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CITY RELEASES NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS REPORT CARD
More Than 1,000 Volunteers Provide Feedback on Neighborhood Parks

The Anchorage Parks & Recreation Department (APRD) and the Anchorage Park Foundation today released the results of the Anchorage Parks Report Card at a press event at Fairview Recreation Center. The report card is a result of an APRD initiative to engage community organizations and volunteers to provide feedback through a grading system of 53 neighborhood parks in Anchorage.

“Residents asked for better parks and we answered their call by forming a private foundation to raise money specifically for parks projects,” said Mayor Begich. “We’ve made significant progress since we formed the Parks Foundation in 2004, raising \$16.3 million for improvements. Getting the community involved with a sense of ownership and pride has been an important step in improving our local parks.”

The park evaluation included extensive “Fix It” lists with needed park repairs and improvements. Improvements range from small projects easily accomplished by volunteers, such as clearing brush and repainting equipment, to bigger projects requiring professional design and implementation. An example in Fairview Lions Park includes tasks such as repainting the play and picnic equipment, replacing the volleyball net and paving the parking area.

“Public feedback like these Report Cards will allow us to target our resources to meet community needs,” said Parks & Recreation Director Jeff Dillon. “With a combination of public and private funding and volunteer commitment, we can make needed upgrades to provide improved services to the Anchorage community.”

“Fairview is a neighborhood where the community is already making a difference,” said Sharon Chamard, President of the Fairview Community Council. “We have accomplished a lot in Fairview parks, but community members still identified a variety of needed projects. With support from the municipality and volunteer help, we can make those improvements.”

For complete Anchorage Parks Report Card results, including 53 park profiles, visit <http://anchorageparkfoundation.org/projects/ReportCard.htm>.

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