

Nancy Lake Parkway Unit (Recreational Development Zone)

Description

This unit is approximately 2,658 acres in size and is comprised of land and water adjacent to the Nancy Lake Parkway and includes Nancy and South Rolly lakes. The majority of the land in this unit is state-owned with private land totaling only 9 acres. See Map 9 on page 7 - 21 for a depiction of the unit. The Nancy Lake Parkway, a high standard paved park road, provides access to and through this unit. The parkway originates at mile 67.3 of the George Parks Highway and extends 6.5 miles south and west to the South Rolly Lake Campground. Most of the developed facilities in NLSRA are located in this unit including most of the trailheads and parking areas used to access adjacent units. This unit contains the most heavily used waterbody in NLSRA – Nancy Lake, and the largest campground in the state park system – South Rolly Lake Campground.

The surface features include a mixture of flat terrain, rolling hills, wetlands, lakes, and streams. Hills within the unit offer vantage points to view scenery and wildlife. Fishing is a popular recreational activity that occurs on both Nancy and South Rolly lakes, the two largest lakes in this unit. Both Nancy and South Rolly lakes have been previously stocked by ADF&G to enhance fishing opportunities⁵ and are indicated as “anadromous” in the *Atlas to the Catalog of Waters Important for the Spawning, Rearing or Migration of Anadromous Fishes*. Upland vegetation includes over mature paper birch and white spruce trees while black spruce, alder, willow, sedges, and grasses dominate the wetland vegetation.

Current Uses

This unit is one of the most accessible and receives the highest level of use in NLSRA. This use primarily occurs in two areas, Nancy Lake and the South Rolly Lake Campground. Nancy Lake receives high levels of public use from the adjacent NLSRS and from the approximately 300 private parcels that share a boundary with NLSRA on Nancy Lake. Much of the recreational use on Nancy Lake centers on motorized boating and fishing in summer, and ice fishing and winter sports in the winter. The South Rolly Lake Campground lies at the terminus of the Nancy Lake Parkway at the western shore of South Rolly Lake. This campground offers 98 developed campsites, vaulted privies, potable water, a boat rental concessionaire, lake access, and a small creative play area. During the summer, the campground is often at or over capacity, particularly during sunny summer weekends and holidays.

Multiple parking areas located on the parkway facilitate access to adjacent public use cabins, picnic area, waterbodies, and several terra and water trails. Among the trails accessed from the parkway are the popular Lynx Lake Loop and Pioneer Loop canoe trails. Relatively unique in Southcentral Alaska, the water trails in these two looped canoe trails offer an opportunity to boat through relatively undisturbed natural areas where opportunities to view wildlife and natural scenery abound.

⁵ See Table 3 on page 2 - 13 for a listing of waterbodies that are, or have been, stocked by ADF&G.

In addition to providing the major access points to the canoe trails, this unit contains 5 of the 13 public use cabins located in NLSRA. Four of these cabins are located on the western shore of Nancy Lake and one is located on the north shore of Bald Lake. The public use cabins are very popular and receive high levels of use throughout the year. In fact, these public use cabins are so popular they are booked almost every weekend and many weekdays throughout the year. They are accessed by a variety of methods including watercraft, snowmobiles, skiing, hiking, snowshoeing, and motorized vehicles on a permitted basis.

Fishing is a popular activity on waterbodies within and adjacent to the unit. Most fishing occurs on Nancy Lake and is facilitated from the numerous private parcels contiguous with the NLSRA boundary. Access to fishing opportunities is provided from parking areas and boat access areas located on the Parkway and the NLSRS. These facilities provide access to several stocked lakes in and adjacent to this area including South Rolly, North Rolly, Rhein, Tanaina, and Nancy lakes. Trout, salmon, grayling, and pike are the primary species targeted.

Hiking opportunities are somewhat limited currently with only two large and several small terra trails and two water trails originating within the unit. The larger trails include the Red Shirt Lake Summer Trail and East Red Shirt Lake Trail while the smaller trails are primarily access trails to a facility. The two water trails accessible from this unit are the Lynx Lake Loop Canoe Trail and the Pioneer Loop Canoe Trail. All of these trails have some level of development and are maintained by DPOR. The East Red Shirt Lake Trail is currently being developed to a higher standard trail to facilitate summer and winter use.

