



ANCHORAGE PARK FOUNDATION



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Anchorage is Basecamp to Outdoor Adventure

Investing in parks and trails will put Anchorage on the map with the great outdoor cities of the world. That's what Anchorage Park Foundation founders envisioned when they launched our non-profit in 2005, and it is working. For 11 years in a row, voters have said yes to park bonds, choosing to tax ourselves a small amount, sharing the cost of these public assets. APF leverages these public investments to raise private dollars, grants, and donations of volunteer time and materials. Since 2012, \$37 million in park bonds has leveraged nearly \$45 million in additional park and trail infrastructure.

Anchorage Economic Development Corporation's new economic revitalization plan is out, and all four of the categories – business vitality, talent, quality of place and infrastructure, point toward recreation trails as economic drivers. Our work to improve Anchorage trails and establish the Alaska Long Trail supports the "Choose Anchorage" economic revitalization plan by highlighting Anchorage as the best basecamp for outdoor adventures locally and across the state. Residents and visitors can play in the mountains and stay in the city, experiencing both world-class outdoor adventures and vibrant urban experiences in Anchorage.





Staff

Beth Nordlund,
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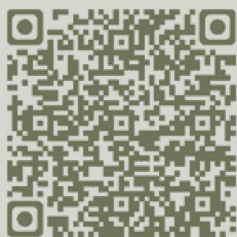
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Anchorage Park Foundation is a small nonprofit working in the space between local government and the people of Anchorage to build community around parks and trails.



Anchorage Park Foundation

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Letter from the Director



Anchorage is experiencing change: decreasing population and a very tight labor market, local government turbulence, new representation in the state legislature and in Congress, a resurgent tourism economy, increased property values, an increase in federal funding with the accompanying need for local match dollars.

At the Anchorage Park Foundation, we are sticking to our mission and increasing our capacity. We hear you loud and clear -- access to the outdoors is central to your lifestyle. You want trails that connect to your job and your schools, that loop around the city and connect to the Alaska Long Trail. You want indoor and outdoor playgrounds that include kids of all abilities in play. You want Dena'ina places names and stories represented in our public art and infrastructure. You want teens to have meaningful employment. You want our kids to grow up with connection to our land and water.

Parks and trails attract (and retain) a talented workforce, and that is just what we need right now. As we steer through change, we can't lose sight of the fact that investing in outdoor infrastructure helps us band together as a community. We build community through parks and trail projects.

You can count on the Anchorage Park Foundation to be a trusted voice for your parks and trails. We secure funding for Outdoor School, Youth Employment in Parks, Trail Building and Active Transportation Advocacy, Indigenous Placemaking, Wayfinding signs, and the park project in your neighborhood. We do this through donations, federal funding, state funding, and all kinds of grant writing. Your support enables us to get this work done.

This spring, please encourage teens to apply with Youth Employment in Parks and promote the horticulture and park maintenance jobs with our Municipality. A full team helps take care of the parks and trails you are itching to get out and enjoy!

I'll see you at the voting booth!

Sincerely,

Beth Nordlund
Executive Director

We owe a
special thanks

**to Board Members Ernie Hall
and Forrest Dunbar,** who ended

their terms with the Anchorage Park Foundation this year. Between these two Anchorage Assembly veterans we have installed playgrounds, built trails, and created multi-generational spaces for the whole community to enjoy.

2023 Ballot Measures for Parks & Trails

Proposition A: Anchorage Parks and Recreation Bond

We hope you will vote YES - on Proposition A. For \$1.58 per \$100,000 assessed taxable property value we can have trails, athletic fields, bridges, recreation centers, inclusive playgrounds and more. Find the complete project list below.

