

2018-2021 Holy Cross Community Plan



PREPARED BY:
HOLY CROSS TRADITIONAL COUNCIL
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TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE, PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the Spring of 2018, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Planning and Development program contracted with Holy Cross Tribe to hire Sonta Hamilton Roach of Hamilton Consulting to create a Community Plan.

The Holy Cross Community Plan was a cooperative effort between the Holy Cross Tribal Council, the Holy Cross City Council and Community Members. The plan is a reflection of their efforts and is intended to be used as a tool to guide future development.

The goals and objectives in this plan reflect the top priorities in seven categories that were identified by Holy Cross' community members. These goals will be utilized to plan future projects and guide future development.

COMMUNITY VALUES

- Community and Family Health & Wellness
- Strength & Unity
- Traditional Singing and Dancing
- Deg Xinag & Yup'ik Language Learning
- Hard Working
- Responsive Leadership
- Land and Natural Resources
- Raising Future Leaders
- Education

COMMUNITY VISION

“Our vision is to be a healthy, prosperous community that balances a subsistence lifestyle, that restores traditional singing and dancing, that promotes education and leadership development, and that protects and enhances our lands for future generations.”

AT A GLANCE: *COMMUNITY GOALS & ACTION ITEMS*

1. Land: Enhance local land management to promote land use opportunities and improve sufficient community growth

- 1.1 Establish community Lands Committee to address land needs
- 1.2 Review 14(c)(3) land conveyance from Corporation to City
- 1.3 Explore BIA Land Intro Trust options
- 1.4 Continue support of local environmental program
- 1.5 Expand Tribal Jurisdiction

2. Economy: Support sustainable economic growth, employment and training opportunities, and infrastructure projects

- 2.1 Support community and family food sustainability
- 2.2 Continue advocacy and support for local firefighting crew
- 2.3 Strengthen relationship with University of Alaska
- 2.4 Partner with IASD to support Career and Technical Education courses in schools

3. Education & Youth: Ensure opportunities for quality education and support healthy activities for youth

- 3.1 Support driver's license options for youth
- 3.2 Advocate for guidance counselor position within GASH region
- 3.3 Advocate and support recruitment of Alaska Native teachers
- 3.4 Support postsecondary/continuing education opportunities
- 3.5 Increase sports interest locally and within GASH region
- 3.6 Update and expand Youth Center Facility
- 3.7 Acquire school bus

4. Health & Wellness: Create spaces within and around community that promote personal and community health, and support healthy activities throughout the year

- 4.1 Develop trails and parks program
- 4.2 Construct new community park/playground
- 4.3 Develop year-round calendar of healthy activities
- 4.4 Create new baseball field
- 4.5 Seek funds to update school playground
- 4.6 Update existing ball court
- 4.7 Create winter skating rink

5. Culture & Traditions: Promote and celebrate local cultural, and fully revive traditional singing and dancing

- 5.1 Host week-long culture event focused on traditional singing and dancing
- 5.2 Support current cultural education in school
- 5.3 Support and encourage language revitalization
- 5.4 Host annual Elders Day
- 5.5 Host teacher welcome to promote culture and traditions in school

6. Housing: Ensure adequate housing available to meet community needs, and support future development

6.1 Conduct local housing needs assessment

6.2 Support new construction of at least 10 new homes

6.3 Advertise and support use of local sawmill

6.4 Research potential to construct and manage apartment complex and/or elder assisted living facility

7. Public Safety: Enhance local public safety program for the community to ensure the safety of all residents

7.1 Seek funding for local public safety building

7.2 Establish list of safe homes within community

7.3 Enhance local law enforcement program

7.4 Seek funding to update local firefighting equipment

7.5 Create crisis response plan

7.6 Establish volunteer search and rescue/first response committee

7.7 Create space/storage for search and rescue equipment, update existing supplies

COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

History & Culture

The community of Holy Cross is located in the southern end of the Athabascan region in West Central Interior of Alaska. It is situated along the Yukon River on west bank of Ghost Creek Slough and across the river from the mouth of the Innoko River. It is accessible by airplane throughout the year, by boat in the summer, and by snowmachine in the winter. Aniak, the nearest hub community is about 40 miles southeast. Nearby villages in the region include Anvik, Grayling, and Shageluk. The four villages make up the sub region known as GASH (Grayling, Anvik, Shageluk, Holy Cross).

Holy Cross residents are mainly of Deg Hit'an Athabascan and Central Yup'ik decent. Historically, and prior to Holy Cross's establishment, there were three Athabascan villages: Anilukhtapak, Ghost Creek, and Koserefsky. Anilukhtapak was located close to where Holy Cross is today, Ghost Creek was about ½ mile north of Holy Cross, and Koserefsky was across from Ghost Creek. Besides those three settlements, people generally lived in small groups and camps along the river as they hunted, fished, and gathered. The homes were subterranean (partially underground), and all of the resources and materials for survival came only from the land.

Early contact with outsiders was documented to have been in 1834 when Andrei Glazunov, an explorer with the Russian Fur Company, went from Bonasila to Anilukhtapak. In his records, he reported the largest Kashim structure he had ever seen with about 300 males present. He went onto document 16 homes and another 65 additional homes 2 miles from Anilukhtapak. His estimate of the population was 700, and he viewed the settlement as important for trade with an overland route to the Kuskokwim River as well as to Port Clarence in the Norton Sound.