Existing Facilities and Trails

The following table identifies facilities and trails that are currently located in this unit. Trails are listed here to provide a comprehensive overview of unit recommendations and allow the reader to see how the proposals tie together. A fire pit and a pit privy are amenities at all campsites. A wood stove and pit privy are amenities at public use cabins. See the Trail Plan in Appendix C for detailed information on trails.

Facility/Trail	Amenities
Boat Access Sites	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> West Nancy Lake 	Vehicle parking (4 vehicle capacity) Minimally developed hand carry launch
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tanaina Lake (Provides access to Lynx Lake Canoe Trail) 	Vehicle parking (8 vehicle capacity) Minimally developed hand carry launch Vaulted privy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rhein Lake (Provides eastern access to Pioneer Loop Canoe Trail) 	Vehicle parking (4 vehicle capacity) Minimally developed hand carry launch
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Rolly Lake (Provides 	Vehicle parking (4 vehicle capacity)

Facility/Trail	Amenities
western access to Pioneer Loop Canoe Trail) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> South Rolly Lake (Provides lake access for campers and other day use) 	Minimally developed hand carry launch Vehicle parking (4 vehicle capacity) Minimally developed hand carry launch Floating dock
Picnic Area	2 Picnic shelter (xx person capacity) Parking Vaulted privy
Campground <ul style="list-style-type: none"> South Rolly Lake 	Campground host RV site 98 road accessible campsites Potable water Vaulted privies
Public Use Cabins <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nancy Lake #1 Nancy Lake #2 Nancy Lake #3 Nancy Lake #4 Bald Lake 	6 person capacity 6 person capacity 6 person capacity 8 person capacity 6 person capacity
Parking Areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Winter Parking Area Red Shirt Lake Summer Trail Parking Area 	60 vehicle capacity Vaulted privies 20 vehicle capacity
NLSRA Maintenance Facility	2 Maintenance bays Offices for maintenance and enforcement staff Outdoor storage
Trails	Two major terra trails originate in the unit – the Red Shirt Lake Summer Trail and the East Red Shirt Lake Trail. Two water trails originate in this unit – The Lynx Lake Loop Canoe Trail and Pioneer Loop Canoe Trail.

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Management Intent

Management intent will focus on enhancing current recreation opportunities while expanding the diversity of recreational opportunities. This area will remain moderately-to- highly developed and will continue to facilitate high levels of public recreation in concentrated areas

and moderate levels of dispersed use in all other areas. Natural resources will be impacted by facilities and uses. Impacts to cultural resources will be minimized. High density/high use developments will be restricted to areas adjacent to the Parkway. See Map 9 on page 7 - 23 for a depiction of this unit including the high intensity development areas. Existing facilities should be redesigned and new facilities should be developed to accommodate increased use by the public.

Construction of a group camp will be a high priority for NLSRA. The intent is to provide a separate facility to allow large groups to recreate, while maintaining individual campsites at the South Rolly Lake Campground for small groups, families, or individuals.

Another priority is the development of looped trails in the area of the South Rolly Lake Campground. The intent is to provide increased opportunities for trail based recreation at the campground. These trails are described in greater detail in the Trails Plan in Appendix C.

Management Guidelines

- Use of an ORV for sled dog training may be allowed through a restricted opening by the Director under 11 AAC 18 during the fall shoulder season when snow conditions do not allow use of a dog sled. The restricted opening will be strictly limited to the paved surface of the Nancy Lake Parkway and the graveled surface of South Rolly Lake Campground access road.
- Access to the Nancy Lake Parkway Trail shall be provided at the South Rolly Lake overlook site.

Facility and Trail Recommendations

The following table identifies new facilities as well as existing facilities that need to be rehabilitated, improved, or redeveloped to a higher standard. Although trails are not facilities, they are listed here to provide a comprehensive overview of unit recommendations and allow the reader to see how the proposals tie together. See the Trail Plan in Appendix C for detailed information on trails.

