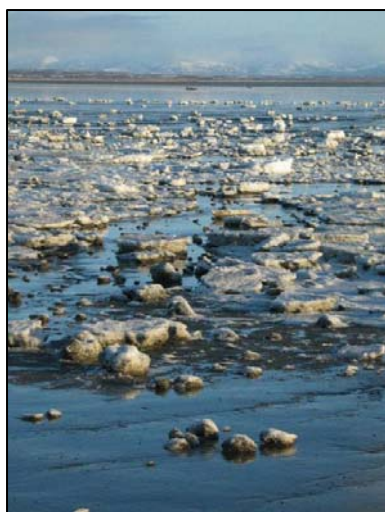


INTRODUCTION & SUMMARY OF GOALS

“We want to plan for future development and services and to find out what’s important to our community.”



Break-Up on Togiak Bay

Process to Prepare the Twin Hills Comprehensive Plan

The Twin Hills Comprehensive Plan, 2005, builds on previous plans completed by the community. Specifically, this plan draws from the 2002 Twin Hills Long-Range Transportation Plan, various utilities plans, housing development plans, clinic plan, and other relevant plans. A bibliography is included in Appendix A of this document.

The following table summarizes the process to prepare this Comprehensive Plan.

Date	Activity
February 10, 2005	Twin Hills Planning Team Introduction Workshop
March 30, 2005	Twin Hills Planning Team Workshop
April 15, 2005	Twin Hills Planning Team Workshop
October 13, 2005	Twin Hills Community Planning Workshop
October 30, 2005	Completion of Comprehensive Plan document

Project Area

Twin Hills is located near the mouth of the Twin Hills River, a tributary of the Togiak River, 386 miles southwest of Anchorage. The area encompasses 21.8 sq. miles of land and 0.3 sq. miles of water. The project area considered in this plan includes all lands commonly used by Twin Hills residents. Lands in common use represent a mix of ownership: ownership by the Twin Hills Native Corporation, Twin Hills Village Council, private persons, and the state and federal government.

Areas most closely considered in this study include the main village area, the airport, roads and trails, outlying facilities and structures, and important fishing, hunting, berry harvesting and other subsistence areas.

Purpose of Plan

Villages, regional organizations and statewide entities all recognize the need for communities to clearly state their goals and visions for the future. Community planning is the process of coming together to agree on a future direction, and gathering momentum to carry it forward. A united community is like a river that starts out braided and dispersed, but gains power by funneling all its separate channels into one stream. A united community, regardless of size or location, can achieve its goals through building consensus and clearly pursuing a direction that all community members support. This is the key to self-sufficiency and self-governance.

Community goals can range from constructing facilities, such as housing or a community center, to expanding infrastructure, creating jobs, protecting subsistence areas and sustaining cultural traditions. By planning ahead, villages can act on new opportunities and be prepared for challenges associated with economic and demographic changes.

Support in State Statutes

In Alaska, comprehensive plans are mandated of all organized municipalities by Title 29 of the Alaska State Statutes. While Twin Hills is part of the Unorganized Borough, and therefore not covered under this mandate, a comprehensive plan is nevertheless useful to help guide community development. The key elements of the state statute are extracted below:

State Statute Sec. 29.40.030. Comprehensive plan

- (a) The comprehensive plan is a compilation of policy statements, goals, standards, and maps for guiding the physical, social, and economic development, both private and public, of the first or second class borough, and may include, but is not limited to, the following:
 - Statements of policies, goals, and standards;
 - Land use plan;
 - Community facilities plan;
 - Transportation plan; and,
 - Recommendations for implementing a comprehensive plan.
- (b) With the recommendations of the planning commission, the assembly shall adopt by ordinance a comprehensive plan. The assembly shall, after receiving the recommendations of the planning commission, periodically undertake an overall review of the comprehensive plan and update the plan as necessary.

Requirements of Funding Organizations

In addition to Alaska State Statutes, funding agencies have become increasingly interested in community planning and many are now requiring that some type of community plan be in place in order to fund infrastructure and economic development projects. For example, the United States Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) requires a unique planning process and document called a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) to qualify for assistance under its economic adjustment, planning, and public works programs.