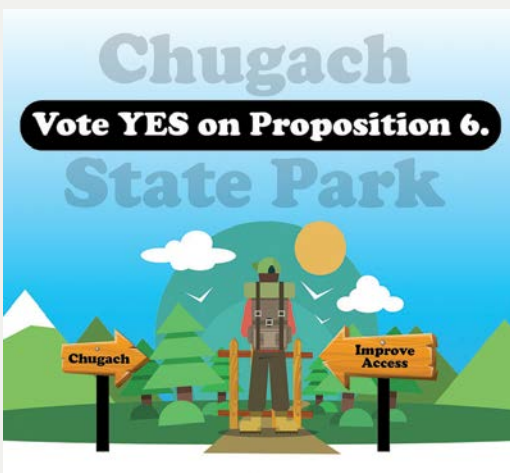
Proposition A Parks and Recreation Bond Projects:

- Campbell Creek Trail Rehabilitation and Way Finding, \$300k
- Peratrovich Park Upgrades, \$700k
- Ship Creek Trail, \$250k
- Athletic Field Safety Improvements, \$200k
- Chester Creek Complex Safety, Security and ADA Upgrades, \$100k
- Playground Development, All Inclusive, \$300k
- Far North Bicentennial Park Bridge Replacement, \$150k
(match to federal dollars)
- Russian Jack Springs Park Safety and ADA Improvements, \$300k
- Fairview Recreation Center Improvements, \$500k
- Spenard Recreation Center Improvements, \$200k
- Tony Knowles Coastal Trail to Ship Creek Trail Connection, \$150k
(match to federal dollars)
- Midtown Park Family Chalet, \$300k
- Mulcahy Stadium Improvements, \$350k
- Fish Creek Trail connection to Tony Knowles Coastal Trail, \$150k
(match to federal dollars)

Total \$3,950,000 million

This year park lovers have an additional opportunity to support the places we love.

Proposition 6: Chugach State Park Access Service Area for the Anchorage Bowl



A YES vote on Proposition 6 will create the Chugach State Park Access Service Area for the Anchorage Bowl. Eagle River-Chugiak, Girdwood and Turnagain Arm are not part of the proposed Service Area. If approved, Proposition 6 would give us the opportunity in the future to vote for bonds for road improvements to the park, like our annual park and recreation bond. PROP 6 creates the Service Area only – no taxes or projects.



Volunteer

Phone bank for
Props 6 and A!

*Anchorage Park Foundation
is hosting a phone bank.
Bring your computer
and phone to call voters.
Free pizza!*

Thursday, March 23

5pm – 7pm

Email

Diana@Anchorageparkfoundation.org



Show your neighbors
you support Anchorage
parks and trails by
placing the included
sign in your window.

SEE NEXT PAGE



Park

This communication was paid for by the Anchorage Park Foundation, 3201 C Street, Suite

**YES on
Prop A
s Bond**





Dena'ina Place Names

The Indigenous Place Names Project brings many partners together to honor the culture and history of the Dena'ina. This project is an ambitious effort to raise the visibility of Indigenous culture through 32 public art installations in the Municipality of Anchorage. Each site was identified by the Native Village of Eklutna as culturally significant with Dena'ina translations and storytelling provided by Eklutna President/Anchorage Museum historian Aaron Leggett and cultural anthropologist James Fall, co-author of *Shem Pete's Alaska*. The sculptures are being installed in phases, with four signs installed so far. There are two locations of *Chanshtnu*, the Dena'ina place name for Chester Creek. *Hkaditali* describes the place known as Potter Marsh and *Nuch'ishtunt* is now known as Point Woronzof. Read the full story of each location below and visit each site on our trail system.

***Chanshtnu*: Grass Creek**

CHANSHTNU MULDOON PARK &
WESTCHESTER LAGOON

The Dena'ina of Knik Arm camped in spring and summer along *Chanshtnu* to fish for salmon as well as hunt and gather berries. Many Dena'ina had cabins and houses along lower *Chanshtnu* into the 1940s. After losing their fishing sites in Anchorage, several Dena'ina families re-established fish camps on Fire Island.

Chanshtnu is now called "Chester" Creek. There was no Mr. or Mrs. Chester for whom it was named. Instead "Chester" appears to be an anglicized version of (mis)pronunciation of *Chanshtnu*.

"Another place I remember stopping was Eklutna Alex's fish camp, which was located at the Chester Creek area, near the end of Fifth Avenue. He had a smoke house and a summer home there. He had to move because Anchorage was becoming a city, and the land was being surveyed and sold. The original people that lived there had to move in spite of having homes there for a number of years"

~ Dena'ina historian, Alberta Stephen



***Hkaditali*: Drift Lumber**

POTTER MARSH

Potter Marsh was created in 1917 when the construction of an embankment for the Alaska Railroad impounded Rabbit Creek (*Ggeh Betnu*, "Rabbit Creek") and other streams. Before this, the area was 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. After Russian and other European explorers arrived in the late 18th century, wreckage from their ships washed ashore at *Hkaditali*, becoming a source of metal for the Dena'ina to fashion into hooks, projectile points, and other tools. The Dena'ina name for metal that drifts to shore on planks is *bet tituqiz'in*. In earlier times, the Dena'ina made scarce and highly-prized tools from native copper.

