

# Environmental Department Newsletter



Anvik Tribal Council

June 15, 2007

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## Environmental Department

The Anvik Tribal Council's Environmental Department currently has two active programs that are funded by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Indian General Assistance Program (IGAP) was first funded in 2003 with hopes of addressing contaminated sites within the community of Anvik. In 2004 Mike Grundberg came across funding options for Brownfield sites and applied for the Tribal Response Program grant in 2005. In 2006 the Anvik Tribal Council established its Brownfield Tribal Response Program (BTRP) and began building the program with office space at the Anvik City Offices, hiring staff, and ordering much

needed equipment and supplies. During the first year of funding the BTRP established its inventory and currently has 10 sites listed that may be contaminated. Future land use plans include; boat dock and/or boat landing, community playground, park and recreation area, and a basketball court. Current staff have attended multiple trainings on the process of cleaning up and reusing sites that fall under brownfield criteria. This program is specific to its name and therefore only addresses sites that meet the EPA's definition of "brownfield." IGAP has several programs that are currently active and these include; solid waste management (SWM),



*Mission Building, located at the riverbank in Anvik. Photo taken summer, 2006*

recycling, Youth Environmental Workers (YETI), water quality monitoring and testing, and the backhaul program. The environmental department is committed to making our community a healthier place to live, if you have any suggestions or questions regarding recyclables, please call the environmental office at 663-6323.

## Update from Brownfield Technician Shannon Chase-Jensen

I started as Anvik Tribal Council's Brownfield Technician on August 4, 2006 and have since been familiarizing myself with the Brownfield Tribal Response Program (BTRP). The information surrounding "brownfields" is huge and I still

have a lot to learn, but I have also learned vital information that is pertinent to carrying out our grant requirements. Some of the things I've been working on are; researching tribal ordinances and their implementation, environmental webpage,

youth environmental club, site summaries for our 10 local sites, community involvement plan, various trainings, and producing this newsletter. The Anvik Tribal Council's BTRP is in its second year and I am confident we will (cont. pg 3)

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### Special points of interest:

- Brownfields
- IGAP
- Tribal News
- Local News
- Subsistence News
- YETI's
- Local Birthdays
- Local Meetings
- Community Activities

## What is a “Brownfield”?

What is a Brownfields Site? For the purposes of EPA’s Brownfields grant program, a “Brownfields Site” is: “...real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant.” In order to be eligible for Brownfields grant funding, the site (s) covered by your application must meet the definition of a Brownfield site.

Brownfields sites include, but are not limited to, three specific types of properties eligible for funding:

- sites contaminated by petroleum or a petroleum product;
- sites contaminated by controlled substances; and, mine-scarred lands.

Some sites are excluded from the definition of a Brownfield site unless EPA makes a "property-specific funding determination" that allows grant funds to be used at that site.

The Anvik Tribal Council’s BTRP staff has inventoried 10 local sites that have the po-

tential of becoming a brownfield site, or is suspected of having contaminants on the property. The BTRP’s public record on these sites are available for viewing at the BTRP office during regular business hours. Offices are located upstairs at the City Building.



*Abandoned AVEC Tank Farm Site. Photo taken July, 2006*

## Annual Spring Clean-Up

On May 29th, 2007 the Anvik Tribal Council’s Environmental Department held it’s annual, “Clean-Up, to Green Up,” in addition to a mini-carnival for the local youth. A total of 21 kids showed up for the clean-up activities, and together these dedicated individuals picked up over 130 bags of garbage from our city roads, ditches, and boat landing area. After a couple of hours of cleaning up our community, a majority of Anvik’s children gathered in front of the City Building to compete for prizes in games such as the 3 legged race and water

balloon toss. A small picnic was held afterward to feed the hungry participants while prizes were distributed to winners of the games and to everyone that participated in picking up trash. The Environmental Department would like to extend a “BIG THANK YOU” to our volunteers and to the businesses that donated prizes and/or items for the picnic. Volunteers included; Christine Elswick, Robert Dentler, Julia Walker, Crystal Walton, Katrina Kruger. Staff Members; Shawna and Leslie Kruger. Businesses; Hageland Aviation, Sam’s

The 4th of July Celebration is currently being planned. If you’re interested in volunteering for 4th of July activities, contact the Tribal Office at 663-6322.

Club, Deloy Ges, Inc., and Frontier Airlines. Without volunteers and supporters, our clean-up wouldn’t have been possible! Again, a heartfelt “thank you” to everyone who contributed their time and effort to make our community healthier.

## Youth Environmental Tribal Interns (YETI)

Last summer Anvik Tribal Council created its own youth program under the supervision of Mike Grundberg, Environmental Coordinator. At first the group was called Youth Environmental Workers (YEW’s), but that just didn’t quite sound right, so the name was changed to Youth Environmental Tribal Interns and that’s how the



*Freshwater spring located at the Park in Anvik*

YETI’s came to be. The youth worked on various projects with an environmental and educational emphasis. They learned to use a Global Position System receiver and digital camera and filled out survey forms for backhaul items such as old vehicles, automotive batteries, white goods such as refrigerators/freezers, washing

machines and e-goods like computers, TVs and printers, and aluminum cans for recycling. This is helping get rid of eyesores and hazards in the community. The YETI’s also hauled trash and did yard work for the elders, and they did internet research on solid waste management and recycling.

