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Alaska's First Indoor Playground

Anchorage offers plenty of outdoor fun and amazing playgrounds, but sometimes rain and snow have folks retreating indoors. Luckily, the Fairview Recreation Center has Alaska's first-ever, inclusive, indoor playground for year-round use! Climb, play, romp, and explore while checking out this fantastic playground.

The playground has a huge climber, little playhouse with nooks and gears to move and a roller slide. This playground was designed to be accessible, so children and caregivers of all abilities can enjoy the play space. The Fairview Recreation Center already has a basketball court and dance room, so the addition of an inclusive playground makes it a top play center in Alaska.

This Anchorage Park and Recreation playground was funded by generous private donations and the aging facility made ADA accessible through voter-approved park bond funds. **Thank you**, Anchorage voters, Anchorage Parks and Recreation, Mental Health Trust Authority, Reitman Family Fund, and Rasmuson Foundation for generously supporting including all kids in play.

Fairview Indoor Playground is Open

- Free for kids 12 and under
- ADA accessible
- Adult supervision required for 7 and under

Winter Hours (thru May)
Monday-Friday: Noon - 8 pm
Saturday: 1 - 5 pm
Sunday: 1 - 4 pm

Location
Fairview Recreation Center
1121 East 10th Ave

Learn More
<https://tinyurl.com/yckvvy83>





Staff

Beth Nordlund,
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Ann Rembert Safranek

John Gliva

Forrest Dunbar

Kelsey Potdevin

Eleanor Andrews

Susanne Fleek-Green

Jim Torgerson

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

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AnchorageParkFoundation.org

Letter from the Director



As you look forward to ice free trails, playgrounds, and streets, we at the Anchorage Park Foundation are gearing up for an incredibly active summer of new volunteer-led Challenge Grant projects, Youth Employment in Parks, and playground safety (and fun!) renovations. Because the pandemic created construction delays and volunteering dilemmas, we are preparing for levels of activity in 2022 that only unlimited daylight can provide!

Summer trail projects will include Campbell creek trail, Ure park connection to the Fish Creek Trail, and some soft surface neighborhood trails by Youth Employment in Parks that are still being designed. Voting for the proposition 5 parks bond will enable Anchorage to make progress in connecting our neighborhoods by trail including Russian Jack, Spenard, Downtown, and Government Hill.

Making progress on projects might mean that we will attract federal infrastructure dollars if the voters keep helping with local support. We will keep you engaged with connecting the Moose Loop north to Palmer and south to Girdwood, uniting with the Alaska Long Trail from Seward to Fairbanks.

We will be celebrating new inclusive playgrounds that were built last summer in Airport Heights and Jewel Lake, and building three more in Mountain View, Taku Lake, and Downtown. When you vote for the park bonds, you'll be supporting these neighborhoods and more. Contact us for a playground map to visit all the inclusive playgrounds this summer.

Our partners at Hilltop Ski Area will open more bike trails this summer, and American Legion Baseball will open two turf fields to extend Middle School Baseball and Softball play in Anchorage.

Volunteer activities will be rich and varied, so please start dreaming now about getting outside with us and making a difference in your community.

Whether we see you on the Moose Loop, at a ballfield, at an inclusive playground, or an Indigenous Place Name celebration, let us see you voting before April 5 to keep this publicly and privately supported system of parks and trails you love ready for play!

Sincerely,

Beth Nordlund
Executive Director

Vote Yes, to Help Our Parks & Trails

This year's parks bond makes great progress toward our community's shared vision to improve and expand our greenbelt trail system so we can continue to enjoy our free-flowing creeks and the salmon and wild-life they provide. From Chugach State Park to Tikahtnu Cook Inlet, our mountains-to-the-sea experiences along the Chester Creek, Ship Creek, Campbell Creek and Fish Creek watersheds are worth the investment.

