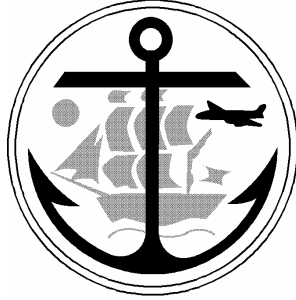


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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ANCHORAGE BREAKS GROUND FOR CUDDY FAMILY MIDTOWN PARK
Leveraged Funding Compounds Cause to Celebrate

Mayor Mark Begich, Dan and Betti Cuddy and family, and the Cuddy Family Midtown Park Community Action Committee will gather Wednesday, July 11 at the Cuddy Family Midtown Park, at 1:30 p.m., to break ground for the new improvements funded and under construction.

"Cuddy Family Midtown Park will become the central focus for a revitalized Midtown Business District with the creation of a true Central Park for the area," Mayor Begich said. "This project blends a small amount of park bond dollars with generous federal and private donations to make a truly multi-purpose park for all to enjoy for generations to come."

The park is designed not only to provide for the recreation activities of the Midtown businesses and residents, but it also will serve as a vital storm water and flood control facility for Fish Creek, reducing the threat of flooding of downstream homes and businesses by almost 50 percent. This innovative and modern approach to urban park design returns maximum benefits to the community.

Investments will include:

- 1) Completion of the amphitheatre
- 2) Betti's garden
- 3) A speed skating oval
- 4) A manmade pond that serves midtown Anchorage with flood control
- 5) A great lawn for special events and recreation opportunities – the playground will be moved
- 6) A series of walking paths and trails that link to surrounding businesses and public facilities

Cuddy Family Midtown Park will be closed for public use this summer, due to construction. Roger Hickel Contracting serves as the project construction company and will be on site during the groundbreaking.

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