The small pox epidemics in the late 1830s devastated the region, and in 1843, Lieutenant Zagoskin of the Russian American Company, reported 8 homes in Anilukhtapak and a total population in the area of 170.

Beyond the heavy impacts of trade and then disease into the area, there was also the spread of religion and the impacts that had on the area. During the winter of 1887-1888, Father Aloysius Robaut of the Roman Catholic church worked to establish a mission in the area. He was told of a place below Koserefsky where there had once been an old village, this is presumably the former village of Anilukhtapak noted by Glasunov and Zagoskin. People eventually moved from Koserefsky to the mission site, and children who were left orphaned from the impact of devastating disease, or placed there for an education, were taken in by the mission. Children were involved in daily chores including cutting wood, cooking, gardening, and sewing. They were also educated in reading, writing, and mathematics. Factors contributing to the closure of the school included: erosion in front of the mission partially destroying the land used for agriculture, and a large sandbar began forming in 1900 cutting off Holy Cross from the main channel making it difficult to bring in supplies. The Holy Cross Mission boarding school closed its doors on September 14, 1956. A total of 1,457 children were cared for since it opened (727 boys and 730 girls), and the children were from many villages including those outside of the GASH region.



FIGURE 1 HOLY CROSS 1958 BUNNELL COLLECTION

Since contact with western people and culture, Holy Cross has continued to practice and value its cultural traditions. The community has a unique and rich history, and restoring traditional dance and language learning has been identified as a priority for the community.

Today, Holy Cross families still live off the land by fishing in the summer, hunting moose in the fall, and hunting and trapping other animals throughout the winter. Modern technology and resources from the city are accessible as well. Most families have cell phones, access to internet, and the local stores carry general household goods and foods.

In addition, in 2015, Alaska Fish and Game introduced 130 wood bison into the wilderness within the GASH region. Wood bison cows and calves were flown in via plane to Shageluk, and bulls were transported via barge. There are several bison that stay near the Holy Cross town site throughout the year. Fish and game continues to monitor and track the heard as they move around the area. Several calves have been born and conceived in their new habitat. There is potential for wood bison hunting and seasonal tourism.

Location, Geography, & Climate

Holy Cross is considered “remote” from Alaska’s major urban areas, and it is located in an area known as the Innoko lowlands meaning that it is partially within the floodplain of the Yukon River. Holy Cross is also at the northeastern end of a 17-mile range of hills that has elevations as high as 600 feet.

Surface and subsurface knowledge of the soils is critical when planning for this area. Shallow, continuous permafrost is a factor when digging wells or building new infrastructure. Most of Holy Cross lies on a flat natural levee of sand, gravel, and silt/clay deposits. Underlying the town site is sandstone and sandy gravel that have been changed by heat and pressure to become greywacke and conglomerate.



FIGURE 2 CATHOLIC CHURCH

Although flooding has occurred in the past as a result of ice jams (the latest occurring in spring of 1997), flooding and erosion isn’t a primary concern for the community. There is a current priority, however, to move the barge landing site slightly down river where the channel is deeper. The recommended minimum building elevation is three feet above the high water elevation level (HWE) which is 7 feet for Holy Cross.

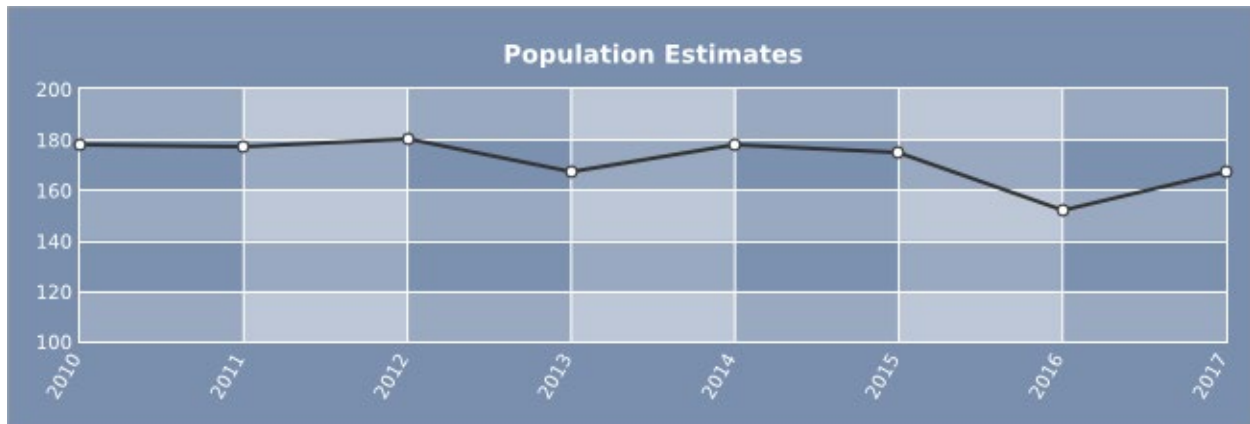
The climate of Holy Cross is sub-arctic continental, characterized by short, mild summers and long, cold winters. Over the last few decades, residents have noted a decrease in snow accumulation and an increase in freezing rain in the middle of winter. Temperatures typically reach as high as 93 degrees Fahrenheit in the summer, while winter temperatures could reach as low as -62 degrees Fahrenheit. Holy Cross has an average of about 19 inches of precipitation per year, and could see 79 inches of snow per year.

