



Community Challenge Grant Projects – 2006 to 2019

Working together to improve the parks and trails you love!

Approximately \$2 million in challenge grants have leveraged nearly \$5 million in cash and volunteer match for a total project value of \$6.94 million for Anchorage parks and trails

2019 CHALLENGE GRANT PROJECT SUMMARIES

Challenge Grants Awarded: \$244,100

Number of Projects: 13

Total Project Value: \$263,039 (as of 1/7/2022)

Wolverine Park Learning Lab – 2019 Challenge Grant \$4,000

In May of 2019, parents and elementary students from Campbell STEM Elementary came out for one final volunteer day to complete work on their new Outdoor Learning Lab at Wolverine Park. Students and teachers worked with local landscape architect firm Earthscape on the design. They planted trees, restored trails and installed birdhouses for the match. It is now being used for activities like recording seasonal changes, wildlife observations, and mapping the park's geography.

Ruth Arcand Park Trail – 2019 Challenge Grant \$18,500

In September of 2019, teachers and staff with Pacific Northern Academy celebrated the completion of a new nature trail through Ruth Arcand Park. The new trail marked the completion of a challenge grant originally awarded in the 2017 cycle. Previous challenge grant cycle funds were used to install five obstacle course activities and improved trails by adding wood chips, soil and gravel and removing roots to level. The new Ruth Arcand Trail connects with this trail system and runs from Spring Hill Elementary and Hanshew Middle School to a pedestrian underpass under Lake Otis. The trail was completed in July of 2019 by crews with Youth Employment in Parks. Teens spent two weeks in the summer heat, clearing thick brush and laying the foundation for the new soft surface. Before their work began, crews carefully surveyed the forest floor to create a low-grade trail that would be more accessible for individuals using wheelchairs and mobility difficulties.

Centennial Park Eagle Scout Project – 2019 Challenge Grant Award \$2,175

This project installed new campsite signs at one of the only campgrounds in the Anchorage Bowl. Eagle Scout Paul replaced identification plates for campsites and fixed informational signs at the park's entrance.

Far North Bicentennial Park Sled Dog Trail Safety Signage – Challenge Grant Award \$2,243

The Alaska Sled Dog Racing Association (ASDRA) provided new signage in Far North Bicentennial Park to clearly delineate which trails are designated for mushers. In October 2019 ASDRA volunteers ordered new signs and organized volunteer installation days. Volunteers used their own equipment to drill holes for sign posts and install them.

Rabbit Creek Park Trail Improvements – 2019 Challenge Grant Award \$40,000

Community Member Dan Fleming and YEP teens transformed a popular social trail into a permanent gravel trail complete with new signs, dog waste disposal stations, benches, and landscape improvements. The project is a safe route to school for students attending Rabbit Creek Elementary and South High School.

Chester Creek Single Track Safety Signage – 2019 Challenge Grant Award \$5,000

Anchorage’s newest single-track trail near Valley of the Moon Park will receive new signage in summer 2022. South Addition Community Council Vice President Hans Thompson organized several successful volunteer events to remove invasive chokecherry/Mayday tree/European Bird Cherry/Prunus padus on the Chester Creek Trail.

Folker Park Reflexology Path – 2019 Challenge Grant Award \$21,000

Volunteers with the Alaska Reflexology Association (AKRA) raised more than \$40,000 for the project, including one \$20,000 donation. It is one of the only public therapeutic reflexology paths in the world, with a unique artistic design. This project generated one of the highest on record volunteer matches, with more than \$50,000 of volunteer time logged in 2019 and 2020. The volunteer power leveraged a matching grant from AARP to install music equipment in the park as well. Phase 1 construction of Folker Park has completely transformed the once-neglected UMed Park into an inviting space for neighbors, students, and medical patients in the community. Physical and occupational therapists bring their clients to the area to take advantage of the park’s theme as an “intergenerational health and healing park.”

Taku Lake Park Skatepark Renovation and Expansion – 2019 Challenge Grant Award \$40,000

Jason and Kelly Borgstede, owners of South Anchorage’s Blue & Gold Board Shop, assembled an amazing team of artists, including band members of Portugal. The Man, a popular national band with Alaskan roots, to help raise their \$40,000 cash match. Events to auction donated local artwork with Anchorage Brewing Company and Girdwood Brewing were successful. Artists included Matt Yoder, Elizabeth Ellis, Dawn Gerety, Rejoy Armamento, Vicki P. Fine, Annie Brace, Aeon Research and Design, Raeann Krugger, Matt Crockett, Ted Kim, Sage O’Neill, Meg Smith and more. The total includes a previous donation from the Tony Hawk Foundation for \$10k. Located just off the Campbell Creek trail, the skatepark is already a much-loved asset for the skater community. The funds will supplement more than \$1 million in bonds approved by Anchorage voters. Construction will start in 2022.