Two trail projects on the parks bond are with state/federal Anchorage Metropolitan Area Transportation Solutions (AMATS) that need a 9% match to leverage millions in federal funding. The Fish Creek Trail to the Ocean and Coastal Trail to Ship Creek Trail are moving forward in planning, design, and engineering so we can build as early as 2024. Government Hill, Chanshtnu Muldoon, Ure, Eastchester and Russian Jack Springs Parks are just a few projects on the parks bond that reflect decades of vision from neighbors and advocates that took their dreams to countless meetings to influence master plans for future development. Thank you for your service!

Bonds allow us to build parks and trails. With a YES vote, property owners are agreeing to pay \$1.54 per \$100,000 of assessed value on their home to get nearly \$4 million for 13 projects. That will retire the debt and pay for operations and maintenance.

Please follow Anchorage Park Foundation on social media. We will be posting videos and photos in support of the park bonds on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook. Please help us spread the message by "liking," commenting and sharing those messages. Anchorage voters have passed park bonds for 10 years in a row, and we need your help to get us to 11! What a difference we have made together.

VOTE YES on PROP 5!

2022 Parks and Recreation Bond Projects – Prop 5

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. Eastchester/Woodside Park on Chester Creek Trail
6. Facility Safety
7. Fish Creek Trail to the Ocean – Connection to Coastal Trail
8. Government Hill Community-wide Park Plan and Improvements
9. Pamela Joy Lowry Memorial Park & Trail Improvements
10. Playground Development All Inclusive
11. Russian Jack Springs Park Safety and ADA Improvements
12. Tony Knowles Coastal Trail to Ship Creek Trail Connection
13. Ure Park Improvements and Fish Creek Trail Connection

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

"From the Chugach Mountains to Cook Inlet, parks and trails are why we live here. Vote Yes on Prop 5."

~ David Wight, Board Chair



Anchorage Votes

Ballots Mailed by March 15, 2022
Voting Ends: Tuesday April 5, 2022

New ballot tracking offered this year. Voters can sign up at AnchorageVotes.com to get alerts when their ballot package or return ballot envelope reaches various points in the election process.



New Little Free Libraries in Anchorage Parks

By Amie Collins, *Best Beginnings*

Forget to bring your book to a park? Looking to share one of your favorite reads? Best Beginnings, in collaboration with Anchorage Park Foundation, has finished the installation of 10 new Little Free Libraries in 10 parks throughout Anchorage.

Best Beginnings installed its first little free library with the help of Altman, Rogers, & Co. in Mountain View Garden Art Park in 2018. A Little Free Library is a “take a book, leave a book” free book exchange. They come in many shapes and sizes, but the most common version is a small wooden box of books. Anyone may take a book or bring a book to share. Little Free Library book exchanges have a unique, personal touch. There is an understanding that real people are sharing their favorite books with their community; little libraries have been called “mini-town squares.”

This project is made possible by a very special family and their friends. Best Beginnings was awarded a community challenge grant through the Anchorage Park Foundation to get the project started, but it was up to the community to raise the other half of the funds and volunteer energy needed to make it happen. Jason Roberts in Oregon learned about our project and wanted to help make it a reality – and

a lasting memorial for his son, Zachary James Roberts, who passed away in 2020.

Zach was a voracious reader and felt a deep personal connection to Alaska. Mr. Roberts launched an online fundraiser to support Little Free Libraries in Anchorage parks, and donations came in from people around the world, including Oregon, Alabama, Wisconsin, the Netherlands, and Norway!

We are so grateful to the Roberts family. Best Beginnings dedicated the Little Free Library in Zach’s name with a tribute plate. Best Beginnings will be the steward for this Little Free Library as it is centrally located, recently renovated, and a favorite of young children and their families.

Many thanks to Best Beginnings for making this project a reality. Through a partnership with volunteers, the Anchorage Park Foundation, and Anchorage Parks and Recreation, the Little Free Libraries were built, painted, and installed. You can see many of the designs in the photos below. Throughout the winter, and especially summer, park stewards will continue to check on the libraries and refill them with children’s books. Of course, we hope that you and your family also come to “take a book, leave a book!”