Woodlands consist of the willow, alder, white and black spruce, and birch trees. There are many types of berries including high bush cranberries, blueberries, blackberries, raspberries, and salmonberries. Various other plants and resources are gathered throughout the year.

The Holy Cross airport has been considered for the potential of being a small hub for nearby villages, and it already has high traffic at certain times of the year particularly during moose hunting season. As part of that consideration, wind direction and speed is important to consider. Crosswinds are not a noted issue because of the hill to the west, and surface winds are generally light although they can be strong enough to cause drifting. Freezing rain in the winter has also been an issue for air traffic.

Population

The Holy Cross population has historically fluctuated throughout the years. Recently, it has been on a decline with a population of 277 noted in the 2000 census and 178 people in the 2010 census. The Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development listed the population as 167 in 2017, which was an increase from the previous year. There is fluctuation throughout the year as well since many families travel back to Holy Cross during the fishing and moose hunting seasons. Subsistence hunting and fishing is central to the lifestyle of residents.



Governance & Public Administration

Holy Cross is located in an unorganized borough of Alaska. It has both City and Tribal governments. The Holy Cross Tribe is a federally recognized Tribe, and there are 7 elected council members. The City of Holy Cross, originally incorporated as a 2nd class city in 1968, has 7 council members. Both entities have seasonal employment and year-long employment, which includes special construction, community projects, youth employment, bingo/pull tabs, environmental protection, and Tribal youth and family services.

Deloycheet, Inc., Holy Cross's Alaska Native Village Corporation, was established under provisions in the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) in 1974. It has land holdings around the community of Holy Cross and along the Yukon/Innoko Rivers. There are over 550 shareholders, and it is managed by a 9-member board. It operates two subsidiaries: Holy Cross Oil, Inc., and Alaska Monster Moose Transporters, LLC. The corporation has completed its 14(c)(3) land transfer of 138,240 acres from the federal government.

Other entities that impact or is associated with Holy Cross include: Doyon, Limited, the ANCSA regional corporation; Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation (YKHC), the health provider for Holy Cross and the surrounding communities; Iditarod Area School District (IASD), the Rural Education Attendance Area (REAA) district that the local school is a part of; Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC), the non-for-profit regional organization which supports Tribal governments and oversees many social programs; and Interior-Regional Housing Authority (IRHA), the Tribal Designated Housing Entity for Holy Cross, which oversees the Tribe's federal housing funding.

Land

The community of Holy Cross has identified land use and future land use planning as an area of importance within this Community Plan. Holy Cross is a second class city within an unorganized borough, and therefore has optional under the State statutes for planning, platting and land use regulation within its municipal boundaries. All roads within the Holy Cross Township are owned by the City.

Other land owners, beyond those who may own their Native Allotments or other private lands, includes Doyon, Limited (ANCSA regional corporation), Deloycheet, Inc. (ANCSA village corporation), Roman Catholic Mission Reserve, and the State of Alaska (airport and school). Deloycheet, Inc., owns and manages the surface rights to much of the land around Holy Cross while Doyon, Limited retains the ownership of the subsurface.



Public Safety

Local public safety is another area of importance identified within this Community Plan. The community would like to seek additional funds to construct a local Tribal Police Officer facility and holding cell, and to continue to advocate for additional COPS funding. As a part of enhancing local law enforcement, the Holy Cross Tribe and City governments wishes to sign a VPSO joint law enforcement agreement.

Other areas of concern are re-establishing a volunteer search and rescue committee, conducting an inventory and updating response equipment, and seek funds to update firefighting equipment. Finally, through collaboration between the Tribe, City, clinic, school, and other interested agencies, the community needs to establish a community crisis response plan.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Public Facilities

Holy Cross's public facilities include a newly constructed Tribal Office, City Offices/Community Hall, Laundromat, Post Office, Deloycheet building, Washeteria, Youth Center, Head Start, Holy Cross School, Catholic Church, and the Clinic. There are two locally owned stores, and the fuel station is owned by Holy Cross Oil, Inc. Bush-Tel, the telephone company, operates a small facility and there are several small warehouses and storage spaces adjacent to the facilities listed above.

Housing

Homes are primarily single-family homes of either log or frame construction, and most are heated with wood stoves or oil. There is a mix of HUD homes and privately built homes, and future development is a concern for the community as they look to expand. The community has also been actively addressing unoccupied, dilapidated homes and have recently supported demolition projects.

There are a total of 86 housing units with 64 being occupied and 22 being vacant (DEECD). The percent of homes vacant due to seasonal use is 45.5%. The average sized household is 2.78, and the average family size is 3.49. In addition, there is available rooms and spaces to rent for short-term stay.

Through this planning process, the community has identified the need for a thorough housing assessment to identify housing needs, to construct up to 10 homes within three years, and to develop a plan for an elder assisted living facility.

Public Utilities

Electric - AVEC (Alaska Village Electric Cooperative) is a nonprofit, member cooperative that supplies electricity for 56 communities in Alaska, including Holy Cross. AVEC manages and operates the local power plant with diesel generators. The cost per kilowatt hour, listed by the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development was about, \$.60/kWh for residents.

Fuel – Holy Cross Oil, Inc., a subsidiary of Deloycheet, Inc., provides fuel and related services to the community of Holy Cross. The Holy Cross Transportation Plan (2002) lists Deloycheet's fuel storage capacity at 177,640 gallons, AVEC at 80,570 gallons, IASD at 27,815 gallons, and Holy Cross City at 14,815 gallons. The Denali Commission's Energy Program recently funded a bulk fuel storage upgrade which will consolidate bank farms to be contained in one location. As of July, 2017, the price of heating fuel was \$4.75, gasoline was \$6.00, and propane was \$10.17.

