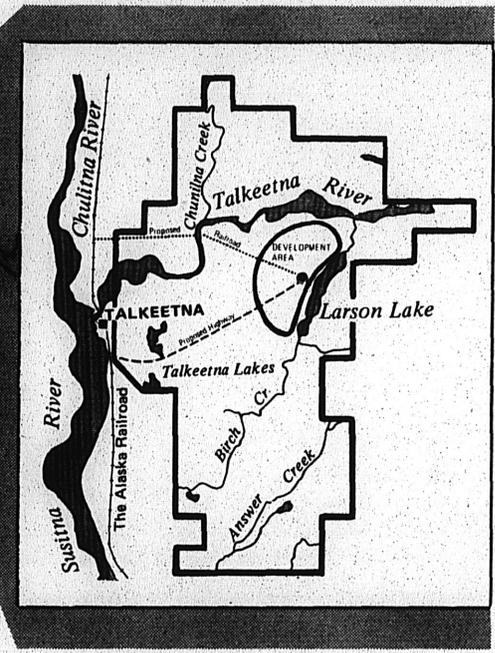


LARSON LAKE SITE



Development of a Capital City

Only 60 miles from Mt. McKinley, a city at the Larson Lake site could become the southern gateway to Mt. McKinley National Park and Denali State Park. Building at this site would also open the Northern Susitna Valley to recreational development. Life in the city could center around recreational as well as governmental activities.

The area designated for capital city development at Larson Lake is located adjacent to the fine scenic and recreational resources for which the site is named--Larson Lake itself. The site of the new capital city straddles two low hills which follow the west bank of the lake to the southwest and northeast. A superb view of Mt. McKinley and the Kashiwina and River Glaciers lies to the west of the city. Looking across the lake and up the steeply rising east bank, the smooth profile of Bald Mountain can be seen.

Hills in the development area provide interesting visual elements around which a capital city could be structured. Since the development area extends the full length of the lake--approximately three miles--there is ample space for a capital city. In addition, numerous linkages could be established between the city and the adjacent lake, making the lake's recreational benefits an integral part of the city's plan.

The projected highway linkage follows the existing road to the Bartlett Earth Station, and then extends approximately three miles beyond to the proposed site of the capital city. This route would afford dramatic approach views of a capital city on the ridge of the hills.

Location

The Larson Lake site is approximately 120 road miles north of Anchorage, 283 road miles south of Fairbanks. It is located 5 miles east of Talkeetna, on the westerly slopes of the Talkeetna Mountains. The site is generally bounded by the north fork of Montana Creek to the south, the Talkeetna Mountains to the north and east, and the Susitna River to the west. A capital city would be located on the west side of Larson Lake.

This site was selected for consideration for two basic reasons. First, the natural features within the area are dramatic and visually interesting. Second, the site is close to the railbelt (5 miles) but removed from existing urban areas.

The Larson Lake site has a westerly exposure with magnificent views in all directions. These views extend out over the Susitna Valley to the Alaska Range and include an excellent vantage point for viewing Mt. McKinley.

The scenic natural features of the site include a large fresh water lake, a clear water river, mountain slopes and gently rolling hills. The area is heavily forested with birch and spruce. The Larson Lake area remains in an undeveloped condition because of the lack of access to the area, and the limited amount of development that has taken place in and around Talkeetna.



Larson Lake is an excellent scenic and recreation resource.