Chanshtnu Muldoon Park Food Forest and Community Garden – 2019 Challenge Grant Award \$29,115

The Food Forest and Community Garden continues a Challenge Grant awarded in 2017 cycle. Kristi Wood grafted 39 fruit trees and cultivated 120 shrubs that were installed in 2021 with more than 100 volunteers and a summer of events. Youth Employment in Parks helped build a trail and install wheelchair-friendly community garden plots. The gardens, food forest and dog parks will be open the summer of 2022. The volunteer efforts supplement voter-approved bonds and a federal grant through the Land and Water Conservation Fund to build this new section of the park.

Moen Park Exercise Equipment- 2019 Challenge Grant Award \$20,000

Park neighbor Grace Johnson organized volunteer clean up and trail maintenance events as part of her match to buy new adult fitness equipment in Moen Park. Crews will install the equipment in 2022.

Little Free Libraries in Parks – 2019 Challenge Grant Award \$3,500

Best Beginnings recruited volunteers to design, build and install free little libraries in 10 parks across Anchorage. Sponsors will pay for cost of the free little libraries and will be responsible for maintenance of the libraries in the future. Each library will receive a collection of books from Best Beginnings. Look for the libraries at the following parks: Brotherhood/Sisterhood Park, Chanshtnu Muldoon new garden area, Moen Park, Creekside Park, Wolverine Park, Jewel Lake Park, Pop Carr Park, Sunset Park on Government Hill, Wickersham Park, Campbell Park and Rabbit Creek Trail.

Bonnie Cusack Memorial Rink Center Upgrades – 2019 Challenge Grant Award \$40,000

Anchorage Skate Club secured approval and support from surrounding community councils for much needed security and landscaping upgrades to the Bonnie Cusack Memorial Rink Center. Security fencing is installed. Volunteers organized tree planting and landscaping upgrades to the rinks entrance and parking lot to meet their cash match.

Spenard Beach Park Improvements – 2019 Challenge Grant Award \$10,000

Spenard and Turnagain Community Councils (SCC and TCC) teamed up to improve this favorite spot for tourists and neighbors to watch the activities at the busiest floatplane base in the world. Volunteer days at the park will supplement their cash match. In summer of 2022 look for new benches, picnic tables and trash cans at this lakeside park popular with birders and people walking the loop around the lake.

Girdwood Lower Iditarod National Historic Trail - 2019 Grant Award \$5,000

The Girdwood Trails Committee led in the completion of the Girdwood Lower Iditarod NHT from the Girdwood valley entrance to Crow Pass Trail. Phase 2 segment was approximately 1/3 of a mile and improved the section of trail from Ruane Rd to Karolius Road. This project will help to transform a social trail into a more accessible path for users. Completed work will also improve sightlines, drainage, and create a new hardpacked trail surface.

Woodside (Eastchester) Park Improvements – 2019 Grant Award \$17,000

Fairview Community Council made several improvements at Woodside or Eastchester Park to provide a unique "Fairview neighborhood identity" for the park. The neighborhood raised funds and organized volunteer events to support sprucing up the park through aesthetic improvements including artful visual wraps for utility boxes and tree plantings.

2017 CHALLENGE GRANT PROJECT SUMMARIES

Awarded: \$200,000

Number of Projects: 16

Total Project Value: \$921,745

Bartlett High Swimming Pool Timing System – 2017 Grant Award \$5,000

Central Area Swimming raised cash and in-kind services for a new timing system and scoreboard for Bartlett Pool. The new equipment at Alaska's only 50 meter Olympic-sized pool will bring it into compliance with competitive USA Swimming regulations for the 4,000 swimmers and athletes who compete there.

Dave Rose Park Cricket (Kilikiti) – 2017 Grant Award \$20,000

The Alaska Cricket Association helped design and construct a permanent home and pitch for Kilikiti (Samoan Cricket) at Dave Rose Park.

Fairview Park Improvements – 2017 Grant Award \$20,000

The Fairview Community Council and Anchorage Community Land Trust worked with neighbors to improve Fairview Park landscaping, amenities, and art.

Folker Park Fitness Equipment – 2017 Grant Award \$12,500

Friends of Folker Park and Providence Horizon House leveraged the voter-approved park bond to raise additional funds for accessible fitness equipment at Anchorage’s first intergenerational health and healing park, located in the U-med district.

Girdwood Beaver Pond Trail – 2017 Grant Award \$8,250

The Girdwood Trails Committee improved a 1/2-mile rough drainage section of the Beaver Pond Trail, the non-motorized trail which connects the Bird to Gird trail along Turnagain Arm with Crow Creek Road.

Girdwood Skate Park Renovation – 2017 Grant Award \$5,000

Friends of Girdwood Skate Park and the City of Girdwood rebuilt the Half Pipe Ramp, built a storage closet, an information kiosk, and added safety features to the existing ramps in the park.

