

Help

ALASKA'S NEWSPAPER

alaska.com

Anchorage Daily News
adn.com• adn.com • yellow pages • Web search powered by **YAHOO!SEARCH**

Find

5/13 | 4:02 p.m. AKST

News Sports Outdoors Features Money Entertainment Opinion Blogs Photos Classifieds find n save[Home](#) | [Alaska Newsreader](#) | [Obituaries](#) | [Archives](#)[TV Listings](#) | [Movies](#) | [Music](#) | [Restaurants](#) | [Submit Event](#)[Legals](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Homefinder](#) | [Cars](#) | [Rentals](#)

Focal Point: Mountain View

"Focal Point: Mountain View" is an on-going photo essay exploring one of Anchorage's oldest neighborhoods.
About the blog | **E-mail:** mlester@adn.com | **Twitter:** twitter.com/marclesterphoto | [Reader photos](#)

Clark student designers plan park improvements

Posted by focalpoint

Posted: May 4, 2011 - 11:49 am



Heather McIntyre and her class have big plans.



RONDY'S
ENTER FUR RONDY'S
2012 COLLECTIBLE SERIES DESIGN COMPETITION
*Become a part of
Rondy's History!*
Submit your best design by June 1st, 2011
— CLICK FOR MORE INFO —

Alaska's Top Jobs

all 144 top jobs

alaskacareerbuilder

find

Place an ad | Advanced search

Engineering/Technical
Materials Management Coordinator
Teck Alaska Inc

Skilled/Trades
Apprentice Mechanic/Shop Helper
Coast Crane Company

Nursing
RN Case Manager
Southcentral Foundation

Aviation
Loadmaster
Lynden Air Cargo

Aviation
First Officer
Lynden Air Cargo

Top Homes by Prudential

more

Vista Ridge Loop

Seller will pay some closing cost on this Brand New Move in Ready 3 Bedroom, 2 bath open Vaulted living space with laminate flooring. Nice views!! Move in 30 days!



◀ 10 of 15 ▶

HomeFinder
.com

find

Search ADN Real Estate | Place a homes ad
Realtor Market Place | Homebook

Top Rentals

more

Cedarwood Apartments



Zech Moody checks out the existing playground.

Heather McIntyre's seventh and eighth-grade architectural design students took a walk during class Tuesday, May 3. The Clark Middle School students went north a few blocks and stood in a circle under the shelter at William B. Lyons Park, on Irwin Street adjacent to the Boys and Girls Club. In front of them were the plans drawn up for the park that they've spent much of the school year helping to create. Behind them was an aging playground set in gravel next to a flat, featureless grass lot.

Landscape architect Kevin Doniere held up the blueprints. Where they stood would become a covered band shell, a place for dance and other performance with amphitheater-style seating. Landscaping features and seating structures would border the grassy field, meant to attract picnics and gatherings. The current parking lot would be rebuilt and beautified. On its surface would be painted a giant mural, a map of the earth from the perspective of looking down upon the Arctic. It's part of the "global village" theme will also be reflected elsewhere. Throughout the park, panels would display the artwork of Clark students.

Doniere and Chad Taylor partnered with the McIntyre's class to redesign Lyons Park (not to be confused with Lions Park on Mountain View's east end). Both are volunteers of the **American Society of Landscape Architects**. Not only did the task provide the student real-world experience, but their ideas were valuable to the project, they say. "Everything has been influenced by their input," Taylor said. "They've been really integral to the whole thing."

For instance, Doniere said the students helped redefine the park's purpose. Instead of just replacing an old playground with a new one, students considered how it could be used as a gathering space for all ages - sort of a neighborhood Town Square. "Since we designed it, we put stuff in people might like," said thirteen-year-old Francis Tuikolongahau.

The park isn't ready for shovels quite yet, though. Suzanne Little, a park planner for **Anchorage Parks and Recreation**, says the city has partnered with the **Anchorage Park Foundation** to fund construction. The project, as it is currently planned, would cost about \$400,000. Little says they have about \$220,000 to work with now. She says options moving forward involve finding the funding or reducing the scope of the project, or some combination of the two.

McIntyre, a first-year teacher, says she thinks the Lyons Park project is providing more than practical skills for the 50 kids who have been involved. She hopes their involvement will foster a sense of ownership in Mountain View. "They can look back and say 'I did that'," she said. At the end of Tuesday's site visit, ideas were still coming in from her students. As they started the walk back to Clark, Jacob Arnold, 13, chimed in. "We should get more flowers along the sides," he said.



The apartment homes at Cedarwood Apartments feature an array of modern amenities and many extras for your convenience.



1 of 11 ►



Advanced Search | [Place a rentals ad](#)

Top Autos

all autos

Bargain Hunter Auto



2005 Pontiac Vibe
\$8,695
 Bargain Hunter Auto

8 of 10 ►



Search for a New or Used Car | [Place an auto ad](#)



Heather McIntyre teaches social studies and architectural design at Clark Middle.



Landscape architect Kevin Doniere, right, talks with the students.





An Arctic map would be painted on the rebuilt parking lot. Park planner Suzanne Little, left, talks with students.



To leave a comment use the form below

Comments

NEW STORY COMMENTS: [Learn about our upgrade](#) | [Create an avatar in the new system](#) »

By submitting your comment, you are agreeing to [adn.com's user agreement](#).

1 person liked this.

Add New Comment

[Login](#)



Type your comment here.

Real-time updating is **enabled**. ([Pause](#))

Showing 6 comments

Sort by newest first



MollyMaguire

Sweet. Are they going to put in roundabouts and see-saws? you know, the kinds of toys we all used to play on before the nannies started taking them out?

05/04/2011 03:58 PM 2 Likes Report Abuse

[Like](#) [Reply](#)



grlao

I remember the 10 foot tall slides, and the tilted merry-go-round!

05/04/2011 04:26 PM in reply to MollyMaguire 2 Likes Report Abuse

[Like](#) [Reply](#)



ak81

Best park in town (other than the location). Wish they would leave it alone.