

# Anchorage Park Foundation 2008

AnchorageParkFoundation.org



## SHADY BIRCH PARK

3442 W. 81st Avenue

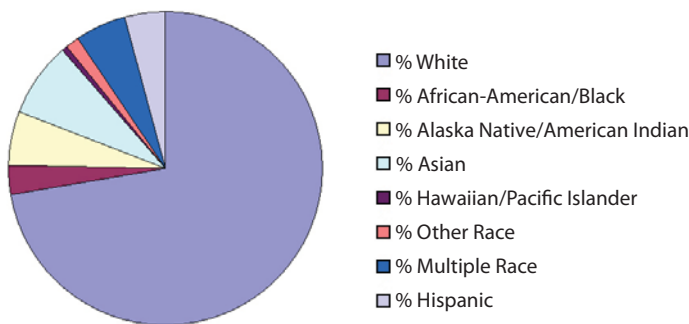
### Park History

The Municipality of Anchorage acquired this property from Central Alaska Utilities in 1972. CAU used the site as a well site, and neighborhood children had utilized it as a play area. When the Municipality purchased it, the community asked to preserve the land as an open space park. In 1982, the community proposed to clear and develop trails, construct a seating and play area and to create a landscaped lawn area. In 2003, new play equipment and landscaping were added.

### Neighborhood Statistics\*

Population: 21,591  
 Percent of Population under age 19: 32.2%  
 Rate of referrals to Dept. of Juvenile Justice: High

Ethnic Composition:



\*2000 Census Data

### Park Facilities & Equipment

- 1.93 acres
- ADA-accessible play equipment for 5-12 year olds



### COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES:

Mayor Mark Begich  
 BegichMP@muni.org

Southwest Park District Manager  
 Scott O'Brien  
 O'BrienSC@muni.org

Sand Lake Community Council  
 Tom Burgess, Chair - president@sandlakecc.org

Assembly District 3  
 Matt Claman - mattclaman@gmail.com  
 Harriet Drummond - harrietdrummond@alaska.com

Alaska State Legislative District 27N  
 Representative Bob Buch  
 Rep\_Bob\_Buch@legis.state.ak.us  
 Senator Lesil McGuire  
 Senator\_Lesil\_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us

# Park Profile



# REPORT CARD ON PARKS: SHADY BIRCH PARK 2008

## Report Card Background

The Anchorage Parks Report Card utilized community volunteers to create a comprehensive picture of the condition of our neighborhood parks, reflecting the Anchorage community's opinions, preferences and ideas. Almost 1,000 citizens along with APRD staff evaluated 53 neighborhood parks based on 6 different settings. Parks were surveyed based on cleanliness, safety, structure, appearance, and function. APRD will use this information to strategically employ its funding and volunteer resources to better meet the needs of the Anchorage community.

### OVERALL GRADE

C+

Active Recreation Areas

74

Green Spaces

73

Park Entry

77

Passive Recreation Areas

79

Pathways

83

Playgrounds

83

Scores were calculated on a 100 point scale

## Shady Birch Park Findings

Community members reported unsafe activities occurring in Shady Birch Park during night hours, as well as extensive litter left each night. Community members also noted that clearing low limbs and brush from green areas would improve visibility. Other concerns included cracks in trails, trip hazards and missing equipment in athletic areas, and more equipment needed in the playground.

## Fix It List

- Repaint play equipment and add swings to play area
- Replenish safety surface material
- Repair hazardous tree stumps and holes in fields
- Trim trees and underbrush to improve safety sight lines
- Repair backstop in ballfields and replace bases
- Repaint picnic tables
- Repair cracks in paved trails
- Establish appropriate location and install dog station
- Work with community to address concerns about unsafe activities in the park



The neighborhood is concerned about the appearance of the park outer edge



The ballfield is in need of repairs

For a complete directory of Report Card results for neighborhood parks, go to [www.AnchorageParkFoundation.org/projects/reportcard.htm](http://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 \$15 million dollars since 2004 to improve public parks, trail and recreation areas. To make a contribution or volunteer, please visit us at: