

Anchorage Park Foundation Challenge Grants 2010 & 2012



Final Progress Report

Anchorage Park Foundation

2010 & 2012 Challenge Grant Awards Final Progress Report 08.03.2012



Introduction

The Anchorage Park Foundation was founded in 2004 to build Healthy Parks & Healthy People in Anchorage by mobilizing public support and financial resources for parks, trails and recreation opportunities. **In partnership with the Municipality and the Anchorage community, the Anchorage Park Foundation is rehabilitating and improving public lands.**

In 2006, the Rasmuson Foundation awarded the Anchorage Park Foundation \$410,000 to support projects reconnecting Anchorage citizens with their parks and trails. The Anchorage Park Foundation initiated a challenge to organizations and individuals who wish to make improvements to parks and trails: Apply for a Challenge Grant for your community park project, and the Anchorage Park Foundation will match community contributions of fundraising, labor and in-kind support. The results are not only improved parks and trails, but engaged park user groups and an involved community.

In 2006 during the first Challenge Grant campaign, our grassroots outreach yielded 31 applications. Of these applications, the Anchorage Park Foundation board awarded 27 projects with funding. In 2007, the Rasmuson Foundation awarded the Anchorage Park Foundation \$900,000 to continue the successful Challenge Grant program through phases II-IV in years 2008, 2010, and 2012. The 2010 Challenge Grant Campaign is currently in its final stages. Many 2010 Challenge Grant projects are complete and a final report is in progress although some grantees have requested an extension to finish work by Summer 2013. Following is a summary of the 2010 Challenge Grants awarded and their project status.

Through these Challenge Grants, the Anchorage Park Foundation has increased community involvement in parks, strengthened park stewardship, and leveraged community contributions of time and money. The Anchorage Park Foundation supports community-based projects that rehabilitate park land, focusing first on the APF's central goal: building Clean & Green, Safe & Secure parks in the Anchorage community. This is how the APF has prioritized the use of its resources.

Total # of 2010 & 2012 Projects Funded: 18

Total 2010 & 2012 Rasmuson Project Funding: \$409,770

Estimated value of matching labor, in-kind contributions & cash: \$1,006,336

Total Project Value including Rasmuson Foundation Grant: \$1,416,106

2010 & 2012 Challenge Grant Campaign

2010 Challenge Grants

Safe Route to School, Huffman Park

COMPLETE

Anchorage Park Foundation Award: \$14,000

The Safe Route to School program, Trinity Church, and Huffman Elementary held two community work days to fix up this park. Volunteers assembled to trim back trees and brush, pull invasive Devil's Club, and generally clean up the park. Professionals were hired to resurface the trails in the park and the remove the old workout circuit equipment.

Total cash raised: \$1,105; volunteer labor and in-kind contribution value: \$28,784; total match value: \$29,889.



Total Project Value Including Rasmuson Foundation Grant: \$43,889

Anchorage Senior Center Trail

COMPLETE

Anchorage Park Foundation Award: \$6,000

Between July 26 and August 12, 2010, crews from the Youth Employment in Parks program constructed a trail connection between the Anchorage Senior Center and the Chester Creek Greenbelt Trail. Crews grubbed out the trail route, removed tree roots and stumps and hauled more than 300 tons of gravel to create a disabled-accessible trail connection. Volunteers from the Senior Center and REI worked alongside crews to create this positive recreation opportunity. This project was also awarded funds from a Legislative Grant in the amount of \$25,000.



Total funds from other grants: \$25,000; volunteer labor and in-kind contribution value: \$2,679; total match value: \$27,679.

Total Project Value Including Rasmuson Foundation Grant: \$33,679

Andrew Lekisch Trail Repair Project

COMPLETE

Anchorage Park Foundation Award: \$12,000

The Nordic Ski Association of Anchorage worked with the project team to restore the trail to the desired profile and to re-vegetate the back-slopes and trail surface.

Total cash raised: \$43,209; total match value: \$43,209

Total Project Value Including Rasmuson Foundation Grant: \$55,209

Anchorage Park Foundation

C St. Gardens, Valley of the Moon Park

COMPLETE

Anchorage Park Foundation Award: \$20,000

A project team comprised of the grantees along with community members from several interested nonprofit and civic organizations collaborated on the design and ideas for improvements to the C Street community gardens. The group raised \$10,000 from Cook Inlet Housing Authority through a nearby renovation project as CIHA was also interested in the health of the community. In the garden itself, new, taller fences were installed, and the paths between the plots were redone.