The most visible work that the YETI’s did was to clean up the spring (cont. back page)

## 2007 Backhaul

The Anvik Tribal Council Environmental Office is again partnering with the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council and Crowley Marine to implement the summer backhaul project. In addition to backhauling junk vehicles and lead-acid batteries, the program has expanded to include aluminum, white goods and e-goods as well. E-goods are electronic equipment like computers, printers, TV's and FAX machines. White goods are appliances like refrigerators & freezers, washers and dryers. Refrigerators and freezers must have the Freon removed before backhaul. We

have the proper equipment and containers for proper Freon removal. You can drop off aluminum cans and e-goods at the shed by the City Building. You can drop off lead-acid batteries in the totes located at the Firehouse (City Shop) or near the Tribal Office. Contact the Environmental Office if you have vehicles or refrigerators/freezers you would like to backhaul. The backhaul program is free, and is a great way to remove potentially hazardous materials, old junk and eyesores without taking up usable space at the landfill. If you have questions, comments or items for backhaul,

contact the Environmental Office at 663-6323.



*Future land use-Potential staging area for backhaul program*

## ArcGIS Training

The Brownfield Tribal Response Program (BTRP), hosted a training on ArcGIS from May 15-18th, 2007. Michael Knapp, of Blue Sky Solutions, traveled to Anvik to instruct the class. This curriculum exposed participants to the fundamentals of Geographic Information System (GIS) technology. A GIS involves the collection, storage, maintenance, analysis, and display of all forms of information that can be referenced to a geographic location. Common

uses of GIS include the management of environmental, real estate, and utility data. The course provided students with basic skills to create and manage an effective GIS for their area of interest. The class was taught in three modules, over a course of 4 days. Each student, upon completion

of this class, received certificates for "Introduction to GIS Concepts" and "Introduction to ArcGIS I." Both Mike Grundberg and Shannon Chase-Jensen attended on behalf of ATC's environmental department, as well as Kathy Walker Chase from the Holy Cross IGAP office.

The Environmental Office is in the process of planning a brunch club to be held either monthly, or quarterly. If your business would like to join us in our efforts to keep the community informed of our programs and our progress, please contact Shannon at 663-6352, or Mike at 663-6323.

## (...update from Brownfield Technician...cont. from pg 1)

see great successes with this program. One of the things that I would like to see happen, is to have this newsletter grow, from this first issue, into something people will come to appreciate. I am asking that anyone interested in having a story or ad printed to please call me at my office



*National Brownfield Conf. Boston, MA, November '06*

at 663-6352 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. I am hoping to generate monthly publications that will generally be distributed around mid-month. The environmental department hopes to keep the community involved on what issues we face, as well as issues that are

being addressed through our department! Let's work together, as a community, and make Anvik a cleaner, healthier place for our children to grow. Again, if anyone has any ideas about content for this newsletter, or any questions about any of our environmental programs, please give us a call at 663-6352, or 663-6323 during regular business hours. We encourage Tribal Membership participation and welcome any and all questions. Thank you!!!



Anvik Tribal Council

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We're on the web!!!  
[www.anviktribalcouncil.com/temp](http://www.anviktribalcouncil.com/temp)

Our environmental webpage is under construction. Please be patient while the site is being built.

**Anvik Tribal Council Staff**

- *Shawna Kruger, Administrative Assistant*
- *Leslie Kruger, Tribal Clerk*
- *Mike Grundberg, Environmental Coordinator*
- *Shannon Chase-Jensen, Brownfield Technician*
- *Roseanne Kruger, Environmental Assistant*
- *Crystal Walton, Gaming Manager*

**Youth Environmental Tribal Interns:**

*Kristen Kruger, Erik Grundberg, Jameson Yoder, Andrea Grundberg*

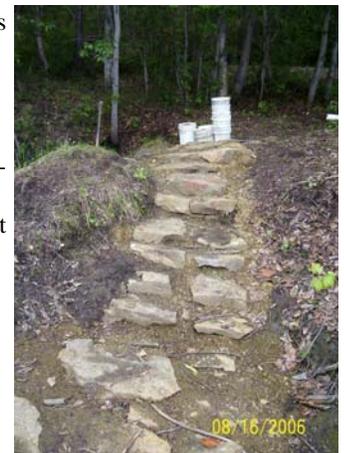
**(...YETI's...cont. from pg 2)**

at the old park near Hawk Bluff. Before clean-up was started, they documented the condition of the spring with digital photos and water quality monitoring instruments. Before the project, there were old coffee cans, buckets whiskey bottles, and even a length of sewer pipe. It looked uninviting, and it appeared that people had stopped getting their drinking water there. The Yeti's cleaned out the spring and built a watering point using PVC pipe, rocks, and native wood from clearing around the spring. They cleared brush, built a stone path and stairway to the watering point, and built a little bench to sit on while getting water. It was a major improvement, and as soon as word spread, people started getting their drinking water there again. People have started going there to hang-out because it is a picturesque and serene place. The YETI's made a positive impact on the community and learned about the environ-

ment in the process. The YETI Crewmembers were: Roseanne Kruger, Sina Wulf, Erik Grundberg, Roger McCarty, Desmond Wulf, and Jameson Yoder. If you haven't been down to the spring lately, you should go take a look, you might be surprised at the difference. Don't forget to bring your water jug!

The YETI program has carried over from last year and the Environmental Program currently employs four youth workers. Erik Grundberg, Andrea Grundberg, Jameson Yoder, and Kristen Kruger have been busy completing multiple tasks including; emptying burn barrels, digging a garden to support the Elder's Nutrition Program, clearing elder's yards, crushing and packaging aluminum cans for back-haul, and cutting grass near the Tribal Office. This group of individuals are motivated and have completed every task set before them. They have done a wonderful

job so far and should be commended for the work they have done. If you have any questions about this program, contact Mike Grundberg at the Environmental Office at 663-6323.



*Rock pathway to the spring at the park. Clean-up completed by YETI's in fall of 2006.*