Water/Sewer – The City of Holy Cross operates the water system treatment system for the community which consists of piped water and sewer. The water is piped from a deep well and is treated. A backup well and new washeteria and water treatment facility have recently been constructed. The majority of the households and the school are connected to the water and sewer system; however, some residents haul water and use outhouses.

Phone/Internet – Holy Cross has both cell phone and landline service capability. Bush-Tell, Inc., provides landline and internet service, and GCI offers internet and cell phone service.

Transportation

Holy Cross is accessible via air, water, and snowmachine in the winter. Residents use snowmachines, ATVs, boats, and occasional dog sleds for recreational and subsistence activities. And the 7.5 miles of local roads are used by cars, trucks, wheelers, snowmachines and dog teams.



FIGURE 3 HOLY CROSS AIRPORT

The public airport, owned by the State of Alaska Department of Transportation (DOT), is a 4,000' x 100' lighted gravel airstrip located adjacent to town. There are daily flights in and out of Holy Cross, operated out of Aniak. Float and ski planes can also land on the river.

There are barges that also service the community, making at least 2-3 trips to Holy Cross each summer to deliver bulk materials, propane, fuel, and construction/heavy equipment. There are plans to move the barge landing downriver for easier access for the barge.

All Holy Cross roads are maintained by the City, and there are no bridges within the community. The community

presently has two local gravel borrow pits. The first is located 2.5 miles north of the village along Ghost Creek Road, and the second is located along the hillside west of the airport.

ECONOMY

Industry & Capital Projects

The Holy Cross community prioritizes both small and large scale projects throughout the year. Seasonal and long-term employment are concerns of the community so the Tribe and City make use of grant writing, regional and state advocacy for project funding, and leveraging projects are forecasted years in advance.

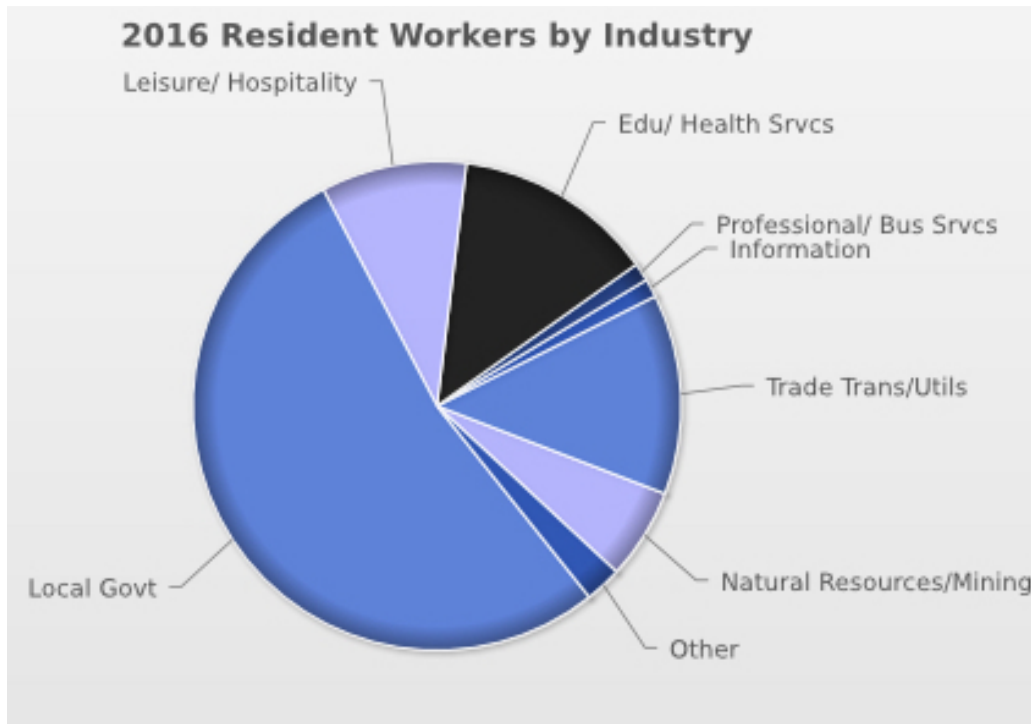
In addition to summer constructions, such as local capital improvement projects, there are approximately 50 full time jobs within the community. The Denali Commission is currently funding a new bulk fuel storage containment which will consolidate all tank farms into one facility. A few residents own commercial salmon fishing permits, and subsistence hunting, fishing, trapping and gardening help provide additional income for families. There are no taxes in Holy Cross.

The Holy Cross Tribe recently purchased a sawmill for residents and tribal members use to encourage self sufficiency in building homes and supporting other local construction projects. As mentioned previously, there are also plans to re-locate the barge landing site downriver to accommodate the barge delivery during the summer.

Available Employment Opportunities & Income Statistics

Employment opportunities fluctuates throughout the year with most short-term hire occurring during the summer when construction and capital improvement projects are underway. Youth employment is also available during the summer months. The graph below captures the employment opportunities by industry, and labor and workforce development data and statistics are reflected from 2016.

Over half of the job opportunities are provided by the local government while education/health services, trade and utilities, and leisure/hospitality encompass roughly another 40%. The remaining industries include natural resource/mining, professional business services, and other.