Hillside Park Singletrack Expansion – 2017 Grant Award \$10,000

Singletrack Advocates built an additional 6 miles of one-directional singletrack bike trail that will interconnect with the existing Hillside STA trail system. This adds 2.7 miles of advanced trails and 3.3 of intermediate trails to the system.

Hostetler Park Renovations – 2017 Grant Award \$10,000

Victims for Justice and the Anchorage Downtown Rotary built a safe and accessible pathway to the memorial and improved the park for visitors. This sweet memorial park in the heart of Downtown honors victims of violent crimes.

McPhee Community Gardens & Gardens at Bragaw – 2017 Grant Award \$1,500

Boy Scout Troop #214, with leadership from troop members Robert Allen and Steven Carraway, built and installed wooden garden plot markers for the McPhee Community Gardens at Davis Park and the Gardens at Bragaw.

Chanshtnu Muldoon Community Garden and Orchard – 2017 Grant Award \$24,000

The Northeast Community Council Park committee-built garden beds installed fences and created signage for a new community garden space and orchard at East Anchorage’s first “food forest” at Chanshtnu Muldoon Park.

Ruth Arcand Park Northwest Improvements – 2017 Grant Award \$20,000

Pacific Northern Academy and neighbors installed a trailhead marker and built a multi-use loop trail and amenities in the northwest corner of Ruth Arcand Park.

Sand Lake Park Lakeside Learning Lab – 2017 Grant Award \$20,000

Sand Lake Elementary parents, teachers and students worked closely with landscape architects and the Schools on Trails Committee to design and build a Japanese-themed outdoor lakeside learning lab at Sand Lake Park, which is adjacent to their school.

South Anchorage Sports Park RC Racetrack – 2017 Grant Award \$10,000

The Anchorage Radio Operated Auto Racing Association rebuilt a radio control offroad racetrack facility with lighting at South Anchorage Sports Park.

Whisper Faith Kovach Park Enhancements – 2017 Grant Award \$13,000

Neighbors and friends of Whisper Faith Kovach Memorial Park are leveraging the public’s recent municipal bond support for playground safety enhancements and a fenced dog park with tree plantings and park amenities to increase the community feel of the park.

Wolverine Park Learning Lab – 2017 Grant Award \$20,000

Campbell Elementary School students in partnership with Schools on Trails will bring educational improvements and trail upgrades to nearby Wolverine Park. Campbell is the first STEM elementary school in Anchorage, and the park will have an outdoor learning lab for hands-on nature education opportunities.

2016 CHALLENGE GRANT PROJECT SUMMARY (off season)

Awarded: \$17,500

Number of Projects: 1

Total Project Value: \$38,301

Chuck Albrecht Fields – 2016 Grant Award \$18,000

Anchorage Sports Association is constructing a new 900 square foot restroom, vending, and storage building at the fields serving 3,500 slow-pitch players and spectators.

2015 CHALLENGE GRANT PROJECT SUMMARIES

Awarded: \$230,699

Number of Projects: 16

Total Project Value: \$1,148,881

Kincaid Nordic Ski Holders – 2015 Grant Award \$856

Eagle Scout candidate George Cvancara constructed Nordic ski holders at Kincaid Park.

Fishing Line Collection Stations – 2015 Grant Award \$1,500

Anchorage Waterways Council built and installed collection stations for used fishing line at various fishing spots in parks around Anchorage.

Ship Creek Trail Wayfinding – 2015 Grant Award \$30,000

Anchorage Community Land Trust was awarded a grant to work with the Muni to install wayfinding signs in Mountain View to direct people to the Ship Creek trail, Davis Park, and the connection to the Glenn Highway bike trail to Eagle River.

Bonnie Cusack Rink Warming Shack Renovation – 2015 Grant Award \$2,750

Anchorage Skate Club renovated the warming shack at the Bonnie Cusack Memorial Outdoor Rink Center at Chester Creek Sports Complex.

Singletrack Trail Improvements – 2015 Grant Award \$10,000

Singletrack Advocates used volunteer crews to maintain and improve bike singletrack trails at Hillside and Kincaid Park.

Far North Bicentennial Park Bridge Maintenance – 2015 Grant Award \$4,150

The Alaskan Sled Dog Racing Association used volunteer crews to upgrade bridges in Far North Bicentennial Park.

Chugach Foothills Connector – 2015 Grant Award \$20,000

The Scenic Foothills Trails User Group worked with University of Alaska engineering students to design a trail to connect the Scenic Foothills neighborhood to Far North Bicentennial Park. This challenge grant led to this project getting on the AMATS transportation list and to a voter-approved park bond to build the trail. It is expected to be completed in 2022.