Total cash raised: \$10,000; volunteer labor and in-kind contribution value: \$8,138; total match value: \$18,138.

Total Project Value including Rasmuson Foundation Grant: \$38,138

De La Vega Fields Irrigation Project

COMPLETE

Anchorage Park Foundation Award: \$50,000

The Municipality of Anchorage, the Anchorage District Soccer Federation, and APF collaborated to upgrade the irrigation main hydrant at the De La Vega fields and to install an automated irrigation system to improve turf conditions and allow for more efficient maintenance.

Total cash raised: \$12,000 from Anchorage District Soccer Federation; \$56,500 from Municipality of Anchorage

Total Project Value Including Rasmuson Foundation Grant: \$118,500

Government Hill Hedge Rejuvenation

COMPLETE

Anchorage Park Foundation Award: \$1,370

The Government Hill Community Council raised money to help rejuvenate a long-standing hedge in the Suzan Nightingale Memorial Park. A Siberian Pea hedge that had grown to be 3½ feet tall was cut down to a height of 2 inches so that it could regrow in a healthier state.

Total cash raised: \$1,485; volunteer labor and in-kind contribution value: \$135; total match value: \$1,620

Total Project Value Including Rasmuson Foundation Grant: \$2,990

2010 & 2012 Challenge Grant Campaign

Hendrickson Family Tennis Courts at Lyn Ary Park

Anchorage Park Foundation Award \$40,000

The tennis courts at Lyn Ary Park were resurfaced and other amenities were improved, including benches and the adjacent trail.

Total cash raised: \$58,206

Total Project Value Including Rasmuson Foundation Grant: \$98,206

COMPLETE



Anchorage West Little League - Lyn Ary Park Recreation Fields

Anchorage Park Foundation Award \$20,000

The Anchorage West Little League worked to raise money and support for improvements to the Lyn Ary Park Baseball Fields. As a result of this challenge grant, the height of the fences between the backstop and dugouts was increased to prevent errant baseballs from striking Coastal trail users, additional fence work was done to resolve gaps and holes, and top soil was added to the field surface to ensure that it is uniformly level.

Total cash raised: \$19,373; volunteer labor and in-kind contribution value: \$6,190; total match value: \$25,564

Total Project Value Including Rasmuson Foundation Grant: \$45,564

COMPLETE



Little Dipper Park Fix-It

Anchorage Park Foundation Award: \$5,000

After receiving a failing grade on a park report card, Eagle Scout Franklin Durr took on this park as part of his Eagle Scout Service project. The scout installed concrete pads for a bear-proof trash can and a sign at an information kiosk, and made other minor improvements to the park that involved cleaning up graffiti and removing excess sand under the play structure. (In 2011, this project became a Neighborhood Park Fix-It project, receiving \$45,700 in a legislative grant.)

Total cash raised: \$100; volunteer labor and in-kind contribution value: \$7,250; total match value: \$7,350

Total Project Value Including Rasmuson Foundation Grant: \$12,350

COMPLETE



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Minnesota Park Renewal

COMPLETE

Anchorage Park Foundation Award: \$28,000

Work done on this park includes the resurfacing of the tennis courts, benches being painted, and minor landscaping improvements, such as mulch and new flowers being added to planters. (In 2012, Minnesota Park became a 2012 Neighborhood Park Fix-It project; receiving a legislative grant of \$179,000 and an additional Clean & Green allocation of \$28,000.)



Total cash raised: \$4,250; volunteer labor and in-kind contribution value: \$27,381; total match value: \$31,631

Total Project Value Including Rasmuson Foundation Grant: \$59,631

Taku Skateboard Park Improvements

COMPLETE

Anchorage Park Foundation Award: \$5,200

As part of an Eagle Scout Project, funds were raised for a new piece of skate park equipment, and volunteers were assembled to install the new quarter-pipe.



