

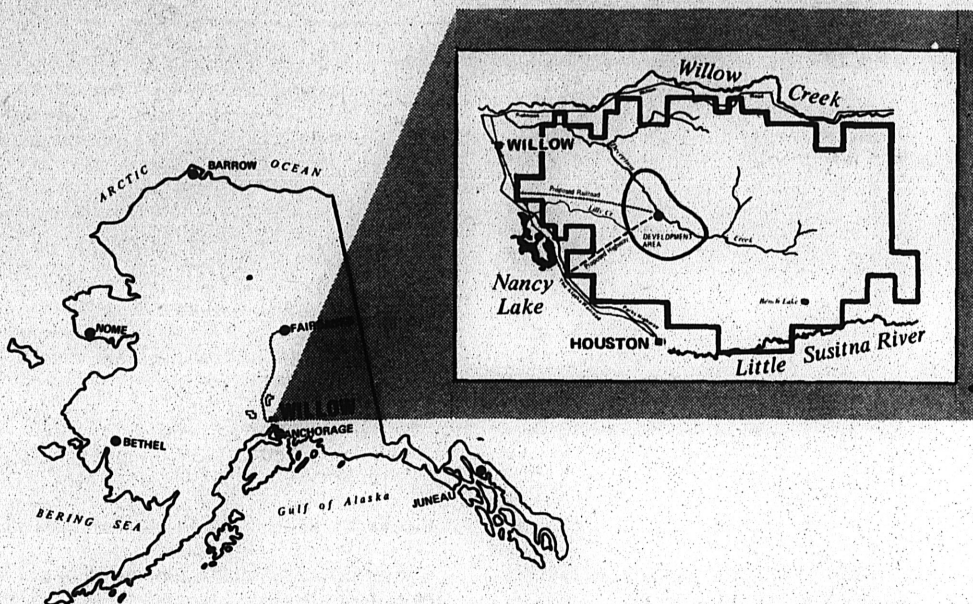
# WILLOW SITE

## Location

The Willow site is located approximately 70 road miles north of Anchorage at the southern end of the Talkeetna Mountain Range. The town of Willow is five miles to the west of the site. The site is generally bounded by Willow Creek to the north, the Little Susitna River to the south, and the Alaska Railroad to the west. A capital city at this site would be located in the foothills of the Talkeetna Mountains adjacent to the Deception Creek, a clear water creek feeding into the Susitna River.

The entire site has a southwest exposure with broad views of the Matanuska Valley, Knik Arm, Knik Glacier and Cook Inlet. To the west and north across the Susitna Valley there are also striking views of the Alaska Range and Mt. McKinley.

There are two significant attributes of the Willow site. Its proximity to Anchorage and the existing road and rail system places this site in the lowest construction cost area of any of the three sites under consideration. Secondly, it gives the voters the option of a site which is near a large urban area. The residents of a city at this location could draw on Anchorage for some services, certain business needs and entertainment. The Nancy Lake Recreation Area to the west, provides important scenic and recreation resource.



## Development of a Capital City

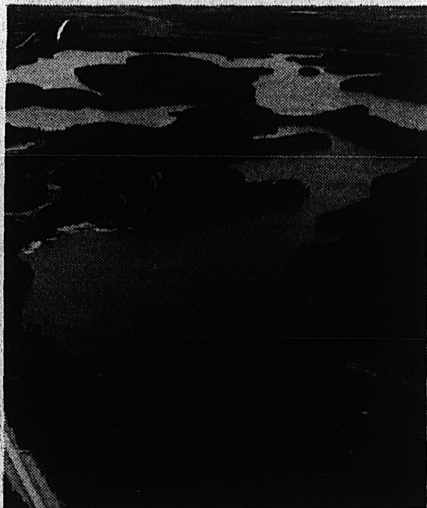
The development of a city at the Willow site would tend to make the best use of the recreation potential of the area. The development site is very near the proposed Talkeetna Mountain State Park and the Hatcher Pass Recreational Area. Activities for those living here could center around summer and winter sports.

The location designated for capital city development takes best advantage of this area's natural features. It is located on the gently rising slopes of Mt. Bullion in the southern foothills of the Talkeetna Mountains. The capital city would overlook the clear water Deception Creek which traverses the slope below, separating the meadow uplands from the broad terrace lowlands. The

uplands are characterized by undulating topography and fine open meadows free of the muskeg conditions which normally characterize such openness in the Susitna Valley.

The higher ground meadow areas suggest dramatic sites for government and other civic buildings, while the relatively level and easily developed terrace lands below the creek could support the attendant neighborhood facilities, schools, and housing for the city. Deception Creek, which meanders through the area, could function as an integral part of the city's open space and parklands.

A city in this area would tend to encourage expansion of the already present recreational facilities enjoyed by local and Anchorage residents.



The Nancy Lake Recreation Area is just to the west of the Willow Site.

## Wildlife

The Willow area supports a sizeable moose population. Most of the area is either within a moose range or immediately adjacent to it. Although black bears also inhabit the site, the area does not constitute a critical habitat, nor are denning areas known to exist within the site.

Water fowl are not known to nest on the Willow site, although small ponds and lakes are occasionally frequented by migrating and feeding birds. Streams within the site are not known to have salmon runs, but do support fish native to the area.



The Willow Site is characterized by birch, spruce and cottonwood forests.