

**Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development****Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Anchorage Park Foundation****Federal Tax ID: 412205907****Project Title:****Project Type: New Construction and Land Acquisition**

# Anchorage Park Foundation - Campbell Creek Estuary and Trail Improvements

**State Funding Requested: \$200,000****House District: Anchorage Areawide (16-32)**

One-Time Need

**Brief Project Description:**

Provide public access to the Campbell Creek Estuary with a trail, parking, and signs for this natural area.

**Funding Plan:**

Total Project Cost: \$500,000

Funding Already Secured: (\$300,000)

FY2013 State Funding Request: (\$200,000)

Project Deficit: \$0

*Funding Details:*

*The Great Land Trust spent \$7,715,000 on acquisition of this 60 acre parcel. They have raised more than half the funding for the development of this natural park space from individuals and the Rasmuson Foundation.*

**Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

After many years of planning and negotiating, the Great Land Trust purchased this 60 acre coastal property in November of 2010 and transferred the parcel to the Municipality of Anchorage. Both Great Land Trust and the State of Alaska retain a conservation easement on the entire property, ensuring that the parcel will be maintained as a natural area for the benefit of the citizens of Alaska. The property is managed by the Anchorage Parks Department.

The property is adjacent to a neighborhood and has no current parking. Both the Municipality of Anchorage and Great Land Trust, as well as the local community councils, would like to see a trailhead and parking area on the property to increase the accessibility of the property to the public. Legislative funds would help develop this land for a natural use area accessible to the public.

Plans include a Youth Employment in Parks soft-surface trailbuilding effort, parking, and a kiosk/signs.

**Project Timeline:**

Summer 2012 Youth Employment in Parks will build the trail, and a master plan will be developed for the land. Summer 2013 a parking lot will be built, and proper signage installed.

**Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:**

The Great Land Trust has endowment \$250,000; JL properties will provide refuse pick up for X years

**Grant Recipient Contact Information:**

Name:	Beth Nordlund
Title:	Executive Director
Address:	715 L Street, Suite 200 Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Phone Number:	(907)274-1003
Email:	Beth@AnchorageParkFoundation.org

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? ☒ Yes ☐ No

SAND LAKE COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
RESOLUTION 2011- 06  
Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area Infrastructure Funding

WHEREAS, The Sand Lake Community Council serves in an advisory capacity to the Administration and Departments of the Municipality of Anchorage; and

WHEREAS, Municipal Parks in the Sand Lake area are important for our community; and

WHEREAS, Great Land Trust, a local non-profit, has purchased a 60 acre parcel at the mouth of Campbell Creek which has been turned over to the Municipality as a Natural Resource Use Area, to be managed by the Parks Department; and

WHEREAS, Great Land Trust forged partnerships for the creation of the Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; NOAA Fisheries; the Army Corps of Engineers; AK Depts. of Natural Resources and Fish and Game; and Friends of the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge to preserve sensitive wildlife and habitat for the enjoyment of all; and

WHEREAS, the Campbell Creek estuary is part of two recognized Important Bird Areas (IBA), which provide essential habitats for birds, the Anchorage Coastal IBA and the Campbell Creek IBA; the Anchorage Coastal IBA is of continental significance; and the Campbell Creek IBA is of statewide significance; and

WHEREAS, protection of sensitive Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area habitats and the wildlife that depends upon it are important so they will continue to exist for the enjoyment of all; and

WHEREAS, to prevent degradation of the resource and disturbance and harassment of migratory birds such as breeding and brood-rearing sandhill cranes (between April and September), it is critical to educate the public about pertinent regulations to protect sensitive habitats and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, Access to Parks with sufficient parking, requisite educational and regulatory signage, trails and associated infrastructure greatly improves the asset to our community; and

WHEREAS, Great Land Trust is raising \$300,000 to do a Park Plan, design work and trail construction for the Campbell Creek Natural Area; and

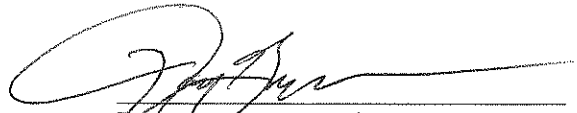
WHEREAS, The Anchorage Park Foundation is a non-profit which strives to build *Healthy Parks & Healthy People* by mobilizing public support and financial resources for Anchorage parks, trails, and recreation opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Great Land Trust, in partnership with the Anchorage Park Foundation is seeking \$200,000 in funding from the AK Legislature to assist in the building of the parking for the Campbell Creek Natural Area; and

WHEREAS, the trail construction will utilize the Youth Employment in Parks program, which provides jobs and leadership training to local youth in Anchorage;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sand Lake Community Council supports The Anchorage Park Foundation and Great Land Trust in their efforts to secure funding from the AK Legislature and others for the construction of parking, collaborative work with agencies and non-governmental organizations, signage, and trails for the Campbell Creek Natural Area;

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Sand Lake Community Council this 14th day of November, 2011.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Burgess', is written over a horizontal line.