Total cash raised: \$5,730; volunteer labor and in-kind contribution value: \$3,305; total match value: \$9,035

Total Project Value Including Rasmuson Foundation Grant: \$14,235

Anchorage Women's Club Information Kiosk

COMPLETE

Anchorage Park Foundation Award: \$3,000

Eagle Scout Russell Gingras assembled and installed a Historic Information Kiosk as part of an Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project in Ben Crawford Memorial Park.

Total cash raised: \$1,200 ; volunteer labor and in-kind contribution value: \$5,060 ; total match value: \$6,260

Total Project Value Including Rasmuson Foundation Grant: \$9,260

2010 & 2012 Challenge Grant Campaign

Westchester Lagoon Disc Golf

COMPLETE

Anchorage Park Foundation Award: \$30,000

Work was done to remove and relocate course hardware, and to improve pedestrian walkways, signage, and kiosks. In the summer of 2012, Youth Employment in Parks crews completed the unfinished portions of this project.

Total volunteer labor and in-kind contribution value: \$24,362

Total Project Value Including Rasmuson Foundation Grant: \$54,362

Thelma Buchholdt Picnic Shelter, Woodland Park

IN PROGRESS

Anchorage Park Foundation Award: \$20,000

During the summer of 2010, the Anchorage Filipino Community, volunteers, contractors and staff repainted park equipment, restored landscaping, removed trash and installed the Thelma Buchholdt Memorial Picnic Pavilion.

Total cash raised: \$8,912; volunteer labor and in-kind contribution value: \$4,050 ; total match value: \$12,962

Total Project Value Including Rasmuson Foundation Grant: \$32,962



Ray Storck Park Project

CANCELLED

Anchorage Park Foundation Award: \$5,200

The Bear Valley Community Council had planned to use Challenge Grant funds to establish the area's first neighborhood park on an undeveloped 1 acre parcel of land. However, when this project was scoped it appeared too big for the community council to complete. Having the scope completed will help in the eventual realization of this project.

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2012 Challenge Grants

North Russian Jack Springs Park

IN PROGRESS

Anchorage Park Foundation Award: \$50,000

The Anchorage School District was awarded a Challenge Grant to improve North Russian Jack Springs Park in honor of Superintendent Carol Comeau's retirement. On June 30, 2012, volunteers gathered at North Russian Jack Springs Park to work on the already existing playground and prepare the nearby area for the installation of a polar bear themed destination playground. Volunteers shoveled and raked woodchips onto the area around the playground and cleared brush from the area to improve visibility. Earlier in the summer crews removed the run down tennis courts and leveled the ground in the area. (This project also received a legislative grant in 2008 for \$750,00 and in 2012 for \$400,000.) We are currently working on getting the shipping of the equipment donated; a cost of \$17,000.

TO DATE:

Total cash raised: \$3,000; volunteer labor and in-kind contribution value: \$4,131; total match value: \$7,131



Total Project Value Including Rasmuson Foundation Grant: \$57,131

Davis Park Ballfield Revitalization

IN PROGRESS

Anchorage Park Foundation Award: \$50,000

Polar Little League was awarded a Challenge Grant to do safety improvements to the Davis Park Ballfields. In the fall of 2011, Davis Park received a D on its park report card. In 2012, the Mountain View Lions Club and the Polar Little League helped make many improvements to the park. Three baseball fields were renovated, a bullpen was added, and repair work was done to the fencing and dugouts. In addition, many general site improvements were made throughout the park. With these efforts, the surrounding community hopes to boost participation in the Little League and increase use of the park.

TO DATE:

Total cash raised and volunteer labor and in-kind contribution value: \$50,000 from American Legion, \$200,000 from State Legislature; \$40,000 from Mountain View Lions Club; total match value: \$290,000

Total Projected Project Value Including Rasmuson Foundation Grant: \$340,000

2010 & 2012 Challenge Grant Campaign

Mulcahy Rink Improvements

2013 Project

Anchorage Park Foundation Award: \$50,000

The Gomez Foundation and APF plan to work together to rebuild two outdoor rinks at the Sullivan Arena. This project will take place in 2013.

Total cash raised: \$250,000 from State Legislature, \$50,000 from Gomez Foundation; volunteer labor and in-kind contribution projected value: \$50,000 total match projected value: \$350,000

Total Projected Project Value Including Rasmuson Foundation Grant: \$400,000