The Dena'ina name for salt marshes is *tl'uynu*. Salt marshes were the source of many foods and raw materials, with plants especially important in spring and summer. The leaves of *nut'aq'i tl'ila* (goosetongue) were eaten raw or boiled. The roots of *k'tl'ila* (wild potato) were boiled or preserved with bear oil. The peeled stems of *ggis* (wild celery or cow parsnip) were eaten raw or used in soups. Baskets, mats, and bags were woven with various grasses (*k'echan*) and sedges (*tl'egh*). Migratory waterfowl were hunted in spring and fall. The outlet and lower reaches of *Ggeh Betnu* were likely the location of spring and summer camps for harvesting and processing salmon.

***Nuch'ishtunt*: The Place Protected from Wind**

POINT WORONZOF

For many centuries, the *K'enaht'ana*, the Dena'ina of Knik Arm (*Nuti*), established spring and summer fish camps at *Nuch'ishtunt*, "the place protected from wind," now commonly called "Point Woronzof." On the mud flats, they constructed platforms with wooden poles, called *tanik'edi*. Standing on the platforms as the tide came in, they dipnetted salmon. The salmon were preserved by drying, smoking, and fermenting. A small nearby stream called *Q'is Kaq'* ("Birchbark Mouth") supplied freshwater. In late summer, the Dena'ina families transported their salmon harvests to Knik, *Lajat*, *Niteh*, *Idlughet* (Eklutna), and other villages, where they were a major component of the winter food supply. In the early and mid 20th century, the Dena'ina harvested salmon at *Nuch'ishtunt* with set gill nets for subsistence use and commercial sale. Eklutna elder Leo Stephan, who fished here as young man, recalled that "They would all come up from *Niteh*. They might stay from May until August. They used to row down here in a dory, catching the tide. All the way out to the end of where this grass [is now] there used to be ten, fifteen other fish camps." The camps consisted of tent frames, smokehouses, steam baths, and fish racks. In the mid 1940s, federal authorities closed this site to commercial fishing. The displaced Dena'ina families moved their camps to Fire Island (*Nutul'iy*) and Point Possession (*Tuyqun*). Bill Ezi Sr. was probably the last Dena'ina to subsistence fish at *Nuch'ishtunt*, until about 1950.

Welcome Kerry Lynch



Kerry joins APF as a Business Manager after many years working in government contract accounting for several Alaska Native Corporations here in Anchorage. She has a strong foundation in compliance and reporting. She eventually developed an interest in nonprofit accounting and spent the past two years working with a number of small nonprofits all over the state as part of a

small CPA firm. Kerry brings a diverse background with a degree in Microbiology and a few seasons of fisheries field work in her past that helps her take an interest in the work behind the numbers. Fortunate to work next to Russian Jack Springs Park for five years, she has yet to find a better place to spend lunch hours. She's a devoted park user and says that what she lacks in coordination and athletic ability, she makes up for in commitment to spending time outdoors daily in all seasons by biking to work, learning to ski and skate, and finding new places to explore.