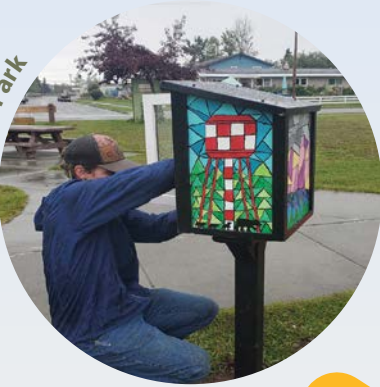


Celebrate Little Libraries in Government Hill

Sunset Park, 600 Vine Avenue
Thursday, March 31 – 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm

Join us to celebrate Best Beginnings and their successful Community Challenge Grant to build 10 little libraries in parks across Anchorage. Learn more about what’s in PROP 5, the park bonds, and what Government Hill Community Council is doing to improve their neighborhood. Ice cream and hot drinks will be served. Free playground maps will be distributed.

Sunset Park



Jewel Lake Park



Pop Carr Memorial Park



Moen Park



Chanshtnu Muldoon Park



1. Wickersham Park
2. Wolverine Park
3. Creekside Park
4. Pop Carr Memorial Park
5. Chanshtnu Muldoon Park
6. Moen Park
7. Jewel Lake Park
8. Brotherhood Park
9. Sunset Park
10. Campbell Park



The Summer My Son Grew

By Heather Handyside

As a parent, I can't say enough about the Youth Employment in Parks program. My son Owen had just turned 16 in 2021, and YEP was his first real job. He learned so much about the working world by just completing the employment application and experiencing his first interview. When the job offer came, he was so happy and proud of himself – an equally proud moment for a parent to watch.

Over the course of the 10-week summer program, Owen worked closely with his team to complete daily or weekly projects that gave him an opportunity to learn and apply a whole different set of skills. He learned that healthy urban public lands are important to people and wildlife, visited parks in neighborhoods he didn't know existed, and saw how our trails connect throughout the city. Every day he came home excited to share what he did to improve a park or trail. Of course, the weekly field trips to visit a glacier or kayak on Eklutna Lake not only brought the YEP teens together as a team but were amazing experiences that Owen still talks about.

It was really a pleasure to see him grow his talents through YEP. He learned that he enjoys leading others and that he's effective in that role. I remember after an afternoon of helping to manage crew tasks on a project, Owen came home and announced that he doesn't want to be a counselor anymore. He said "I think I should manage people, Mom. I'm good at it!" He was told by his supervisor that "he sets the mood for the whole team." I know Owen felt a sense of responsibility about the impact he made on his team, so the



thoughtfulness of his supervisor to provide guidance and frequent feedback really made Owen thrive.

Father's Day was especially meaningful last year because Owen took us for a drive around the city to point out the community gardens he helped build, gravel paths he was making, and trees he had planted. Owen was so proud of his accomplishments, and we were so very proud of him. And we recognize how rewarding it will be for him, as time goes by and he travels through Anchorage, to remember all the parks and trails that he worked on to make better open spaces for our community.

VOLUNTEER



ANCHORAGE PARKS
www.AnchorageParkFoundation.org

Call for Volunteers

Increasingly, our watersheds and native tree species are facing threats from spruce bark beetle infestations accelerated by climate change and the highly invasive European Bird Cherry (*Prunus padus*). We begin the season with trash cleanups and invasive work in partnership with Community Councils, and then we organize streambank restoration projects. We will work with a variety of partners including Youth Employment in Parks, Scouts Troops, Citizens Against Noxious Weeds Invading the North (CANWIN), the Anchorage Soil and Water Conservation District, Friends of Fish Creek and Anchorage Waterways Council. We take good care of our volunteers through sponsorships from Matson's Caring for Alaska program and Rasmuson Foundation. Please email Diana@anchorage-parkfoundation.org to get on the volunteer list.

Friends & Partners

Thank you for supporting the Anchorage Park Foundation and making Anchorage a better place to live, work, learn, and play. We are grateful for the individuals, businesses, and foundations whose generous contributions have supported our work during the past year.