2016 State of Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development			
Residents age 16 and over	126	Private Sector	39
Residents employed	83	Local Government	44
Female workers	35	State Government	0
Male workers	48	Peak Quarterly Employment	72
Workers age 45 and over	28	Workers Employed all 4 quarters	48
Workers age 50 and over	26	New hires	49
Total wages	\$1,800,498	Unemployed insurance claimants	15

Subsistence

The people of Holy Cross rely heavily on subsistence resources, and in essence, it is an integral part of the culture and way of life, as it has been forever. As the seasons change, so do the types of harvested and utilized resources. In the spring, people hunt migratory waterfowl, beaver, and fish for whitefish. The summer brings more fishing, and families gather other plant and berry resources. Fishing lasts through fall along with moose hunting. And throughout the winter months, people run trap lines.

There is an active Fish & Game Advisory Committee for Grayling, Anvik, Shageluk, and Holy Cross (GASH) that seats nine individuals for Game Management Unit (GMU) 21E and the area jurisdiction is GMU 21. The committee holds up to two face-to-face meetings per year plus teleconferences when needed. The focus is on local hunting, trapping, guiding, and fishing concerns on state and federal issues.

Wood bison were introduced to the Innoko River area in 2015, facilitated and led by the Alaska Department of Fish & Game. In all, 130 wood bison were brought to the area. Calves have since been born, and the herd continues to populate despite challenges of available food throughout the winter months and wolf predation. With the introduction of wood bison into the area, there is potential for tourism and guided hunting.



FIGURE 4 HOLY CROSS 2017 CULTURE CAMP

Economic Development

Economic development is prosperous when partnerships are leveraged; funding is sought in the forms of grant monies and/or capital improvement projects. The educational opportunities are increased with an increased number of students enrolled in the school. Job opportunities are increased when both short and long-term projects are planned within the community.

The economy of Holy Cross is strongly supported by federal and state funding. Many of the jobs, industry and new projects are funded by either federal or state monies. Some barriers to economic development might include the high cost of energy, high cost of transportation, and land availability. Holy Cross is also quite remote, so attracting any “outside” clientele might be difficult because of the distance and high cost of travel. Fuel costs are high.

Holy Cross has expressed desire to develop into an air transportation hub in the past, and the leadership continues to advocate for decreasing high travel costs and supporting local travel needs. Holy Cross is closest to the current hub, Aniak, but services are often delayed due to poor weather and visibility in Aniak. Holy Cross airport does see very high traffic particularly during the moose hunting season in the fall.

Local Assets & Potential for Growth

Although small in size, Holy Cross does have the opportunity for growth, business and program development, and infrastructure and capital projects. There are environmental and youth programs that the Tribe could develop and oversee.

Grant funded programs typically fund a manager position to oversee the development and operations of the program. Holy Cross

Finally, a thriving market exists for Alaska Native artwork and hand-made items. There is potential for individual artists and craftsman to make traditional pieces to sell online or in Alaska markets and craft fairs. There are many items that are unique to the area, therefore making it a profitable business opportunity.

Below is a list of potential areas of growth across the community:

Business/Agency	Program Development	Areas of Growth/Infrastructure
Tribal Government	Tribal Police Office	TPO Office/Holding Cell
Tribal Government	Lands/Transportation	Roads projects/Agriculture Developments/Trails & Rec.
School/Tribe	Education & Training	Job skills trainings, workshop opportunities, local cultural experts hired

COMMUNITY PLANNING PROCESS & TIMELINE

Bi-Annual Review

To ensure adequate tracking on goals and action items, this Plan will be reviewed bi-annually by the Holy Cross Tribe and the City of Holy Cross, and with the participation of Deloycheet, Inc., and community members. Goals and action items will be discussed, and the lead on the action items will give an update and report on efforts made, how close it is to being completed, barriers or questions that might be limiting progress, and any other updates or discussion with the community.

It is important to note that this is an evolving and changing document, and topics can be expanded upon or revised, and the action items and priorities can be adjusted based on community need and level of priority.

Planning Cycle

The bi-annual review will occur once every six months and at least two times per year. This plan has been set at a 3-year planning cycle, so another planning session will be necessary after three years to review and set new priorities, goals, and action items. Below is a tentative timeframe for scheduled meetings:

Bi-Annual Review	Update/Adopt Goals
June 2019/ 2020/ 2021	June 2022
December 2019/ 2020/ 2021	

COMMUNITY GOALS & OBJECTIVES (2018-2021)

1. Land: Enhance local land management to promote land use opportunities and improve sufficient community growth			
1.1 Establish community Lands Committee to address land needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Advertise and outreach to include Tribe, City, Corporation, and local community members to consist of 7-member committee ▪ Formalize committee, set goals, elect/assign positions, set meeting dates, reporting processes ▪ Attend necessary trainings (BIA Providers) 	Holy Cross Tribe * City of Holy Cross Deloycheet, Inc. Local Community members	Winter 2018; ongoing
1.2 Review 14(c)(3) land conveyance from Corporation to City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review existing documentation of 14(c)(3) land conveyance to determine if further action is needed to finalize land transfers or if additional lands need to be conveyed 	Holy Cross Tribe City of Holy Cross * Deloycheet, Inc.	2020
1.3 Explore BIA Land Intro Trust Options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Attend Land Into Trust webinars and/or trainings ▪ Provide update to Tribal Council on options, timelines, and overall process ▪ Determine if putting land into trust is a viable option for lands within Holy Cross 	Holy Cross Tribe	2019; ongoing
1.4 Continue support of local environmental program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue to re-apply for EPA IGAP environmental funding & determine needs for growing program ▪ Construct storage facility to consolidate all 	Holy Cross Tribe	Ongoing