In addition, beginning with the Federal Fiscal Year 2005 funding cycle, the Denali Commission, which partners with other state and federal agencies and nonprofit agencies, will require a community to have a comprehensive community plan identifying community priority projects prior to funding considerations. This plan is intended to meet the criteria of both the Denali Commission and the EDA, and fulfill the planning requirement for those funding sources.

Planning Efforts in Bristol Bay

Bristol Bay regional organizations have recently increased their capacity to assist villages with completing community plans. The Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation (BBEDC) has developed a grant program to assist member villages with planning efforts. This plan was funded through a BBEDC grant.

Bristol Bay Native Association (BBNA) developed a Community Development Inventory and a *Community and Economic Development Planning Guidebook* to assist village planning efforts, through a grant from the US Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration. The Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference (SWAMC) has developed a web-based inventory of community development priorities and planning efforts.

In addition, both BBNA and SWAMC have completed regional plans that complement this village plan, which are available through the State of Alaska website:

- BBNA Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, 2004 at: http://www.dced.state.ak.us/dca/oedp/pubs/SWAMC_CEDS03.pdf
- Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference (SWAMC) Economic Development Strategy, 2003 - 2008, updated 2004 at http://www.dced.state.ak.us/dca/oedp/pubs/SWAMC_CEDS03.pdf

A Comprehensive Plan:

Includes a general statement of community goals

Looks ahead 10, 20, 30 years

Increases local control over changes affecting community life

Helps secure resources to carry out community priorities

Becomes the foundation for implementing priority actions: roads, trails, public facilities, land use policies, economic development

Summary of Goals and Priority Actions

Land Use, Housing & Environment

1. **Preserve and protect subsistence and recreation resources from pressures from commercial and sport fishing, and sport hunting.**
2. **Protect natural beauty, maintain clean environment and protect water and air quality.**
3. **Create viable, long-term options for river access.**
4. **Manage future development so that housing and infrastructure does not overextend the villages' resources and ability to maintain.**
5. **Identify and protect historic sites, including the old village site at the beach and the village cemetery.**
6. **Maintain trails and limit access to surrounding lands to protect rights-of-way and eliminate trespass.**

Community Wellness, Culture & Education

1. **Teach youth and adults traditional skills, language and knowledge.**
2. **Improve health of all community members.**
3. **Provide healthy and fun activities for youth.**
4. **Provide excellent education opportunities close to home.**
5. **Increase availability of quality housing for all residents.**
6. **Support families caring for elders.**
7. **Provide good role models for youth.**



Youth participation in community gatherings always adds to the event

Public Services & Transportation

- 1. Ensure good, safe transportation in and around community.**
- 2. Manage waste to keep community clean, protect environment.**
- 3. Manage fuel and energy costs.**
- 4. Ensure good access to water, sewer facilities.**
- 5. Improve facilities to support cultural, educational goals.**
- 6. Provide phone and Internet access for all residents.**
- 7. Through transportation planning, facilities and services planning and communication with Togiak, coordinate to share services.**

Economy

- 1. Increase the number of jobs and locally-owned businesses.**
- 2. Improve marketing for cultural arts & crafts and locally-beneficial tourism.**
- 3. Identify feasible ways to increase village-based fish processing and marketing.**
- 4. Create job training and skill-building opportunities for youth and adults. Increase residents' ability and desire to obtain good jobs within the community.**

Leadership

- 1. Continue to fund community plans and priorities.**
- 2. Maintain good communication with regional, state and federal entities.**
- 3. Create a Community Wellness Team.**
- 4. Bring up youth leaders.**

VISION & VALUES

Values

Family

- Safety and health of families
- Small community
- Good housing and services
- Local health services
- Good school

Strong Local Economy

- Want strong economy to keep families here
- Local supplies and reasonable prices
- New business ideas
- Education, Internet connection

Good subsistence

- Fishing
- Hunting
- Berry picking
- Water fowl spots

Beautiful Area

- Close to mountains, but not too close
- Can see the weather coming – prepare and be ready
- Close to ocean

Clean Environment

- Good water and air
- Alternative sources of energy
- Good landfill, water and sewer management



Reading together.