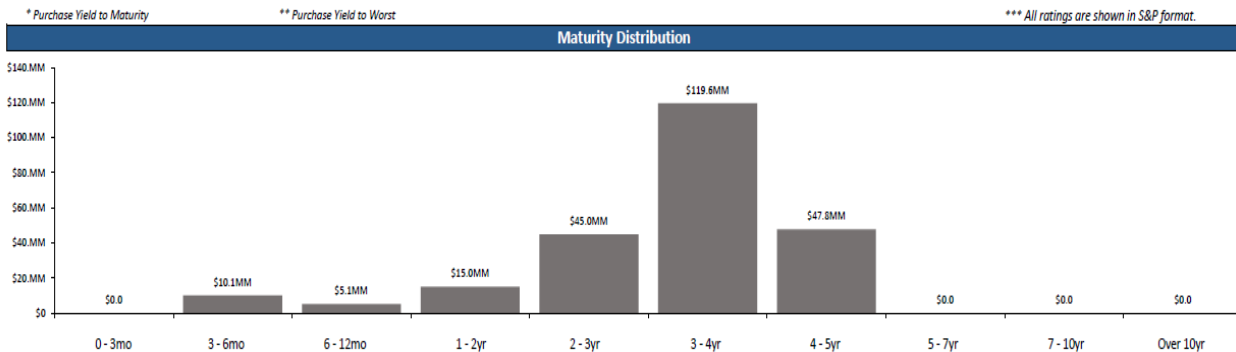
### MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 27, 2021  
 TO: Mayor and Assembly  
 FROM: Michael Brown, Borough Manager  
 RE: Manager's Weekly Post

**November Preview:** Due to the election, there is only one Assembly meeting in November. The certification of the election will occur at 5 p.m. on November 16 followed by the regular meeting at 6 p.m. At the regular meeting, there will be a public hearing on the potential federally funded project listing. As previously mentioned, if an Assembly member desires to add a project(s), please let Administration know and we will assist with the development of an amendment(s). The Assembly will also be considering a resolution for improvements using the funding from the \$10 million State Legislative grant for pavement rehabilitation. A draft of the project listing for this grant is listed below. The Alaska Municipal League (AML) annual local government conference will also be held in Anchorage in mid-November.

### Investment Summary from 7/1/2021-9/30/2021:

- Total return for the last quarter was 0.08% with interest received of \$610,473.
- Average market value for our portfolio was \$244,602,767.
- Weighted average to maturity for non-callable bonds is 3.22 years and for callable bonds is 2.05 years.



## Mat-Su Borough Trails End of Summer Season Report 2021:

The 2021 MSB Summer Trail Crew began work in May 2021 and began to see some members depart beginning in early August. This was a smaller crew than usual due to hiring challenges, mainly associated with COVID-19 issues. Despite being short staffed, this crew was able to accomplish a lot of quality work.



In addition to the MSB trail crew, a group from the Student Conservation Association assisted with projects on the West Butte Trail and Settlers Bay Coastal Park from August 9 - September 9. This crew consisted of four to five members and was funded by grants.



An additional crew of Alaska Trail Stewards helped at Settlers Bay from September 14-18 and facilitated a 10-person volunteer group on September 18. This five-member crew was funded by grants as well.

The MSB Trail Specialist organized and oversaw all of the work performed by these groups. Several of this season's projects would not have been possible without these two additional crews. 2021 was truly a team effort!

Some of the highlights from this season include:

- Eight MSB Trail Crew members obtaining their Wilderness First Aid Certification

- Completing approximately 80 miles of beginning and end of season trail surveys (TRACS). These surveys help to prioritize projects, identify new issues, and evaluate completed work.



*Providing Outstanding Borough Services to the Matanuska-Susitna Community*

- Re-graveling the last approximately half-mile of the lower portion of the West Butte Trail. This was the culmination of a project that was started three years ago.



- Completing the building and graveling of the last approximately four-fifths of a mile of accessible Mat River Trail bond project from the Mat River Campground to West Eagle Ave. and North Gulkana St. near Sherrod Elementary School, including gateway and trail signs. This project was started in 2018 and now connects the trail from the Mat River Bridge to Palmer through the Mat River Park for a total of 1.3 miles.



