

Leadership

Context

The health of a community depends greatly on the clear communication between its community members. Communities can accomplish projects and address issues of concern most easily when everyone affected understands and agrees on community-wide goals and the means to reach these goals. Neighbors, employers, Council members, funding entities, service providers, Elders and youth work best together when they are able to talk with and listen to each other easily. Keeping good lines of communication open among the residents, tribal members, entities and representatives of Portage Creek is an essential step towards achieving the goals of this plan.



To grow Portage Creek’s population, to build its transportation and public facilities infrastructure, to provide the desired types of health, schooling and related services will all take a partnership of local and regional entities and residents and tribal members who are committed to working together to create their vision of a vibrant, healthy community.

Goals

- 1. Increase control over land use and development issues affecting Portage Creek.**
- 2. Encourage leadership organizations and residents to work together to support the overall health and growth of the community.**
- 3. Maintain good relationships and work closely with other Nushagak area Bristol Bay communities on issues affecting the whole area.**
- 4. Build on the knowledge of Elders and traditional ways of life to guide Portage Creek’s future.**
- 5. Work with Portage Creek youth to become the next generation of leaders.**

Goals & Priority Actions

1. Increase control over land use and development issues affecting Portage Creek.

- Ensure Portage Creek village leaders maintain a “place at the table” in regional decision-making regarding resource development that will affect our subsistence resources and environment.
- Support local businesses that provide a steady source of revenue for the community. Encourage sustainable visitor-related economic development.
- Consider projects that will generate revenue for the village, such as fuel sales, land sales or a Visitor’s Center.

2. Encourage leadership organizations and residents to work together to support the overall health and growth of the community.

- Build a community database and create a Portage Creek newsletter to keep members connected to the community and aware of ongoing projects and new developments. Seek input from members when issues arise that affect the whole community.
- Improve the ability of these groups to share information at community meetings.
- Post meeting notices clearly to provide the community with adequate notice about upcoming meetings and what will be discussed at the meetings. Identify strategies, policies, and procedures to ensure that meetings are posted, announced on the VHF, and residents are called well in advance of meetings.
- Ensure that participants’ conduct during meetings helps facilitate the progress of achieving the meeting’s goals. Hold everyone to same guidelines of good behavior.
- Provide education about the policies and procedures of the Village Council’s constitution.
- Provide board training for community organizations.

3. Maintain good relationships and work closely with other Nushagak area communities on issues of area-wide concern.

- Hold joint meetings with Portage Creek Village Council and Choggiung, Ltd.
- Hold community-building events to maintain the community’s coherency and prevent divisions.
- Establish a regularly published and updated Village Council newsletter, community calendar, and website.
- Identify strategies for improving meeting organization; coordination of activities and groups; publicizing and announcing activities.

4. Build on the knowledge of Elders and traditional ways of life to guide Portage Creek’s future.

- Employ elders at school when re-opened.

5. Work with Portage Creek youth to become the next generation of leaders.

- Create a youth representative position on the Village Council. The youth representative will assure that youth perspectives are presented during Council discussions. In addition, it will provide youth an opportunity to learn leadership skills from other leaders in the community.
- Establish a youth tribal court in Portage Creek.
- Establish a cultural camp that is similar to the one in New Stuyahok, but that is unique to Portage Creek.
- Bridge the gap between ANCSA shareholders and non-shareholders, especially regarding higher education opportunities.
- Work with school to establish a curriculum on tribal and city governance.
- Improve youth education on issues affecting Portage Creek, such as impact of river fish camps on river, water-quality monitoring, etc.
- Create opportunities for youth to spend time with and learn from Elders (see “Community Wellness, Culture & Education Goal 4).
- Involve youth in entrepreneurial activities such as community store, boat rental, guiding, mail delivery, development of cultural tours, organizing Bingo night, etc.
- Involve youth in community projects such as community clean-up day, building a new dock, upkeep of the church, etc..