	IGAP equipment and accommodate needs		
1.5 Expand Tribal jurisdiction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Seek support from TCC or other supporting agencies to further understand process ▪ Establish an MOU between City and Tribe 	Holy Cross Tribe * City of Holy Cross	Spring 2019
2. Economy: Support sustainable economic growth, employment and training opportunities, and infrastructure projects			
2.1 Support community and family food sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clear cut trees in front of community to open lands for family/community gardens and small animal farm ▪ Utilize TCCs seed program ▪ Re-start Holy Cross agriculture fair 	Holy Cross Tribe * City of Holy Cross Deloycheet, Inc.	Begin summer 2019; ongoing each summer
2.2 Continue advocacy and support for local firefighting crew	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Host job skills workshop for firefighters ▪ Advocate for hiring local Holy Cross crew (partner with TCC) 	Holy Cross Tribe* TCC	Spring 2019
2.3 Strengthen relationship with University of Alaska	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase available training opportunities, skill development for community members ▪ Facilitate partnership between school, Tribe, and UAF IAC by offering courses such as traditional skills, language, etc. 	Holy Cross Tribe * UAF Interior Alaska Campus	Winter 2019; 2020; 2021 (during school year)
2.4 Partner with IASD to support Career and Technical Education courses in schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Host meeting with IASD and Holy Cross/GASH Tribes to discuss Career and Technical Education needs ▪ Provide support letters for grant opportunities 	Holy Cross Tribe GASH Communities * IASD	2019-2020; ongoing
3. Education & Youth: Ensure opportunities for quality education and support healthy activities for youth			

3.1 Support drivers license options for youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Generate list of community members who need to acquire license particularly young adults ▪ Seek and/or utilize funding to offer drivers education course or send participants to program 	Holy Cross Tribe Holy Cross School/IASD*	Spring 2019; ongoing
3.2 Advocate for guidance counselor position within GASH region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Partner with IASD to offer funding support for a school guidance counselor 	Holy Cross Tribe * Holy Cross School/IASD	2021
3.3 Advocate and support recruitment of Alaska Native teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support Educators Rise program through Holy Cross School and advocate for need with IASD ▪ Write letter to IASD highlighting need across our district, offer participation in recruiting committee 	Holy Cross Tribe * Holy Cross School/IASD	2021
3.4 Support postsecondary/continuing education opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Encourage dual college/HS credit opportunities with students ▪ Provide job skills training to youth, on-the-job training, and other career preparation opportunities throughout the year 	Holy Cross Tribe * Holy Cross School/IASD UAF IAC Campus Doyon Foundation	School year; ongoing
3.5 Increase sports interest locally and within GASH region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Collaborate with GASH Tribes for hosting NBC camp (once per summer) ▪ Seek and provide additional funding to support travel and/or hiring coach (inspirational coach) ▪ Ask students which sports they are interested in focusing on each year 	Holy Cross Tribe (start) GASH Tribes * Holy Cross School/IASD	Winter 2019; 2020; 2021. Summers for camps

3.6 Update and expand Youth Center Facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Seek funds to update facility and re-open ▪ Encourage youth involvement 	Holy Cross Tribe * City of Holy Cross	2020
3.7 Acquire school bus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Seek funds to acquire school bus and include in transportation plan 	Holy Cross Tribe HC School/IASD *	2021
4. Health & Wellness: Create spaces within and around community that promote personal and community health, and support healthy activities throughout the year			
4.1 Develop trails and parks program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ask community what events they would like to do regularly and set up a schedule ▪ Sewing, beading, and gym nights 	Holy Cross Tribe * City of Holy Cross Deloycheet, Inc.	Begin 2020; year-Round
4.2 Construct new community park/playground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Research potential locations ▪ Seek funding ▪ Include fitness center, gym, research feasibility of a local pool 	Holy Cross Tribe City of Holy Cross * Deloycheet, Inc.	Summer 2019 initial start; 2020 construct
4.3 Develop year-round calendar of healthy activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Create year-round schedule: skin sewing & beading, hunting & fishing, fish trap, basket making, activities focused on mental health education & support, wellness & prevention 	Holy Cross Tribe * City of Holy Cross TCC	Ongoing, begin fall 2018
4.4 Create new baseball field	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Research and determine best location ▪ Support local hire of crew to cut and clear trees, bring in material, plant grass 	Holy Cross Tribe City of Holy Cross * Deloycheet, Inc.	Initial planning 2019; ongoing work
4.5 Seek funds to update school playground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Partner with school district ▪ Seek small grant to update playground 	Holy Cross Tribe * Holy Cross School/IASD	Fall 2019
4.6 Update existing ball court	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Seek funds to update court including bleachers, floor boards, fencing and backboards/baskets 	Holy Cross Tribe * Holy Cross School/IASD	Summer 2020

