

Welcome to the Chena River Lakes Flood Control Project, home of Bucky the Moose, and many of his friends!



The Moose Creek Dam is about 8 miles long, running from north of the Chena River to the Tanana River.



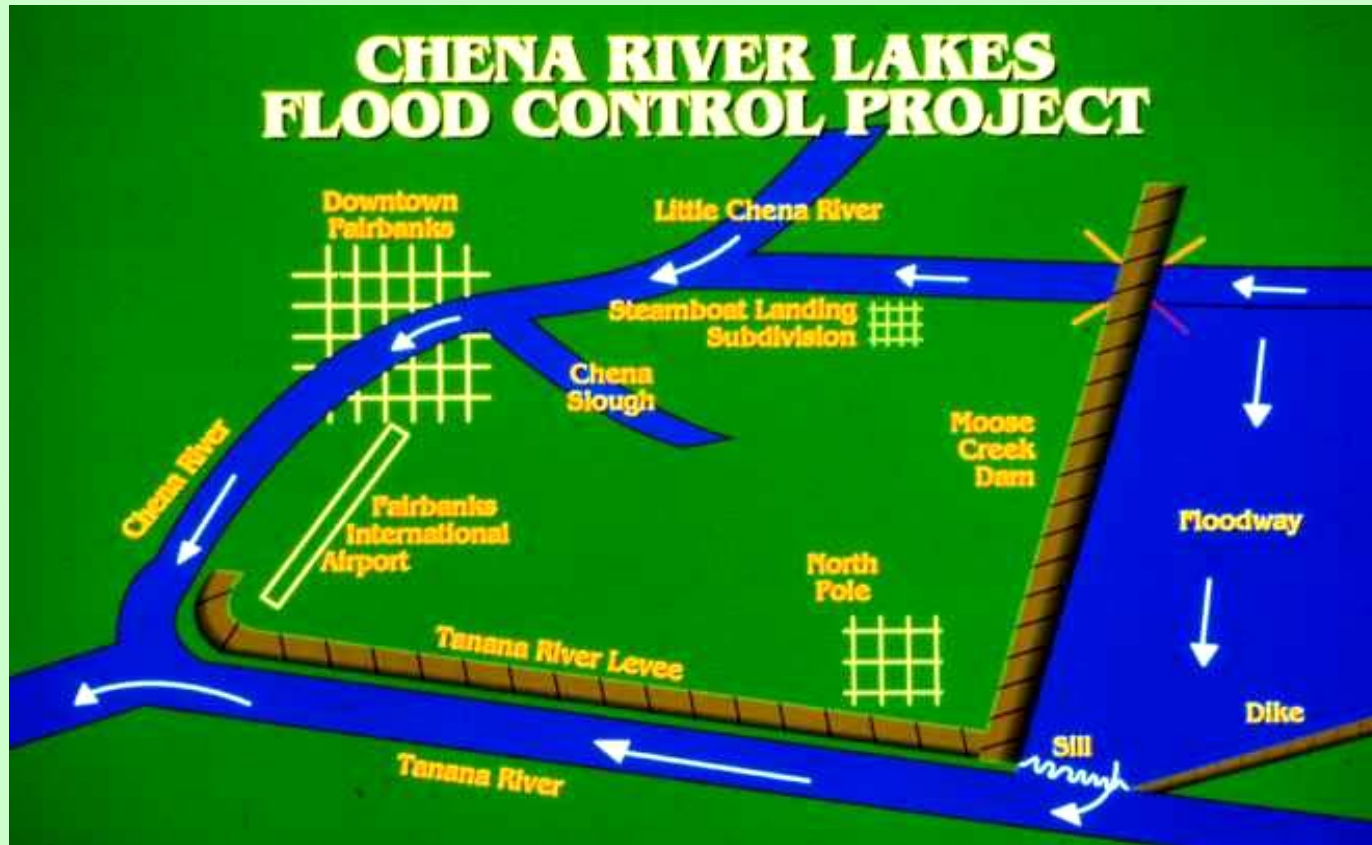
In August 1967, Fairbanks suffered the worst flood of its history, causing seven deaths and millions of dollars of damage.



**Downtown streets became canals.
Approximately 95 percent of Fairbanks was
inundated with floodwaters.**



Congress authorized funds to prevent future flooding of Fairbanks in the Flood Control Act of 1968. The project diverts floodwaters from the Chena River to the Tanana River before they reach Fairbanks. A levee extends 21 miles along the Tanana River between Moose Creek Dam and Fairbanks to prevent flooding from the Tanana.



Although the dam has been operational since 1981, it has since benefited from several modifications. These are trash racks, which were retrofitted to the dam when it became apparent that the large amounts of debris (mostly trees) washing down the river during high water events could prevent the gates from operating properly.



The debris is removed from the river with a 90-ton mobile crane and hauled in trucks to a storage area. If enough usable firewood is accumulated from floods and high water events, firewood permits may be available.



