



# YEP Newsletter

## 06.02.2023

### The Latest at YEP

Youth Employment in Parks 2023 is off to a great start! For the first time, Senior Crew Members joined Crew Leaders for the first two days of training, which included driving safety, tree planting, and invasive plant removal. Crew Leaders and Senior Crew members removed invasive bird cherry and planted white spruce trees along Eastchester Nature Trail. YEP Crew Members began work on Thursday, learning about bear and moose safety, proper tool use, and trail safety. Crews began working on a training project at University Lake Park to put their new skills into action.







## Work Safety

- Always be bear and moose aware when working in parks.
- Don't wear earbuds: listen for wildlife and communication from others.

## Community Corner

Special thanks to the Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness for engaging our crews in thoughtful conversation this week about homelessness and housing in Anchorage.







# Employees of the Week



**Alex Thornton**

Alex is serving as the YEP Trail Contractor. He graduated from Iowa State University and has worked as a Civil Engineer for a variety of engineering firms, designing and overseeing construction projects for Municipalities, Counties, and DOTs throughout the country. Alex has experience in road design, development design and planning, water resources, floodplain management, stormwater master planning, trail design and maintenance, habitat restoration, construction management, and stream/river restoration. Community involvement and activities involving nature have always been a large part of how he enjoys spending his free time, and he is excited to advance the sustainable use of trails and parks in our community.



**Macklyn Hutchison**

Macklyn is the People and Parks Intern with Anchorage Park Foundation, helping with YEP behind-the-scenes efforts including communications and mapping projects. She graduated from Rice University in 2020 and worked as a data analyst for a climate advocacy organization for two years before returning to graduate school. She is currently a Master of Urban and Regional Planning student at the University of Minnesota and is passionate about engaging communities with local park spaces, ensuring widespread and equitable access to high quality parks, and improving trail networks for bike commuting and utility cycling. She is excited to be spending her second summer in Alaska.



# The Weeks Ahead

## Projects

Next week, we will begin our first project of the summer doing streambank restoration and habitat restoration at University Lake Park. We are excited to begin working outside to improve Anchorage's parks!

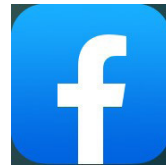






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