

SHAGELUK COMMUNITY PLAN

2025-2028

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At a Glance: *Community Goals & Action Items*

<p>1. Land: Enhance land management to promote land use opportunities and improve sufficient community growth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">1.1 Create central area for land information at City (once renovated)1.2 Continue community expansion & new housing development1.3 Utilize transportation funds for road upgrades & maintenance1.4 Continue to develop new 4-moile grave source site1.5 Prevent trespass by posting signs on lands during hunting season
<p>2. Youth: Support healthy opportunities and promote programs available to young people throughout the year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">2.1 Apply for additional funding to support youth activities (ball court fencing & rims, renovate & revive Teen Center, complete playground, hire youth coordinator)2.2 Increase access for counseling services to youth
<p>3. Education: Ensure highest education for our children through strong advocacy and partnerships with supporting entities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">3.1 Encourage students to attend summer camps3.2 Continue partnership with school to support student activities3.3 Research and understand State/Tribal Education Compacting
<p>4. Health & Wellness: Promote healthy and happy families</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">4.1 Host ongoing wellness events and activities4.2 Increase access to substance abuse & behavioral health services4.3 Move health care services to South Central Foundation
<p>5. Culture & Traditions: Continue to uplift and practice our traditional ways of living off the land, ceremony and culture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">5.1 Offer cultural/traditional education classes5.2 Continue mask dancing5.3 Document & record traditional knowledge
<p>6. Climate & Environment: Care for, protect, and sustain our community and lands for the future</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">6.1 Secure erosion control funds for Riverside & Airport Roads6.2 Solid waste and dump maintenance6.3 Ongoing data collection, monitoring & planning6.4 Advocate for food security, food sovereignty & fishing rights6.5 Revive IGAP work in community
<p>7. Economy & Infrastructure: Support sustainable economic growth, employment and training opportunities, and infrastructure projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">6.1 Shageluk bulk fuel upgrades6.2 Improve existing infrastructure6.3 Create waste heat system off AVEC to City structures
<p>7. Housing: Ensure adequate housing available, and support future development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">7.1 Create a Shageluk Housing Plan7.2 Establish Tribe temporary housing
<p>8. Public Safety: Develop a public safety program for the community to ensure the safety of all residents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">8.1 Continue to promote overall public safety

Community Vision

Our vision is to sustain our community, to continue to live our Deg Hit'an lifestyle, to support and encourage healthy activities that promote healthy families, and to work together to govern and manage our land, natural resources and economic opportunities.

Community Values

- Community & Family
- Local Self-Governance
- Deg Hit'an Culture
- Deg Xinag Language
- Education
- Subsistence Lifestyle
- Economic Development
- Land & Resources
- Health & Wellness



FIGURE 1: BASKET MADE BY LUCY HAMILTON

Community Overview

History & Culture

Shageluk is a Deg Hit'an Athabascan community located in the southern part of the Athabascan region along the Innoko River, a tributary of the Yukon River. It is the last remaining village on the Innoko River, which was once home to many people who lived completely off the land. Over the last hundred years, the population of Shageluk has decreased significantly because of epidemics in the early 1900's, and later due to an outmigration of people into the urban areas. Today, the resident community population is 109.

Historically, people lived in small groups and in camps along the river. Homes were subterranean (partially underground), and all of the resources and materials to survive came only from the land. There are sites along the Innoko River that people know as old villages and areas where people may be buried, but that are unmarked. It is critical that community members and the Shageluk Tribe be contacted first before any land planning or land use activities occur in addition to the village and regional corporations as land ownership varies. Shageluk people and elders know this extensive history and should be consulted with.

Historically, the Deg Hit'an people traded birch and other inland resources with coastal communities and other Native peoples for delicacies and items found in those areas. These trade routes and processes, while not written down, were part of a system that existed. Bartering and sharing resources still exist today.

Early contact with western outsiders was documented to have been in 1839, when Petr Komakov, crossed over from the Takotna River into the Innoko River drainage where he collected beaver pelts. The Russian American Company reported 6 major settlements on the Innoko River in 1861. Other contact with western culture to the area included interactions of the catholic and episcopal churches. In addition, other economic opportunities that impacted the area were gold mining and reindeer herding, which was introduced by Sheldon Jackson in approximately 1918. The reindeer were eventually all killed off by wolves.



FIGURE 2: REINDEER HERD, SHAGELUK

Since first contact with western and outside people and cultures, Shageluk has maintained its strong cultural values and traditions. However, due to suppression of the language and culture in the late 1800's and through mission and territorial/state schooling, English is the dominant language spoken. Deg Xinag is an endangered language as it is not spoken fluently by younger and older generations. There are very few elders who speak fluently, so it is an identified priority of the community and the Athabascan region to increase the number of speakers and learners. Doyon Foundation launched a learning app for Deg Xinag and is available for anyone wishing to learn. The school district has also targeted language learning as a priority. Below are traditional site names of specific locations near Shageluk and Old Shageluk:

Łeggjitno' (rotting fish slough)	Old Shageluk
Niłteghelinghdi; Niłte'eleyhdi	Old Village
Niłteghelingh no'	Slough at Old Village
Ine' Qay	Upper Village
Didlang Dochagg	Mouth of creak near Swiftwater
Vinq' Xichux	Lake
Etthegh Nitiditht'odi	Muskrat area

Tri'igazriiddi
Yo Viniq'it
Legg jit dochagg
Xidithiggad xighon'no'
Xidithiggad

Lake by Shageluk (west of cabins)
Shageluk Lake
Mouth of creak opposite of Shageluk
Creak north into xidithiggad
Lake on west, opposite Dzuxdze (refers to name of a woman who, while looking for berries, died climbing the hill near the village)

Today, Shageluk practices many traditional and cultural activities, and families still live off the land by fishing in the summer, gathering berries, and harvesting other resources throughout all the seasons including moose in the fall, and trapping throughout the winter. Modern technology and resources from the city are accessible as well. Most families have cell phones, access to internet, and the two local stores carry general household goods and foods.