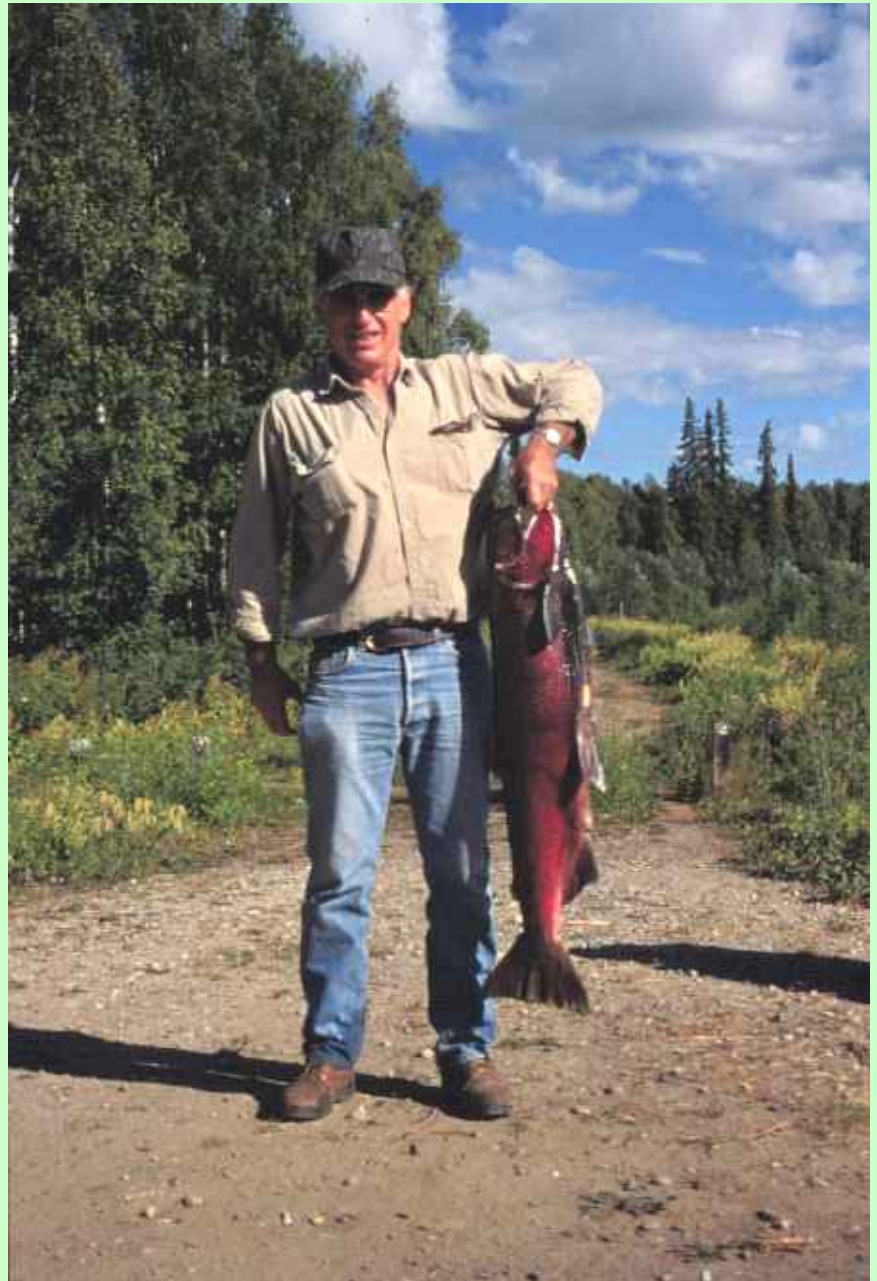
Among the many recreational activities available on the project is our popular Salmon watch. Come and watch the salmon return to the upper Chena to spawn each July.



