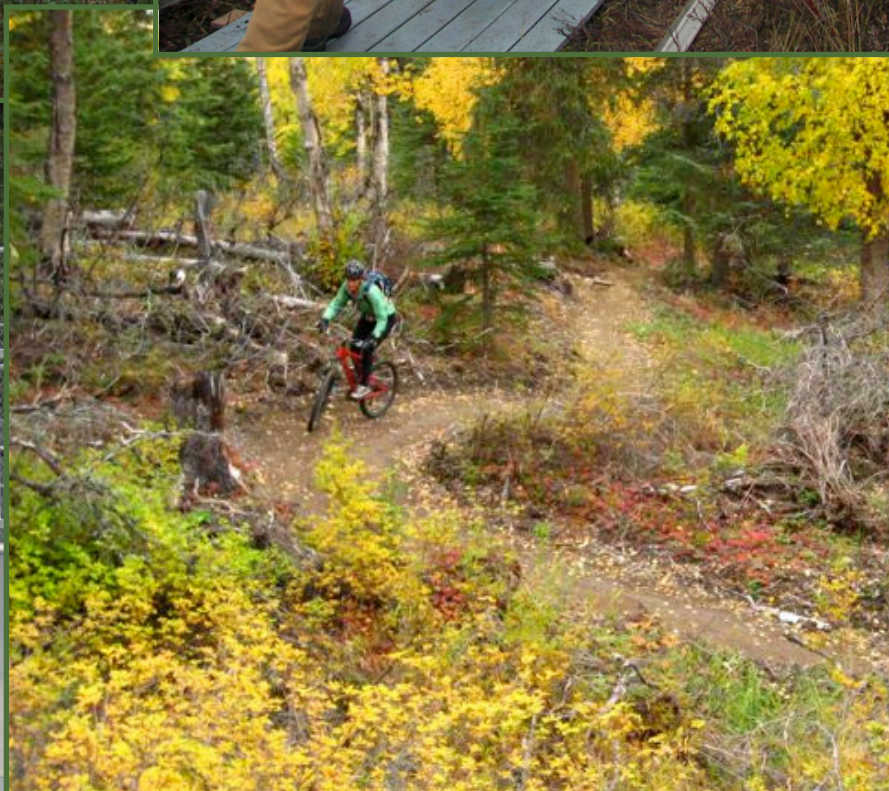


# Anchorage Park Foundation Challenge Grants 2008



## Progress Report



# Anchorage Park Foundation

## 2008 Challenge Grant Awards Progress Report 7.31.10

### 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 of Anchorage and the 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 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 2008 Challenge Grant Campaign is currently in its final stages. Projects must take place on a Municipal park or trail, benefit the public and were to be completed by October 1st, 2009. 10 of the 16 2008 Challenge Grant projects are complete and the remaining grantees have requested an extension to finish work by fall 2010. Following is a summary of the 2008 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 2008 Projects Funded: 16**

**Total 2008 Project Funding: \$312,519**

**Estimated value of matching labor, in-kind contributions and cash: \$1,518,656**

**Total Project Value including Rasmuson Foundation Grant: \$1,824,350\***

**\*the total project value will grow as labor is completed for the projects in process**

# 2008 Challenge Grant Campaign

## 2008 Challenge Grants Northwest District Projects

### Ben Crawford Memorial Park Anchorage Park Foundation Award: \$6,059

**COMPLETE**

Eagle Scout Candidate Richard Gingras and the Anchorage Women's Club worked to restore and install a sign for the Pioneer Schoolhouse, repair parts of the two historic cabins, and build trail in Ben Crawford Memorial Park. The project is finished and topsoil and seeding have also been provided to the area. The final report is in progress.

Volunteer hours: 132; skilled volunteer hours: 40; cash raised: \$500; total match value: \$5,778  
**Total Project Value including Rasmuson Foundation Grant: \$11,837**

### Delaney Park Tennis Courts Anchorage Park Foundation Award: \$35,000

**COMPLETE**

The Alaska Tennis Association has resurfaced seven tennis courts in Delaney Park and improved surrounding park amenities such as benches, nets, wind screens, garbage cans and the hitting wall. The vivid blue courts, bordered by crisp white lines and newly painted green out-of-bounds areas, are modelled after the U.S. Open courts. The asphalt courts are covered with an acrylic-and-sand compound that has a higher percentage of sand than the old courts which gives beginning players a chance to work on technique. Project fundraising included a \$100,000 state grant and a \$20,000 U.S. Tennis Association donation. The ATA held a Park Strip Tennis Courts Dedication to celebrate the success of the resurfacing project on July 25, 2009.