In 2015, Alaska Department of Fish and Game introduced 130 wood bison into the wilderness near Shageluk. Wood bison cows and calves were flown in via plane, and bulls were transported via barge. While many bison have since died, there have been calves born and additional 28 calves barged in during the summer of 2022. Fish and Game continues to monitor and track the heard as they move around the area. There is potential for wood bison hunting and seasonal tourism.



FIGURE 3: BISON RELEASE, SHAGELUK, ALASKA DEPT. OF FISH AND GAME

Location, Geography, & Climate

Shageluk is considered *rural* and *remote* from Alaska's major urban areas. It is about 350 air miles northwest of Anchorage and 400 air miles southwest of Fairbanks, and it is accessible primarily by airplane throughout the year. When traveling to Shageluk from Anchorage, or from Shageluk to Anchorage, there are flights directly from Anchorage on Lake and Peninsula Airlines. Charters can be set up with various other airline companies out of Anchorage. People travel to nearby communities in the winter via snowmachine, and in the summer via boat. Nearby communities include: Grayling, Anvik, and Holy Cross (this region is often called GASH) all of which are along the Yukon River. Bulk items such as equipment or building materials, fuel, boats or household items are barged to Shageluk via Ruby Marine out of Nenana.

Shageluk is located along the Innoko River, which has both lowland and uplands. The area has many flat, marshy areas and rolling hills. The townsite of Shageluk is along the north end of the hill, which is where the community was relocated to after flooding occurred in the old village of Shageluk (2 miles upriver from the current village). The subsurface conditions consist of silty/sandy organic materials as well as thick permafrost, which is a factor when digging wells, building new infrastructure, and maintaining existing infrastructure.

The lack of material rock is a concern for the community. The gravel pit located directly adjacent to the school was recently abandoned and is no longer a viable source for hard rock. The State of Alaska Department of Transportation (DOT) has drilled and began to develop a gravel site north of Shageluk at four-mile. The community members see that as being a possibility for long-term use, however, barging the gravel and rock resource is the only viable option as there is no road overland connecting the site to the community. Stockpiling rock is an option.

The climate of Shageluk 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. Recent floods occurred in 2022 and 2023 which resulted in erosion on the roads adjacent to the river (Airport Road & Riverside Road). Climate change and other factors have impacted fishing returns and food security, and food sovereignty is a high priority. Temperatures typically reach as high as 90 degrees Fahrenheit in the summer, while winter temperatures could reach as low as -60 degrees Fahrenheit. Shageluk has an average of about 18 inches of precipitation per year, and could see 76 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.

Population

Shageluk's population fluctuates throughout the year and increases or decreases depending upon job availability, infrastructure development or special projects, and subsistence hunting and fishing times. While Shageluk has experienced a decline in previous years due to outmigration of families and people into the cities, the past 10 years has resulted in an increase of about 30 residents. The 2023 Alaska Division of Community and Regional Affairs assessed that the population is up to 109 people compared to the previous 2010 census of 80 and the 2020 census of 100 people. There are a number of attributing factors including the number of young families raising children in Shageluk (the school count has gone from 10 students to about 35 students). In addition, summer employment opportunities and projects have been consistent resulting in many economic development benefits and positive social impacts.

Governance & Public Administration

Shageluk has both a City and Tribal government. The Shageluk Native Village (referred to as Shageluk Tribe in this Plan) is a federally recognized Tribe, and there are 7 council members and 5 employees. The City of Shageluk, originally incorporated as a 2nd class city in 1970, has 7 council members and 6 employees. Both entities have seasonal employment, which includes construction and community projects, and the Tribe funds youth employment. The City and Tribal governments strive to have a supportive, working relationship with one another in order to meet the needs of the community. Recently, both entities have worked collaboratively to complete the water and sewer project.

Zho-Tse, Inc., Shageluk's village corporation, was established under provisions in the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) in 1973. It has land inholdings around the community of Shageluk and along the Innoko River. The City of Shageluk and Zho-Tse, Inc., have finalized the ANCSA 14(c)(3) land conveyance of lands surrounding the community.

Other entities of relevance to Shageluk include: Doyon, Limited, the ANCSA regional corporation and subsurface landowner of Zho-Tse, Inc. lands; Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation (YKHC), the health provider for Shageluk and the surrounding communities; Iditarod Area School District (IASD), the Rural Education Attendance Area (REAA) district that the local Innoko River 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 Shageluk, which oversees the Tribe's federal housing funding.

Collaboration, partnership development, and relationship building across entities is vital for meeting the needs of the community as a whole. Small communities like Shageluk are often overburdened by boards and councils having to oversee the work of these entities which results in burnout and capacity growth challenges. However, through working together to achieve the best possible outcome for the people, and by utilizing these systems as tools and mechanisms to achieve desired outcomes, the results of a healthy and active community will be realized.

