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# Anchorage Pushes Forward on Fish Creek Trail Connection

The Fish Creek Trail Connection is a long-awaited project linking Spenard, Midtown, and Turnagain neighborhoods to the Coastal Trail. Despite strong public backing since its inclusion in the 1997 Anchorage Areawide Trails Plan, recent delays have raised concerns. Anchorage voters have approved four municipal park bonds from 2021 to 2024, contributing \$450,000, while over \$1 million in local and federal funds have already been invested.

The Anchorage Assembly unanimously reaffirmed support for the project despite opposition from a handful of stakeholders. Officials are addressing these concerns to ensure the trail moves forward without unnecessary setbacks. Advocates stress the importance of safe pedestrian routes, especially in light of Anchorage's high pedestrian fatality rate.

The environmental report for the preferred trail route, chosen through extensive public engagement, will be finalized this spring and presented to the Alaska Railroad Board of Directors this fall. It balances cost-effectiveness, safety, and environmental considerations. Voter approval of the 2025 park bond provides the last match to leverage millions in federal dollars for construction. If the project is halted, federal funds may need to be repaid, jeopardizing years of planning.

With overwhelming community support, including over 900 petition signatures, residents urge leaders to finalize the preferred route and complete the connection. The public can continue to support the project by signing the petition at [anchorageparkfoundation.org](http://anchorageparkfoundation.org).





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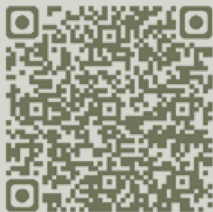
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*Business Manager*

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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.

SCAN TO DONATE



.....  
**Anchorage Park Foundation**  
3201 C Street, Suite 111  
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# Building and Supporting Community



Anchorage is going through some interesting times, making me reflect on community. We talk about building community through parks and trails at the Anchorage Park Foundation because parks and trails are projects and places, but it is building community that matters to me.

Building community means connecting schools with neighborhood groups, connecting outdoor educators with Youth Employment in Parks, partnering with municipal, state, and federal employees, connecting volunteers with funders, and bringing people together for cultural celebrations. Community means we care about each other and feel a sense of belonging in Anchorage.

We celebrate the 20-year legacy of building community this year through the Anchorage Park Foundation. We want to support our partners by lifting up our teachers, our foresters, our hydrologists, our wildlife biologists, our rangers & interpreters -- if you live in Anchorage and have a hand in taking care of our public spaces, here's to you. You make Anchorage our place.

At the Anchorage Park Foundation, we secured a five-year federal grant to build and support community through Youth Employment in Parks and Outdoor School. These funds are frozen, and our programs are in jeopardy. At the same time, our federal partners are experiencing significant layoffs. These are our neighbors. This is the time to pull together and actively look for ways to support each other. Expertise, dollars, supplies, and in-kind contributions of time and materials could all make the difference in 2025.

Vote for the park bonds to keep your voices heard. We know Anchorage is a trails town, and we can't stop investing in the places and spaces that bring us together. Our public lands not only attract tourists, a growing sector of our economy, but they also attract a talented workforce to our fair city. Our workforce and our people are worth the investment in our place.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Sincerely,

Beth Nordlund  
Executive Director

## Support Wayfinding on the Trail System!

*You can help make trails safer and more accessible*

- \$1,500 per sponsorship
- 5 year duration
- logo and name featured

Contact Diana Rhoades, 907-249-6652  
Diana@AnchorageParkFoundation.org





# Your Vote is Your Voice for Safe and Secure Parks and Trails

The **2025 Parks Bond (Proposition 3)** is a crucial investment in **Anchorage's identity, economy, and quality of life**. Our **11,000 acres of parkland, 226 parks, and 250+ trails** define our city and provide free, accessible spaces for recreation, community connection, and economic growth. However, maintaining and improving these public assets depends on **voter-approved bonds**.

Approving the 2025 Parks Bond ensures **local funding for 17 improvement projects** spread out across the municipality that improve the dock at Sand Lake, build the Fish Creek Trail to the Coastal Trail, improve parks along the Chester Creek Trail, upgrade the playground at Nunaka Valley North, and add lighting and amenities to downtown parks.

By passing **Proposition 3 in the 2025 regular municipal election**, we ensure our parks and trails remain **safe, well-maintained, and accessible**—preserving our reputation as a **trails town**, boosting property values, and strengthening local businesses. For **13 years in a row, voters have chosen to invest in our outdoor spaces**, costing less than **\$1 per month per taxpayer**.

