



ANCHORAGE PARK FOUNDATION



Inside

- 2 Letter From the Director
- 3 Great Parks Make Great Communities
- 4 Plan Your Anchorage Adventures
- 6 Making a Difference in Anchorage
- 7 Welcome New APF Board Members
- 7 You Can Make Anchorage a Better Place
- 8 Dates to Remember

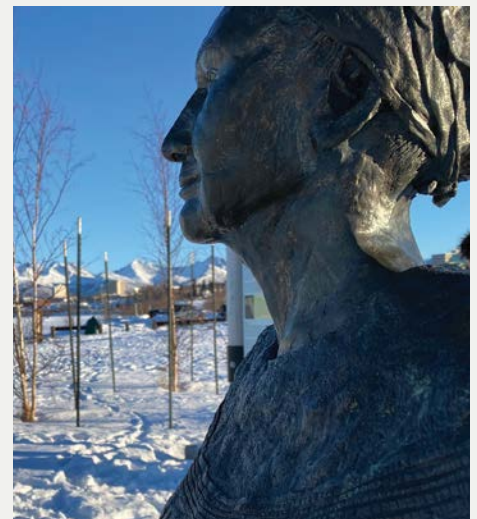
Downtown Trail Connection

Anchorage trails can take you from sweeping views of Cook Inlet, to salmon fishing on Ship Creek, to diverse neighborhoods offering rich cultural experiences, and everything in between. Whether it's walking for health, biking to work, or taking one's family to the park or a local restaurant, urban trails make Anchorage a great place to live and visit.

Additional capital improvements to Anchorage trails and greenways will further attract and retain businesses to our area, raise property values, and increase recreation-related spending. Improving our urban trail connections downtown could be a pathway to revitalizing downtown.

The 2021 parks bond gives us the opportunity to invest in our trail system by starting to connect the Ship Creek Trail to the Tony Knowles Coastal Trail, bringing economic benefits to downtown, complete wayfinding on the Campbell Creek Trail and furthering the connection between Fish Creek Trail to the Coastal Trail. Local bond investment leverages millions in federal dollars that would substantially improve connections within the Moose Loop that links all our urban trails.

The proposed Ship Creek Trail expands West to the small boat launch and ocean. The trail improvement would make a visit to Grandma Olga, a popular bronze sculpture of the Dena'ina matriarch and fisherwoman featured in an art installation that pays tribute to Dena'ina culture and traditions, accessible to all. Future project phases would connect Olga with a trail across the inlet to connect with the Coastal Trail near Elderberry Park. This would create a spectacular walk after dining downtown.





Staff

Beth Nordlund,
Executive Director

Michelle LeBeau,
*Director of Philanthropy
and Marketing*

Diana Rhoades,
*Director of Community
Engagement*

Peter Knape,
Business Manager

Meredith Gutierrez,
Youth Engagement Coordinator

Board of Directors

David Wight, Chair
Joelle Hall
Ernie Hall
Heather Handyside
Bill Bittner
Shane Baird
Ann Rembert Safranek
John Gliva
Forrest Dunbar
Kelsey Potdevin
Eleanor Andrews
Susanne Fleek-Green
Josh Durand, Ex Officio

The Anchorage Park Foundation builds healthy parks and healthy people by mobilizing public support and financial resources for Anchorage parks, trails, and recreation opportunities. Your support and involvement in Anchorage Park Foundation helps make new trails, inclusive playgrounds, and revitalized parks possible.

Anchorage Park Foundation

3201 C Street, Suite 110
Anchorage, AK 99503
(907) 274-1003

AnchorageParkFoundation.org

Letter from the Director



We can see with our own eyes that the pandemic has brought even more people outdoors to our parks and trails. Last spring, local bike shops ran out of inventory. Trails data for 2020 prove a 15% overall increase in our Moose Loop trails, with a 26% increase in pedestrian use as compared to the previous five years. Our trails connect us to everyday destinations, our wild spaces, and to each other's backyards. Maybe when the pandemic is over, we will use our bikes more and cars less?

A Live Work Play surveys tell us that the people of Anchorage identify so closely with their favorite trail, recreation activity or wild space, that it is why they live here. We know trails attract a talented workforce, and we know that trails offer destinations for visitors to stay longer, so investment in our outdoor infrastructure is clearly fuel for the economy as well as our health, and community.

