



United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Western Arctic National Parklands
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Park Report - March 2025

Projects in Kotzebue

This fall contractors completed a re-siding project for the Northwest Arctic Heritage Center.

We are beginning the design process for a replacement housing project. This project will replace aging buildings with new housing built at the NPS property at 5th and Mission Streets in Kotzebue. Adequate park housing is essential to NPS staff from the region as well as from the lower 48.

Partnerships

The National Park Service would like to thank NANA, Maniilaq, Aqqulak Trust, Native Village of Kotzebue, Native Village of Noatak, Native Village of Shungnak, and Shungnak Search-and-Rescue for on-going partnerships involving cultural preservation projects and collaborations. These efforts include placenames work, museum collection review and exhibition, support for Subsistence Resource Commissions and more!

Qatqut

The Trade Fair is scheduled for July 2-4th and NPS staff in Kotzebue and Anchorage look forward to assisting with this amazing community event.

Fieldwork and Research

Park staff are preparing for another busy field season.

We kick off this spring with many village trips to visit schools and work on cultural projects. NPS staff will support mushers during the upcoming Kobuk 440. Summer work will include archeological site assessments in Cape Krusenstern (access mostly by boat), Restoration work of Kelly Ranger Station in Noatak National Preserve, Arctic Travelers kids' program in Cape Krusenstern National Monument, oral history work and continued placenames work in Kobuk Valley National Park, the publishing of the *Kiana Traditional Use Study*, wildlife surveys, and more!



From Alaska Regional team's newsletter:

An example of one of the *ĩnuksuich* found associated with the newly documented site in 2024.

New Archeological Site Recorded

—Kobuk Valley National Park, Western Arctic Parklands

Archeologists from the University of Alaska-Museum of the North and the Western Arctic Parklands documented a new archeological site including 750 acres of land features as they pack-rafted the 45-mile-long Akilik River. The river's headwaters originate in the Akiak Mountains and it empties into the Kobuk River approximately 10 miles northwest of the Iñupiaq village archeological site and important caribou crossing area of Paatitaaq (Onion Portage). The new site consists of a series of small *ĩnuksuich* (rock cairns) positioned in a linear, east-to-west orientation that appears to point toward Paatitaaq. Further investigations of this site are warranted as the team believes that these *ĩnuksuich* could be features associated with reindeer herding that is known to have occurred in the area prior to the 1960s.

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NPS/Brendan Doucet

An archeologist points to another *ĩnuksuk* atop a craggy hilltop site.



Lois and her two sons: Joe (left) is in law enforcement in Kotzebue and Dan (right) is the Alaska State Public Defender in Kotzebue.

Lois Dalle-Molle, *In Memoriam*

Lois Dalle-Molle recently passed away peacefully with her family by her side.

For those of you who had the pleasure of working with Lois, you know that her nickname of the “Dalle-Mamma” was more than fitting. She provided a foundation of community at the Fairbanks NPS office for many years and had a panoply of friendships that spanned the entirety of the office—from the cleaning crew to the superintendent.

Lois was a fascinating person. Her life experiences demonstrated her adventurous spirit as she lived in Denali, Mt. Rainer, and Kotzebue where she helped run the local radio station. Her compassion ran deep, as evidenced by her time serving as a *Guardian ad Litem* for children in the Fairbanks court system. She was a force for good in the NPS and the Fairbanks community.

Thank you! From the NPS Staff of Western Arctic National Parklands, Kotzebue