



## ANCHORAGE PARK FOUNDATION MEDIA RELEASE

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### **YOUTH EMPLOYMENT IN PARKS PROGRAM WINS NATIONAL AWARD** ***Department of Interior Award Recognizes Programs Accomplishing Conservation Projects***

The Anchorage Park Foundation is proud to announce that the Youth Employment in Parks program is a **2010 Partners in Conservation Award** recipient. The Anchorage Park Foundation and the Parks & Recreation Department will accept this award at a press event with Mayor Dan Sullivan on Monday, August 2 at 1:45 pm at [Westchester Lagoon](#).

Each year, the Department of Interior awards its prestigious Partners in Conservation Award to a handful of projects and programs around the country completing conservation projects in partnership with the Department's agencies. According to the Department of Interior website, "The Partners in Conservation Award is a Department of the Interior Honor Award established to recognize conservation achievements that include collaborative activity among a diverse range of entities."

The Fish & Wildlife Service has engaged the Youth Employment in Parks (YEP) program in completing conservation projects in Anchorage since 2007. YEP is a program of the **Anchorage Park Foundation**, the **Anchorage Parks & Recreation Department** and **Alaska Youth for Environmental Action**. Each summer, the YEP program hires diverse Anchorage teens to complete park improvement projects and offer free recreation programs in our community.

In partnership with the Fish & Wildlife Service, YEP has accomplished several projects, including:

- Using bioengineering techniques to restore stream and lake banks;
- Building sustainable soft-surface trails to minimize wetland impacts;
- Completing invasive species control projects in sensitive riparian areas; and
- Conducting education and outreach efforts designed to share information about preserving coastal and watershed areas with members of the Anchorage community.

The Anchorage Park Foundation supports the YEP program in order to accomplish significant park improvement projects and offer free recreation programs while engaging local youth in their parks and public lands. "The YEP program is a core focus for the Anchorage Park Foundation because it achieves our goals: engaging the community in their public lands, improving parks, and creating stewards of natural resources," said Anchorage Park Foundation Board Chair Victor Mollozzi.

In addition to funding from the Fish & Wildlife Service, YEP is made possible by generous support from more than 100 community partners. Major funders include the Rasmuson Foundation, the Municipality of Anchorage, the U.S. Forest Service, Anchorage Community Land Trust, the Atwood Foundation, the Alaska State Legislature, Alaska Geographic and the Alaska State Council on the Arts.

For more information about Youth Employment in Parks, please visit the Anchorage Park Foundation website at [www.AnchorageParkFoundation.org](http://www.AnchorageParkFoundation.org).

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