Land

Within the community of Shageluk, there are public lands (city, state, AVEC), private lands (Zho-Tse, Inc.), and residential lands (restricted townsite homes, homes/lots purchased through IRHA). A Native Allotment, which is privately owned, is located on the south and southwestern border of the community which results in challenges of expansion. There are Native Allotments upriver and downriver of Shageluk and along sloughs and creeks. Other land owners near Shageluk include the state and federal governments, Zho-Tse, Inc., and Doyon, Limited, the ANCSA regional corporation.

The Innoko National Wildlife Refuge, northeast of Shageluk, encompasses around 3.85 million acres of land. It was one of several Alaska refuges established by the passing of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), which was signed into law in 1980. Its headquarters is located in Galena, Alaska.



FIGURE 4: LAND STATUS MAP OF SHAGELUK

Public Safety

The safety, health, and well-being of residents is important to Shageluk community members. From 2017-2020, the Shageluk Tribe received and operated the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grant to fund a tribal police program, which was key in organizing and developing the local search and rescue program, educating and focusing on emergency and accident prevention, and overseeing tribal law enforcement. The search and rescue efforts have been on a volunteer basis, and it is typically led by the Tribal 1st Chief. Since the community does not have a Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO), the Alaska State Troopers are usually notified when the community is in need of law enforcement. In the case of medical emergencies, the local health aide is notified and other YKHC medical professionals (headquartered in Bethel, Alaska).

Future efforts of public safety include: developing and re-visiting the search and rescue plans, reviewing and updating any local community emergency response plans and/or tribal codes, ensuring adequate search and rescue materials and resources are in stock and locally available, and developing a fire/emergency response plan complete with response equipment. The Innoko River School emergency response plan is revised and distributed to residents, parents/guardians annually.

The Shageluk Airport is equipped with working runway lights and has IFR capability. While direct flights are available, mail and bypass mail is routed via Aniak. This poses a challenge for bulk food items, particularly fresh foods and perishables that freeze or are impacted by the weather. Other common flight routes include Bethel, which is the primary care facility for YKHC of which Shageluk is serviced through.

Fire safety, preparedness, and response is an area of top concern. With accessible water to homes since the water and sewer project was completed, fire hydrants were installed throughout the community and along the roadways. Tasks to maintain and ensure proper

handling of these systems include ensuring adequate equipment is purchased and stored properly and holding a trial run annually. A firebreak line needs to be maintained every few years due to the fast-growing willow around the community. Funds may be secured through TCC wildfire services to help with this process.

Infrastructure

Public Facilities

Kashim (Tral Tth'et):

Originally built in 1982, the Kashim is primarily used as a gathering place for a variety of events including traditional mask dances, weddings, community meetings, bingo, potlatches (funerals), church events, fundraisers, community events and feasts. During the southern route of the Iditarod dog sled race, it is often the checkpoint location. It's maintained by the Shageluk Tribe. In 2016, the roof, floor, windows and door were all replaced, and the exterior and interior logs were sanded and chinked to extend the life of the building.



FIGURE 5: MAIN STREET IN SHAGELUK, 2024

Teen Center: Adjacent to the Kashim is another single-story log building that has been the activity center for kids, and it was built in 1983. The Teen Center is currently being used for temporary laundry and water services. The Tribe plans to renovate this facility and restore it to a youth/teen activity center.

Shageluk Tribal Office: This newly constructed building, completed in 2019, has a meeting and activity space, kitchen area for the Elder Nutrition Program, and offices for the tribal administrator, tribal family youth specialist, tribal police officer, tribal workforce development specialist, and tribal clerk.

City Building: Constructed in 1986, the city building is in need of drastic renovation. This multipurpose facility is overflowing with maintenance tools and materials, and the heating system continues to draw a significant expense due to its lack of efficiency. In the last ten years some upgrades have been made to the exterior logs, which has been sanded, re-stained, and chinked to keep heating costs down.

Washeteria: The Washeteria was built in 1994, and it was the centralized facility for water and sewer for residents in the community. In 2023, the facility was renovated by ANTHC and is used as the water treatment plant for the city piped water system. The Washeteria still maintains two washers and dryers, one full bathroom, a sauna, and an outdoor pump is available for potable water. Most recently, the exterior of the building and the exterior ramp were re-painted, and energy efficient upgrades have been made.

Susan Dutchman Health Clinic: Operated by the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation (YKHC), the Susan Dutchman Health Clinic was constructed in 2001. The clinic has space for visiting clinicians (floats), and it is fully equipped with beds, an office, dental and exam spaces, and a waiting area. The City of Shageluk oversees the maintenance of the building through a contract with the Tribe, and the Shageluk Tribe supports the medical transportation needs.

Local Stores: ANICA (Alaska Native Industries Cooperative Association), Inc., has been the primary store in Shageluk since the 1960s, and it is overseen by the Shageluk Native Village council. The Shageluk ANICA facility was constructed in 1999. The Flyway is an additional convenience store, privately owned, and has been in operation since 2020.

Innoko River School: Constructed in 1987 after a fire destroyed the previous school, the Innoko River school is operated and maintained by the Iditarod Area School District (IASD) and funded by the State of Alaska. There are five (5) separate classrooms, a public library, gymnasium, and other buildings include: wood shop, generator shop, garage (used also for recycling), and a duplex for teacher housing. The student count has grown from 10 to now 30+ students, but student count fluctuates throughout the year. There is also a preschool, which is supported and funded by IASD.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church: Constructed in 1969/1970, the local church is in need of upgrades. The building was re-leveled in 2016, but other replacements will need to include: wood stove, windows, roof, and perhaps the front door. The logs have significant water and weather damage and its unlikely to be very energy efficient during the winter months. It has been designated as a priority for the community to upgrade the space. It is currently not being utilized by the episcopal church or the community for holding church functions because of its dilapidated condition.