Supporting the parks bond and making sure the Mayoral candidate who earns your vote has a vision for our amazing system of parks and trails, are two ways to ensure Anchorage reflects your vision. As we vote from our kitchen tables March 15-April 6, I think we need a slogan that resonates like "Keep Austin Weird."

- "Trail Lovers Unite"
- "Parks Make Anchorage, Anchorage"
- "Parks Keep Anchorage Awesome"
- "Get Me Outta this House and onto the Moose Loop Trails"
- "I biked the Moose Loop before breakfast"

This is our town. We are crazy for parks and trails. Let's vote like it.

Sincerely,

Beth Nordlund
Executive Director



"Thank you so much for being a vital part of the Anchorage community fabric this year, promoting healthy living and good mental health, and keeping our spirits up with those Moose Loop stickers. The Fish Creek trail upgrade and lighting was a huge contributor to our survival and enjoyment of quarantine this year!" ~ Lieza & JR Wilcox

Great Parks Make Great Communities

The Municipality of Anchorage manages 11,000 acres of parkland, 226 parks, more than 250 miles of trails, and recreation facilities across the city. These public assets provide spaces throughout the city for play, a variety of sports, health and recreation activities, and exploring nature. All parks and most park facilities are free for the public to use. A 2021 Parks and Recreation survey tells us that 90% of respondents believe parks and trails improve our health and well-being and keep us connected to loved ones.

Parks and trails add value to Anchorage, but only if they are well-maintained. Costs for renovations of existing facilities and development of new facilities are funded primarily through bonds that require voter approval. Anchorage voters have consistently approved parks bond since 2012. The 2021 Parks Bond would provide \$3.9 million for improvements to our parks, trail and recreation facilities and leverage another \$5.5 million in federal match. In 2020 the increase in property tax was \$1.68 per \$100,000 in home value. The Parks Bond provides an affordable way to invest back into our community through the parks and trails that make Anchorage a great place to live, learn, play, and work.

"Our parks and trails have been there for us during this pandemic. Now they need us. Please vote YES on Prop 6 the Parks Bond. It is vital to the health and prosperity of our community."

~ David Wight, Board Chair

2021 Parks Bond Projects – Prop 6

1. Athletic Fields Safety Improvements
2. Campbell Creek Trail Rehabilitation and Wayfinding
3. Chanshtnu Muldoon Park Phase 2
4. Chester Creek Complex ADA and Security Upgrades
5. Fish Creek Trail to the Ocean
6. KFQD Park
7. Maintenance Facility Safety Upgrades in Eagle River
8. Northeast Connector Trail
9. Russian Jack Springs Park Safety and ADA Improvements
10. South Anchorage Sports Park
11. Taku Lake Park
12. Tony Knowles Coastal Trail to Ship Creek Trail
13. Ure Park Connection to Fish Creek Trail

Learn more about the proposed park projects on the bond at AnchorageParkFoundation.org



**Vote by Mail
is as easy as 1-2-3!**

1. Fill out your ballot
2. Sign the voter declaration
3. Return your ballot

Anchorage Votes

Vote by Mail Begins: March 15, 2021

Voting Ends: April 6, 2021

Division of Elections Voter Hotline -

(907) 243-VOTE (8683), elections@muni.org

Plan Your Anchorage Adventures

11,000 ACRES OF PARK LAND • 226 PARKS • 250+ MILES OF TRAILS AND GREENBELTS

Anchorage has one of the best urban trail systems in the country, with hundreds of miles of paved multi-use trails connecting neighborhoods, parks, and businesses across the city. Linking existing trails and city streets forms a 32-mile urban greenway loop in the shape of a moose! Use this map to plan your next close-to-home adventure and learn more about your city by exploring someplace new.

For additional park and trail information, including a detailed map of the Moose Loop, designated walking routes, and local playgrounds go to: AnchorageParkFoundation.org



Anchorage Park Foundation builds and mobilizes public support and funds trails, and recreation opportunities.

AnchorageParkFoundation.org | info@anchorageparkfoundation.org



Provides healthy parks and healthy people by providing financial resources for Anchorage parks, trails, and facilities.