Russian Jack Springs Park Learning Labs – 2015 Grant Award \$21,050

The Anchorage Schools on Trails Program worked with landscape architects and children to construct learning labs at Russian Jack Springs Park near the connection to Nunaka Valley Elementary School.

Chugach Foothills Park Mutt Mitt Station – 2015 Grant Award \$1,400

Eagle Scout candidate Ferris Allen installed a dog waste collection station at Chugach Foothills Park.

Cuddy Family Midtown Park Public Address System – 2015 Grant Award \$3,911

The Alaska Speedskating Club installed a public address and speaker system at Cuddy Family Midtown Park.

Girdwood Tennis Court Rehabilitation – 2015 Grant Award \$10,000

The Girdwood Tennis Committee rehabilitated the Girdwood tennis court.

Historic Iditarod Trail Improvements – 2015 Grant Award \$17,882

The Girdwood Trails Committee improved tread and drainage on a portion of the Historic Iditarod Trail.

Westchester Lagoon Nature Trail Improvements – 2015 Grant Award \$40,000

The Schools on Trails Program worked with landscape architects to rehabilitate the Westchester Lagoon Nature Trail and improve it to facilitate instruction along the trail.

Barbara Street Park Revitalization – 2015 Grant Award \$15,500

Eagle Scout candidate James Allen and park neighbor Schawna Thoma coordinated volunteer events to revitalize Barbara Street Park by painting, cleaning, and installing new toddler play equipment.

Benches for All – 2015 Grant Award \$21,700

Intrinsic Landscapes LLC designed and installed three sculptural communal seating areas at mile 2.2 on the Tony Knowles Coastal Trail.

Bike Data Collector – 2015 Grant Award \$30,000

Nonprofit bike advocates with Bike Anchorage volunteered and raised the match to have a system installed to count the number of cyclists passing through Westchester Lagoon on the Lanie Fleischer Chester Creek Trail. The artistic bike totem helps track data to get federal financial support for active transportation infrastructure investment.

2013 CHALLENGE GRANT PROJECT SUMMARIES

Awarded: \$254,187

Number of Projects: 19

Total Project Value: \$790,720.26

Abe's Trail Clearing in Girdwood – 2013 Grant Award \$4,000

In Summer 2013, with the help of contractor Ptarmigan Ptrails, neighbors Carolyn Brodin and Jonnie Lazarus, and their volunteers, cut and removed downed trees on Abe's trail, trimming branches and repairing a short

bridge in the process. This cleared the way for a Youth Employment in Parks crew to finish rehabilitating Abe's trail later in the summer Anchorage Tennis Association Net Replacements – \$15,723.

Arctic Benson Park Improvements – 2013 Grant Award \$40,000

Neighbor Karen Dechman and 175 volunteers participated in the Arctic Benson Fix-It days in the summers of 2013 and 2014. A new fenced dog park was created, and the playground was upgraded. They plan to work with Parks & Recreation planners this winter to finalize further improvement plans for the summer of 2015, including improving accessible pathways in the park.

Connors Bog Kiosk – 2013 Grant Award \$823

During Summer 2013, Eagle Scout Candidate Gunnar Flotre decoratively cut, framed and powder-coated the posts for a new kiosk, then installed them at Connors Bog.

Didlika Park – 2013 Grant Award \$4,050

The Polynesian Association of Alaska organized three volunteer clean up days and various landscape improvements were completed at the park.

Kincaid Park Jodhpur Trailhead Kiosk – 2013 Grant Award \$4,000

In Summer 2013, Eagle Scout George Cruikshank and 23 volunteers performed tree limbing, removal of signs, painting, and landscaping to refurbish the informational kiosk at the Jodhpur trailhead. In Summer 2014, he installed a boulder bench near the kiosk.

Kincaid North Singletrack – 2013 Grant Award \$20,000

During the summer of 2013, contractor Ptarmigan P Trails and volunteers worked together to build 7.5 miles of new singletrack trails at Kincaid Park. By planning and participating in 24 separate volunteer events, 268 volunteers worked 2,493 combined hours, ultimately hand-finishing the new trails.

Little Dipper Park Viewing Area – 2013 Grant Award \$6,000

In Summer 2014, Eagle Scout Candidate Brian Durr and 20 volunteers built and installed a platform in Little Dipper Park, adding two benches to facilitate viewing of the Chugach.

Lloyd Steele Park & Field Upgrades – 2013 Grant Award \$20,000

AK Rush Soccer Club recruited 132 volunteers to clean up the neighborhood park. Future work will include meetings with Parks & Recreation to finalize improvement plans for the soccer field, including adding maintenance equipment, shrubs, garbage cans, and mutt mitt dispensers.

