



Anchorage Park Foundation

PARK FOUNDATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jan 31, 2008

Contact: Beth Nordlund, work 343-4492
cell 350-9482

PARK FOUNDATION CHALLENGE GRANTS AVAILABLE

Volunteers and Contributors Get Ready to Double Their Investments In Parks

The 2008 Anchorage Park Foundation Challenge Grant season is open – groups considering making capital improvements to Anchorage parks and trails should apply at

<http://www.AnchorageParkFoundation.org/projects/2008challengegrantcampaign.htm>

Applications are due March 21, and the Anchorage Park Foundation will host four community meetings for those looking for assistance with preparing successful applications.

Feb 12 , 6-8pm, Lidia Selkregg Chalet at Russian Jack Springs Park	NE
Feb 19 , 6-8pm, Kincaid Chalet	SW
Feb 26 , 7-9pm, Spenard Recreation Center	NW
Mar 4 , 6:30-7:30, Abbott Loop Elementary	SE/C

“We granted 26 organizations \$400,000 in 2006. Some groups planted trees, some groups installed playground equipment, but all grantees were happy for the opportunity to give back to the community,” said Victor Mollozzi, Chair of the Anchorage Park Foundation.

Grantees will be able to meet the challenge grant match with either volunteer time, money, materials, or any combination of the three. The maximum amount any group will be awarded is \$40,000, with the total distribution being \$300,000 from a generous Rasmuson Foundation gift. The Rasmuson Foundation has committed to offering the same challenge grant funding in years 2010 and 2012.

The ability to meet a challenge grant match with volunteer labor (cash value \$18.77 this year) is fairly unique, and very rewarding to park volunteer groups. In 2006 it allowed several groups to have materials paid for with challenge funds, while meeting their challenge match with volunteer hours.

“Challenge Grants made the Fairview Day of Caring improvements to Fairview Lions Park possible, and the Williwaw Park playground installation possible. I am looking forward to finding out what other park improvements will come on line this year due to these kinds of major investments by volunteers and private donors,” said Mayor Mark Begich.

To find out more about the 2007 Challenge Grants accomplishments see
<http://www.anchorageparkfoundation.org/about/reports.htm>.

For more information see <http://www.AnchorageParkFoundation.org/>, or call Beth Nordlund at 343-4492.

###