Table 6: Nancy Lake Parkway Unit Facility and Trail Recommendations

Ref. No.	Facilities/Trails	Desired Outcome
19	South Rolly Lake Campground improvements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design and develop an open space area • Design and develop a creative play area 	<p>Enhance recreation opportunities at the campground by providing a relatively large open field where people can engage in recreational activities.</p> <p>Enhance recreation by providing an area where campers, particularly children, can engage in creative play while staying within the campground. Simple natural materials will be provided to facilitate play.</p>

Ref. No.	Facilities/Trails	Desired Outcome
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design and develop up to 4 public use cabins in the area of Rolly Twin Lakes. At least two of these cabins will be designed as ADA accessible barrier free cabins. The remaining cabins will be developed as barrier free cabins. Improve lake access 	<p>More than just new public use cabin opportunities, these cabins will provide both ADA and barrier free opportunities in an accessible portion of NLSRA while maintaining the remote feeling and lake views of other public use cabins. It is intended that these cabins be developed on a loop off of the existing South Rolly Lake Campground access road.</p> <p>Improve the existing boat access site by widening the existing access road and launch to facilitate trailer launching of boats.</p>
20	<p>Design and Develop a new group camp facility. The facility should include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> access road up to 25 road accessible tent sites up to 4 cabins (eight person capacity) cooking and picnic pavilion (100 person capacity) large council fire ring and seating area (75 person capacity) small council fire ring (25 person capacity) large open space area floating dock 	<p>Provide a new facility to accommodate large group activities. This type of facility does not currently exist in the state's MatSu/Copper River Basin park system. This facility will reduce the burden on existing facilities to accommodate large group use. It will be available on a reservation basis.</p>
21	<p>Design and develop an environmental education and interpretation center. This facility will include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> visitor contact station and interpretive center administrative offices and staff living quarters meeting space (50 person capacity) environmental classroom and basic laboratory (30 person capacity) machine and tool storage 	<p>Provide a facility that will be used as an education and interpretation center. The focus of the contact station would be to provide information on recreational opportunities and interpretation of natural and cultural resources in NLSRA. The meeting facility would serve as the DPOR's primary trails training facility; however, it would be available by reservation for other environmental education opportunities when not used by the agency. The classroom/laboratory would be used to provide hands on environmental education to school aged children and could be used by others conducting studies related to natural resources within NLSRA.</p>

Ref.**No. Facilities/Trails****Desired Outcome**

22	Redevelop existing pullout at North Rolly Lake to a small trailhead parking area.	Provide a parking facility that will accommodate vehicle parking in a safe manner for people recreating on North Rolly Lake and the Pioneer Loop Canoe Trail.
23	Develop an archery shooting course in the area south and east of the winter parking area.	Provide an area for the development of archery skills.
24	Design and develop a system of looped terra trails that are readily accessible from the South Rolly Lake Campground and the Red Shirt Lake Summer Trail trailhead. These trails should range between Class 1 and Class 5.	Provide a new system of looped trails that will greatly expand trail oriented recreation opportunities. This terra trail system will include a diversity of trails that will be available for hiking and bicycle use. A high standard, ADA accessible, interpretive trail should be developed as part of this system of trails.
25	Develop new Class 4 dog sledding snow trail from the winter parking area to the Nancy Lake Parkway.	Enhance access to the Nancy Lake Parkway and other snow trails for dog sled teams and skijoring uses.
26	Design and develop a short, Class 4 hiker/pedestrian, looped interpretive trail system at the interpretive and education center. A connected trail will lead to the shore of Nancy Lake.	Provide an interpretive trail that is able to be used by a wide spectrum of visitors to NLSRA including school programs and programs offered by ADF&G.
27	Design and develop a new Class 4 or 5 interpretive trail that includes a portage site linking the Shem Pete Lake group camp facility with the Lynx Lake Canoe Trail.	Provide a trail that is accessible to a wide segment of the recreating public and expand opportunities to enter the canoe trail system.
28	Develop a new Class 4 snow trail that connects the Nancy Lake Parkway to the North Rolly Lake motorized snow trail.	Enhance use of the existing trails by large dog sled teams through development of a snow trail that connects the Parkway to area snow trails.
29	Design and develop a new high standard trail on the south side of the Nancy Lake Parkway. This trail is intended to link the South Rolly Lake Campground to the Parks Highway. This trail will be developed as a Class 4 or 5 biking trail that is ADA accessible.	Enhance visitor safety, trail connectivity, and access to recreation opportunities by providing a high standard trail that roughly parallels the Nancy Lake Parkway.

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Map 9: Nancy Lake Parkway Management Unit