

**MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE**  
**ASSEMBLY INFORMATION MEMORANDUM**

No. \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting Date: April 28, 2015

1 **To: THE HONORABLE DAN SULLIVAN**  
2 **ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY**

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4 **From: ANCHORAGE PARK FOUNDATION**

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6 **Subject: Anchorage Park Foundation Board Report on Park**  
7 **Investments**

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9 2015 marks the eleventh summer construction and volunteer work  
10 season for the Anchorage Park Foundation (APF). APF utilizes all  
11 varieties of private and public funding sources and volunteer hours to  
12 accomplish park improvements and fund recreation opportunities – this  
13 year APF will fund 22 park improvement projects. APF meets donor and  
14 volunteer needs by leveraging funds through this unique public-private  
15 partnership. APF's ability to engage the community in meaningful ways,  
16 inspire nontraditional partnerships, stretch a dollar, attract grants and  
17 introduce new donors to projects, **produces park and trail results.**

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19 APF partners with municipal staff to implement projects. The board  
20 appreciates the support of the Anchorage Assembly and the  
21 Municipality of Anchorage staff as we seek supplemental resources and  
22 community support for parks, trails, and recreation programs. **Our joint**  
23 **successes have led to an increase in community ownership of our**  
24 **system of parks and trails.**

25  
26 APF will sponsor 22 projects for summer 2015 between our  
27 neighborhood parks, challenge grants, *Youth Employment in Parks*  
28 projects, and other special community park projects. Included in this  
29 suite of projects are: five **playground** installations or renovations, a  
30 master planning process for Elderberry Park, construction of a trail to  
31 the beach at Kincaid Park, and a Challenge Grant to construct outdoor  
32 classrooms at Russian Jack Springs Park near the connection of the  
33 park to Nunaka Valley Elementary School.

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1 APF's work has resulted in private, federal, and state investments, plus  
2 a tremendous amount of volunteer support. Since its inception, APF  
3 has raised more than **\$32.3 million** for Anchorage Parks. APF has

- 4
- 5 • raised \$4,208,960 in **private dollars**;
- 6 • leveraged \$7,355,758 in **volunteer time and materials**;
- 7 • secured a total of \$12,064,300 in **Rasmuson Foundation** grants  
8 (pledged funding if we meet their specified challenges);
- 9 • secured \$7,906,621 in **state capital funds** for reimbursement;
- 10 • and secured \$850,924 in **Federal funding** for reimbursement.

11  
12 APF bridges a gap in government capacity by providing private funders  
13 options for giving, with particular focus on enhancing and taking better  
14 care of our **neighborhood parks**. Volunteers in 2008 and 2011  
15 completed park assessments that gave APF information for fix-it lists  
16 and park report cards. Using the volunteer identified park  
17 improvements, APF worked with the Parks and Recreation Department  
18 and volunteers to substantially renovate 14 parks in 2009, 8 parks in  
19 2010, 7 parks in 2011, 8 in 2012, 5 in 2013, and 9 in 2014. We have 6  
20 Fix-It events scheduled this summer. You are invited to join us and  
21 volunteer with your constituents for these projects, each scheduled on  
22 Saturdays from 9am-noon:

- 23
- 24 • Suzan Nightingale McKay Park, June 27
- 25 • Balto Seppala Park, July 11
- 26 • Jewel Lake Park, July 25
- 27 • Pop Carr Park, August 15
- 28 • David Green Park, August 22
- 29 • Moen Park, August 29
- 30

31 In spring of 2015, APF awarded 16 **Challenge Grants** to groups  
32 committed to improving a park in 2015 and 2016. Volunteer grantees  
33 will match their grants with cash, volunteer hours, materials, or a  
34 combination. Projects include a trail connecting the Scenic Foothills  
35 neighborhood to Far North Bicentennial Park, outdoor classrooms,  
36 wayfinding on Ship Creek Trail, and neighborhood park improvements,  
37 among others. Grantees will plan and fundraise this summer and  
38 execute their projects in the summer of 2016.

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40 **Youth Employment in Parks** starts its ninth season in June. Park  
41 improvement projects include:

- 42
- 43 • Chester Creek Bank Restoration

- Earthquake Park Trail Improvements
- Kincaid Park Trail to the Beach Construction
- Far North Bicentennial Park Trail Improvements
- Balto Seppala Park Trail Construction

APF is proud to be a champion for the Anchorage Economic Development Corporation's initiative to make Anchorage the #1 city in America to "**Live.Work.Play.**" by 2025. We have 145 partner agencies.

The **Anchorage Trails Initiative** of Live.Work.Play. creates meaningful opportunities for businesses and trail users to invest in our trail system, drawing support for the central concept that trails make Anchorage a great place to live. Our trail system attracts talent to Anchorage, which feeds innovation and the economy.

APF promoted the **bond to replace bridges** this April as part of our work with the trails initiative. The main projects of the initiative to date are:

- Facilities
- Connections
- Promotion
- Health
- Safety
- Schools on Trails

We welcome your involvement.

Please join us Saturday June 13 from noon-3pm on the west end of the Park Strip for **Park Founders Day**, as we celebrate the past, present, and future contributions Anchorage families have made to our incredible system of parks and trails. This will be a historical event for Anchorage you won't want to miss.

The APF board hereby submits this annual report on the cumulative financial investments in Anchorage Parks and Recreation Programs to highlight the added value the Municipality receives from this nonprofit venture. The board believes strongly that these investments are significant in monetary and social value, and improve Municipal assets. The board acknowledges the Anchorage Assembly as the elected body charged with maintaining our public lands and looks forward to using this annual report as a means to communicate its contributions to the Municipality of Anchorage.

Please stay tuned for APF events with constituents featuring donors and amazing park volunteers and advocates. APF will host ribbon cuttings,

1 volunteer days, groundbreaking ceremonies, demolition events, opening  
2 ceremonies, fundraisers, and park planning meetings. You will be  
3 welcome to participate, and celebrate park and trail stewardship.

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5 For more information on the Anchorage Park Foundation initiatives see  
6 [www.AnchorageParkFoundation.org](http://www.AnchorageParkFoundation.org) or call Beth Nordlund at 274-1004.

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9 Prepared by: Beth Nordlund, APF Executive Director  
10 Respectfully submitted: Eleanor Andrews, Bill Bittner, Rick Fox,  
11 Ernie Hall, Joelle Hall, David Wight,  
12 Shane Baird, Petra Wilm, Mike O'Connor  
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15 Attached: **APF 2015 Park Rehabilitation and Construction Projects**  
16 **Map**

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18 *Each project represents a different way APF is connecting our*  
19 *community. We are bringing our diverse population together for*  
20 *projects they care about. From Safe Routes to Schools to neighborhood*  
21 *swing sets, APF has a project close to your heart. APF serves as an*  
22 *organizing nonprofit that fosters innovation, reaches out to inspire and*  
23 *fund nontraditional partnerships, and produces park and trail results.*  
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