

Anchorage Park Foundation 2011

AnchorageParkFoundation.org

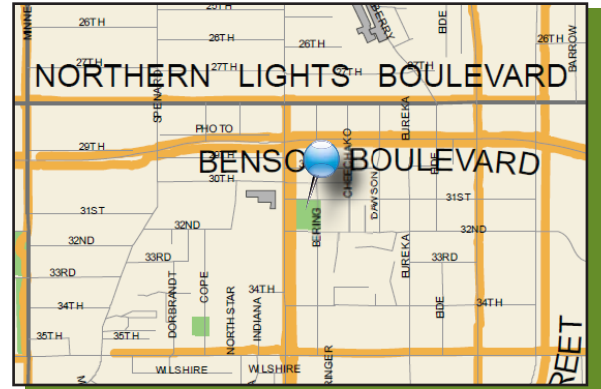


Arctic/Benson Park

750 W. 31st Avenue

Park History

This property was offered for sale in 1977 for a park site, and in April 1981 the Municipality of Anchorage purchased the land. The owners sold the property at below the appraisal value, which gave the Parks & Recreation Department funding to develop it. This park was the location for the kick-off party held for the City of Lights program in 1996. They continue to light this park every fall.

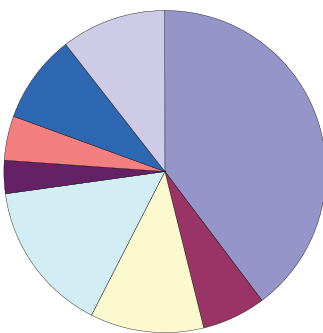


Neighborhood Statistics*

Population: 4,194

Percent of Population under age 18: 20.3%

Ethnic Composition:



*2010 Census Data

Park Facilities & Equipment

- Play equipment for 2 to 5 year olds
- Picnic tables
- Large open play field
- Volunteer-maintained flower bed
- On street parking



COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES:

Mayor Dan Sullivan
mayor@muni.org

Midtown Community Council
Don Pohland, President
donp@jlproperties.com

Assembly District 4
Dick Traini - trainid@muni.org
Elvi Gray-Jackson - gray-jackson@muni.org

Alaska State Legislative District 25M
Representative Mike Doogan
Representative_Mike_Doogan@legis.state.ak.us
Senator Hollis French
Senator_Hollis_French@legis.state.ak.us

Park Profile



REPORT CARD ON PARKS: Arctic Benson 2011

Report Card Background

The Anchorage Parks Report Card utilized community volunteers to create a comprehensive picture of the condition of our parks, reflecting the Anchorage community's opinions, preferences and ideas. Anchorage citizens along with Anchorage Parks and Recreation staff evaluated 38 parks based on 6 different settings. Parks were surveyed based on cleanliness, safety, structure, appearance, and function. Anchorage Parks and Recreation staff will use this information to strategically employ its funding and volunteer resources to better meet the needs of the Anchorage community.

OVERALL GRADE

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Active Recreation Areas

39

Green Spaces

39

Park Entry

41

Passive Recreation Areas

35

Pathways

36

Playgrounds

40

Scores were calculated on a 100 point scale

Arctic Benson Findings

Community members reported that Arctic Benson Park has a lot of potential and that they would bring their families there if the homeless issue could be solved. Currently they feel it is terribly unsafe and being overtaken by drugs, alcohol, prostitution, and people living there. They are very concerned about the inappropriate activities occurring in the park both during the day and at night, contributing to litter, unpleasant odors from human waste, and generally making the park an unwelcoming and scary place. The playground is old and abandoned due to intimidating adult activity in the area.

Fix It List

- Re-paint equipment, install engineered wood fiber, and new equipment
- Create a destination enclosed dog-park to bring more people to the park
- Bring back lighting. Install light posts and security cameras
- Install a lighted basketball court
- Plant flowers in beds
- Prune trees for better visibility
- Remove "hiding places" in trees and shrubs, or remove bushes altogether near entrance to increase visibility
- Install a fence as safety barrier to dangerously fast Arctic Blvd traffic and for dog park



The playground needs repair and replacements



The tire of the tire swing needs replacement

For a complete directory of Report Card results for neighborhood parks, go to www.AnchorageParkFoundation.org/projects/reportcard.htm

The Anchorage Park Foundation developed the Anchorage Parks Report Card in partnership with the Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Lands at Indiana University, and community volunteers, thanks to a generous grant from the Rasmuson Foundation. The APF has raised over \$18 million dollars since 2004 to improve public parks, trail and recreation areas. To make a contribution or volunteer, please visit us at: