



## Anchorage Park Foundation

PARK FOUNDATION

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### PARK FOUNDATION REPORTS PARK INVESTMENTS TO ASSEMBLY *\$14.5 Million and Counting Raised for Park and Recreation Improvements*

In less than four years, a non-profit foundation created to raise funds to maintain Anchorage parks has raised nearly \$14.6 million, according to a new report going to the Anchorage Assembly Tuesday. Since December 2004, the Anchorage Park Foundation (APF) has invested more than \$3.5 million in parks and recreational facilities.

APF board members Eleanor Andrews and Kristin Sholton will present the Foundation's record of generating significant private investment and volunteer contributions for Anchorage parks to the Assembly Tuesday.

Their report will note about the **\$14,593,807** raised for Anchorage parks:

- Raised \$4,813,841 in private dollars or state/federal grant funding;
- Leveraged well over \$2,214,866 in volunteer time and materials;
- Spent \$3,546,857 in cash for park improvements;
- Secured an additional \$6,000,000 in Rasmuson Foundation challenge grants (funding pledged if we meet their specified challenges);
- Secured an additional \$1,400,000 in State Legislative funding for reimbursement;
- And secured an additional \$165,000 in Federal funding for reimbursement.

The report demonstrates that time and materials volunteered by the community in Anchorage Park Foundation-funded projects have significant cash value. APF board members expect to see total volunteer contributions (of time and materials) skyrocket as data is reported for 2008.

“A combination of Rasmuson Foundation contributions and other private and public funds are being leveraged to inspire park user groups to improve parks. Neighborhoods, Rotary Clubs, Eagle Scouts – all kinds of park lovers are investing their time and energy in parks throughout Anchorage,” reports Eleanor Andrews.

“This is the board's first attempt to update the Assembly on exactly how much we are investing in Anchorage parks,” says Kristin Sholton. “We plan to do this twice a year. It is time to let everyone know how the APF is engaging park supporters to take care of and improve municipal lands.”

Some of the Foundation's notable investments made in partnership with community groups include:

- Abbott Loop Community Park Picnic Pavilion
- Flight of the Raven statue at Peratrovich Park
- Fairview Day of Caring with 3 Challenge Grantees, Summer 2007
- Betti's Garden at Cuddy Family Midtown Park
- New Playground Equipment at Williaw Park
- New Playground Equipment at Girdwood's Little Bear Park
- Rebuilt multi-purpose fields at Dave Rose Park and Lloyd Steele Park
- 7 natural turf soccer fields at Kincaid Park
- Benches, trash cans, trees all around town

The Anchorage Park Foundation and the Department of Parks & Recreation are currently asking community members to participate in the Anchorage Parks Report Card project for neighborhood parks. The foundation board plans to use APF funding to aggressively attack the community-identified "Fix-It Lists" next summer.

For the Assembly Information Memorandum and attached Sub-fund Leveraging Report see: <http://www.anchorageparkfoundation.org/pdf/reports/AIM8.28.08.pdf>. For the attached *Clean & Green* Report see <http://www.anchorageparkfoundation.org/pdf/reports/Clean&Green9.5.08.pdf>.