(907) 274-1003 | anchoragealaska.org



Making a Difference in Anchorage



Indigenous Place Name Project

This beautiful new sign at Chanshtnu Muldoon Park is the first of 10 place-making signs in Anchorage parks. It features Athabascan art and is part of an Indigenous Place Making Movement to creatively and accurately highlight the cultural history of Anchorage and our first people – the Dena'ina.



Jewel Lake Pirate Ship

Jewel Lake Park is getting a pirate ship as part of a playground upgrade that will inspire imagination, climbing and balance with improved accessibility and fun for all ages and abilities. Help christen this new inclusive playground on September 19, International "Talk Like a Pirate" Day.



Portable Outdoor Classroom Kits Available

Getting kids outside is good for everyone. Our free portable outdoor classroom kits make it easier for Anchorage teachers to take any lesson outside. Contact our Schools on Trails program for more information.



Folker Park Reflexology Path

Hundreds of volunteer hours over the last two years have completely transformed this once-neglected U-Med Park into an inviting space for neighbors, students, and medical patients in the community. The Folker Park Reflexology Path will be one of the only public therapeutic reflexology paths in the world, with a unique artistic design.



Community Food Forest and Garden

Chanshtnu Muldoon Park neighbors are turning a once-abandoned lot into a thriving community food forest and garden that will provide low-cost, locally grown, healthy food as well as opportunities to learn about gardening, agriculture, and forestry. Volunteers worked with Muni Parks and Recreation to graft fruit trees, prepare garden plots, and install protective fencing.



YEP Summer Crews at Work

Youth Employment in Parks crews work hard all summer repairing trails, stabilizing stream banks and building bridges to make our parks better for everyone. The on-the-job training in natural resource management, civic engagement and comradery of diverse teenagers working together to improve our public lands, makes YEP one of the best summer jobs.

Welcome New APF Board Members



Eleanor Andrews
Board Member

Eleanor returns to the Anchorage Park Foundation board where she served enthusiastically for almost a decade. Now retired, Eleanor's business card reads Civic Entrepreneur. She describes herself as someone who works in her community to enhance the quality of life for Anchorage citizens. Her previous engagements include terms as a member of the Alaska Judicial Council, Anchorage Chamber of Commerce, Commonwealth North, and Anchorage Neighborhood Housing. Before Andrews started her 20-year career as a services contractor to federal agencies, she served as a union representative, employee relations director for the Municipality of Anchorage and Alaska State Commissioner of Administration.



Susanne Fleek-Green
Board Member

Susanne is the Superintendent at Lake Clark National Park and Preserve. She brings to the Anchorage Park Foundation board twenty-five years of management, policy, and political experience focused on public and private land conservation, environmental protection, Native rights, and community building. She has worked at the local, state and federal government level and as a conservation advocate for national and state non-profit organizations. Outside of work, she can be found adventuring across Alaska with her family and volunteering for organizations building outdoor and leadership skills in young people and women.

**YOU
CAN** | Make Anchorage
a better place to
live, learn, work
and play

Anchorage is our home. It's the place we've chosen to further our careers, raise families, build lifelong friendships, and invest in our community. Our considerable public assets support a rich northern outdoor recreation lifestyle, making Anchorage a great place to live.

A vibrant park system is a long-term commitment to ensuring a healthy, resilient community that supports healthy lifestyles, connects neighborhoods to nature, and contributes to a high quality of life.

As a supporter of Anchorage Park Foundation, you have likely experienced first-hand how powerful parks are at transforming neighborhoods and building community. This year, the pandemic really underscored the importance of healthy outdoor recreation that everyone can access now and in the future. Our citywide park and trail infrastructure requires public and private support to connect more neighborhoods to the trail system, improve safety, and update every playground to be inclusive, benefiting children and families of all abilities. **Please support the Anchorage Park Foundation** and invest in the parks and trails that contribute to our uniquely Alaska way of life and make Anchorage our home.



ANCHORAGE PARK FOUNDATION

3201 C Street, Suite 110
Anchorage, AK 99503

Dates to Remember

MARCH 15
Voting Begins

MARCH 25
Ship Creek Trail Tour

APRIL 6
Voting Ends

APRIL 24
Celebrate Trails Day

MAY 21
Bike to Work Day

JUNE 20
Solstice Fundraiser

SEPTEMBER 19
Pirate Day at
Jewel Lake Playground

SEPTEMBER 25
Bike Your Park Day

Tony Knowles
Coastal Trail

