



**Anchorage Park Foundation Media Release  
June 18, 2010**

Contact: Beth Nordlund, 350-9482

**VOLUNTEERS TO CLEAN UP IRA WALKER PARK**  
*Volunteers to Repair Asphalt, Remove Graffiti and Trim Trees in Ira Walker Park*

The Anchorage Park Foundation (APF) and the Anchorage Parks & Recreation Department (APRD) will continue their summer Neighborhood Park Fix-Its with a volunteer park clean-up on Saturday, June 19. Volunteers in northeast Anchorage will repair cracked asphalt, re-paint equipment and pick up trash in Ira Walker Park (5850 E. 6th Avenue) from 9 am – 12 pm, followed by a community celebration with a bounce house from 12 – 2 pm.

Since this winter, park neighbors and community council volunteers have partnered with staff from the Parks & Recreation Department to identify priority repairs and recruit community involvement to accomplish park improvements. This volunteer event is part of the Anchorage Park Foundation and Parks & Recreation Department's summer efforts to rehabilitate, restore and revitalize Anchorage neighborhood parks with community and volunteer support. "We are thrilled to support the Park Foundation and Parks & Recreation Department in their efforts to clean up our neighborhood parks," said volunteer Aaron Beeby. "We look forward to working on and enjoying our revitalized park this summer."

With funding from the Parks & Recreation Department, the Anchorage Park Foundation and the Alaska State Legislature, volunteers at Ira Walker Park will repaint park equipment, remove graffiti and clean up the park in preparation for a summer of use. In addition, after further community discussion, project partners will add new play equipment at Ira Walker Park in 2011.

Ira Walker Park is one of 8 neighborhood parks targeted for renovation and revitalization as part of this summer's Neighborhood Park Fix-Its campaign. "Neighborhood parks are a vital community resource, and we are proud to work with the Parks & Recreation Department to make meaningful improvements with volunteer support," said Anchorage Park Foundation board member David Wight. "Volunteers at work in our parks and trails are signs of an involved community and a vibrant system."

The APF and APRD partner to accomplish neighborhood park fix-its using volunteer and professional labor to accomplish park projects that are immediate, doable, supported, needed, and produced visible results.

"Volunteer support enables private and public dollars to stretch further and make real improvements to parks," said Parks Superintendent Holly Spoth-Torres. "We are improving neighborhood parks with diverse funding from the Alaska State Legislature, municipal bond funds and Rasmuson Foundation funding for the Anchorage Park Foundation's Clean & Green campaign."

For more information on summer park improvements, please visit [www.AnchorageParkFoundation.org](http://www.AnchorageParkFoundation.org). For more information about Ira Walker Park, please visit the Anchorage Park Foundation park directory: <http://www.anchorageparkfoundation.org/directory/irawalker.htm>

####

**Victor Mollozzi • David Wight • Eleanor Andrews  
Janie Leask • Stewart Osgood • Ernie Hall • Matt Carle**