Post Office: In 2002, the U.S. Post Office building was constructed in Shageluk. It is a one story, wood frame structure and is in good condition. In 2019, upgrades were made to the doors, heating system, flooring, and the general waiting area.

Housing

The community of Shageluk views housing as one of its main priorities. There are many homes that are currently occupied (approximately 37) and there are also a number of homes that are too rundown or dilapidated to live in (approximately 10 homes). There is a need to develop a housing plan that addresses the issues of new development, old and rundown homes, and efforts to continue supporting and upgrading current homes.

There are both log and frame construction homes in Shageluk, with the majority being frame homes constructed by IRHA. In 2015, many of the occupied homes received weatherization upgrades including new windows, doors, wood and Toyostoves, and additional insulation. Several homes were leveled after permafrost had caused the houses to shift. And finally, in 2023, most all homes have been piped in to the city water and sewer system.

There are two newly constructed log homes in Shageluk, built by private owners, and with the use of local resources and sawmills. There are also 4 new small homes built by the Tribe. The Shageluk Tribe owns a sawmill available for residential use. Land access is tied to home availability, and currently there are no open areas for lots. With the conveyance of the 14(c)(3) village corporation lands, additional residential housing lots will be opened.

Rentals are in demand. The city owns two small homes for long-term rentals, and short-term rentals include two city rooms for visiting professionals or service providers working in the community. City short-term rentals need renovation along with the City building. The Tribe plans to turn their two small rental units into an elder temporary house and the other as a safe house.

Public Utilities

Electric - AVEC (Alaska Village Electric Cooperative) is a nonprofit, member cooperative that supplies electricity for 56 communities in Alaska, including Shageluk. AVEC manages and operates the local power plant with two diesel generators. The cost per kilowatt hour, listed in the DCRA information portal by community was \$.22/kWh for residents and is supported through the Power Cost Equalization (PCE) program which provides economic assistance to communities where the cost of electricity can be three to five times higher than urban areas of the state. PCE distributions to date are \$61,060.15.

Fuel – There are two local fuel service stations in Shageluk. Zho-Tse, Inc., the village corporation sells diesel, gasoline, and other oil products. A private business, Big Wheel Hauling,

LLC., sells gasoline. Both prices are about \$8.50/gallon. The city has two BIA-style tanks with a total capacity of 12,000-gallons, and a 25,000-gallon horizontal low sulfur fuel tank for equipment. Zho-Tse, Inc., holds roughly 15,000-gallons heating fuel and 20,000-gallons gasoline. The City of Shageluk, Iditarod Area School District, and AVEC all purchase their own bulk fuel and maintain their own tank farms. IASD has 9 tanks, 8 are BIA-style vertical tanks, and 1 is horizontal. Their capacity is roughly 44,360 gallons, but not all are utilized. AVEC has 6 BIA-style tanks with a capacity of about 54,990 gallons of fuel oil. There are plans to consolidate tank farms to include local business owners, the City, and Zho-Tse, Inc.

Water/Sewer – In 2023, the community of Shageluk finalized the Water and Sewer project, and most all homes are piped in to the city water and sewer system. The Washeteria is utilized as the water treatment plant. The water tank holds 20,000 gallons, and it is treated by silica sand and other chemicals. Maintenance operators make water every 4-5 days for the community. There are two wells and the septic system is gravity-fed model. Circulating pumps keep the water from freezing during the winter months. The school, clinic, post office, and city building are other facilities that have running water.

Phone/Internet – Shageluk has both cell phone and landline service capability. Bush-Tell, Inc., provides landline and internet service, and GCI offers internet and cell phone service. Many homes utilize Starlink for Internet.

Transportation

Shageluk is accessible via air, water, and snowmachine in the winter. Residents use snowmachines, ATVs, boats, and occasional dog sleds for recreational and subsistence activities. The airport, owned by the State of Alaska Department of Transportation (DOT), is a 3,400’ x 75’ lighted gravel airstrip three miles from town. There are daily flights in and out of Shageluk, operated out of Anchorage. This is a change from previous years when Aniak was used as a hub – today, direct commercial flights are based out of Anchorage although mail and bypass still come from the Aniak hub and health care is primarily out of Bethel. Float and ski planes can also land on the river.

There are barges that service the community, making at least 2-3 trips to Shageluk each summer to deliver bulk materials, propane, fuel, and construction/heavy equipment. The City of Shageluk has two small 40’x8’ barges that residents can use for transporting bulk materials such as logs, construction materials, or small equipment.

In 2023, the Airport Road was realigned and resurfaced. The road is not out of the flood zone and proper drainage and culverts were put in to increase the longevity of the road. Erosion was not addressed, and this remains a concern for portions of the road. Road maintenance and resurfacing continues to be a priority. Riverside Road is in need of a culvert to drain springtime runoff of a water system adjacent to the lagoon. Roads in town need to be raised and resurfaced, and the residential area needs to have proper drainage systems in place for runoff and permafrost heaves. And finally, the two bridges in town have been upgraded with large culverts. The main bridge is scheduled for an inspection in July 2024.