Volunteer hours: 71; skilled volunteer hours: 10; other in-kind contribution value: \$4,297; cash raised: \$200,606; total match value: \$206,936  
**Total Project Value including Rasmuson Foundation Grant: \$241,936**

## 2008 Challenge Grants Northeast District Projects

### Baxter Bog Park & Alicia Iden Nature Trail & Outdoor Classroom Anchorage Park Foundation Award: \$40,000

**IN PROGRESS**

The Iden-Selkregg family and East Anchorage community members are working to construct

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an elevated overlook in this sensitive wetland area and install educational interpretive signs that utilize this bog ecosystem as an outdoor classroom in partnership with three area schools. The Anchorage Park Foundation enlisted Treeline Construction to complete construction of the overlook using light-penetrating grating that will encourage the natural vegetation to regrow surrounding the overlook area. Treeline Construction also generously donated project materials. The APF and the Iden-Selkregg family held a press event on September 14th, 2009 to celebrate completion of the overlook area.



Students at Aurora Waldorf are using Baxter Bog this fall for their botany studies. Project partners are developing the botany and wetlands curriculum into interpretive signs to post at various locations along the trail in Fall 2010. Additionally, project partners will build an arch out of natural materials as an alcove for a bench or, alternatively, a dome structure out of living willow branches during summer 2010. The group continues to fundraise.

Volunteer hours: 200; other in-kind contribution value: \$4,000; cash raised: \$22,680; total match value: \$30,434

**Total Project Value including Rasmuson Foundation Grant: \$70,434**

## **Far North Bicentennial Park Bridge Repair Anchorage Park Foundation Award: \$3,000**

**IN PROGRESS**

The Alaskan Sled Dog & Racing Association is working to replace aged wood on five bridges, and add side rails to two bridges in Far North Bicentennial Park. The group has worked to remove and repair the bridge and railing over the Dowling Tributary; repair a partially burned bridge over the North Fork of Campbell Creek on the Homecoming trail; replace boards on the bridge behind the Albrecht Baseball Fields; remove fallen hazard trees from trails; replace wood on the Shields Trail Bridge; replace a broken beam on the Middle Fork of Campbell Creek; remove and replace the Beaver Dam Trail Bridge; and redeck the 70 foot bridge over the South Fork of Campbell Creek. This fall, ASDRA will complete the bridge railing on the Dowling tributary bridge west of the Elmore Rd. overpass and replace wood on other bridges as needed.



Volunteer hours: 143.5 ; other in-kind contribution value: \$2,000; total match value: \$4,693

**Total Project Value including Rasmuson Foundation Grant: \$7,693**

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## Nichols Park

**Anchorage Park Foundation Award: \$14,685**

**IN PROGRESS**

Airport Heights Community Council members are working to reclaim an unused little league park for close-to-home neighborhood recreation. Volunteers installed 88 bollards and 28 boulders to define and protect Nichols Park from unauthorized vehicle entrance. Topsoil and grass seed was added to cover the newly defined area which was formerly hard packed dirt. The group is watering the area and grass is taking hold and beginning to cover the newly planted area.



The baseball backstop was removed to deter children from using it as a dangerous climbing structure but the baseball fence was left in place, consistent with an Airport Heights Community Council resolution. The Nichols Park committee also planted a variety of indigenous, beautiful trees. The group wishes to use remaining funds to repair the baseball fence, install or replace walk-through gates and improve the appearance of the fencing. The final action will be to install gates for the north alleyway, pending review and approval from the Municipality.

Volunteer hours: 586; skilled volunteer hours: 67; other in-kind contribution value: \$2,769; cash raised: \$960; total match value: \$19,418

**Total Project Value including Rasmuson Foundation Grant: \$34,103**

## Scotty Gomez Hockey Rink at Tikishla Park

**Anchorage Park Foundation Award \$40,000**

**COMPLETE**

With support from a Challenge Grant, the Airport Heights Community Council and the Scotty Gomez Foundation renovated the old hockey rink at Tikishla Park with a new surface, new dasher boards, and efficient lighting for year-round enjoyment of this well-loved neighborhood rink located in Tikishla Park. Project partners celebrated completion of the project on June 13th, 2009 in concert with the Airport Heights Community Council annual picnic.



