

MEMORANDUM

February 17, 2026

TO: BLCC Jordan Lake Development Committee, BLCC Board of Directors

FROM: Jim Faiks, Co-Chair, Larry McKinstry, Co-Chair

RE: Committee Meeting on February 14, 2026

On Saturday, February 14, 2026, the BLCC Jordan Lake Development Committee met to discuss planning for the 2026 and future projects. The Committee was excited to welcome three new members who will be joining us for future meetings. Keith and Tina Dobson, who are active in both the Big Lake Chamber of Commerce and the Big Lake Community Council, and Kalyn Stemmons, a student from Houston High School. As we move ahead with projects for 2026, we hope to gain assistance from as many new members, especially younger members as possible. New members provide us with new points of view and insight in planning and developing our community park.

The following projects are slated for work and/or completion in 2026:

1) PICKLEBALL COURTS.

The pickleball courts will need an additional layer of asphalt to eliminate the dips and puddles that are showing up. The courts will need to have the lines painted, and the nets installed in Spring. We also discussed and agreed that fencing should be installed around the courts to contain the action. We will need to obtain funds to cover the cost of the installation of fencing as that was not in the original contract for the court construction. We will also need to procure and pay for benches for participants and viewers.

2) BRICK DRIVEWAY/ENTRY GATES:

A design and budget will need to be finalized for this project so we can obtain a contractor to build the structure and install the gate(s). It is contemplated that the gate will be designed to allow for walk-through access as well as a large gate to close the driveway off from vehicle traffic. The Committee agreed that a concrete block structure with brick facing where the facing bricks can be engraved with donor names, and a brick in sand driveway was preferred. Wrought-iron gate(s) would be used to close off access.

At present, there is approximately \$6,300. Available for this project. The estimated cost is \$15,000. We will need to raise an additional \$9,000 in 2026 to complete this project. Some of the cost may be reduced if we can obtain a contractor who will provide some of

the materials or labor as an “in-kind” donation, or would be willing to reduce the amount charged for the project.

3) PERIMETER WALKING/JOGGING/XC SKIING TRAIL AROUND THE NEWLY LEVELED PARK AREA;

The perimeter trail will be paid for and installed by the Matsu Borough. It will be 6 foot wide and packed gravel, ADA compliant. The cost of the trail will be approximately \$40,000. (\$25./linear foot) and we will be able to use that as matching funds for foundation grant applications made prior to the construction. The trail will circumvent the 4-5 acres we cleared and leveled last year, and will be approximately 1,600 feet in length (1/3 mile). The project is the MSB trail building crew’s number one priority for next season.

4) VETERANS’ MEMORIAL TRAIL SIGNAGE/FLOWERBED

A large sign naming the perimeter trail as the “VETERANS’ MEMORIAL TRAIL” will be purchased and installed at the beginning of the trail running along the eastern edge of the park. A concrete brick planter/flowerbed will be constructed around the base of the sign. The cost of the sign has been donated by Michael Dale (Director, BLCC and veteran) The cost of the sign posts and flowerbed materials will be covered by some of the remaining funds in the grant we obtained from Home Depot last year.

5) 8-12 STATION “FITNESS COURSE” ADJACENT TO THE PERIMETER TRAIL:

The Committee had a long discussion about the planning and installation of the “fitness course.” It was the consensus of the group that a more “rustic” design of the stations was preferable to that of commercial equipment. In other words, we need to find a source of equipment that is a combination of wood and metal that blends in with the natural look of the park. We do not wish to duplicate the playground equipment at Nolfi Park. However, there is interest in a small playground for younger participants to be located near the future picnic pavilions.

The cost of the complete fitness course exceeds our present available funding and we will need to build the course as funding becomes available. We presently have a grant from the Matsu Health Foundation in the amount of \$25,000 and another grant from the Susitna Rotary of \$5,000, available for this project. It is estimated that the entire fitness course will cost at least \$60,000. To complete. The cost will depend on the type of equipment we install, the number and size of the station(s) needed, and the cost of transporting and installing the equipment at the site. We will need approximately \$30,000 to complete the project.

6) WELL HOUSE/PUMP, ETC:

The well has been drilled/installed. A wellhouse structure needs to be obtained/built prior to installation of the pressure tank and plumbing. We are also in discussions with Hugh Leslie and the MSB facility staff to obtain a cost for MEA to bring in a new power line directly to the wellhouse to power the pump. The power would also then be available for future use in powering the picnic pavilions, the amphitheater and stage and potentially lighting for the recreational courts in Fall/Winter.

An 8 x 12 foot permanent well house is estimated at costing approximately \$10,000. The cost of bringing power to the site has not yet been determined, but will be an additional cost. Existing funds are available to cover some of these costs. It is anticipated we will need to seek additional funds for this project. We also discussed the desire to install a drinking fountain on the well house so it could provide hydration for participants using the pickleball and other recreational facilities.

7) "PIONEER" DONORS RECOGNITION SIGN:

We discussed the creation and installation of a "Pioneer Donors" sign to be placed at the entry area. A kiosk will be constructed and a permanent sign recognizing all the entities and individuals who donated funds to make our park a reality and to create the momentum for this year's work. A sign that recognizes various levels of donated funding will be paid for by the MSB. There were 24 donors who gave us more than \$1,000. Each and 50 or so smaller donation contributors in 2025. Additionally, the MatSu Borough provided \$26,000 in funds.

NEXT MEETING:

THE NEXT JORDAN LAKE PARK DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING WILL BE ON MARCH 7, 2026, AT 10:00 A.M. IN THE LARGE MEETING ROOM AT THE BIG LAKE LIBRARY.

Hope to see you there!