There are approximately 12-miles of existing and proposed roads. In 2024, TCC completed a Long-Term Transportation Plan, and the following roads in need of upgrades are listed by priority level:

Existing Road System & Priority Level			
Road	Length	IRR Class	Community Priority
Gravel pit road	4.7 miles	5	High
Hamilton Street	.2 miles	3	High
Housing Street	1.1 miles	3	High
Cemetery Road	.6 miles	3	High

Riverside Road	.2 miles	3	Medium
John Street	.1 miles	3	Medium
Airport Road	3 miles	4	Low
Ski trail	1.1 miles	8	Low
Hillside Street	.3 miles	3	Low
Sawdust Street	.3 miles	3	Low
Main Street	.3 miles	3	Low
Middle Street	.1 miles	3	Low

The City of Shageluk maintains the roads. The Shageluk Tribe can utilize the Tribal Transportation Program funding for the maintenance of roads listed above. Issues with roads included erosion, rutting, and general upkeep throughout the seasons. The City reported that the roads are constructed with between 2 to 3 feet of material, however it is not quality gravel.

Alternative Energy

There are several facilities in Shageluk that have received energy efficiency upgrades. The local Washeteria facility has a solar system set up, which needs to be connected and brought online for use. They have also upgraded their boiler burners, windows, and have installed LED motion sensor lights. The logs on the City Building and Kashim have been chinked to increase energy efficiency and save on heating. And finally, there is one residential home that uses solar power. It may be a future goal of the community to seek funds to increase the use of alternative energy as a viable option for electricity.

The City has discussed the potential of harnessing waste heat off of the AVEC facility to heat their garage and maintenance facility on Riverside Road. AVEC is also in need of some general upgrades including a main generator motor and switchboard for syncing motors.

The Innoko River School received grant funds to change out and replace all gymnasium light fixtures with LED energy efficient lights. There was also a school biomass heat pre-feasibility study completed in 2014, however, the findings concluded that the costs of local cordwood would not result in significant savings. The school uses an estimate of 7,000 gallons of fuel oil #1 per year, and operates two (2) Burnham fuel oil burners. The school is still seeking other forms of alternative energy funding to heat and power the facilities.

Economy

Industry & Capital Projects

The Shageluk community has prioritized both small and large scale projects throughout the years. There are some projects that are state funded, such as the airport or the road to the airport which needs routine upkeep because of its proximity to the river and erosion. In 2023, significant improvements were made to this road, however, erosion continues to be an issue. There are also many federally funded projects such as housing through the NAHASDA program.

The City of Shageluk and Shageluk Tribe continues to actively seek other grant and funding opportunities for projects such as future roads projects, dump maintenance and cleanup, and city building renovation. One City facility is targeted for cleanup that contains asbestos. This blight on the community will free up space in the central part of town once it is taken down. Partnership between local governing agencies is important, and strengthens the support for the projects both when seeking out funding, and during the actual project.

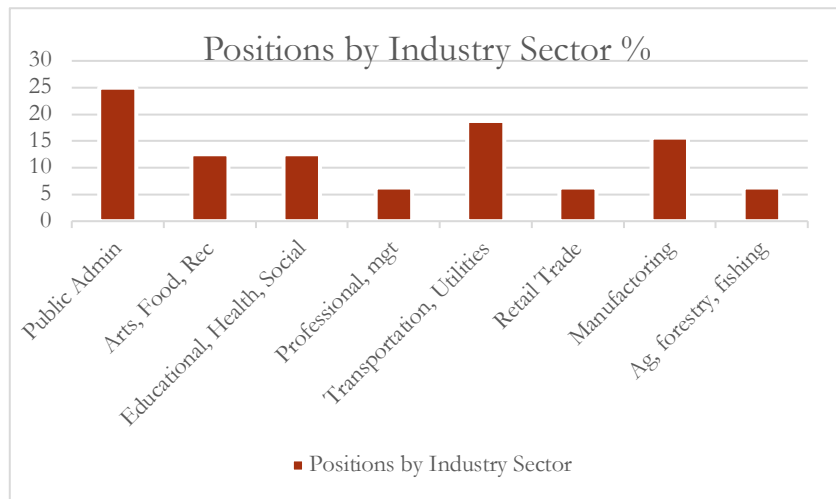
The Tribe and City also fund smaller projects, such as renovations to the Kashim, upgrades to the Washeteria, and brush clearing along the community roads. Recent projects include the Phase II of the water and sewer project, and the State of Alaska DOT realignment

project on Shageluk’s Airport Road (2023). The Tribe also plans to complete a new Tribal shop facility, upgrade the Teen Center, and repair St. Luke’s Episcopal Church. The City’s priority is the City building renovation and redesign.

Available Employment Opportunities & Income Statistics

Employment fluctuates throughout the year. There are typically 20 to 25 year-round positions with peak season employment increasing to about 30 to 40. According to the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 5-year estimates from 2018-2022 the median household income is at \$33,125 +/- \$7,174.

Seasonal employment includes special construction or capital improvement projects, firefighting, brush cutting and other small and large scale industrial and capital projects. The class of worker consists of 46.9% local, state and federal government workers; private company workers 43.8%, and private not-for-profit is 9.4%. The primary entities that hire include the City, Tribe, school, clinic, post office, corporation and stores.