Let's continue to build a healthier, stronger, and more vibrant Anchorage. **Vote YES on Props 3 and 9.**

## 2025 Park Bond Projects

- Centennial Campground Improvements
- Chester Creek Sports Complex
- East Delaney Park and Facility Improvements
- Eastchester Park
- Facility Safety Upgrades Annual Program
- Fairview Recreation Center Improvements
- Fish Creek to the Ocean Trail
- Goose Lake Park Improvements
- Kincaid Park
- Midtown Park Chalet
- Multi-Use Trails and Access Annual Program
- Nunaka Valley Park Improvements
- Peratrovich Park Improvements
- Maintenance & Pool Filtration System and Building Controls
- Sand Lake Dock
- Sitka Street Park Trail Rehabilitation and Connectivity
- Town Square Park Development

**Total Parks & Recreation Bond \$8.250 Million**

## Thank You, Parks & Recreation Crews!

We extend our deepest gratitude to the Anchorage Parks & Recreation Department Healthy Spaces crews for their hard work in keeping our parks and trails clean, safe, and accessible. These dedicated teams remove tons of trash, clean up illegal camps, and ensure our public spaces remain welcoming for all. Their efforts, funded by the alcohol tax, help ensure our public spaces are clean and safe for everyone to use.



**Please vote YES on Proposition 9 Chugach State Park Service Area Bond to improve Basher Trailhead**

This communication paid for by Anchorage Park Foundation/3201 C Street Suite 111 Anchorage, AK 99503/Beth Nordlund, Executive Director/1 Beth Nordlund/approved this message.





# Anchorage Parks: A Legacy of Community Investment



by Victor Mollozzi, founder of the Anchorage Park Foundation

I joined the Parks Commission about 25 years ago after there was neighborhood resistance in creating the Abbott Loop Community Park. In addition, to four Little League Fields, Abbott Loop Community Park has a soccer field, a concession building with restrooms, a scenic Community Pavilion/Picnic Shelter, a sledding hill, a playground area plus an area where people could park horse trailers for horse access into Far North Bicentennial Park.

Our parks and trails in Anchorage are our playgrounds and funding is necessary to maintain, improve and create new parks and trails. The park bonds, which are the major source of funding for parks and trails, were not getting approved by the Anchorage voters in the late 1990s and early 2000s.

Anchorage's park plan called for the creation of the Anchorage Park Foundation to work along with the Anchorage Park and Recreation Department to enhance and expand our parks and the trail system in Anchorage.

The Anchorage Park Foundation was created in 2005 to help support parks and trails and we have been advocating for the approval of Park bonds for the last 20 years.

Park Bonds have passed every year for the past 13 years! In addition, there has been a significant source of private funding into our park system because of the work of the Park Foundation. Park bonds are an investment in our community.

I encourage you to ask yourself these important questions as residents of Anchorage: what do I want for myself, my community, our young people and Anchorage's future? Then ask: what can I do to help expand and maintain Anchorage's parks trails, what is my commitment and what is my responsibility to my community.

