

Contrary to the race track owner's often repeated remarks that "people knew the track was there and shouldn't have moved here," most of the land, especially north and west of the racetrack, was settled and in private hands since the 1930s and 1940s. In fact, McKechnie Loop, Plumley, Old Glenn Highway and Bodenburg Loop are some of the oldest neighborhoods in the Borough and were established long before the track was built. Settlement of the community of South Knik River started in 1952. Only because of these pioneers' "Live and Let Live" attitude was the racetrack tolerated and allowed to flourish, even though they recognized that the racetrack noise de-valued their land, constrained the peaceful enjoyment of their homes and limited opportunities for economic development.

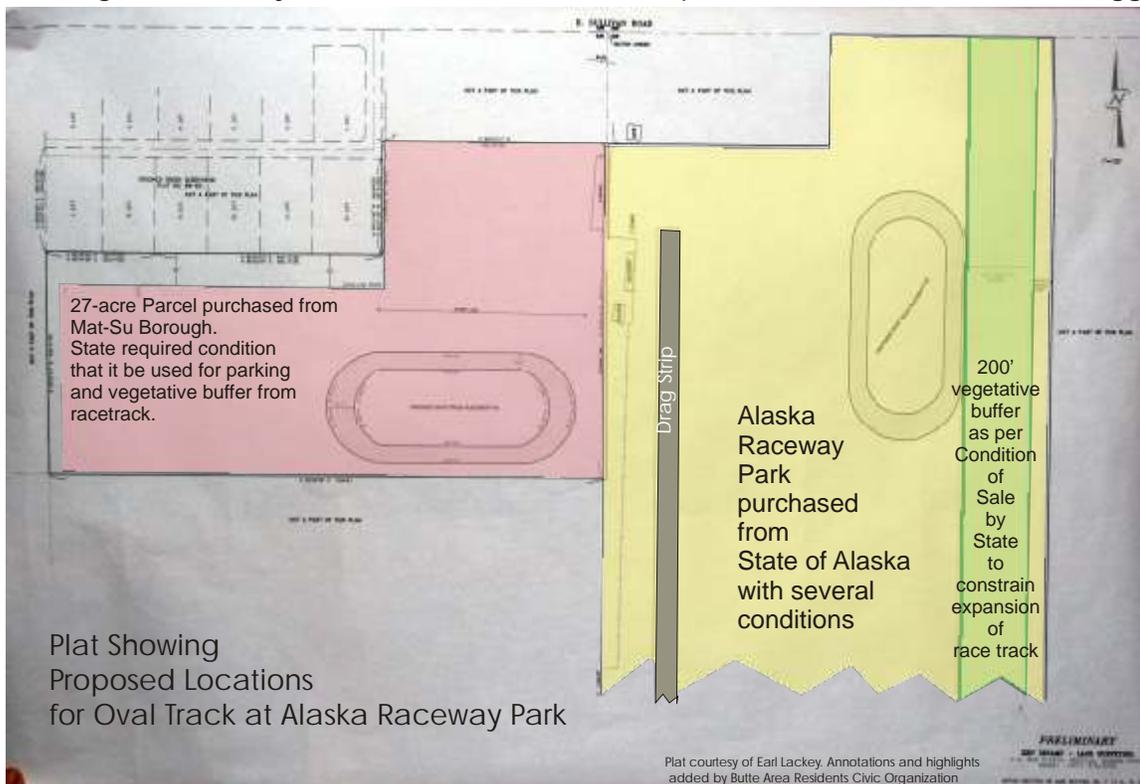
In 2002, the State of Alaska determined that it was in the State's best interest to sell the racetrack lease to Earl Lackey's Top End, Inc., d.b.a. Alaska Raceway Park with several conditions to resolve setback and buffering issues. Buffering requirements included 200' vegetated buffer on the east side, a buffer along the section line on the east and the he "pursue purchase from the borough of approximately 27 acres, including the part that is cleared and for many years used for parking by the raceway."

"Approximately 1/3 to 1/2 of the area is parking lot and the balance would be maintained as a vegetative sound and visual buffer. This acreage collected junk and debris from the former raceway lessee, much of which has been removed. However, the applicant is willing to finish the cleanup and plant better screening vegetation and grass to minimize dust and noise. "

The Borough then sold the parcel to "facilitate the purchase of the state lease." Unfortunately, they neglected to put the State-required conditions on the deed because, according to Planning Commission minutes, they also believed in the good intentions of the Lackey family, that they would honor their word "without having to put a lot of regulations on them." Then, the State of Alaska sold the race track lease without ensuring that all the sale conditions were met.

The racetrack owner is currently looking for investors to build the three-million-dollar oval track. You can see below that they want to put it either on this 27-acre parcel or on the east side of the track, butting up against the 200 foot buffer. Residents will suffer from more noise, increased traffic, and the spill-over of more illegal Jim Creek and Knik River "recreation." Opportunities to build an economy as individuals or as a community based on our surrounding world class recreational resources and attractions will continue to be out of reach. Not long ago we were told that "people who buy expensive cars in Anchorage need this place to race them."

Please take your concerns to our Assembly Representative, Ms. Lynne Woods, 745-4527. Ask the agencies involved to take responsibility for their mistakes and to protect this community from the effects of an additional nuisance operation. Contact State of Alaska Commissioner of Department of Natural Resources, Mr. Michael Menge, (907-269-8431) State Legislators: Sen. Lyda Green, 907-376-3370 Rep Stoltze, 907-376-4958 Sen. Huggins, 907-376-4866



Butte  
deserves  
better:

Butte  
deserves  
respect!

It's time to  
Red-Flag  
Racetrack  
Expansion