Moen Park – 2013 Grant Award \$40,000

In Summer 2013, neighbors Michelle and Jim Rogers focused on fundraising, organized a brush clearing day for 135 volunteers and met with neighbors and park planners. In Summer 2014, a Youth Employment in Parks crew completed a soft-surface trail in the park, and plans were made for construction of a new playground to be completed in Summer 2015.

Momentary View: Old Hermit Park – 2013 Grant Award \$5,741

In Summer 2014, the Fish Creek Working Group of Spenard neighbors collected tree trunks to be used in construction of an earthworks type sculpture. This winter, they will perform 3D modeling. Construction of the ephemeral sculpture "Woodfalls" will occur in Summer 2015.

The Mosaic Project: Girdwood Town Square Park – 2013 Grant Award \$11,000

In Summer 2013, the Girdwood Art Institute performed mosaic tile design, purchased materials, and began installation of mosaic tiles on garden planters. In winter, the Institute held workshops for community

members to help with the mosaic “chess piece” designs. In Summer 2014, installation of the mosaics continued, and installation will be completed in summer 2015. Through volunteer time, in-kind donations, and cash donations, the group has so far raised almost \$25,000 in match!

Mutt Mitt Station Installation in Bancroft Park – 2013 Grant Award \$550

The Anchorage Waterways Council and the Campbell Park Community Council installed three new Mutt-Mitt stations, one on the Campbell Creek Trail by Shelikof Street, another near Waldron Lake, and one at Arnold Muldoon Park.

NSAA Spencer Loop Trail Repair – 2013 Grant Award \$20,000

The Nordic Skiing Association of Anchorage flattened, repaired, and rebuilt this popular 4.5 km loop. The group was able to obtain an Alaska State Legislative Grant along with various other cash and in-kind contributions that resulted in a match of over \$120,000!

Refugee Fresh International Gardens (FIG) “Re-Fresh” Project – 2013 Grant Award \$2,100

In Summer 2013, Catholic Social Services Immigration Assistance & Immigration Services worked with community and refugee volunteers, for a combined 103 hours, to replace a dilapidated plastic shed with a larger wooden shed and fix two areas of fencing at the McPhee Gardens in Davis Park.

Roosevelt Park Swingset – 2013 Grant Award \$12,500

In Summer 2013, neighbor Kelly Petersen focused on fundraising efforts by sending out fundraising letters, purchasing incentive wrist bands, and making presentations to the Spenard Community Council and Spenard Chamber of Commerce. In Summer 2014, Petersen and 42 volunteers participated in a fix-it, cleaning up the park and completing the installation of the swingset.

Russian Jack Golf Course Upgrades – 2013 Grant Award \$20,000

First Tee of Alaska replaced the tee boxes and greens at Russian Jack Golf Course. They also placed yardage markers and tee box signs. With the help of 12 volunteers and a significant amount of in-kind donations, the group raised over \$30,000 in match!

StoryTRACKS – 2013 Grant Award \$7,700

In Summer 2013, Best Beginnings developed a logo, purchased Corex panels, researched and identified laminating options, and selected ten books reflecting different seasons, demographics, age, and outdoor experiences. Seven of those books have been disassembled and laminated to become StoryTRACKS, with the final three in progress. The program launched on July 11, 2013, at Cuddy Family Midtown Park. From launch through October 2013, 39 more StoryTRACKS events were held around Anchorage with many more to come.

Westchester Lagoon Landscaping and Art Installation – 2013 Grant Award \$20,000

Alaskans for Litter Prevention and Recycling (ALPAR) worked with park planners to finalize the design of a kinetic sculpture at the Westchester Lagoon confluence of the Tony Knowles Coastal Trail and the Chester Creek Trail. ALPAR used predominantly recycled materials in the design of the plaza surrounding the sculpture, and installation of a recycling bin is planned. Through cash, in-kind and volunteer contributions, ALPAR raised over \$120,000 in match!

2012 CHALLENGE GRANT PROJECT SUMMARIES

Awarded: \$100,000

Number of Projects: 2

Total Project Value: \$397,131

Davis Park Ballfield Revitalization with Polar Little League – 2012 Grant Award \$50,000

In the fall of 2011, Davis Park received a D on its park report card. In 2012, the Mountain View Lions Club and the Polar Little League helped make many improvements to the park. Three baseball fields were renovated, a bullpen was added, and repair work was done to the fencing and dugouts. In addition, many general site improvements were made throughout the park.

North Russian Jack Springs Park Playground – Polar Bear – 2012 Grant Award \$50,000

The Anchorage School District was awarded a Challenge Grant to improve North Russian Jack Springs Park in honor of Superintendent Carol Comeau's retirement. On June 30, 2012, volunteers gathered at North Russian Jack Springs Park to work on the already existing playground and prepare the nearby area for the installation of a polar bear themed destination playground. Volunteers shoveled and raked woodchips onto the area around the playground and cleared brush from the area to improve visibility. Earlier in the summer crews removed the run-down tennis courts and leveled the ground in the area. (This project also received a legislative grant in 2008 for \$750,000 and in 2012 for \$400,000.)