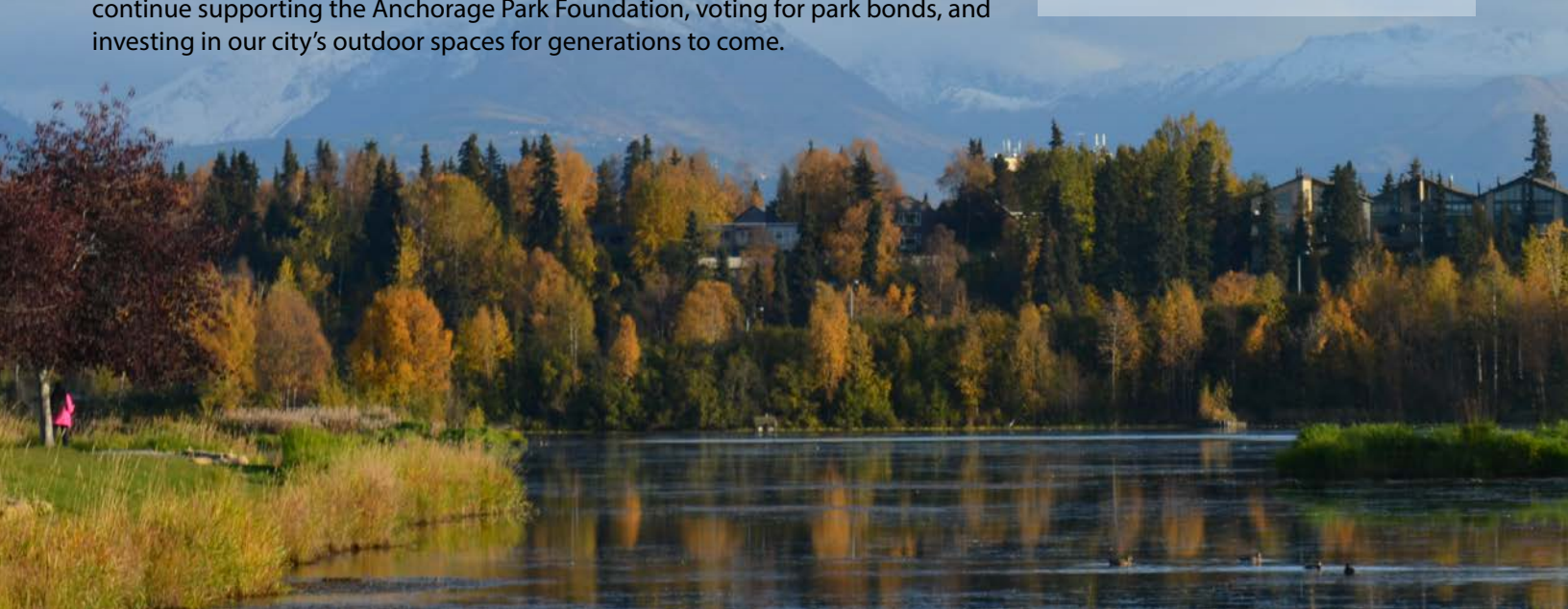
The future of Anchorage's parks and trails depends on all of us, I encourage you to continue supporting the Anchorage Park Foundation, voting for park bonds, and investing in our city's outdoor spaces for generations to come.

## Investing in our Environment for the Next Generation

In Anchorage, healthy trees and forests represent highly visible and meaningful infrastructure—lowering the cost of living, creating jobs, growing local economic opportunities, and supporting healthier, more prosperous communities. Investing in tree-related programs where residents live, work, and play is key to addressing local priorities and advancing a legacy of healthy living for future generations. Thank you to all our partners working to make a positive difference in Anchorage.



**Becca from Seeds of Change in the native tree germination station.**





# Leaving a Legacy for Anchorage's Parks and Trails

Legacy giving is a powerful way to ensure that Anchorage's parks and trails continue to thrive for future generations. By including the Anchorage Park Foundation in your estate plans, you can leave a lasting impact on the outdoor spaces that make our city special. Whether through a bequest, trust, or beneficiary designation, your gift helps us maintain and enhance our parks, trails, and community projects for years to come.

Recently, two generous estate gifts have strengthened our mission and ensured that we can continue our work well into the future. Because of the thoughtful planning of these donors, we can invest in critical advocacy for trail connections, youth programs, and community-led projects that make Anchorage a better place to live, play, and explore.

We are deeply grateful for these meaningful contributions and for all those who choose to leave a legacy with the Anchorage Park Foundation. If you are interested in learning more about how you can make a lasting difference through planned giving, please reach out to us—we would love to share how your generosity can shape the future of our parks and trails.

## Spring Planting for a Lasting Environmental Legacy

Planting native species in spring is a powerful way to leave a lasting environmental legacy by restoring ecosystems, supporting biodiversity, and fostering sustainability for future generations.

### To Plant (native):

- Paper birch
- Kenai birch
- Quaking aspen
- Feltleaf willow
- White spruce
- Saskatoon serviceberry
- Western mountain ash

### To Plant (non-native):

- Red maple
- Weeping birch
- Black ash
- Green ash
- Crabapple species
- Lilac species
- Siberian larch

### Not to Plant (invasive):

- European bird cherry (*Prunus padus*)
- Chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*)
- European mountain ash
- Siberian pea shrub



### Work with YEP this summer!

- Improve local parks and trails
- Paid education recreation days
- Learn natural resource management
- Gain job experience & mentorship
- Link skills to future careers

To become a YEP crew member you must be 16-19 years old resident of the Municipality of Anchorage

**Application closes March 31, 2025**



**Apply Now!**

[AnchorageParkFoundation.org](https://AnchorageParkFoundation.org)





