



ANCHORAGE PARK FOUNDATION MEDIA RELEASE

July 16, 2010

Contact: Beth Nordlund, 350-9482

VOLUNTEERS TO CLEAN UP CHENEY LAKE PARK THIS SATURDAY ***Volunteers to Remove Graffiti, Improve Playground & Trim Trees in Cheney Lake Park***

The Anchorage Park Foundation (APF) and the Anchorage Parks & Recreation Department (APRD) will continue their summer **Neighborhood Park Fix-Its** with a volunteer park clean-up on Saturday, July 17. Volunteers in northeast Anchorage will replace fall surfacing in the play area, create a path connecting the playground to the lake trail, weed flowerbeds and re-paint park amenities in Cheney Lake Park ([2245 Baxter Road](#)) from 9 am – 12 pm, followed by a celebration from 12 – 2 pm.

"We are thrilled to collaborate with the Park Foundation and the Parks & Recreation Department to clean up our neighborhood park," said Northeast Community Council volunteer Terry Cummings. "Cheney Lake is a great place to walk, fish, boat or just experience the natural beauty of the park. In the wintertime, it's also a great spot for ice skating!"

With funding from the Parks & Recreation Department, the Anchorage Park Foundation and the Alaska State Legislature, volunteers at Cheney Lake Park will create new pathways, repaint park equipment, improve safety and clean up the park. In addition, project partners will complete other improvements, including installing new benches and replacing components of the play equipment.

Since this winter, park neighbors and Northeast community council volunteers have partnered with staff from the Parks & Recreation Department to identify priority repairs and recruit volunteers to accomplish park improvements. Project partners also successfully sought a capital grant from the Alaska State Legislature to enable the purchase of new benches.

Two weeks ago, teen crews from the Youth Employment in Parks program completed trail improvements to improve drainage and safety. "We are proud to support volunteers working to build healthier parks and healthier communities," said Anchorage Park Foundation board member Eleanor Andrews. "The Park Foundation is especially pleased to link the Youth Employment in Parks crews with on-the-job learning opportunities like this trail improvement project."

The APF and APRD partner to accomplish neighborhood park fix-its using volunteer and professional labor to accomplish park projects that are immediate, doable, supported, needed, and produced visible results. "Volunteer support enables private and public dollars to stretch farther and make significant improvements to parks," said Parks & Recreation Director John Rodda. "These partnerships engage neighbors in caring for their local parks and build a stronger community."

The APF Clean & Green campaign is made possible by generous funding from the Rasmuson Foundation. For more information on summer park improvements, please visit www.AnchorageParkFoundation.org. For more information about Cheney Lake Park, please visit the Anchorage Park Foundation park directory: <http://www.anchorageparkfoundation.org/directory/cheneylake.htm>

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