



ANCHORAGE PARK FOUNDATION



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William B. Lyons Park is Getting a MAKEOVER

William B. Lyons Park is Mountain View's "Central Park," offering a community gathering space and play opportunities to youth participating in Boys & Girls Club programs at the Mountain View Community Recreation Center next door. This fall the Anchorage Park Foundation and Anchorage Parks & Recreation Department installed a new inclusive playground as part of a larger park renovation.

Making a play space inclusive means the design, play equipment, and surfaces are accessible for persons of all ages and abilities. Anchorage leads the nation in providing fun and "inclusive play" environments for children and adults who experience a wide spectrum of mental, physical, and social challenges. The new improvements include side-by-side basket swings, a very popular spinner called The Supernova, all-ages fitness equipment and Alaska's first "Crab Trap" an intriguing playground net structure with endless opportunity for unstructured play and climbing experiences, inside or out.

Thank you to Anchorage voters and the many private funders that contributed to this park renovation. We especially want to thank Victor Mollozzi, Wells Fargo, and the Stanley H. Reitman Charitable Fund for their gifts to ensure the inclusive playground was completed, despite pandemic related construction challenges.





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Eleanor Andrews

Susanne Fleek-Green

Jim Torgerson

Mike Braniff, Ex Officio

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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.

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Anchorage Park Foundation

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Letter from the Director



If I've learned anything over the last few years, it's that change is inevitable, it's how we adapt that matters. As I reflect on 2022, I'm proud of the progress we've made on the backlog of projects delayed by the pandemic. New inclusive playgrounds, Indigenous Place Name signs and celebrations.....it feels good to be getting work done. We'll have more celebrations of completed projects this fall than we've had in years.

The pandemic strengthened our resolve that getting kids outside is important. We are deepening our relationships with teachers and outdoor educators to build a strong outdoor education community.

We made progress with organizing our trail loving partners to promote our trail system in the shape of a moose loop, while securing funding to study a connection to Palmer and improve the signage and wayfinding we have in Anchorage. Anchorage will be a great access point to our shared dream of the Alaska Long Trail. Our 2nd Annual Virtual Moose Loop Race is a way for people to show community support for our trails and get the cool t-shirt.

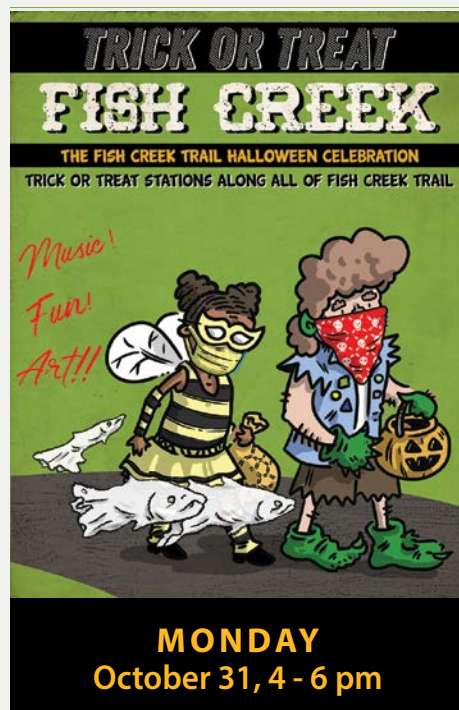
We are helping Hilltop Ski Area raise funds for its bike park, skaters look forward to their hard-earned Taku Skatepark, pickleball lovers play on repurposed courts, birders enjoy new bird platforms, frisbee golfers have a better course at Kincaid, elderly residents of Providence House are getting outside and staying mobile (and even pedicabing around a beautiful trail). I'd go so far as to say some neighborhood relationships to the outdoors are transformed (we are looking at you Chanshtnu Muldoon!).

Finally, I am proud to be part of a community that recognizes the value of our recreation centers. Whether it is the new indoor inclusive playground in Fairview, or the vibrancy of Wheelchair Basketball in Spenard, Anchorage plays indoors too, and we cheer the neighborhood champions that are keep the doors open to the public.

Anchorage is stronger and even more beautiful when we work together for our way of life.

Sincerely,

Beth Nordlund
Executive Director



Challenge Grantees Make Strides



2022 Challenge Grantees

This spring, the Anchorage Park Foundation awarded **15 Community Challenge Grants** to park improvement projects championed by passionate neighbors across the city. Over the next two years, community groups will improve trails, create local art installations, remove invasive weeds, and complete many more park and trail projects that benefit the public. The Community Challenge Grant Program encourages community stewardship of public land and is made possible with financial support from Rasmuson Foundation and technical assistance from Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department and the Alaska Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects. Grant recipients match funding with additional private donations, in-kind contributions, or volunteer hours to complete their projects. Many community groups are well on their way to making their projects happen.