4.7 Create winter skating rink	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Create space for winter skating rink, area near outdoor hose, to encourage winter activities 	Holy Cross Tribe * City of Holy Cross Deloycheet, Inc.	Winter 2019
5. Culture & Traditions: Promote and celebrate local cultural, and fully revive traditional singing and dancing			
5.1 Host week-long culture event focused on traditional singing and dancing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Planning committee established to invite drummers, plan events, and other logistics ▪ Connect with UAF IAC or other organizations that may support class for credit ▪ Create plan for sustaining dance group ▪ Create song book (Deg Xinag and English) ▪ Seek funds for purchasing regalia making, dance fans and drums 	Holy Cross Tribe * City of Holy Cross Deloycheet, Inc.	Spring and/or Fall 2019; annual basis
5.2 Support current cultural education in school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue to offer support of fish camp, culture camp, and trapping program at school 	Holy Cross Tribe * Holy Cross School/IASD	Ongoing
5.3 Support and encourage language revitalization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continuously seek funds for seed money programs 	Holy Cross Tribe * Holy Cross School/IASD	Ongoing as funding allows
5.4 Host annual Elders Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Host an annual Elders Day celebration, dinner or other recognition event to honor Elders 	Holy Cross Tribe	Annually (set date/time)
5.5 Host teacher welcome to promote culture and traditions in school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Host teacher welcome dinner and/or event inviting collaboration and encouraging local culture and traditions taught in school, perhaps talking about ways to encourage local experts to 	Holy Cross Tribe * Holy Cross School/IASD	Fall 2019; 2020; 2021

	participate in school cultural activities		
6. Housing: Ensure adequate housing available to meet community needs, and support future development			
6.1 Conduct local housing needs assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Complete housing assessment of unoccupied homes, consolidate findings & present back to City/Tribe ▪ Update every other year 	Holy Cross Tribe * City of Holy Cross	Spring 2019
6.2 Support new construction of at least 10 new homes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Partner with corporation to acquire available lots ▪ Include elders, single folks, and young families (fair and inclusive process) 	Holy Cross Tribe * City of Holy Cross Deloycheet, Inc.	Annual; complete by 2021
6.3 Advertise and support use of local sawmill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conduct workshop on sawmill safety ▪ Check on liability for use, perhaps develop a sign-in and use agreement form 	Holy Cross Tribe	Spring/summer 2019; 2020; 2021
6.4 Research potential to construct and manage apartment complex and/or elder assisted living facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Research and assess feasibility of an elder assisted living facility including sustainability and operating costs ▪ Partner or seek support from Denakkanaaga/TCC 	Holy Cross Tribe * City of Holy Cross Deloycheet, Inc.	Summer 2019 initial research; planning; funds sought 2021 if feasible
7. Public Safety: Enhance local public safety program for the community to ensure the safety of all residents			
7.1 Seek funding for local public safety building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Seek funding for Tribal Police Officer office and holding cell 	Holy Cross Tribe * City of Holy Cross	Winter 2019
7.2 Establish list of safe homes within community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Create list of available “safe homes” within community 	Holy Cross Tribe * City of Holy Cross	Spring 2019
7.3 Enhance local law enforcement program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support TCC COPS Grant ▪ Seek funding and advertise for 3 officer positions 	Holy Cross Tribe * City of Holy Cross	Spring 2019

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sign Tribe/City VPSO joint agreement 		
7.4 Seek funding to update local firefighting equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Inventory and assess all local firefighting equipment and determine needs list ▪ Seek funds for updating equipment 	Holy Cross Tribe * City of Holy Cross	Winter 2020
7.5 Create crisis response plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Collaborate with City, school, clinic and other agencies to develop a community crisis response plan, update annually, share with appropriate agencies 	Holy Cross Tribe City of Holy Cross	Spring 2019
7.6 Establish volunteer search and rescue/first response committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Organize rescue program w/ volunteers and first responders ▪ Inform other village search and rescue teams of search and rescue plans (add to subregional agenda) ▪ Recognize and show appreciation for volunteers and first responders annually 	Holy Cross Tribe * City of Holy Cross Holy Cross Clinic Deloycheet, Inc.	Fall 2018
7.7 Create space/storage for search and rescue equipment, update existing supplies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Inventory and assess all search and rescue equipment and determine needs ▪ Order and update needed search and rescue equipment 	Holy Cross Tribe *	Spring 2020

RESOLUTIONS

Holy Cross Tribe
PO Box 89
Holy Cross, Alaska 99602
Phone: (907) 476-7124 Fax: (907) 476-7132

Resolution 2019-5

Adopting the Holy Cross Community Plan

Whereas, this Community Plan is important to the future growth and development of the community of Holy Cross; and,

Whereas, this plan was created through a public process which captured the values and goals of our community; and,

Whereas, this plan is a tool that helps us manage growth and change in our community; and,

Whereas, this plan is intended to support and coordinate future community development and service delivery; and,

Whereas; it is understood that this document was created for public use and will be made publically available and,

Whereas, we ask all public, private, and non-profit entities serving our community to recognize and use this plan; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the parties of this resolution agree to work together to pursue the values, goals, and vision express in this plan.

Certification

We hereby certify that this resolution was duly passed and approved 7 in favor, 0 opposed by the following parties:



10.8.18
Date



10.8.2018
Date

REFERENCES

Alaska Department of Commerce, C. a. (n.d). *Alaska Community Database Community Information Summaries*. Retrieved August 7, 2018, from the Division of Community & regional Affairs: <https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/dcra/DCRAExternal/community/Details/11ab6f2b-cfe3-41be-b6e5-aaa0a1f88f28>.

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ASCG Incorporated. (2002). *Holy Cross Transportation Plan*. Anchorage.

