

# COMMUNITY VISION, STRENGTHS & GOALS

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## Community Vision Statement

Over the next 20 years, the people and organizations with a stake in the future of Dillingham – residents young and old, business and property owners, non-profit organizations, tribal governments and corporations, local, state and federal agencies and others – will actively work together to guide the improvement of Dillingham, as a place to live, work and visit. Dillingham will need to overcome significant challenges in order to grow its economy and attract and retain residents. To do this will require working together toward:

- A more manageable cost of living, focused on reducing energy costs;
- More diverse housing options, and more housing within the purchasing power of young families, single people, school teachers, and others with modest incomes;
- A vital business environment, offering more job and entrepreneurial opportunities, particularly for young people;
- A thriving harbor and port that positions Dillingham as the home of the Bristol Bay commercial fishing fleet and provides infrastructure for value-added processing and shipping of high quality fish products;
- A bustling, attractive, walkable downtown, a place residents will be proud of and visitors will enjoy;
- A well planned and managed system of public infrastructure; an efficient system of roads, sidewalks and trails, so people of all ages can get around conveniently and safely by a variety of means;
- Excellent public recreation opportunities, including trails, parks and open spaces, and better places for indoor recreation;
- A healthy community that works together to promote positive behaviors with a range of human services and supports to meet local needs;
- An excellent primary and secondary educational system that prepares our youth for the future
- A sustainable community that protects and celebrates its out-the-backdoor access to a healthy, natural environment, including groundwater and surface waterways, wetlands and subsistence areas; development that is designed and located to fit compatibly with natural systems;
- A community that respects and maintains its traditions while looking ahead to respond to the challenges and opportunities of the future.

## Community Strengths

Dillingham has a number of important strengths and shared values from which to draw. The following list was developed by the Community Wellness work group.

1. Family and cultural connections: a close community
2. Strong sense of history and culture: Elders who teach about the past
3. Active in the outdoors: subsistence, recreation, exploration and, commercial fishing
4. Art, culture and community events that bring people together
5. Community organizations that work together: history of strong collaboration and cooperation among groups and agencies
6. Caring community that reaches out to those in need
7. Excellent emergency response in a crisis
8. Families, schools and other organizations help raise our children and youth to take advantage of opportunities for the future
9. Growing our community: attracting young people, creating jobs, living sustainably (local energy, local food, local economy)
10. Organized, active community groups focused on primary prevention and effective interventions: promoting our strengths rather than focusing on our weaknesses
11. Building youth leadership capacity and providing youth with meaningful roles in community life

## Summary of Goals

### Land Use and Housing

*Overarching Goal:* Guide the physical development of Dillingham, responding to the elements outlined in the community vision, including strengthening the economy, protecting the natural environment, and enhancing the quality of daily life.

- GOAL 1: Improve the safety and appearance of downtown; cluster and mix retail, office, lodging, public facilities, higher density housing and other uses to create a more vital business district; encourage walking and reduce costs for providing public services.
- GOAL 2: Establish a generalized plan for future land use in Dillingham identifying, in broad terms, areas intended for various groups of uses.
- GOAL 3: Encourage a greater variety and number of housing types and sizes in Dillingham, including more housing for young families, single people, school teachers and other workers.
- GOAL 4: Encourage quality subdivision planning and development to improve access and utility provision to lots, and to protect the environment.
- GOAL 5: Encourage land use practices that conserve energy and maintain or reduce costs for providing public services at three scales: city-wide, subdivision, and individual homes.
- GOAL 6: Allocate land for industrial, institutional and commercial development to support economic and community development and minimize conflicts with other uses.
- GOAL 7: Ensure that existing and future land uses protect the natural environment to maintain:
  - Clean surface water: keep water bodies free from septic pollution, hydrocarbons, and non-point source pollution such as fertilizers;
  - Clean well water;
  - Healthy subsistence areas;
  - Clean air: discourage air polluting industries and monitor pollution from wood burning heat sources;
  - Natural beauty: landscape features and access to views that accentuate the beauty of the land and water;
  - Dark night skies: Minimize light pollution (for example, direct street lights downward; street lights should be energy efficient), and
  - Quiet: minimize noise pollution.

- GOAL 8: Prepare development guidelines and regulations to protect property values and neighboring land values. Enforce regulations fairly and uniformly.
- GOAL 9: Develop parks, open space, and recreation.

