

Municipality of
Anchorage



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Mark Begich, Mayor

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SUPPORTERS ACCEPT CHALLENGE TO IMPROVE PARKS

16 Organizations Have “Skin in the Game”

Sixteen non-profit organizations have agreed to accept a Challenge from the Anchorage Park Foundation and will be improving parks and recreation facilities throughout Anchorage this summer. Each has agreed to match their grant with labor, materials, or funds raised for the projects.

Grants range from \$3,000-\$40,000. In 2006, 27 grants were issued totaling \$400,000. The Rasmuson Foundation enjoyed those successes and committed to offering \$300,000 for challenges in years 2008, 2010, and 2012.

2008 park improvement projects will include bridge repairs, outdoor classrooms, tennis court resurfacing, Eagle Scout projects, community council neighborhood park projects, a whale bone exhibit, signs, and more (see attached list with project descriptions and grantees).

“Clearly community groups are more than willing to volunteer their time and money for needed park improvements. I am really looking forward to thanking people for their willingness to pitch in and take care of our public lands” said Anchorage Mayor Mark Begich.

“We say these park supporters have ‘skin in the game’ because they aren’t just asking for government money, they are reaching into their own pockets, spending their own time and money to contribute to community. One way to build community is to increase that feeling of ownership. We are each responsible for the condition of those fields and public spaces” said Vic Mollozzi, Chair of the Anchorage Park Foundation.

Teacher Linda Hulen was very pleased to hear of the award for the Outdoor Classroom near Willard L. Bowman Elementary School. “We need a boardwalk to protect our wetland habitat as groups of our students venture outdoors to explore Tanglewood Park. Students will study the birds, test the water quality...the projects are endless!”

North Star Pee Wee Hockey Coach Louis Mass decided to attend after hearing about the Scotty Gomez Hockey Rink project. “I want to get my kids involved in improving the rink. They’ll get to use it, and I want them to remember their work and take care of their park.”

The Anchorage Rotary Club installed the picnic shelter and playground equipment at Kincaid Park, and are looking forward to creating a Reflection Point on top of an old WWII bunker. “The Challenge Grants are a great way to involve community in park improvements and make Anchorage a better city,” says Greg Wakefield, Club President.

To learn more about 2008 Anchorage Park Foundation Challenge Grants see:
www.AnchorageParkFoundation.org.

(Attached is a list of grant recipients and projects)

Grant Recipients gathered at Elizabeth and Roy Peratrovich Park ([4th Ave. at E Street, Downtown](#))
Thursday April 24 at 11am.

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Anchorage Park Foundation 2008 Challenge Grant Awards

Rasmuson Foundation awarded the Anchorage Park Foundation \$300,000 to use as a challenge to Anchorage groups and individuals wishing to make improvements to parks and trails through fundraising, labor and in-kind contributions. We received 27 applications requesting a total of \$613,888 in support: we granted 16 and will distribute \$312,519. These grants are guaranteed to generate another \$434,000 in matching park investments as grantees meet their challenges.

Thank you applicants for all you do for Anchorage Parks!

NORTHWEST

Ben Crawford Memorial Park \$6,059

Eagle Scout Candidate Richard Gingras and the Anchorage Women's Club will improve signs for the Pioneer Schoolhouse, repair parts of the two historic cabins, and make trail repairs in Ben Crawford Memorial Park.

Delaney Park Tennis Courts \$35,000

The Alaska Tennis Association will resurface seven tennis courts in Delaney Park, and plans to improve surrounding park amenities such as benches, nets, wind screens, garbage cans and the hitting wall.

NORTHEAST

Baxter Bog Park & Alicia Iden Nature Trail – Outdoor Classroom \$40,000

The Iden-Selkregg family and East Anchorage community members will work to construct an elevated overlook, and install educational interpretive signs that utilize this bog ecosystem as an outdoor classroom, serving and working with three area schools.

Far North Bicentennial Park Bridge Repair \$3,000

The Alaskan Sled Dog & Racing Association will replace aged wood on five bridges, and add side rails to two bridges in Far North Bicentennial Park.

Nichols Park \$14,685

Airport Heights Community Council members are working to reclaim an unused little league park for close-to-home neighborhood recreation. Work will include reseeding grass, installing parking barriers, removing old fencing, and planting trees around park borders.

Scotty Gomez Hockey Rink \$40,000

Airport Heights Community Council members and the Scotty Gomez Foundation will replace the existing hockey rink, providing a new surface, new boards, and efficient lighting for this well-loved neighborhood rink located in Tikishla Park.

CENTRAL

Whisper Faith Kovach Memorial Park \$5,000

Eagle Scout Candidate Zane Russell will install two park benches and a bike rack in this neighborhood park off Lore Road. Abbott Loop Community Council will support this work.

SOUTHWEST

Jodhpur Motocross Area, Kincaid Park

\$20,000

The Anchorage Racing Lions seek to improve Jodhpur Park by installing electricity and safety lighting at the motocross area.

Reflection Point, Kincaid Park

\$35,000

Anchorage International Rotary Club will repurpose the top of an old World War II bunker, transforming it into an attractive site for admiring the view; a place for reflection on community service; and a place of education featuring a whale skeleton exhibit and a native plant display.

Trails Signs

\$12,000

The Anchorage Park Foundation will work with the Municipality of Anchorage and key partners such as the Nordic Skiing Association of Anchorage to create sign standards and begin phase one of a trail system-wide sign upgrade, installing signs, maps and kiosks that assist park users with way finding, awareness and education. This grant will go towards installing the new signs in Kincaid Park. Further investment will be needed.

SOUTHEAST

Bear Valley Neighborhood Park

\$14,275

Bear Valley Community Council seeks to establish the area's first neighborhood park on an unnamed and undeveloped 1 acre parcel of land at the corner of Nickleen Street and Francesca Drive. They will install a bench, a kiosk, two-vehicle parking, and a walking path, leaving the area vegetation in a natural condition.

Singletrack Trails Project

\$7,500

Singletrack Advocates are building soft-surface, narrow trails for mountain bikers and foot traffic in Far North Bicentennial Park. This grant will be used to install trail signs based on new sign standards.

Tanglewood Park Boardwalk – Outdoor Classroom

\$27,500

Willard L. Bowman Elementary School Teachers will construct a boardwalk in the southeast corner of the 42 acre Tanglewood Park, allowing this wetland habitat to serve as an outdoor classroom without disturbing the fragile bog and avoiding nesting areas.

GIRDWOOD

Girdwood Skate Park

\$30,000

Girdwood skaters and families will replace existing skate park equipment with new obstacles designed to withstand the rainforest environment, and provide a safe riding surface for skate boarders and BMX bikers.

CITYWIDE

Art-in-the-Parks Event Lighting

\$15,000

The Alaska Design Forum will purchase event lighting for a 2009 winter temporary art installation. The Anchorage Park Foundation will use the lighting for future Art-in-the-Parks events.

Prevent the Poop

\$7,500

People & Pets in Public Spaces and the Anchorage Waterways Council will seek a community solution to the problem of dog waste in sports fields.