Deloycheet, Inc. (2016) Retrieved August 7, 2018 from Deloycheet, Inc: <http://www.deloycheet.com/about-us>.

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Tanana Chiefs Conference Communications Department. (2018). *Holy Cross Community Photos 2017*.

APPENDICES

Appendix A. Planning Process & Attendees

With approximately 30 community members present on July 30th, 2018, the first part of the community engagement process to develop an action plan began. Attendees were given an overview of a typical community planning process and the series of meetings that are to be expected to allow for review and input. Together, they reviewed the 2008 Holy Cross draft plan, and they also reviewed other community plan examples from across the region. Following those activities, participants went through a visioning exercise which included responding to a series of questions followed by discussion:

- What do you enjoy most about living in Holy Cross? Why is it special to you?
- What would you like to see happen in your community in the next 20 years? What do you envision people doing and enjoying?

Together, the participants drafted a revised vision, values list, and a three-year plan complete with goals and action items associated with each priority. Below is a list of the meeting dates for drafting, reviewing and adopting the plan along with a list of attendees:

	July 30th, 2018	September 13, 2018	October 8, 2018
Topics Discussed	Land, Health & Wellness, Education & Youth, Culture & Traditions, Economy, Public Safety, Infrastructure	City Review and Approval	Tribal Review and Approval
Attendees	Brenda Sims Cecilia Turner Ronald Turner Rosalie Wulf Rita Paul Rebecca Elswick Daisy Turner Alfred Demientieff, Sr. Margaret St. John Gabriel Edwards, Jr. David Turner Mary Sims Jenny Souders Garrett Sims Rebecca Demientieff Katie Turner Julie Demientieff Leonard Demientieff, Sr.	Tessiana Paul Eugene Paul Connie Walker Davida Walker Alex Edwards John Anthony, Sr. Melinda Gregory Bernard Edwards Kayloni Elswick Kyra Turner Lindsey Turner	Sandra Sims Kristi Turner Jacqueline Turner John Deck Melinda Gregory Eugene Paul Ronald Tuner Alfred Demientieff Julia Demientieff Melinda Gregory Sandra Sims David Turner Tessiana Paul Rebecca Elswick Samantha Aloysius Sandra Roesing

Appendix B. Community Contacts

Holy Cross Tribal Council	PO Box 89, Holy Cross, AK 99602	(907) 476-7124
City of Holy Cross	PO Box 227, Holy Cross, AK 99602	(907) 476-7139
Deloycheet, Inc.	PO Box 228, Holy Cross, AK 99602	(907) 476-7177
Holy Cross School	PO Box 210, Holy Cross, AK 99602	(907) 476-7131
Holy Cross Clinic	PO Box 93, Holy Cross, AK 99602	(907) 476-7174
Tanana Chiefs Conference	122 First Ave., Ste. 600, Fairbanks, AK 99701	(907) 451-8251

Senate District R

House District 36

Judicial District 4

Appendix C. Survey Questions (Distributed July 30, 2018)

Planning Questions:

What do you enjoy most about living in Holy Cross?

What is the main concern you see facing your community today, and why is it such a big concern?

What would you like to see happen in your community in the next 2-3 years?

What would you like to see happen in your community in the next 5-10 years? 10-20 years?

What can we do to see that these things happen?

What healthy activities would you like to see that would positively impact the community?

Infrastructure Questions:

Do you feel that housing in Holy Cross is adequate or does it need improvement? (1-5)

Do you feel there is a need for running water in Holy Cross? (1-5)

How would you rate the overall condition of the public facilities in Holy Cross? (1-5)

Please rate each facility (public facilities) on their overall condition (1-5)

Health & Wellness Questions:

What do you like or appreciate about the YKHC health care in Holy Cross?

What do you see as a **need** for our community members?

What healthy activities would you like to see occurring in our community? For family? For children?

What is the overall concern you have for the overall health of people?

Education & Youth Questions:

What are some suggestions for activities that we can do for our youth during the **summer**?

What are some suggestions for activities that we can do for our youth during the **winter**?

What ideas do you have about educating our youth? Cultural, language, family and parent support?

Do you have any specific concerns relating to IASD/Holy Cross School?

Economy Questions:

What is the concern regarding the economy? Jobs? Projects? Development?

What kind of economic opportunities would you like to see in Holy Cross?

How do you provide for you and your family?

Do you participate in subsistence activities and if so, what kind?

How do subsistence activities impact the lives of the community here?

Transportation Questions:

How often do you leave Holy Cross? And for what reasons?

When leaving Holy Cross, what is your primary mode of transportation?

Do you have your own form of transportation? If so, what kind?

What do you feel is our main transportation issue(s)?

What ideas do you have to improve transportation?

Culture & Traditions Questions:

Do you participate in cultural and traditions? If so, which activities?

What culture activities are most important to you? Please list...

What culture and traditional activities would you personally benefit from?

What do you see the community promoting and doing?

Land Questions:

In your opinion, what is our main land issue in our community?

What idea(s) do you have to help address the issue?

Public Safety/Enforcement Questions:

Do you feel safe in our community?

What would help you to feel safe(er)?

Do you feel that the State Trooper support we receive is adequate?

What ideas do you have that would help to improve our support from law enforcement?

Other questions:

What other ideas do you have for the Holy Cross Community Plan that will help move the City, the Tribe, and our other supporting agencies forward for the betterment of our people?