Outdoor School in Parks

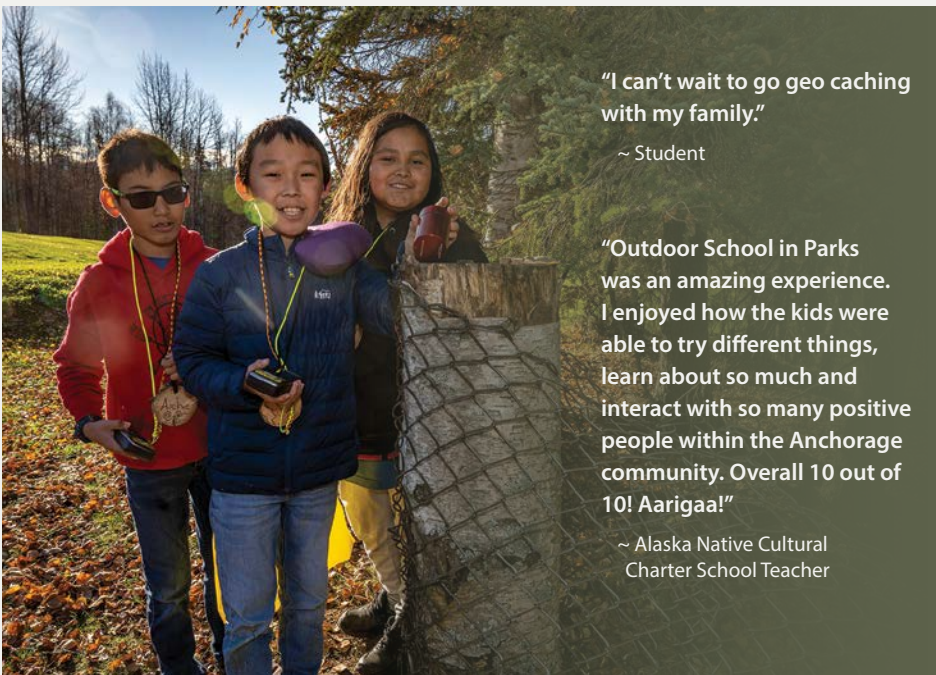
What started as an adaptation during the pandemic has grown into a popular youth education program. Outdoor School in Parks is an immersive field study experience for 5th graders within the Anchorage School District. Students spend two full school days in their nearest local park learning outdoor skills, recreation activities, history, science, and social-emotional skills. Students and teachers love this program. Last year, 23 out of the 64 elementary schools in the Anchorage School District applied for 6 spots in the program. The program is successful in part due to the many agency and community partners that lead field study stations. Our goal is to expand this program, so all 5th graders can learn outdoors, really know their neighborhood park and trail, and begin to understand why our parks and trails are so important to our community.

Contact Meredith@anchorageparkfoundation.org to learn more.



Sunsetting Memorial Benches

The Anchorage Park Foundation will no longer be taking new requests for commemorative park benches. For years we have coordinated with the Anchorage Parks & Recreation Department to help families and friends honor loved ones and memorialize the connection to their favorite place in a park or trail. However, it has become too difficult to ensure timely and cost-effective installation and maintenance of memorial park benches. We know how powerful a connection to place can be and creating a legacy that lives on is healing. We continue to accept memorial donations as way of giving tribute to the parks and trails that are special to so many people.



"I can't wait to go geo caching with my family."

~ Student

"Outdoor School in Parks was an amazing experience. I enjoyed how the kids were able to try different things, learn about so much and interact with so many positive people within the Anchorage community. Overall 10 out of 10! Aarigaa!"

~ Alaska Native Cultural Charter School Teacher

Volunteer with Us

Are you interested in volunteering in Anchorage parks and trails? Every year, hundreds of community volunteers like you roll up their sleeves and contribute their talents and energy to improving neighborhood parks and trails. There are multiple opportunities to volunteer, and everyone is invited! From pulling targeted invasive weeds in parks, to volunteering at park opening events, or simply writing a letter to the editor, we have a way for you to volunteer to support our local parks. Email Diana@AnchorageParkFoundation.org to learn more about volunteer opportunities this summer.



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Dates to Remember

- March 15:** Ballots Mailed to Registered Voters
- March 22:** Celebrate Spring at Resolution Park
- March 23:** Phone Bank for Ballot Initiatives at APF
- March 25:** Democracy and donuts at Fairview Recreation Center
- March 31:** Registration Open for Moose Loop Trail Challenge
- April 1:** Election Event – Learn the Ballot Initiatives
- April 4:** Last Day to Vote on Park Bonds
- April 22:** Celebrate Trails at Ship Creek
- May 19:** Bike to Work Day
- June 1, 15, 29:** Concerts in the Parks
- June 17:** Anchorage Mayor's Marathon
- July 14, 21, 28:** Concerts in the Parks
- September 23-30:** Moose Loop Trail Challenge

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

Explore Anchorage Playgrounds



The playground map is available for a suggested donation of \$10.