2022 Community Challenge Grant Projects

1. Winchester Park Trail Development
2. Eastchester Park Beautification
3. Scenic Park Pickleball
4. Fairview Lions Park Beautification
5. Kincaid Park Disc Golf Improvements
6. Forsythe Park Outdoor Learning Lab
7. Tikishla Park/Chester Creek Trail Prunus Padus Chokecherry Challenge
8. Meadow Park Picnic Shelter and Accessibility Improvements
9. Fish Creek Tunnel Art
10. Cuddy Family Midtown Park Fish Creek Watershed Interpretation
11. Brotherhood/Sisterhood Park Baseball Field Improvements
12. Westchester Lagoon Birding Platform
13. Far North Bicentennial Park Trails
14. Kincaid Park Singletrack Trail Improvements
15. Russian Jack Springs Park Singletrack Trails

Westchester Lagoon Birding Platform



The Anchorage Waterways Council completed their challenge grant to restore the degraded shoreline and bank at the Westchester Lagoon Waterfowl Sanctuary. The sanctuary is located at the bottom of the Spenard Road hill at 19th Avenue – a popular birdwatching hotspot. Improvements include installation of a viewing platform to reduce bank erosion from dogs, waterfowl, and visitors, and new signage to discourage waterfowl feeding.

Scenic Park Pickleball Court



Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the country and it's gaining popularity in Alaska too. Midnight Sun Pickleball is passionate about sharing their love of the sport in Anchorage. With the support of Scenic Foothills Community Council, pickleball fans will convert one of the two lightly used tennis courts at Scenic Park into a dual-purpose tennis/pickleball court and leave one court solely for tennis. Volunteers already completed improvements to the park entrance adjacent to Scenic Park Elementary School.



Video Trail Guide: Mountains to Sea

Anchorage is a trail town. When we launched the Moose Loop in 2019, our dream was a destination trail to put Anchorage on the map with the great outdoor cities of the world. Mapping our city in a loop through the ancient pathways used by the Dena'ina for millennia helps us understand that trails are critical infrastructure. They are a way of life – for active transportation, outdoor recreation, and to recruit and retain the talented workforce we need for a vibrant future.

On November 15 you are invited to join us as we launch our next initiative - Mountains to Sea. This Video Trail Guide was produced by Anchorage Park Foundation in partnership with Alaska State Parks and Will Melton Media Productions. It seeks to encourage a new wave of appreciation, celebration, and stewardship of our backyard rugged mountains and hillside trails in Chugach State Park. With more than 250 miles of trails in the urban core and hundreds more in our nation's third-largest state park, it's easy to see why Anchorage ranks the highest in the US for city area dedicated to parkland.

Start Your Adventure at Chugach State Park

The Mountains to Sea Experience links existing trails in a traverse from the new Hemlock Burn singletrack trail at the Glen Alps (Flattop) Trailhead down through the city, ending at the Small Boat Launch near the Port of Alaska. The video provides details for an experienced trail user to bike the 23 miles in a half day, including rest stops. Similar to the Moose Loop – we will have the video and maps on our website so you can learn the route. You will not see signage that says Mountains to Sea – but you can find the route on trail apps like TrailForks and Ride with GPS.

Chugach State Park Loop Trail from Prospect Heights Parking Lot

If you are looking for a walk with a gentle elevation gain and views of the mountains and the sea, try this loop from Prospect Heights. Plan on 90 minutes to 2 hours depending on your speed. Watch particularly for moose and cyclists. Take Golden Grass to South Fork Rim Trail (one way heading up hill) to White Spruce to Powerline Trail which takes you back to the parking lot.



Trail Tales

Tuesday, November 15 at 7:00pm

Anchorage Museum

Tickets: \$20. Purchase tickets at AlaskaTrails.org

Trail Tales is a storytelling series organized by Alaska Trails. In the spirit of Arctic Entries, storytellers will share seven minute stories about their trail experiences, adventures, and life in general. The November 15 show benefits the Anchorage Park Foundation.



Ship Creek Trail

Lanie Fleischer
Chester Creek Trail

Glenn Hwy.

Glenn Highway Trail

5th Ave.

Merrill Field

15th Ave.

Russian Jack
Springs Park

Cheney Lake

Northern Lights Blvd.

Goose Lake

Lake Otis

University Lake

Reflection Lake

Tudor Rd.

Campbell
Creek Trail

Mountains
to Sea Trail

Far North
Bicentennial
Park

Campbell
Tract

TH > Basher
Drive

Hilltop TH >

Chugach
State Park

Prospect Heights TH >

TH > Upper
O'Malley

TH > Upper
Huffman

TH > Glen
Alps

Abbott Rd.

O'Malley Rd.

Ruth
Arcand
Park

Huffman Rd.

Rabbit
Creek Rd.

Potter
Marsh Bird
Sanctuary



ANCHORAGE
PARK FOUNDATION





Making a Difference in Anchorage



Youth Employment in Parks 2022 Season

Youth Employment in Parks crews work hard all summer repairing trails, stabilizing stream banks, and building bridges to make our parks better for everyone. 24 local teenagers gained on-the-job training in natural resource management, while working together to improve our public lands.



Ship Creek Restoration

In spring 2022, historic water levels from heavy snow melt and unseasonably warm temperatures caused significant erosion and damage to Ship Creek Trail. The damage prompted an emergency closure of this public creekside access popular among anglers, walkers, and bicyclists. Temporary fixes have allowed the trail to reopen in late summer while the Anchorage Park Foundation works to secure funding to stabilize two large sections of streambank and relocate the trail.



