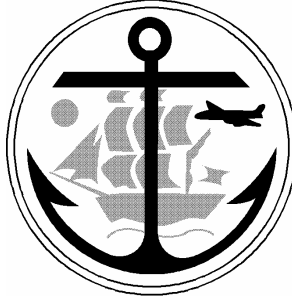


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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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26 LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS RECEIVE PARKS FUNDING **Groups Respond to Rasmuson Foundation Challenge**

Twenty-six Anchorage organizations received \$400,000 in [Challenge Grant Awards](#) through the Anchorage Park Foundation, and will invest an additional \$829,272 in cash, labor and in-kind contributions for improving Anchorage's parks and trails.

Mayor Mark Begich and parks supporter and funder Ed Rasmuson made that announcement today in Peratrovich Park in downtown Anchorage. The grants are part of a challenge from the Rasmuson Foundation.

In order to be eligible, local groups had to complete an application to receive a dollar for dollar match -- matches can be cash, employee and volunteer labor, grants, or in-kind services. Grant requests ranged between \$500 and \$40,000. All of the chosen projects were required to improve municipal parks or trails.

"This is truly a public-private partnership where local citizens are stepping up to invest in their community and make Anchorage a better place for this and future generations," said Mayor Begich. "All of this enormous investment in Anchorage's future would not have been possible without the generosity of Ed Rasmuson and the Rasmuson Foundation."

Craig Torrey, an Anchorage firefighter who adopts a section of the Campbell Creek Trail with the Fire Prevention Bureau, introduced the mayor at today's event. Craig's group received a small grant that exemplifies the spirit of the Challenge Grant -- they will put in many hours of work, and the Anchorage Park Foundation will pay for the materials to install two dog refuse stations and plant wildflowers along the trail.

(Attached is a list of the grant recipients.)

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