2024 US Census Bureau American Community Survey Data			
Median Age in Shageluk	29.5	Private Sector	10
Elderly Population	21%	Local Government	16
Mobility Rate	4.7% +/-9.6%	State Government	10
Male workers	21	Peak Quarterly Employment	30
Female workers	16	Workers Employed all 4 quarters	23
Workers age 50 and over	15	Seasonal Hires	25
Poverty under 18	75%	Poverty rate 18-64 years	34.4%

Below is a list of current positions, openings, projected new and seasonal employment.

Entity	# of Positions	# of Open Positions	# of Additional New Positions Expected	Seasonal Employment Opportunities
Shageluk Tribe	5	2	2	Y
City of Shageluk	6	1	0	Y
Innoko River School	7	2	1	Y
Zho-Tse, Inc.	2	0	-	Y
ANICA	3	0	-	-

Clinic	2	0	-	-
Post Office	2	1	-	-

Subsistence

The people of Shageluk 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. Fishing and food sovereignty has been severely impacted in recent years with the decline of salmon returning each year. More advocacy and action is needed to ensure adequate food supply for families.

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. Shageluk has two seats on the committee.

Wood bison were introduced to the Innoko River area in 2015, organized by the Alaska Department of Fish & Game. In all, 130 wood bison were brought to the area, and an additional 28 calves were introduced in 2022. The herd continues to fluctuate in numbers, but it is actively monitored by Fish & Game.

Local Assets & Potential for Growth

Although small in size, Shageluk 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. The City of Shageluk has the opportunity for employment and equipment rental various projects along with overseeing their newly installed water and sewer system.

The economy of Shageluk 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 lack of land availability. Shageluk 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, and many homes and businesses are heated by Toyostove. Available land has expanded since the 14(c)(3) land conveyance has been finalized between the City of Shageluk and Zho-Tse, Inc. Once land lots are made available, there will likely be an increase in residential growth.

Grant funded programs typically fund a manager position to oversee the development and operations of the program. Shageluk Tribe has potential to grow and manage an environmental program (IGAP), which would result in one or two new job opportunities. Other programs might include solid waste management, which is available through the State of Alaska for city governments to manage their local dumps and waste processes. Other potential program growth could include a sobriety camp or program focusing on behavioral health. In the 1990s, Shageluk supported a successful alcohol sobriety camp, which was state funded by 4-Rivers Mental Health Agency out of McGrath. There were many positive impacts to the community because of that effort.

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 Innoko River area, therefore making it a profitable business opportunity.

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

Business	Program Development	Infrastructure/Capital Projects
Wood bison guiding and tourism	Environmental: IGAP & Solid Waste	Shageluk City Building Renovation
Native artwork	Sobriety Camp (Shageluk previously supported this)	Shageluk Tribal Short-Term Housing: Elders & Safe House
Youth store	Youth Development program	Residential housing
Fuel	Education (STEC)	

Completed Projects Since Last Community Plan

- Water & Sewer Project
- Airport Road Realignment
- 14(C)(3) land conveyance
- Zho-Tse Bldg Construction
- Tribal COVID housing
- Tribal transportation (vehicles & equipment)
- Tribal Camp at 20-mile
- COPS Grant

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 Shageluk Tribe and the City of Shageluk. Goals and action items will be discussed, and the lead on the action items will give an update and report on efforts made, 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. Additional planning should be completed within each entity to ensure appropriate targets are being set alongside capacity growth, training opportunities, board and leadership development and other organizational health related topics.

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.

Bi-Annual Review	Update/Adopt Goals
June 2025/ 2026/ 2027	June 2027
December 2024/2025/2026	

Community Goals & Objectives (2025-2028)

1. Land: Enhance land management to promote land use opportunities and improve sufficient community growth			
1.1 Create central area for land information at City (once renovated)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maps available and printed, state and Doyon/Zho-Tse processes, allotment information available at TCC website 	City of Shageluk	Fall 2025
1.2 Continue community expansion & new housing development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Survey new lots on East Hill 	City of Shageluk * Shageluk Tribe	Fall 2025
1.3 Utilize transportation funds for road upgrades & maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ City and Tribe to meet together to discuss and plan ▪ Include fire break in summer projects 	Shageluk Tribe City of Shageluk TCC Planning	Ongoing
1.4 Continue to develop new 4-mile gravel source site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Leverage DOT funding and support ▪ Continued relationship with Doyon, Ltd ▪ Need road to gravel in winter [Current stockpile 120,000] 	City of Shageluk, Zho-Tse, Doyon, Limited	Ongoing & Project Dependent
1.5 Prevent trespass by posting signs on lands during hunting season	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hire individuals to oversee lands during hunting season, post signage 	Zho-Tse, Inc. * Shageluk Tribe	Each Fall
2. Youth: Support healthy opportunities and promote programs available to young people throughout the year			
2.1 Apply for additional funding to support youth activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ball court fencing/new rims - Renovate and revive Teen Center program - Complete playground - Youth Coordinator position 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Diabetes prevention and youth education ▪ Rural Cap ▪ Doyon Daaga' Awards ▪ Doyon Foundation language funding ▪ See <i>Youth Plan</i> in Appendices 	Shageluk Tribe * City of Shageluk IASD	Ongoing
2.2 Increase access for counseling services to youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Connect youth with counselors (Communicate availability w/ students) ▪ Ensure youth have a system of support 	Shageluk Tribe YKHC IASD	Ongoing