2010 CHALLENGE GRANT PROJECT SUMMARIES

Awarded: \$309,770

Number of Projects: 16

Total Project Value: \$1,018,975

Anchorage Senior Center Trail Connection – 2010 Grant Award \$6000

Volunteers worked to build a walker and wheelchair-friendly accessible trail between the Anchorage Senior Center and the Chester Creek Greenbelt. Crews grubbed out the trail route, removed tree roots and stumps and hauled more than 300 tons of gravel to create a disabled-accessible trail connection. Volunteers from the Senior Center and REI worked alongside crews to create this positive recreation opportunity. This project was also awarded funds from a Legislative Grant in the amount of \$25,000.

Anchorage Women's Club Historical Kiosk at Ben Crawford Park - 2010 Grant Award

A kiosk was installed that will provide historical information about the Anchorage Women's Club.

Thelma Buchholdt Memorial Picnic Shelter - 2010 Grant Award \$20,000

A picnic shelter was installed in Woodland Park as a memorial to Thelma Buchholdt, a lawyer, mom and Alaska State Representative. She was the first female Filipino American legislator in Alaska and the United States. Total cash and volunteer math raised: \$8,912.

C St. Community Garden Improvements - 2010 Grant Award \$20,000

A project team comprised of the grantees along with community members from several interested nonprofit and civic organizations collaborated on the design and ideas for improvements to the C Street community gardens. The group raised \$10,000 from Cook Inlet Housing Authority through a nearby renovation project as CIHA was also interested in the health of the community. In the garden itself, new, taller fences were installed, and the paths between the plots were redone. Total cash raised: \$10,000; volunteer labor and in-kind contribution value: \$8,138; total match value: \$18,138

De La Vega Fields Irrigation Project - 2010 Grant Award \$50,000

The Municipality of Anchorage, the Anchorage District Soccer Federation, and APF collaborated to upgrade the irrigation main hydrant at the De La Vega fields and to install an automated irrigation system to improve turf conditions and allow for more efficient maintenance. Total cash raised: \$50,000 from Anchorage Park Foundation \$12,000 from Anchorage District Soccer Federation, \$6,500 from Municipality of Anchorage. Total Project Value Including Rasmuson Foundation Grant: \$118,500

Government Hill Hedge Rejuvenation - 2010 Grant Award

A long-standing hedge in Suzan Nightingale Park was trimmed so that it can regain its health.

Huffman Park Improvements - 2010 Grant Award \$14,000

The Safe Route to School program, Trinity Church, and Huffman Elementary held two community workdays to fix up Huffman Park. Volunteers assembled to trim back trees and brush, pull invasive Devil's Club, and generally clean up the park. Professionals were hired to resurface the trails in the park and then remove the old workout circuit equipment. Total cash raised: \$1,105; volunteer labor and in-kind contribution value: \$28,784; total match value: \$29,889. Total Project Value Including Rasmuson Foundation Grant: \$43,889.

Kincaid Singletrack Trails - 2010 Grant Award \$200,000

In 2010, Singletrack Advocates raised more than \$22,000 to conduct a community discussion surrounding their proposal to improve singletrack trails in Kincaid Park for mountain biking use. Youth Employment in Parks teens worked with the STA crew to assist with trail construction. YEP teens were trained in proper trail building techniques as a part of this project. In addition, REI of Anchorage sponsored this project by contributing employee volunteer hours! 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

Lekisch Trail Repair Project - 2010 Grant Award \$12,000

The Nordic Ski Association of Anchorage worked with the project team to restore the trail to the desired profile and to re-vegetate the back-slopes and trail surface. Total cash raised: \$43,209; total match value: \$43,209. Total Project Value Including Rasmuson Foundation Grant: \$55,209

Little Dipper Park Improvements

An Eagle Scout organized a park fix-it in this park during which a number of improvements were made.

Lyn Ary Park Fields Improvements

Improvements were made to the baseball fields at Lyn Ary Park that included the height of the fences bordering the Coastal Trail to be raised.

Lyn Ary Park Hendrickson Tennis Courts - 2010 Grant Award \$40,000

A 2010 Challenge Grant was awarded to repave, resurface, and improve amenities at the tennis courts at Lyn Ary Park. The tennis courts were at least 35 years old with tree roots growing up from the asphalt creating cracks and uneven surfacing. The courts were renamed in honor of the Hendrickson family who donated funding to complete the rehabilitation. The Hendrickson family has produced multiple generations of avid tennis players who have grown up in the Turnagain neighborhood. The newly resurfaced courts have become a summer hot spot for families. Total cash raised: \$58,206. Total Project Value Including Rasmuson Foundation Grant: \$98,206

Minnesota Park Improvements

This project involved minor landscape improvements, painting benches and resurfacing of the tennis courts. New ping pong tables are the last phase of this neighborhood work.

