



ANCHORAGE  
PARK FOUNDATION

# IMPACT REPORT 2005-2020



*Celebrating 15 Years of Making a Difference*



## Connecting Anchorage

For the past 15 years, the Anchorage Park Foundation has helped make Anchorage a great place to live, work, and play. Together, we connect our community to each other and to public lands through our network of parks, trails, and greenbelts.

As a supporter of the Anchorage Park Foundation, you make a positive difference in the quality of life of our community and we can't thank you enough. It's because of your involvement, your volunteer time, and your donations to the Anchorage Park Foundation that we have made so many improvements to our park and trail system.

I hope you'll join me in feeling proud of the achievements we've made together. Thank you for your continued dedication, tireless advocacy, and generous support of our parks and trails.

Beth Nordlund  
Executive Director



# The Public Private Partnership That's Working for You

The Anchorage Park Foundation mobilizes public support and leverages financial resources for Anchorage parks, trails, and recreation opportunities in partnership with the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department. Anchorage Park Foundation's programs and initiatives focus on promoting outdoor recreation as a part of a healthy lifestyle, addressing inequalities in access to public lands, and empowering community members to get involved in improving the parks in their neighborhoods.



## Youth Employment in Parks

Introducing young adults to the natural resource field through meaningful training, and education.



## Schools on Trails

Offering children positive outdoor experiences to inspire healthy active lifestyles.



## Community Challenge Grants

Financially supporting community-driven park improvement projects.



## Inclusive Playgrounds

Making playgrounds accessible to children and adults of all abilities.



## Trails Initiative

Advocating for active transportation through a safe and connected trail system.



*"The Anchorage Park Foundation is a critical community partner that helps neighbors and user groups get involved in the rewarding process of improving our parks and trails. Our community grows stronger when residents apply for a challenge grant for their project, that then it turns into a community-driven priority for a local bond, or a Youth Employment in Parks project."*

~ Josh Durand | Director of Anchorage Park and Recreation Department

# 15 Years of Making a Difference

Anchorage Park Foundation has been at the center of building community by promoting park and trail improvements and accessibility all over Anchorage.



**8,400**

Connected 8,400 students in underserved neighborhoods to nature in nearby parks and encouraged an understanding and appreciation of the outdoors.



**100 +**

Granted financial support to more than 100 community-initiated park improvement projects. Volunteers matched our investment with their labor and helped stretch the Parks Department budget.



**390**

Offered summer employment and job training in natural resource management to more than 390 Anchorage youth representing the cultural diversity of our neighborhoods.





16

Rebuilt 16 of 85 playgrounds to be inclusive, so children and adults of all abilities can play together. Anchorage leads the nation in inclusive playgrounds with five more coming in 2021.



\$48.6M

Advocated for municipal park bonds, resulting in \$48.6 million in park and trail investments over the last 10 years.

\$41M+

Funding raised over 15 years for our parks and trails.



\$7M

private dollars

\$12.2M

volunteer time and materials

\$10.2M

Rasmuson Foundation

\$10M

legislative funding

\$2.1M

federal dollars



## Neighborhood Story: Kiwanis Fish Creek Park



*"We really came together as neighbors to transform our neighborhood. I love that we continue to celebrate as a community at our annual Fish Creek Festival."*

*~ Lindsey Hajduk, neighbor*

The Kiwanis Fish Creek Park is a beloved close-to-home park connected to a string of parks along the Fish Creek Trail in the Spenard neighborhood. This popular park is often busy with pickup basketball games, pickleball competitions, social gatherings, and children playing. Over time, this well used park suffered from crumbling pavement, outdated equipment, and increasing safety hazards.

In 2011, the park received an F on its Park Report Card with numerous areas of improvement identified through community feedback. Neighbors organized to raise funding through the Anchorage Park Foundation for the Park and Recreation Department to lead a park revitalization. This successful partnership secured private donations, legislative funding, support from Rasmuson Foundation, and recruited many volunteers to turn this failing park into a neighborhood gem. This project inspired further investment in the area resulting in renovation of Barbara Street Park and resurfacing of the trail that connects these two parks.

In 2016, the Kiwanis Fish Creek Park improvements were completed and included a new inclusive playground, ensuring that children of all abilities could play. Hundreds of neighbors and community groups came together to plant trees and flower bulbs and remove invasive species. The ribbon-cutting event that celebrated the opening of the park has evolved into the annual Fish Creek Festival. This beautiful park highlights the power of community-driven initiatives.

# Thank You for Supporting the Anchorage Park Foundation

Parks and trails keep us healthy, active, and connected to nature and to each other. We are grateful for your financial and volunteer support.

## Make a Difference

Make a difference by investing in a healthy future for Anchorage. Your contributions and involvement in Anchorage Park Foundation helps make new trails, accessible playgrounds, and revitalized parks throughout Anchorage.

## Special Thanks to Our Partners





*Your Dollars  
Make a Difference*



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