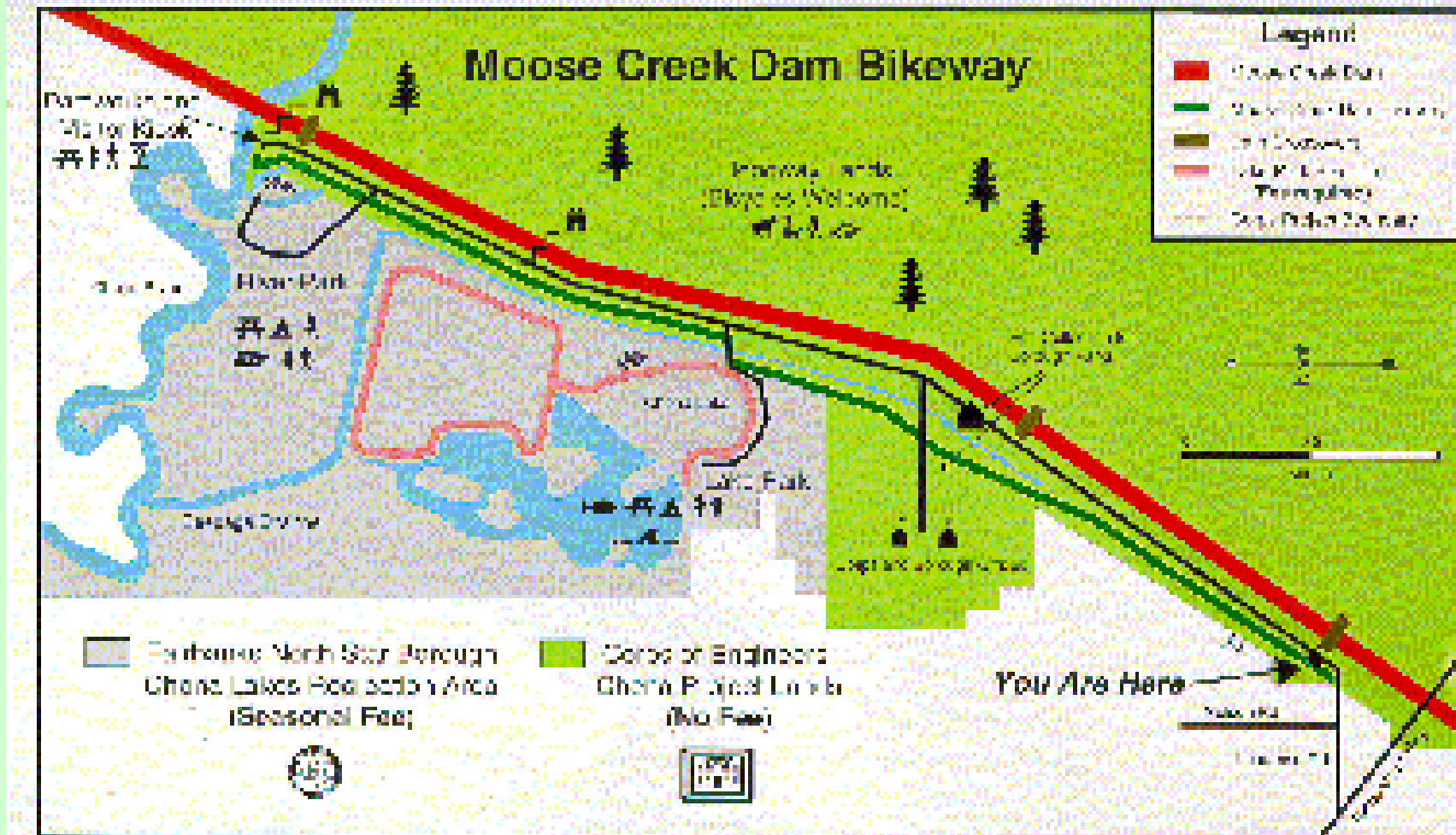
We even provide recyclable fish watching glasses, which have polarized lenses to minimize the sun's glare on the water surface, and also make a great fashion statement!



If you prefer a closer look at a salmon, you can also fish for them downstream of the dam, and maybe catch a lunker like this one. Other fishing opportunities are available throughout the project.



Bicycling, rollerblading or running on the 5-mile, paved Moose Creek Dam Bikeway is very popular.



Many family groups take a bike ride to our Visitor Kiosk area, where the dam crosses the Chena River, for a picnic.



If your tastes run more to lying in the sun, the Chena Lakes Recreation Area, operated by the Fairbanks North Star Borough, offers (for a fee), the only sandy beach in interior Alaska, with genuine imported sand.



Winter also offers many opportunities for fun, among them sled-dog racing...



Skijoring....



Or just enjoying the snow with your dog or other friends.



Watching the local wildlife is always a popular activity, as is hunting. The most commonly seen animal on the Project is arguably the moose,



Although the state bird, the willow ptarmigan, is also a common sight.



Fox, although common, are more wary and not as easily seen.



Habitat management for wildlife species includes planting barley and sunflowers for waterfowl and moose forage,



**burning and crushing vegetation in
cooperation with Alaska Fire Service to
provide moose browse and grouse cover,**



and construction and maintenance of nest boxes for golden eye ducks. The University of Alaska student chapter of the Wildlife Society collects data about the use of these nest boxes to aid in future effort. Many of the nest boxes are being used by both golden eye and bufflehead ducks,



**boreal owls, kestrels, also known as
sparrow hawks (shown) and other cavity
nesters.**



Volunteers from many sources help the Chena Project staff maintain and improve the facilities. They help plant grain for waterfowl on the floodway,



burn woody vegetation to keep the floodway clear,



clean graffiti defacing Moose Creek Bluff,



and serve as Volunteer Hosts for the Day Use area at the outlet works.



We have Rangers here at the Project to assist visitors to have a safe and fun experience. They give tours and talks to large and small groups, promote public safety, encourage compliance with Federal regulations, and even assist lost parrots.



We hope you enjoyed your virtual tour of the Chena Project, and will visit in person some day. In the meantime, Happy Trails from Bucky and all of us.