3. Education: Ensure highest education for our children through strong advocacy and partnerships with supporting entities			
3.1 Encourage and support students to attend summer camps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support local camps: vacation bible school, other bible camps, Camp Fire USA, sports camps ▪ Promote academic camp offerings ▪ CPR/Wilderness First Aid (Clinic) ▪ Develop seasonal calendar for activities 	Shageluk Tribe * City of Shageluk Clinic	Summer 2025/ 2026/ 2027
3.2 Continue partnership with school to support student activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continued advocacy and support of YIK Days, Dinayetr' Week, Red Ribbon Week, Language Revitalization 	Shageluk Tribe IASD Doyon Foundation	Annually
3.3 Research and understand State/Tribal Education Compacting Model	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Convene GASH Education Workgroup ▪ Discuss education framework, modeling, and STEC 	Shageluk Tribe	2025
4. Health & Wellness: Promote healthy and happy families			
4.1 Host ongoing wellness events and activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Set up schedule with community input ▪ Sewing, beading, and gym nights 	Shageluk Tribe	Ongoing
4.2 Increase access to substance abuse & behavioral health services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Post/share YKHC's schedule & contact numbers ▪ Research potential for sobriety camp 	Susan Dutchman Health Clinic Shageluk Tribe *	Ongoing
4.3 Move/research health care services to South Central Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Research what is needed to make the shift, pros and cons, and impacts ▪ Bring before community and Councils 	Shageluk Tribe City of Shageluk	Winter 2025
5. Culture & Traditions: Continue to uplift and practice our traditional ways of living off the land, ceremony and culture			

5.1 Offer cultural/traditional education classes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Create year-round schedule: skin sewing & beading, hunting & fishing, fish trap, basket making, and others • Meetings/sharing/lessons about cultural milestones: first moose (passing out the first catch), tea partners, etc. 	Shageluk Tribe * Innoko River School	Ongoing
5.2 Continue mask dancing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Learn & host real mask dance (tea partners, introducing kids) 	Shageluk Tribe	Winter 2025/2026/2027
5.3 Document & record traditional knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Complete graveyard mapping & marking with elders ▪ Create videos, educational materials ▪ Keep materials in Tribe or local library ▪ Seek small project funds ▪ Maintain integrity of cultural traditions in Tribal Codes (update codes) 	Shageluk Tribe * Innoko River School	Spring 2025
6. Climate & Environment: Care for, protect, and sustain our community and lands for the future			
6.1 Secure erosion control funds for Riverside & Airport Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prevent further erosion of banks ▪ Apply for funds 	City of Shageluk Shageluk Tribe	Summer 2025/2026/2027
6.2 Solid waste and dump maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Burner coming in Summer 2024 ▪ Map dump cells and dump perimeter, make plan for future cells & expansion/ongoing care 	City of Shageluk	Summer 2026/2027
6.3 Ongoing data collection, monitoring & planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue data collection on permafrost issues, spring runoff issues, and lake studies 	Shageluk Tribe & IRS	Ongoing

6.4 Advocate for food security, food sovereignty & fishing rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Advocacy for Innoko River harvests of fish for families (rural priority) 	Shageluk Tribe	2025/2026/2027
6.5 Revive IGAP work in community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Secure funds, hire staff, re-start program 	Shageluk Tribe	2025
7. Economy & Infrastructure: Support sustainable economic growth, employment and training opportunities, and infrastructure projects			
7.1 Shageluk bulk fuel upgrades	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ AEA (Alaska Energy Authority) 	AVEC/CRW Engineering	Summer 2025/2026
7.2 Improve existing infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Construct garage/shop for Tribal transportation and equipment ▪ Rehab St. Luke’s Episcopal church ▪ Renovate/redesign City building to accommodate rentals & office space ▪ 2024 Bridge inspection/possible upgrade 	Shageluk Tribe City of Shageluk	Summer 2025/2026/2027
7.3 Create waste heat system off AVEC to City Structures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Create plan w/ AVEC for waste heat use for city structures, secure funding 	City of Shageluk	Summer 2026
8. Housing: Ensure sufficient housing available, and support future development			
8.1 Create a Shageluk Housing Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assess dilapidated/unoccupied homes, meet with families and community to discuss options (encourage wills w/ TCC) 	Shageluk Tribe City of Shageluk	Winter 2025/Summer 2026
8.2 Establish Tribe temporary housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Complete and furnish Tribal housing for Safe House & Elder Temp Home 	Shageluk Tribe	Summer 2025
9. Public Safety: Develop a public safety program for the community to ensure the safety of all residents			
9.1 Continue to promote public safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Grant opportunity if available ▪ Organize S&R program w/ volunteers ▪ Inform other village S&R teams of S&R plans (subregional mtg) 	Shageluk Tribe * City of Shageluk	2025/2026/2027

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Appendix A:

Planning Process & Participation

The community planning process included notification posted on public buildings and invitations to local government council members and staff. 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 2018-2021 Shageluk Community Plan, which many had participated in previously. Attendees discussed and reflected upon where the community is at today, accomplishments and challenges overcome in the last several years, and they went through a visioning exercise to review the long-standing community vision.

In addition to the two community meetings, an additional planning was held with lead admin staff and leadership to acquire more accurate updates along with a separate youth focused planning session, which was very active and engaged. The youth planning notes and ideas are located in the Appendices of this Plan.

Meeting Dates:

March 18, 2024; March 22, 2024; and June 20, 2024; Youth Meeting March 19, 2024; June 20, 2024, Shageluk Tribe; July 8, 2024, Shageluk City.

