



MEDIA RELEASE

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ANCHORAGE PARK FOUNDATION INVITES PARK SUPPORTERS TO IMPROVE PARKS & TRAILS *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 Campaign, offering \$200,000 in matching funding to community organizations to improve parks & trails.

With generous support from the Rasmuson Foundation, the APF is proud to invite community groups, park neighbors, recreation organization and parks volunteers to apply for up to \$40,000 in cash to complete volunteer projects focused on improving city parks and trails. To access an APF challenge grant, each grantee must match APF cash contributions with labor, materials, or funds raised for the projects.

The 2010 Challenge Grant Campaign marks the APF's third cycle of working with the Anchorage community through funding challenges to revitalize parks. In 2006, the APF awarded 27 grants totaling \$400,000, and in 2008, 16 awardees received \$300,000. Past challenge grantees have raised more than \$5 for each dollar contributed by the Park Foundation.

"We are excited to again offer this opportunity to the Anchorage community. There's nothing more inspirational than hearing from hundreds of parks supporters who want to improve the parks they care about," said Anchorage Park Foundation Board Member David Wight. "We look forward to experiencing the creativity and dedication shown in the applications."

Successful grant winners have executed a wide range of projects, from replacing park benches to replacing play equipment. With grants ranging from \$500 - \$40,000, community members are empowered to attack whatever projects will make a difference in their neighborhood.

"We had a very good experience with the Anchorage Park Foundation through their Challenge Grant campaign to refurbish the Scotty Gomez Ice Rink in Tikishla Park," said Mike O'Connor, board member from the Scotty Gomez Foundation. "The Foundation support enabled us to get this project done, improve our local park and expand recreation opportunities by adding basketball equipment for summer use in the Airport Heights community."

The Scotty Gomez Foundation matched an APF \$40,000 grant with a \$40,000 contribution to rebuild the Scotty Gomez Hockey Rink in Tikishla Park, revitalizing this popular neighborhood sports area. Other groups have succeeded on a smaller scale, such as Eagle Scout Zane Russell, who matched a \$5,000 cash grant with his volunteer labor to replace trash cans and benches in Whisper Faith Kovach Park in the Abbott Loop area.

The APF will host a challenge grant application workshop on Wednesday, April 28, from 6-8 p.m. Professionals from the American Society of Landscape Architects will assist applicants in defining a vision for their park improvement project and creating a strong proposal. Challenge Grant applications are due on Friday, May 14. For more information about the application process, please call the Anchorage Park Foundation at 274-1003.

Challenge Grant application materials are available on the APF website at www.AnchorageParkFoundation.org. The Challenge Grants are made possible by a generous contribution from the Rasmuson Foundation.

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