Sullivan Arena Hockey Rink Improvements

Two new outdoor rinks are planned to be built at the Sullivan Arena.

Taku Lake Skate Park Improvements - 2010 Grant Award \$5,000

As part of an Eagle Scout Project, funds were raised for a new piece of skate park equipment at Taku Lake Skate Park, and volunteers installed the new quarter-pipe. Total cash raised: \$5,730; volunteer labor and in-kind contribution value: \$3305; total match value: \$9,035

Westchester Disc Golf Course Improvements - 2010 Grant Award \$30,000

Alaska Disc Golf Association worked to remove and relocate course hardware, and to improve pedestrian walkways, signage, and kiosks. In the summer of 2012, Youth Employment in the Parks crews completed the unfinished portions of this project. Total volunteer labor and in-kind contribution value: \$24,362 – total value \$54,362.

2008 CHALLENGE GRANT PROJECT SUMMARIES

Awarded: \$312,000

Number of Projects: 16

Total Project Value: \$1,532,977

Delaney Park Tennis Courts – 2008 Grant Award \$35,000

The Alaska Tennis Association 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 modeled 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: \$241,936

Baxter Bog Park - 2008 Grant Award \$40,000

The Iden-Selkregg family and East Anchorage community members raised funds to develop the Alicia Iden Nature Trail in the Baxter Bog Park. The East Anchorage trail honors Alicia Iden who died after battling cancer in 2005. At the ribbon-cutting ceremony, her daughter Tanya shared that the trail is a reflection of her mom's spirit. "She worked hard with her neighbors for many years to preserve Baxter Bog. I'm proud to continue her hard work," she said. Treeline Construction donated sustainable materials and built a scenic overlook and now, the Iden-Selkregg family is partnering with the neighboring Aurora Waldorf School to create interpretive signs to teach students about the bog's ecosystem and to be used as an outdoor classroom in partnership with three area schools. Volunteer hours: 200; other in-kind contribution value: \$4,000; cash raised: \$22,680; total match value: \$30,434. Total Project Value: \$70,434

Far North Bicentennial Park Bridge - 2008 Grant Award \$3000

The Alaskan Sled Dog & Racing Association worked to replace aged wood on five bridges and add side rails to two bridges in Far North Bicentennial Park. The group 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. 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

Nichols Park - 2008 Grant Award \$14,685

This park was reclaimed from its previous use as a ball field.

Scotty Gomez Hockey Rink - 2008 Grant Award \$40,000

This neighborhood hockey rink was rehabilitated for year-round use.

Jodhpur Motocross Area, Kincaid Park - 2008 Grant Award \$20,000

Electricity and safety lighting were installed at this park.

Reflection Point, Kincaid Park with Anchorage Rotary - 2008 Grant Award \$35,000

The top of an old WWII bunker was transformed into a lookout point in Kincaid Park.

Trail Signs, Kincaid Park - 2008 Grant Award \$12,000

This project was a part of a system-wide sign upgrade within Kincaid Park.

Bear Valley Neighborhood Park - 2008 Grant Award \$14,275

The Bear Valley Community Council worked to establish this area's first neighborhood park, now named "Bear Track Park."

Singletrack Trails Project - 2008 Grant Award \$7500

Singletrack Advocates built soft-surface, narrow trails for mountain bikers and foot traffic in Far North Bicentennial Park.

Tanglewood Park - 2008 Grant Award \$27,500

A boardwalk was constructed in this park allowing this wetland habitat to serve as an outdoor classroom without disturbing the fragile bog and avoiding nesting areas.

Whisper Faith Kovach Memorial Park - 2008 Grant Award \$5000

A new bike rack and benches were installed at this park as part of an Eagle Scout project.

Girdwood Skate Park - 2008 Grant Award \$30,000

Existing skate park equipment was replaced with new obstacles designed to withstand the rainforest environment and provide a safe riding surface for skate boarders and BMX bikers.

Art in the Parks - 2008 Grant Award \$15,000

Alaska Design Forum Event purchased lighting for the FREEZE project in 3 parks and the Anchorage Museum.

Prevent the Poop - 2008 Grant Award \$7,500

People & Pets in Public Spaces and the Anchorage Waterways Council worked to create a community solution to the problem of dog waste in sports fields.

2006 CHALLENGE GRANT PROJECT SUMMARIES

Awarded: \$400,000

Number of Projects: 26

Total Project Value: \$829,272

Brown's Point Park – 2006 Grant Award \$2,000

Government Hill Community Council removed a section of parking lot pavement and replaced it with grass, installed parking barrier boulders, reseeded lawn areas, and repainted the totem pole. Landscaping was also added around the existing lilac trees.

