GIS Mapping of Mat-Su Lands
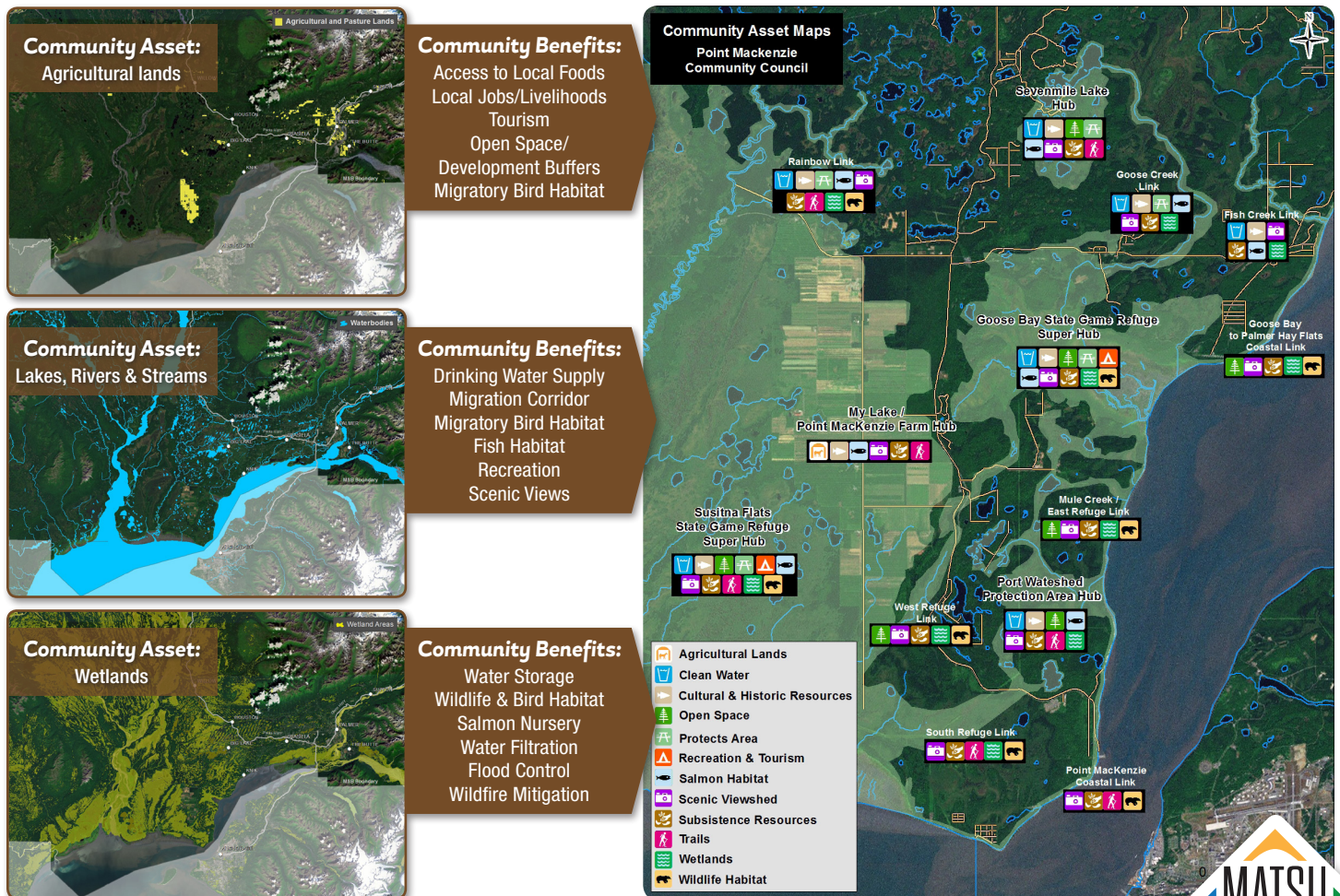
Using geographic information system (GIS) tools to identify our community assets

Laying the Groundwork

The Mat-Su is the fastest growing area in the state. With all the people come their needs: schools, roads, waste and water infrastructure, maintenance services, etc. To make informed decisions about the future and to sustain the character of the valley, we first need to understand what our lands do for us and how valuable they are to our communities. Farms, fish, trails, open space and clean water are some of our **community assets** that provide essential benefits to residents. Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping is a computer system that can show data related to physical locations.

Parsing the Parcels

Great Land Trust, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, and the Mat-Su Borough have worked to prioritize critical habitat for fish and wildlife, wetlands that are essential to regional water quality, and wildlife and recreation corridors. GIS mapping shows where these are located in relation to each other and to communities, farms, and neighborhoods. They can be analyzed from a 10,000 foot view or zoomed in to a specific parcel. This information is essential to gain a better perspective on the benefits provided by different lands across the valley. GIS mapping is a powerful tool communities can use to make decisions on how to accommodate valley growth.

Community Asset:
Agricultural lands

Community Benefits:
Access to Local Foods
Local Jobs/Livelihoods
Tourism
Open Space/
Development Buffers
Migratory Bird Habitat

Community Asset:
Lakes, Rivers & Streams

Community Benefits:
Drinking Water Supply
Migration Corridor
Migratory Bird Habitat
Fish Habitat
Recreation
Scenic Views

Community Asset:
Wetlands

Community Benefits:
Water Storage
Wildlife & Bird Habitat
Salmon Nursery
Water Filtration
Flood Control
Wildfire Mitigation

Community Asset Maps
Point Mackenzie Community Council

Sevenmile Lake Hub
Rainbow Link
Goose Creek Link
Fish Creek Link
Goose Bay State Game Refuge Super Hub
Goose Bay to Palmer Hay Flats Coastal Link
My Lake / Point MacKenzie Farm Hub
Susitna Flats State Game Refuge Super Hub
Mule Creek / East Refuge Link
West Refuge Link
Port Watershed Protection Area Hub
South Refuge Link
Point MacKenzie Coastal Link

Legend:
- Agricultural Lands
- Clean Water
- Cultural & Historic Resources
- Open Space
- Protects Area
- Recreation & Tourism
- Salmon Habitat
- Scenic Viewshed
- Subsistence Resources
- Trails
- Wetlands
- Wildlife Habitat

MATSU 2050.org