Volunteer hours: 74; skilled volunteer hours: 354; other in-kind contribution value: \$169,926 (includes cash raised by Airport Heights Community Council); cash raised: \$2,020; total match value: \$198,115

**Total Project Value including Rasmuson Foundation Grant: \$238,115**



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## Whisper Faith Kovach Memorial Park Anchorage Park Foundation Award \$5,000

**COMPLETE**

Eagle Scout Candidate Zane Russell installed two park benches and a bike rack in this neighborhood park off Lore Road. Abbott Loop Community Council supported this work.

Volunteer hours: 162; skilled volunteer hours: 42; cash raised: \$599; total match value: \$6,580

**Total Project Value including Rasmuson Foundation Grant: \$11,580**



## 2008 Challenge Grants Southwest District Projects

### Jodhpur Motocross Area, Kincaid Park Anchorage Park Foundation Award \$20,000

**IN PROGRESS**

The Anchorage Racing Lions have improved the Jodhpur Park motocross area by installing electricity and safety lighting. Project partners worked with Chugach Electric to create electric access close to the parking lot and upgrade the power line to the park. Project partners also worked with the Municipality of Anchorage to secure a right-of-way into the park. The electric meter base and light poles are installed and power has been installed to the base. Project partners have requested an extension to complete installation of the lighting equipment.



Volunteer hours: 28; skilled volunteer hours: 96; other in-kind contribution value: \$25,263; total match value: \$32,509

**Total Project Value including Rasmuson Foundation Grant: \$52,509**

# 2008 Challenge Grant Campaign

## Reflection Point, Kincaid Park

**Anchorage Park Foundation Award: \$35,000**

**COMPLETE**

Anchorage International Rotary Club has repurposed the top of an old World War II bunker, transforming it into an attractive site for admiring the view; a place for reflection on community service; and a place of education featuring a whale skeleton exhibit and a native plant display. The whale bone exhibit and seating area were installed in the summer of 2008, and Rotary Club volunteers returned this summer to complete clean-ups of the area and assess use of the viewing point.



Volunteer hours: 159; skilled volunteer hours: 215; other in-kind contribution value: \$18,820; cash raised: \$70,481; total match value: \$89,661

**Total Project Value including Rasmuson Foundation Grant: \$142,695**

## Kincaid Park Trail Signs

**Anchorage Park Foundation Award: \$12,000**

**COMPLETE**

The Anchorage Park Foundation partnered with the Municipality of Anchorage and the Nordic Ski Association of Anchorage to create sign standards and complete phase one of a trail system-wide sign upgrade, installing signs, maps and kiosks that assist park users with way-finding, awareness and education. Challenge Grant funds were used to formalize a trail map and design and install new trail signs in Kincaid Park.

NSAA updated the ski trail map by purchasing satellite aerial imagery from the Alaska Center for the Environment GIS Service and designed new kiosk graphics incorporating a wildlife education theme.



Volunteer hours: 18; skilled volunteer hours: 172; other in-kind contribution value: \$12,100; cash raised: \$5,198; total match value: \$29,676

**Total Project Value including Rasmuson Foundation Grant: \$41,676**

## 2008 Challenge Grants Southeast District Projects

### Bear Valley Neighborhood Park

**Anchorage Park Foundation Award: \$14,275**

**IN PROGRESS**

The Bear Valley Community Council is using Challenge Grant funds to establish the area's first neighborhood park on an undeveloped 1 acre parcel of land at the corner of Nickleen

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Street and Francesca Drive. Community Council volunteers have installed a bench, a kiosk frame and two-vehicle parking. They are currently working with Land Design North and the Anchorage Fire Department to complete the informational kiosk panels. They are working on completing a walking path, leaving the area vegetation in a natural condition. The group continues to fundraise.

