



## MEDIA RELEASE

June 24, 2011

Contact: Beth Nordlund, 350-9482

### IRA WALKER PARK RECIEVES VOLUNTEER-POWERED RENOVATION

#### Neighbors Prepare for New Play Equipment

The Anchorage Park Foundation and the Parks and Recreation Department will be hosting a volunteer-powered neighborhood park fix-it at Ira Walker Park (5850 E. 6th Avenue) in the Russian Jack neighborhood on **Saturday, June 25, 2011**.

This Saturday, between at 9 AM and noon, volunteers will complete renovations that address citizen report card comments forwarded in a 2008 Park assessment. Renovations to Ira Walker Park, accomplished by a construction contractor or volunteer power, will include additions of new play equipment and replacement of play area surface; replacing old signage; and replacing trash cans and benches; brushing; removing graffiti; and asphalt work. All volunteers are welcome. All necessary tools, gloves and direction will be provided on site. Upon completion of the work day, volunteers will enjoy lunch.

A bouncy house will be on site for kids, making this morning fun for the whole family.

US Senator Mark Begich plans to join neighbors in the work.

Neighborhood park Fix-Its reflect the comments of over 1,000 citizens participating our 2008 Park Report Card process that assessed 53 neighborhood parks. With these report cards, the Anchorage Park Foundation and the Parks and Recreation Department have developed "Fix-It Lists" to plan improvements in neighborhood parks. A follow-up Park Report Card process is planned for August and September of 2011.

Improvements to Ira Walker Park are paid for by support from Alaska State Legislature Capital Grants and the Rasmuson Foundation through contributions to the Anchorage Park Foundation.

"The Parks and Recreation Department manages almost 11,000 acres of parkland," said Park Superintendent Spoth-Torres. "We value and appreciate the community's volunteer support that allows us to leverage our capital funding to accomplish maximum results".

For more information about the Anchorage Park Foundation neighborhood park fix-it program and how you can get involved, please visit [www.AnchorageParkFoundation.org](http://www.AnchorageParkFoundation.org) or call the Parks & Recreation Department at 343-4587.

###