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\$312,000 goes toward improving Anchorage parks

GRASS ROOTS: 16 projects will share grant money.

Anchorage Daily News

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Sixteen grass-roots parks projects in Anchorage got \$312,519 in total grants Thursday from the Anchorage Park Foundation.

The grants cover projects all across town, from improving downtown tennis courts to installing park benches to placing trail signs in parks.

The foundation received a \$300,000 grant from the Rasmuson Foundation that must be matched through fundraising, labor and in-kind contributions, according to the foundation.

Below is a list of the grant winners:

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NORTHWEST

- \$6,059 for Ben Crawford Memorial Park. Eagle Scout candidate Richard Gingras and the Anchorage Women's Club will improve signs for the Pioneer Schoolhouse, repair parts of the two historic cabins, and repair trails in Ben Crawford Memorial Park.

- \$35,000 for Delaney Park tennis courts. The Alaska Tennis Association will resurface seven courts in Delaney Park, and plans to improve nearby benches, nets, wind screens, garbage cans and the hitting wall.

NORTHEAST

- \$40,000 for Baxter Bog Park & Alicia Iden nature trail -- outdoor classroom. The Iden-Selkregg family and East Anchorage community members will construct an elevated overlook, and install educational interpretive signs about the bog's ecosystem, working with three area schools.
- \$3,000 for Far North Bicentennial Park bridge repair. The Alaskan Sled Dog & Racing Association will replace wood on five bridges, and add side rails to two bridges.
- \$14,685 for Nichols Park. Airport Heights Community Council members will reclaim an unused baseball park for neighborhood recreation. They will reseed grass, install parking barriers, remove old fencing and plant trees.
- \$40,000 for the Scotty Gomez hockey rink. Airport Heights Community Council members and the Scotty Gomez Foundation will replace the hockey rink, providing a new surface, boards and lighting for the rink in Tikishla Park.

CENTRAL

- \$5,000 for the Whisper Faith Kovach Memorial Park. Eagle Scout candidate Zane Russell will install two park benches and a bike rack. Abbott Loop Community Council will support this work.

SOUTHWEST

- \$20,000 for Jodhpur Motocross Area, Kincaid Park. The Anchorage Racing Lions will install electricity and safety lighting.
- \$35,000 for Reflection Point, Kincaid Park. Anchorage International Rotary Club will transform the top of an old World War II bunker into a viewing area and install a whale skeleton exhibit and a native plant display.
- \$12,000 for trails signs. The Anchorage Park Foundation will work the city and such partners as the Nordic Skiing Association of Anchorage to create sign standards and begin phase one of a trail systemwide sign upgrade, installing signs, maps and kiosks. This grant will go toward installing the signs in Kincaid Park. Further investment will be needed.

SOUTHEAST

- \$14,275 for Bear Valley Neighborhood Park. Bear Valley Community Council will develop a 1-acre parcel at the corner of Nickleen Street and Francesca Drive into a park. It will install a bench, a kiosk, two-vehicle parking, and a walking path, leaving the area vegetation in a natural condition.
- \$7,500 for single-track trails project. Singletrack Advocates are building soft-surface, narrow trails for mountain bikers and foot traffic in Far North Bicentennial Park. This grant will be used to install trail signs.
- \$27,500 for Tanglewood Park boardwalk -- outdoor classroom. Willard L. Bowman Elementary School teachers will construct a boardwalk in the southeast corner of the 42-acre Tanglewood Park, allowing the wetland to serve as an outdoor classroom without disturbing the bog and nesting areas.

GIRDWOOD

- \$30,000 for the Girdwood Skate Park. Girdwood skaters and families will replace skate park equipment with new obstacles designed to withstand the rainforest environment.

CITYWIDE

- \$15,000 for the Art-in-the-Parks event lighting. The Alaska Design Forum will purchase event lighting for a 2009 winter temporary art installation. The Anchorage Park Foundation will use the lighting for future Art-in-the-Parks events.
- \$7,500 for Prevent the Poop. People & Pets in Public Spaces and the Anchorage Waterways Council will seek a community solution to the problem of dog waste in sports fields.

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It's Private Money

Lnhbowlus, The money for the projects come from a grant from the Rasmuson Foundation and is matched with money people raise privately in the community. While helping people keep their homes is an important mission, this money was specifically donated to the Park Foundation to improve parks--an important part of a healthy community. Thanks, Leslie RidleMayor's Office

1 Friday, April 25, 2008 - 7:42am | [Inhbowlus](#)

parks

It is beautiful to think that in the times of high grocery prices and high gas prices that famillies unable to make ends meet will at least have a stately park bench to call home. This money could have been better spent helping families retain their homes.

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