Volunteer hours: 32.5; skilled volunteer hours: 234; other in-kind contribution value: \$2,860; cash raised: \$80; total match value: \$19,930

**Total Project Value including Rasmuson Foundation Grant: \$34,205**



## Singletrack Trails Project

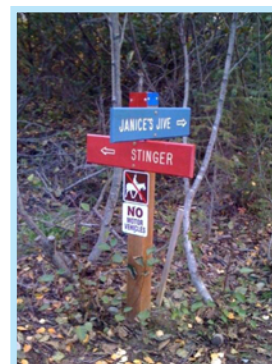
**Anchorage Park Foundation Award: \$7,500**

**COMPLETE**

Singletrack Advocates built soft-surface, narrow trails for mountain bikers and foot traffic in Far North Bicentennial Park in summer 2008. In early summer 2009, STA installed sign posts and temporary signs for winter trail users. Once the Anchorage Assembly approved final names for the new trails, STA installed permanent signs. These trails are an exciting new addition to the network of trails at Far North Bicentennial park.

Volunteer hours: 465; skilled volunteer hours: 135; other in-kind contribution value: \$10,268; cash raised: \$228,410; total match value: \$256,856

**Total Project Value including Rasmuson Foundation Grant: \$264,356**



## Tanglewood Park Boardwalk – Outdoor Classroom

**Anchorage Park Foundation Award: \$27,500**

**IN PROGRESS**

Willard L. Bowman Elementary School Teachers are constructing a boardwalk in the southeast corner of the 42 acre Tanglewood Park, creating an outdoor classroom in this wetland habitat without disturbing the fragile bog and nesting areas. The group has spent grant funds on materials and has begun building sections of boardwalk. Project volunteers have requested an extension to complete construction work in summer 2010. You can read more about this project at the Tanglewood Park Boardwalk Blog: <http://tanglewoodparkboardwalk.blogspot.com/>

Volunteer hours: 282.5; skilled volunteer hours: 136; other in-kind contribution value: \$9,491; cash raised: \$14,000; total match value: \$38,314

**Total Project Value including Rasmuson Foundation Grant: \$65,814**



# 2008 Challenge Grant Campaign



## Girdwood Skate Park

**Anchorage Park Foundation Award: \$30,000**

**COMPLETE**

Girdwood skaters and families are replacing existing skate park equipment with new obstacles designed to withstand the rainforest environment and provide a safe riding surface for skate boarders and BMX bikers. The group has selected a design and has decided to phase the construction of the skate park to enable the creation of a 'dream park' in the future.

Partners completed Phase I of the build with support from a Challenge Grant and other fundraising activities. In summer 2009, partners demolished old equipment and installed 4 new obstacles made of powder-coated steel, with a more than 20 year lifetime.

Park supporters will continue seeking funds to complete the remaining phases of the skate park project. Working in collaboration with the Girdwood Parks & Recreation Department, the skate park has been included on the Municipal Girdwood Capital Improvement List for 2009.

Volunteer hours: 492; skilled volunteer hours: 394; cash raised: \$45,165; other in-kind contribution value: \$27,185; total match value: \$109,148

**Total Project Value including Rasmuson Foundation Grant: \$144,147**



# Anchorage Park Foundation

## 2008 Challenge Grants Citywide Projects

### Art-in-the-Parks Event Lighting Anchorage Park Foundation Award \$15,000

**COMPLETE**

Using funds from a Challenge Grant, the Alaska Design Forum purchased event lighting for the FREEZE exhibit, which took place in January 2009 in Delaney Park, Frontierland Park, Elderberry Park and outside the Anchorage Museum. FREEZE included interactive art installations using snow, ice and light. Concurrently, a northern FREEZE conference took place in Anchorage, with lectures, films, workshops, activities for families, exhibitions, school district tours, poetry readings and more. The Anchorage Parks & Recreation Department will use the lighting from the installations for future Art-in-the-Parks events.



Volunteer hours: 2,600; skilled volunteer hours: 2,000; other in-kind contribution value: \$65,000; cash raised: \$190,000; total match value: \$443,802

**Total Project Value including Rasmuson Foundation Grant: \$458,802**

### Prevent the Poop Anchorage Park Foundation Award \$675

**COMPLETE**

People & Pets in Public Spaces and the Anchorage Waterways Council seek to promote a community solution to the problem of dog waste in sports fields. Community facilitation was completed in summer 2008.