- Graveling the approximately half-mile accessible trail at Settlers Bay Coastal Park. This trail was cut in at the end of the 2020 season but the gravel work could not be completed until September of this year due to its proximity to an active eagle nest.
- Graveling and compacting the approximately one-sixteenth mile accessible trail and concert area at Fish Creek Park in Big Lake.



- Building and graveling the approximately one-fifteenth mile Denali View trail on A Street in Talkeetna.





- Brushing approximately 50 miles of trails



- Approximately five weeks of logging out fallen trees, or standing hazard trees, or new trail corridor clearing.



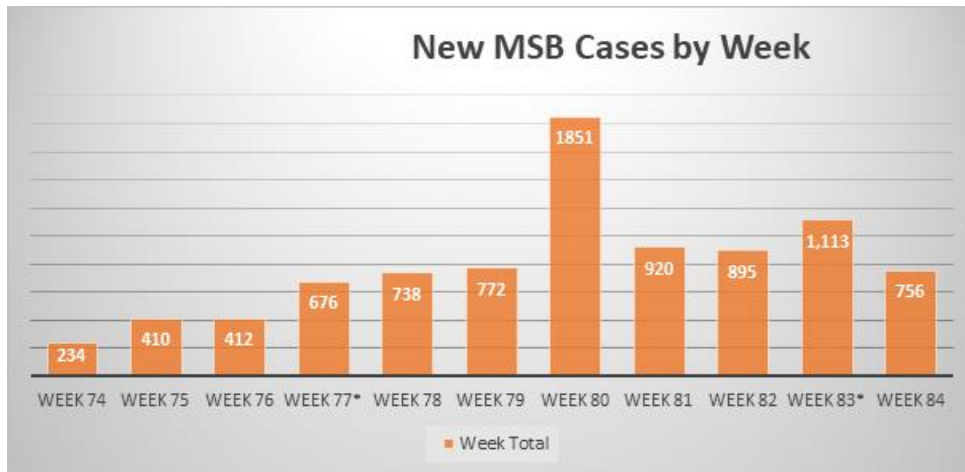
- Installing 120 new railing posts on the crib step section of the West Butte Trail. This project was funded by Usibelli Coal Mine through the Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation.



- Repairing tread and drains on approximately 15 miles of trails.
- Building approximately one-quarter of “intermediate” mountain bike optimized trail at Setters Bay Coastal Park. This trail involved work from the MSB Trail Crew, the Student Conservation Association Crew, and the Alaska Trail Stewards Crew and will be completed in 2022.



**COVID-19 Update:**



Statewide			
	All Ages	12+	65+
1+ Dose	53.9%	64.7%	78.3%
Fully Vaccinated	49.9%	59.9%	75.1%
Total Doses Administered: 768,994			

Mat-Su Borough			
	All Ages	12+	65+
1+ Dose	38.4%	47.7%	65%
Fully Vaccinated	34.8%	43.1%	62%
Total Doses Administered: 77,380			

**Public Affairs Media Flyover:**

**Fisheries**

- [Board of Fish Should stand strong on current Cook inlet fisheries management plan-Opinion- ADN](#)

**State**

- [Redistricting board hosts statewide public information sessions - The Skaqway News.](#)
- [Alaska joins 19-state effort opposing higher natural gas and oil costs](#)

**Economy – BBBRC \$100 M Federal Grant**

- [Frontiersman](#)
- [Anchorage Press](#)
- [Trains](#)

**Tourism**

- [Gateway Visitor Center on short list to Federal funding](#)

**Election**

- [Mat-Su Mayor race a three-way contest again](#)

## **Assembly**

- [Port MacKenzie Rail given new life through possible Build Back Better grant funds and other Assembly actions](#)

## **Community**

- [Comsat quarry drawing concerns – KTNA](#)

## **MSB Press Release**

- [MSB Submits \\$100M Build Back Better Application](#)

## **Future Events:**

**November 10, 2021 at 2pm** – Ribbon Cutting, Willow Library