



The 50-acre park is proposed for Elephant Lake, about 10 miles from Kenai.

Salamatof Tribal Council announces plans for park

The Salamatof Tribal Council located in Kenai has announced plans for a cultural recreational project.

The proposed site of the 50-acre park is Elephant Lake. Located about 10 miles from Kenai, the site will include a campground, recreational vehicle park and fishing and canoeing facilities. An eventual lodge/hotel and pavilion is planned for meetings and retreats.

The park will incorporate any artifacts found at the Elephant Lake site to help preserve the culture of the Kenai area, which has a history of both the Yupik Eskimo and Athabascan Indians. Nature trails are planned to guide visitors through the forest with both botanical and anthropological sites marked.

Planning for the Elephant Lake Recreation Park began many years ago when tribal members agreed not to sell

more than 10 percent of the Native association's land, but rather seek out development possibilities.

Salamatof Native Association President Jim Segura and other council members, having used the area for years as a retreat, felt opening the area up for recreational purposes would not only boost overall tourism for Kenai, but would also create jobs for shareholders and youths along with strengthening the feeling of identity for members of the Salamatof tribe.

Part of the plan includes promoting cooperative programs with other Alaska Native corporations and non-profit organizations.

A first priority for the Salamatof Tribal Council is a road to the site. Currently, the only access is a hiking trail that leads from a borough-maintained public road through about four miles of woods.