



ANCHORAGE PARK FOUNDATION MEDIA RELEASE

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ANCHORAGE PARK FOUNDATION INVITES PARK SUPPORTERS TO IMPROVE PARKS ***Foundation Offers Challenge Grants to Community Groups***

In partnership with the Rasmuson Foundation and the Parks & Recreation Department, the Anchorage Park Foundation is proud to announce the 2010 Challenge Grant Awards, awarding \$341,000 in matching funding to 17 community projects improving parks & trails. On Friday, June 4 at 12 pm, the APF and grant recipients will celebrate the grant awards with an announcement event in Town Square Park.

With generous support from the Rasmuson Foundation, the APF will provide community groups, park neighbors, recreation organizations and parks volunteers with 17 individual grants up to \$40,000 for volunteer projects making capital improvements to Anchorage parks and trails. In order to access an APF challenge grant, each grantee will match APF cash contributions with labor, materials, or funds raised for the projects.

"We are thrilled to offer this opportunity to our many community partners," said Anchorage Park Foundation Board Member David Wight. "All of the applications were inspiring, and I anticipate that these projects will create meaningful change in our parks through volunteer and community engagement."

2010 award winners include: the Scotty Gomez Foundation, the Anchorage District Soccer Federation, the Nordic Ski Association of Anchorage, Singletrack Advocates, three separate Eagle Scout projects, Anchorage West Little League, several neighborhood park committees and many individual parks volunteers who plan to improve parks and trails to benefit the entire city.

"APF Challenge Grants are a great resource for community members who are willing and eager to improve the parks and trails they care about," said Parks & Recreation Director John Rodda. "The Challenge Grants offer an opportunity for parks users and volunteers to apply for grant funding that can be matched with their volunteer hours. This makes all kinds of projects possible."

Successful grant winners will execute a wide range of projects, from restoring eroding trails to repairing tennis courts to irrigating popular soccer fields. With grants ranging from \$500 - \$50,000, community members are empowered to attack projects from large to small.

"This grant will enable us to make important enhancements to the much-used and much-loved C Street Community Garden," said garden user Tracy Fischbach. "We will expand the usable space, repair fencing and restore the landscaping in partnership with the Park Foundation and the Parks & Recreation Department. This project will give more Anchorage families access to gardening, fresh food and healthy outdoor recreation."

More information about the 2010 Challenge Grants is available on the APF website at www.AnchorageParkFoundation.org. The Challenge Grants are made possible by a generous contribution from the Rasmuson Foundation.

2010 Challenge Grant Awards

Project	Project Description	Grantee	Grant Amount
Ray E. Storck Park Improvements	Replace bollards with boulders; repair windscreen; add dog stations.	Bear Valley Community Council	\$12,000
Huffman Park Improvements	Make trail improvements; add picnic tables and benches; address dilapidated exercise stations.	Trinity Presbyterian Church, Huffman Elementary PTA & Huffman O'Malley Community Council	\$14,000
Revitalization of C Street Community Garden	Expand usable space and repair fencing.	Tracyann Fishbach & Susan Miller	\$20,000
Kincaid Singletrack Trails Project	If public involvement is successful, formalize singletrack trail network in Kincaid Park.	Singletrack Advocates	\$21,502
Lyn Ary Park Recreation Fields Safety Upgrades	Enhance little league fields with fencing repairs.	Anchorage West Little League	\$20,000
Minnesota Park Renewal	Make "fix-its" to Minnesota Park in Spenard.	Minnesota Park Committee	\$28,000
Thelma Buchholdt Picnic Shelter	Install picnic shelter in Woodland Park in memory of Thelma Buchholdt.	Filipino Community of Anchorage	\$20,000
Hendrickson Family Tennis Courts	Resurface tennis courts in Lyn Ary Park.	William H. Bittner	\$40,000
Westchester Lagoon Disc Golf Improvements	Make safety improvements to disc golf course.	Alaska Disc Golf Association	\$30,000
Anchorage Women's Club Historical Information Kiosk	Install historical kiosk at Ben Crawford Park.	Anchorage Women's Club/Troop 214 Eagle Scout Project	\$3,000
Taku Skateboard Park Improvements	Install new piece of equipment in skate park at Taku Lake Park.	Troop 26 Eagle Scout Project Stephen Konkler	\$4,871.50
Little Dipper Park Fix-It List	Complete "fix-its" in Little Dipper Park.	Eagle Scout Franklin Durr	\$5,000
Anchorage Senior Center Trail Connection	Build soft-surface trail connection between the Anchorage Senior Center and Chester Creek Trail.	Anchorage Senior Center	\$6,000
Government Hill Hedge Rejuvenation	Enhance landscaping in Suzan Nightingale Memorial Park.	Government Hill Community Council	\$1,370
Andrew Lekisch Trail Repair Project	Restore eroding sections of Lekisch Trail in Kincaid Park.	Nordic Skiing Association of Anchorage	\$12,000
Sullivan Arena Rink Improvements	Improve hockey rinks used for children's programs.	Scotty Gomez Foundation	\$50,000
De La Vega Fields Irrigation Project	Install irrigation system in high-use soccer fields.	Anchorage District Soccer Federation	\$50,000

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