Centennial Rose Garden - 2006 Grant Award \$5,000

The Alaska Rose Society improved the Centennial Rose Garden in Delaney Park by installing 9 new beds. A water faucet was installed, and underground irrigation was reinstalled. Heavy-duty edging was installed around the pruned rose hedge. As a result of these improvements, maintenance on the beds is easier.

Didlika Park - 2006 Grant Award \$22,000

Turnagain neighbors, community council volunteers, and an Eagle Scout worked together to improve this pocket park by reestablishing grass and foliage and adding a historical sign and art element.

Fairview Lions Park -

Volunteers expanded the community pavilion, created a new community garden, planted new trees and perennials, refurbished the volleyball and multi-use field, and much, much more. The community garden and pavilion will become focal points for the neighborhood, bringing people together and fostering stronger neighbor relationships.

Peratrovich Park

The Anchorage Park Foundation helped raise funds to install a statue titled Flight of the Raven, by Roy Peratrovich Jr., in Roy and Elizabeth Peratrovich Park.

Quiyana Park - 2006 Grant Award \$19,000

The Winterberry Charter School Parents Guild made improvements to this small downtown park including visitor amenities, irrigation infrastructure, and play items to make the park usable and welcoming to visitors and residents. Volunteers planted a living willow fence, weeded, and replanted the beds along 1st Avenue, added new picnic tables, a garbage can, boulders and play areas.

Abbott Loop Park

Simonian Little League used Challenge Grant funds to install an irrigation system in the ballfields at Abbott Loop Park. As part of the ballfield improvement project, they also erected fences, installed batting cages, purchased, and installed storage units, ran electrical service to the fields, improved and relocated bleachers, improved, and relocated the temporary concession building, completed infields and warning paths, purchased and installed pitching rubbers and bases and home plates on all four fields, and purchased and installed protective fence top coverings

Bartlett Pool - 2006 Grant Award \$3,500

Central Area Swimming purchased and installed a new LED scoreboard for Bartlett Pool, installed October 2006.

Campbell Creek Trail - 2006 Grant Award \$1,200

Firefighters' Union Local 1264 and MOA's Animal Care Shelter combined to donate \$1,200 between them. Four Dog Stations were installed along the 2.5-mile Campbell Creek Trail corridor. Additionally, \$1500 was spent on wildflower seeds that were distributed along the trail. Verna Pratt, the Alaska author of many books on wildflowers was the expert consultant on the project.

Jacobson Park Trail - 2006 Grant Award \$519

Rogers Park Community Council improved a trail in Jacobson Park for pedestrian use with the help of an Eagle Scout.

Williwaw Park - 2006 Grant Award \$30,000

Russian Jack Community Council installed playground equipment in Williwaw Park on June 22, 2006. This grant provided funds for landscaping and a trail through the park.

Sand Lake Dock -

The Anchorage Rowing Association purchased and installed a floating dock, 7'6" wide by 45' long, angling off the existing dock ramp. This new dock allows rowers to put their boats in the lake from a dock, rather than by wading into the water.

Rabbit Creek Trail - 2006 Grant Award \$1,193

The Rabbit Creek Community Council and the Anchorage Trails & Greenways Coalition established a trail system in the Rabbit Creek Greenbelt. Volunteers used this grant to improve trail safety.

Richter Trail

The Nordic Skiing Association of Anchorage reconstructed the Richter Trail to provide a classic-only trail loop in the Hillside trail system. The new connector trails from the Bog Trail to the Ridge Loop have been completed.

Bancroft Park Playground

Anchorage East Rotary installed playground equipment for three to five-year olds (purchased in a previous year) in Bancroft Park. They held five volunteer workdays.

Girdwood Playground - 2006 Grant Award \$20,000

The Girdwood Playground Committee installed a playground at Girdwood Park on May 31, 2006.

Tree & Shrub Plantings - 2006 Grant Award \$37,000

Anchorage TREErific planted trees and shrubs at Abbott Loop Park, Lyn Ary Park, Turpin Park, Fairview Lions Park, and Meadow Creek Park. Volunteers have continued to water and maintain these trees to ensure the success of their initial project investments.

Fairview Lions Park, Fairbanks Park and Anchorage Senior Center

Fairview Community Council partnered with United Way of Anchorage to host a Day of Caring event to restore and enhance three neighborhood parks and the Recreation Center in Fairview. The two-day event brought 600 volunteers together to help on more than 30 projects in Fairview Lions Park, Fairbanks Park, and the Anchorage Senior Center.

Pool User Facilitation - 2006 Grant Award \$2,500

An anonymous donor agreed to fund a series of facilitated meetings with the pool user Community which was matched by Challenge Grant funding. The facilitator played a major role in bringing the different parties to the table to discuss the future of municipal pools, resulting in a clearer understanding of each other's needs.