Chickadee Society

Individuals Giving \$5,000+ in 2021

Anonymous (1)
 Eleanor Andrews
 William & Michelle Bittner
 The Carr Family
 Heather Flynn
 Douglas and Victoria Main
 Victor Mollozzi & Vicki Williams
 Diane & Mike Moxness
 Fran Rose
 Kristin & Paul Sholton
 Charles & Jacqueline Spinelli
 Ken & Pat Thompson
 Jim Torgerson & Morgan Christen
 David & Carla Wight

Indigenous Placename Partners

Alaska Humanities Forum
 Alaska Native Heritage Center
 Anchorage Museum
 Atwood Foundation
 CIRI Foundation
 Rasmuson Foundation

2021 Virtual Race Sponsors

49th State Brewing
 Anchorage Parks and Recreation
 Bettisworth North
 Exerplay
 GCI Communications
 Huddle
 Landscape Structures
 R&M Consultants

Trail Signage & Wayfinding

\$10,000 - \$25,000 Sponsors

Anchorage Sand and Gravel
 Anchorage Solid Waste Services
 ATS Alaska
 DOWL Engineers
 GCI Communications
 Port of Alaska

\$1,500 Sponsors

Accurate Vision Clinic
 Alaska Heart & Vascular Institute
 AMS Couriers
 Anchorage Education Association
 Arctic Roadrunner
 Bettisworth North
 Bristol Bay Native Corporation
 Croft Family
 CRW Engineering Group
 Dillon & Findley
 HDL Engineering Consultants
 In Memory of Adan & Aram
 In Memory of Eivin & Mary Pat Brudie
 Jack Ferguson Associates
 JL Properties
 Johnson Family
 Kinney Engineering
 Kittelson & Associates
 Landscape Structures
 MoMo's Bakery
 North Star Group
 Paul's Tree Service
 Peanut Farm
 Perez Family
 Premera Blue Cross
 R&M Consultants
 Rand Family
 Rasmuson Foundation
 REI Co-op
 South Addition Community Council
 Sunset Beach Club
 The Bicycle Shop
 The Boutet Company
 The Boutet Family Fund
 TotalView
 Trek Bicycle Store of Anchorage
 Turnagain Brewing
 Yeti Dogs

Ed Rasmuson Remembered for Investing in Anchorage Parks



On Jan. 4, 2022, Alaska lost one of the most influential and generous people in our state. Ed Rasmuson is remembered as a third-generation Alaskan, retired banker and inspiring philanthropist focused on building up Alaska. Ed's contributions can be seen in Alaska's arts, history, culture, education and our world-class parks and trails. Through Rasmuson Foundation, Ed devoted himself to giving away the family wealth to support countless nonprofits working to improving the lives of Alaskans.

More than 16 years ago, Rasmuson Foundation helped create the Anchorage Park Foundation with the idea that private investment in parks and trails would leverage more financial resources and result in greater public ownership and support. There is evidence of Ed's vision weaved into the fabric of Anchorage, at the ballot box - Anchorage voters have passed park bonds every year for the past 10 years and hundreds of park improvement projects led by community members received some Rasmuson funding. Ed was a great champion for all things Alaska and especially our parks, playgrounds, and trails.



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Dates to Remember

March 15: Voting Begins

March 19: Ballot Box Bash at Fairview Recreation Center, 1121 E 10th Ave @3 pm

March 31: Little Libraries Celebration at Sunset Park in Government Hill @ 5:30pm

April 5: Voting Ends

April 30: Russian Jack Springs Park Cleanup Day in Polar Bear Park @ 10am

May 13 @ 12pm: 2022 Challenge Grant Awards Announced

May 20: Bike to Work Day

May 21: Kids to Parks Day

June 18: Anchorage Mayor's Marathon

June 28 @ 4pm: Folker Park Reflexology Opening

September 24: Bike Your Park Day

September 13 – October 25: Tuesday Night Races

October 14-16: 2022 Moose Loop Virtual Race



Summer Concerts in the Park Series

The Summer Concert Series features local artists in neighborhoods across Anchorage. A partnership with the Anchorage Concert Association, this free concert series brings people together in their own neighborhoods to enjoy live music and the beauty of our parks and trails. These lively one-hour concerts will be held on six Thursdays in June and July from 6pm to 7pm.