Topics:

Community Vision, Land, Health & Wellness, Climate and Environment (newly added category), Culture & Traditions, Youth, Infrastructure & Housing, Economy & Public Safety

Attendees:

Zeke Hamilton, Chelsea Watson, Joy Hamilton, Scott Wolfersheim, Chevie Roach, Rudolph Hamilton, Jorian Hamilton, Natalee Nicholi, Tiffany Workman, Jewel Workman, Youth: Chevelle Roach, Emry Roach, Carver Arrow, Sydney Roach, Gavin Hamilton, Payton Nicholi, Faith Sugak, Natalee Nicholi, Lucas Hamilton, Haylan Nicholi, Clarice Howard

Additional Review during City & Tribal meetings: Alana Hamilton, Roger Hamilton, Jr., Irma Howard, Shirley John, Patience Clairmont

Appendix B:

Community Contacts

Shageluk Native Village	PO Box 109, Shageluk, AK 99665	(907) 473-8239
City of Shageluk	PO Box 110, Shageluk, AK 99665	(907) 473-8221
Innoko River School	PO Box 49, Shageluk, Alaska 99665	(907) 473-8206
Susan Dutchman Health Clinic	PO Box 129, Shageluk, AK 99665	(907) 473-8231
Zho-Tse, Inc.	PO Box 243893, Anchorage, AK 99524	(907) 677-1131
Tanana Chiefs Conference	122 First Ave., Ste. 600, Fairbanks, AK 99701	(907) 451-8251

Senate District R

House District 36

Judicial District 4

Shageluk Tribal Court

Appendix C:

Planning with Shageluk Youth (March 19, 2024)

Youth 1: Continue Summer Youth Employment at the Tribe with support from Recreation Director

- Plans activities for the kids during the summer.
- Ball court fix up (pest control) bee removal, fence, leveled, storage container for equipment
- Oversee Teen Center



Youth 2: Renovate Teen Center Facility & Program

- Hours of operation
- Equipment Ideas, Needs: Carpet Ball, Pool table, Sound system/juke box/speakers, Ping-pong ball, Arcade games (PAC man) Blackout curtain, Karaoke, WiFi/Internet, LED lights in lounge, Art center space (teen center, easel, paints), Vending machine (snacks, drinks), Board/card games (teen center, uno), screen set up for movie night, bean bag/lounge chairs for hangout area, no smoking signs, carpeted space for lounge,
- Hire Student employee (student store worker) (Keeping space clean)
- Open Student store/kitchen space: popcorn maker, microwave, kitchen items
- Future: Building on to the Teen Center/expansion

Youth 3: Construct & finalize playground and update ball court

- Where will it be? Talk to school district. Talk to Auntie Blue-Eyes, Talk to Uncle/Grampa Bernard (some properties close to school?)
- Disclaimer (sign)
- Trampoline
- BBQ/campfire pit
- Wood chipper (?) Figure out cost

Youth 4: Support additional programming for youth:

- Cultural activities (year-round): mask dancing continuation, beading & sewing, fish net making, volunteering, tea partner process, seasonal camps, Camp Fire swimming
- Mask carving and dance continuation
- Create space (FB Page) or a bulletin board or white board to post events, camps, etc. dates, etc.

Youth Future Ideas: swimming dock at lake, possible pool, fix up dump, ball field at burn site, daycare.

Youth School Needs Identified: new technologies, organize school, get class pets, ETT/FIRST aid for babysitting

Appendix D:

Resolutions



Shageluk IRA Tribal Council

P.O. Box 109
Shageluk, Alaska 99665
Telephone (907) 473-8239
Fax (907) 473-8275
shagelukta@gmail.com

Resolution 2024-16

ADOPTING SHAGELUK COMMUNITY PLAN

- WHEREAS,** this Community Plan is important to the future growth and development of Shageluk; and
 - WHEREAS,** this plan was created through a public process that captured the values and goals for our community; and
 - WHEREAS,** this plan is a tool that helps us manage change in our community; and
 - WHEREAS,** this plan is intended to coordinate future community development and service delivery; and
 - WHEREAS,** it is understood that this document was created for public use and will be made publicly 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 expressed in this plan.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this resolution was duly passed on June 20, 2024, by a vote of ___ yes, ___ no, and 1 abstained.

1st Chief, Roger Hamilton, Jr.

6-20-24
Date

2nd Chief, Jorian Hamilton,

6-20-24
Date



THE SHAGELUK CITY COUNCIL

P.O. Box 110 Shageluk, AK 99665

(907) 473-8221 Fax (907) 473-8220

Resolution No. 2024-28

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF SHAGELUK TO ADOPT THE 2025-2028 SHAGELUK COMMUNITY PLAN

WHEREAS: the Shageluk City Council, hereinafter called the council, is the municipal governing body of Shageluk, Alaska, and

WHEREAS: the Council supports the 2025-2028 Community Plan prepared by the Shageluk Native Village, Sonta Hamilton Roach, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Planning and Development Program.

WHEREAS: The Community plan has been prepared to guide the City's future growth and development.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: the City Council of Shageluk as follows:

Section 1. The 2025-2028 Community plan is hereby adopted by the council.

Section 2. The City Council directs staff to implement the recommendations and actions outlined in the plan.


Section 3. The City Council authorizes the mayor to sign and execute any documents necessary to effectuate the plan.

Passed and approved by the City of Shageluk by the council on the 8th day of July, 2024.

Attest:



Mayor Chevie Roach



City Clerk Patience Clairmont