

McGrath, Alaska

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McGrath <i>Tochak', Digenegh</i>	
City	
 Location in Alaska Coordinates: 62°57′07″N 155°34′38″W	
Country	United States
State	Alaska
Census Area	Yukon-Koyukuk
Incorporated	June 3, 1975 ^[1]
Government	
 • Mayor	Dustin Parker ^[2]
Area	
 • Total	54.6 sq mi (141.4 km ²)
 • Land	48.9 sq mi (126.6 km ²)
 • Water	5.7 sq mi (14.8 km ²)
Elevation	331 ft (101 m)
Population (2010) ^[3]	
 • Total	346
 • Density	6.3/sq mi (2.4/km ²)
Time zone	Alaska (AKST) (UTC-9)
 • Summer (DST)	AKDT (UTC-8)
ZIP code	99627
Area code	907
FIPS code	02-46010 (http://factfinder2.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/DEC/10_DP/DPDP1/1600000US0246010)
GNIS feature ID	1406131 (http://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/f?p=gnispq:3:::NO::P3_FID:1406131), 2419425 (http://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/f?p=gnispq:3:::NO::P3_FID:2419425)

McGrath (*Tochak'*^[4] in Upper Kuskokwim, *Digenegh*^[5] in Deg Xinag) is a city^{[3][6]} and village in on the Kuskokwim River in Alaska, United States. The population was 401 at the 2000 census^[7] and 346 as of the 2010 census.^[3] Despite its small population, the village is an important transportation and economic hub for the area.

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History

The Old Town McGrath site, across the river from present-day McGrath, was a meeting and trading place for Big River, Nikolai, Telida, and Lake Minchumina villagers.

In 1904, Abraham Appel established a trading post in Old Town. In 1906, gold was discovered in the Innoko District, and in 1907, and at Ganes Creek. Since McGrath was the northernmost point on the Kuskokwim River accessible by large riverboats, it became a regional supply center. A town was established at the site of Old McGrath in 1907, and was named for Peter McGrath, a local United States Marshal. The Iditarod Trail also contributed to McGrath's role as a supply center. From 1911 to 1920, hundreds of people walked and mushed over the trail on their way to the Ophir gold districts. Mining sharply declined after 1925.

After a major flood in 1933, some residents moved across the river. Changes in the course of the river eventually left the old site on a slough, making it useless as a river stop. In 1940, an airstrip was cleared, the United States Federal Aviation Administration built a communications complex, and a school was opened. McGrath became an important refueling stop for Lend-Lease equipment during World War II.

Geography

McGrath is located on the south bank of the Kuskokwim River in western Alaska.

According to the United States Census Bureau, the city has a total area of 54.6 square miles (141 km²), of which, 48.9 square miles (127 km²) of it is land and 5.7 square miles (15 km²) of it (10.48%) is water.

Demographics

As of the census^[7] of 2000, there were 401 people, 145 households, and 99 families residing in the city. The population density was 8.2 people per square mile (3.2/km²). There were 213 housing units at an average density of 4.4 per square mile (1.7/km²). The racial makeup of the city was 42.64% White, 43.89% Native American, 0.75% Asian, 0.75% from other races, and 11.97% from two or more races. Hispanic or Latino of any race were 1.00% of the population.

Historical population		
Census	Pop.	%±
1920	90	—
1930	112	24.4%
1940	138	23.2%
1950	175	26.8%

There were 145 households out of which 42.8% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 45.5% were married couples living together, 11.7% had a female householder with no husband present, and 31.7% were non-families. 26.9% of all households were made up of individuals and 4.8% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 2.77 and the average family size was 3.34.

1960	241	37.7%
1970	279	15.8%
1980	355	27.2%
1990	528	48.7%
2000	401	−24.1%
2010	346	−13.7%
Est. 2014	344 ^[8]	−0.6%

U.S. Decennial Census^[9]

In the city the age distribution of the population shows 35.9% under the age of 18, 8.5% from 18 to 24, 24.7% from 25 to 44, 25.9% from 45 to 64, and 5.0% who were 65 years of age or older. The median age was 33 years. For every 100 females there were 104.6 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over, there were 107.3 males.

The median income for a household in the city was \$43,056, and the median income for a family was \$44,167. Males had a median income of \$41,875 versus \$41,389 for females. The per capita income for the city was \$21,553. About 8.7% of families and 9.8% of the population were below the poverty line, including 10.8% of those under age 18 and 17.4% of those age 65 or over.

See also

- McGrath Airport

References

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External links

- Alaska Division of Community and Regional Affairs: McGrath (http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/commdb/CIS.cfm?Comm_Boro_Name=McGrath)

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