## Transportation

*Overarching Goal:* Develop and maintain an integrated transportation system that provides a range of safe and efficient ways to move people and goods within, as well as in and out of Dillingham; provide for both utilitarian needs such as access to jobs, schools, services and facilities, subsistence resources, and for recreation and health.

- GOAL 1: Bring together the parties with primary responsibility for transportation planning and funding, to jointly develop near and long-range transportation plans.
- GOAL 2: Improve the system of roads, docks and harbors, and airports to meet current and anticipated future needs, minimize maintenance costs, and to minimize potential conflicts between transportation and other community goals.
- Goal 3: Identify, reserve and improve an integrated system of sidewalks, trails and transit to provide safe and attractive alternatives to traditional private vehicles, both for traveling within Dillingham, and connecting to surrounding villages. More actively manage sidewalk and trail use to increase safety and reduce environmental impacts.
- Goal 4: Improve downtown circulation; create a safer, more efficient and more enjoyable place for pedestrians, cars, trucks, ATVs and snowmachines.
- Goal 5: Refine subdivision access standards to ensure that quality roads and trails are in place to meet future transportation needs.

## Waterfront

*Overarching Goal:* Develop the waterfront as the active edge of Dillingham, a gateway to the region; the base for the commercial fishing industry, the anchor of the local economy; a vital subsistence area; and, an open space and recreational resource for residents and visitors. Create a functional, safe, interesting place for a diverse mix of activities amidst a dynamic landscape impacted by tides, ice and erosion.

- GOAL 1: Strengthen and diversify Dillingham’s economy by developing infrastructure to support waterfront commercial and industrial activities, in particular, actions that create more local benefit from commercial fishing, and improve access to local services and businesses.
- GOAL 2: Improve access to and from the waterfront for fish, freight, and commerce
- GOAL 3: Take full advantage of Dillingham’s waterfront both where it is a “working waterfront” and where it is less developed, as an important amenity for residents and visitors.
- GOAL 4: Better understand, monitor and respond to waterfront natural hazards, including shoreline erosion.
- GOAL 5: Train workforce and create jobs in the marine industry.

## Economic Development

*Overarching Goal:* Diversify and strengthen Dillingham’s economic base to ensure a prosperous future for the community’s residents while protecting the health of the environment.

- GOAL 1: Increase the role of commercial fisheries in our economy.
- GOAL 2: Support efforts to educate the local workforce and to provide opportunities for living-wage employment.
- GOAL 3: Grow local businesses and industries.
- GOAL 4: Support efforts that strengthen local capacity to deliver and expand community services.
- GOAL 5: Support policies that promote energy efficiency and conservation.
- GOAL 6: Maintain and protect subsistence harvest areas and the subsistence economy.
- GOAL 7: Substantially improve the appearance and attractions of downtown Dillingham to make this a more desirable destination for visitors and for residents.
- GOAL 8: Strengthen Dillingham’s position as a premier tourism destination.

## Energy

*Overarching Goal:* Reduce energy consumption and costs to decrease the cost of living, facilitate diverse economic development, and ensure Dillingham's viability into the future.

- GOAL 1: Reduce energy consumption.
- GOAL 2: Develop new, alternative energy sources and innovative methods to reduce the cost of energy.
- GOAL 3: Reduce reliance on costly imported goods; increase production and reliance on local resources.

## Community Wellness and Education

*Overarching Goal:* All Dillingham residents and organizations will work together to overcome economic and health disparities; to promote positive development and empowerment for children and youth; and, to support healthy, productive lives for adults and Elders.

- GOAL 1: Promote cultural awareness, social connectedness and physical health.
- GOAL 2: Promote positive development and empower all community members through education to lead healthy and productive lives.
- GOAL 3: Increase the integration of the public health and educational systems. Focus on promoting health, preventing disease, and using rehabilitative treatment to maximize functioning; reduce interpersonal violence and teen pregnancy, prevent suicide, reduce substance abuse, and address mental and behavioral health issues.

## Public Facilities and Services

*Overarching Goal:* Develop and maintain sustainable public facilities and services to support community and economic development for Dillingham residents and improve the quality of life.

- Goal 1: Identify and secure adequate, ongoing revenue to operate and maintain community facilities, services and equipment.
- Goal 2: Develop and maintain areas and facilities for indoor and outdoor recreation.
- Goal 3: Develop and maintain new facilities to meet the needs of Dillingham residents.