Outdoor School

Outdoor School is a 2-day immersive school experience for 5th graders within the Anchorage School District. Students spend two full school days in their nearest local park learning outdoor skills, recreation activities, history, science, and social-emotional skills. Contact Meredith@anchorageparkfoundation.org to learn more.



New Indigenous Place Naming

The Anchorage Park Foundation is an active member of the Indigenous Place Names Project. The effort highlights the Dena'ina place name and cultural significance of 32 sites identified by the Native Village of Eklutna. This year we celebrated Hkaditali, now known as Potter Marsh. The area used to be a tidal estuary, as reflected in the Dena'ina name, Hkaditali, "drift lumber." This name refers to the driftwood that accumulated along the tidal flats (tiq'a) that was used for construction, firewood, and fish processing.

Fiscally Sponsored Projects

The Anchorage Park Foundation serves as a fiscal sponsor for several community groups working to advance their causes. As a fiscal sponsor the Anchorage Park Foundation provides fiduciary oversight, financial management, fundraising consultation, and other administrative services to help charitable projects. Learn more about a few of the community projects we are working with.

Extending Youth Baseball with Artificial Turf

The Anchorage Park Foundation supported American Legion Baseball's efforts to bring artificial turf and movable mounds to the Mulcahy and Taylor Young ballfields at South Anchorage High School. These modifications extend the spring and fall baseball and softball seasons with playable artificial surfaces in shoulder seasons. The newly renovated ballfields are adjustable allowing the new middle school baseball program to also use these fields.

Hilltop Bike Park

The Anchorage Park Foundation is assisting Hilltop Ski Area with a capital campaign to raise funds for completing phase 2 of the Hilltop Bike Park. Phase 2 will add five more bike trails at various levels of difficulty, skill-building features, and a skills area during summer 2022 and 2023. The Anchorage Park Foundation also helped secure a challenge grant from Rasmuson Foundation. Rasmuson Foundation. All donations to the Hilltop Bike Park Fund held at the Anchorage Park Foundation are matched 1:1 by Rasmuson Foundation.

Meet the Parks People

The Anchorage Park Foundation Team



Diana Rhoades, Michelle LeBeau, Meredith Gutierrez, Peter Knape, Beth Nordlund

Welcome New Municipal Parks Director



Michael Braniff is the new director of the Anchorage Parks & Recreation Department. Prior to stepping into the director role this summer, Mike was the municipal Arborist with extensive experience managing the Spruce Bark Beetle infestation in Anchorage's urban forests. He is a graduate of University of Alaska Fairbanks with a degree in Business

Administration and a focus in Management and Operations. Mike joins the Anchorage Park Foundation board of directors in an Ex Officio capacity and is looking forward to growing the partnership between the municipality and the Anchorage Park Foundation.



Your Support Benefits Our Parks & Trails

It takes all of us to help sustain the vast network of parks and trails in Anchorage. The Anchorage Park Foundation helps guide charitable giving to the areas of greatest need in our park system and improve neighborhood access.

Please consider donating to the Anchorage Park Foundation today. Financial donations of any size help fund our mission.

Ways to Give:

1. Donate online at AnchorageParkFoundation.org or use the enclosed envelope.
2. Make a qualified charitable distribution from your IRA.
3. Leave a legacy gift by naming Anchorage Park Foundation in your estate planning.

MOOSE LOOP

SEPTEMBER 23-30, 2022



VIRTUAL RACE

The Anchorage Park Foundation is incredibly grateful to everyone who participated in the 2022 Moose Loop Virtual Race! The goal of the event was to encourage the Anchorage community and beyond to get outside this fall and walk, run, bike, or roll in support of parks and trails. We are thrilled that so many people participated - congratulations to all!

This event would not have been possible without all the amazing participants, sponsors, and supporters who were a part of this event. We are so thankful for your support! We especially want to thank ExerPlay, Inc., our Title Sponsor for being an integral part of making this a successful event.

Thank you to the 2022 Moose Loop Virtual Race sponsors.



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Dates to Remember

SEPTEMBER 13 - OCTOBER 25

Tuesday Night Race Series

OCTOBER 21

Haunted Trails, 7pm – 9:30pm @ Goose Lake Park

OCTOBER 22

Enchanted Trails, 1:30pm – 4:30pm @ Goose Lake Park

OCTOBER 31

Trick or Treat Fish Creek, 4pm to 6pm, Fish Creek Trail

NOVEMBER 8

General Election Day

NOVEMBER 15

Trail Tales benefiting APF, 7pm at the Anchorage Museum

NOVEMBER 29

Giving Tuesday, a National Day of Generosity

DECEMBER 21

Winter Solstice Festival, 5pm – 8pm, Cuddy Family Midtown Park

Visit our Events page at AnchorageParkFoundation.org for more details.



We Are Grateful for You

Thank you for supporting the Anchorage Park Foundation and making Anchorage a better place to live, work, and play. We are so grateful for the individuals, businesses, agencies, and foundations whose financial contributions and volunteer time have supported our work over the last year.