## MEETING THE CHALLENGE IN ANCHORAGE: Challenge Grant Awardees

- The Anchorage Downtown Partnership, Northern Compass Group, and community members will redesign the parklet between Sunshine Plaza and Post Office Mall downtown.
  - Friends of former Senator Johnny Ellis will enhance the Johnny Ellis Rainbow Bridge Park with benches, bike racks, flower boxes, and a kiosk to honor his legacy.
  - The NSAA is enhancing safety at the Karl Eid Ski Jumping Complex at Hilltop Ski Area and Bike Park.
  - Anchorage Disc Golf Association (ADGA) will improve the playing surface of the free Girdwood Disk Golf course.
  - Catholic Social Services and Alaska Literacy Project will resurface the basketball court and add a mural at Williwaw Park.
  - Bike Anchorage will install bike racks at Russian Jack Soccer Field, Davis Park Ballfields, Lyn Ary Baseball, and Bancroft Soccer.
  - Friends of Castle Park will make a plan for new improvements to this aging park.
  - The Alaska Literacy Program will install multilingual neighborhood story signs throughout Russian Jack Springs Park, showcasing the diverse community members in Anchorage.
  - Alaska Trails will enhance safety and sustainability on trails in Far North Bicentennial Park with trail reroutes and new wayfinding signs. 🌱
  - Students from STREaM Academy will overhaul a muddy trail at Arnold Muldoon Park. 🌱
  - Scenic Foothills Community Council will build, restore, and maintain trails around Baxter Bog. 🌱
  - Chugach Mountain Bike Riders (CMBR) will build two small trail segments at Mirror Lake Park. 🌱
  - Government Hill Community Council will extend, connect, and maintain the East and West Bluff Trails. 🌱
  - Turnagain neighbors will build bridges and improve trails for year-round biking, skiing, walking, and rolling in Earthquake Park. 🌱
- 🌱 = Youth Employment in Parks Participation







## Welcome Andrea Rayt, Business Manager

Andrea is passionate about living a healthy lifestyle and has a deep love of the natural world so stepping into the role of Business Manager was a great fit. She served in various capacities in the non-profit sector for 17 years prior to joining the team. Working in areas from fundraising to accounting and administration, she has enjoyed experiencing many facets of non-profit organizations. Her home borders one of Anchorage's parks, and she enjoys the beauty of the park system daily. During the summer, Andrea enjoys putting her Master Gardener skills to use in her home garden and has a bit of an addiction to rock garden plants.

## 2025 Park of the Year

Scenic Park, nestled in east Anchorage, is a testament to community resilience, collaboration, and innovation. This little green space has a giant impact on the people who live nearby. It is the quintessential neighborhood park best reached by walking or biking.

Initially developed in the '70s and '80s, Scenic Park started as a simple trail to Scenic Park Elementary School and a basic playground. Despite setbacks, including a devastating act of vandalism in 2003 that destroyed play equipment, the neighborhood rallied to restore and enhance the park. Scenic Foothills Community Council spearheaded a 2013-15 renovation with funds from the Anchorage Park Foundation, the State of Alaska, and the Alaska Tennis Association. These endeavors revitalized the playground, resurfaced the tennis courts, and added picnic tables, benches, and trash cans.

A local group called the "Golden Girls" adopted the park, volunteering to keep it clean. Their sign and level of commitment have led to the park's nickname, "Golden Girls Park."

In 2022, Laurie Ford, Midnight Sun Pickleball, and others were eager to embrace the growing popularity of pickleball and received an Anchorage Park Foundation Challenge Grant to convert the tennis courts into dual-purpose courts. The pandemic and further vandalism caused a few setbacks, but volunteers persevered and completed the project in 2024.

Through the arduous work of neighborhood volunteers, Scenic Park has transformed into a vibrant hub. With its inclusive atmosphere, scenic views, and newly renovated facilities, it is wonderful to recognize this community treasure.



Scenic Park by Valisa Higman



**Visit our store for shirts, aprons, hats, and more featuring Scenic Park by Valisa Higman**

Proceeds directly benefit the Anchorage Park Foundation, which allows us to continue supporting the parks and trails you love.

**[bonfire.com/store/anchorage-park-foundation](https://bonfire.com/store/anchorage-park-foundation)**





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Buy Tickets to Support  
Local Parks & Trails.

**Tickets: \$15 at [beartooththeatre.net](http://beartooththeatre.net)**

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