Dan Burgess, President  
Sand Lake Community Council

## BAYSHORE/KLATT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area Infrastructure Funding

WHEREAS, The Bayshore/Klatt Community Council serves in an advisory capacity to the Administration and Departments of the Municipality of Anchorage; and

WHEREAS, Municipal Parks in the Bayshore/Klatt area are important for our community; and

WHEREAS, Great Land Trust, a local non-profit, has purchased a 60 acre parcel at the mouth of Campbell Creek which has been turned over to the Municipality as a Natural Resource Use Area, to be managed by the Parks Department; and

WHEREAS, Great Land Trust forged partnerships for the creation of the Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; NOAA Fisheries; the Army Corps of Engineers; AK Depts. of Natural Resources and Fish and Game; and Friends of the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge to preserve sensitive wildlife and habitat for the enjoyment of all; and

WHEREAS, the Campbell Creek estuary is part of two recognized Important Bird Areas (IBA), which provide essential habitats for birds, the Anchorage Coastal IBA and the Campbell Creek IBA; the Anchorage Coastal IBA is of continental significance; and the Campbell Creek IBA is of statewide significance; and

WHEREAS, protection of sensitive Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area habitats and the wildlife that depends upon it are important so they will continue to exist for the enjoyment of all; and

WHEREAS, to prevent degradation of the resource and disturbance and harassment of migratory birds such as breeding and brood-rearing sandhill cranes (between April and October), it is critical to educate the public about pertinent regulations to protect sensitive habitats and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, Access to Parks with sufficient parking, requisite educational and regulatory signage, trails and associated infrastructure greatly improves the asset to our community; and

WHEREAS, Great Land Trust is raising \$300,000 to do a Park Plan, design work and trail construction for the Campbell Creek Natural Area; and

WHEREAS, The Anchorage Park Foundation is a non-profit which strives to build *Healthy Parks & Healthy People* by mobilizing public support and financial resources for Anchorage parks, trails, and recreation opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Great Land Trust, in partnership with the Anchorage Park Foundation is seeking \$200,000 in funding from the AK Legislature to assist in the building of the parking for the Campbell Creek Natural Area; and

WHEREAS, the trail construction will utilize the Youth Employment in Parks program, which provides jobs and leadership training to local youth in Anchorage.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bayshore/Klatt Community Council supports The Anchorage Park Foundation and Great Land Trust in their efforts to secure funding from the AK Legislature and others for the construction of parking, collaborative work with agencies and non-governmental organizations, signage, and trails for the Campbell Creek Natural Area.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Bayshore/Klatt Community Council this 1st day of December, 2011.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Bob Hoffman', is written over a horizontal line.

Bob Hoffman, President  
Bayshore/Klatt Community Council



**FRIENDS OF  
THE  
ANCHORAGE  
COASTAL  
WILDLIFE  
REFUGE (FAR)**

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99522-0196

Phone: 907-248-2503  
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Beth Norlund, Anchorage Parks Foundation  
715 L Street, Suite 200  
Anchorage, AK 99501

John Rodda, Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department  
P.O. Box 196650  
Anchorage, AK 99519-6650  
\*all sent by email

Subject: FAR's support for SLCC Resolution for Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area AK  
Legislative funding

25 November 2011

Dear Ms. Norlund, Mr. Rodda and whom it may concern:

Friends of the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge (FAR) writes to support the attached Sand Lake Community Council Resolution to provide money for development of a parking lot and associated amenities in the vicinity of the newly-acquired Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area (CCENA). (Bayshore/Klatt Community Council is considering the same resolution.) Most of this Natural Area is rich wildlife habitat contiguous with the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge (ACWR). An abundance of wildlife graces this unique wetland area. This includes large flocks of annually migrating geese, ducks, shorebirds, and many species of birds attempting to nest and raise broods in the spring and summer months. The CCENA hosts 1 of the approximately 10 to 15 bonded pairs of sandhill cranes that breed in the ACWR.

The proximity of Alaska's largest city to the Campbell Creek Estuary (and ACWR) are ideal places for recreation that includes a focus on wildlife while simultaneously appreciating the wildlife's vulnerable nature. Unfortunately, nesting sandhill cranes in and around the Campbell Creek Estuary currently have low survivorship, in part because of unaware visitors and loose dogs that harass chicks and cause nest abandonment. People are sometimes unaware when they have disturbed sensitive wildlife, and effects are cumulative. Other issues that can be ameliorated by good planning and clear signage are avoiding haphazard, uninformed access that allows harassment of migrating flocks, illegal fires, and trash.

Given both the vulnerabilities and the new and exciting opportunities for planned, informed recreational access in the Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area, FAR supports Legislative funding for combined parking/visitor facilities. In order to conserve sensitive wildlife and habitat for the enjoyment of all, we recommend the following:

- That a small parking lot be unpaved and accommodate a maximum of 15 vehicles;
- That well-planned and appropriately placed informational signage and associated design features that, at a minimum, explain
  - the vulnerable nature of the habitat and wildlife,
  - remind visitors to stay on trails, and
  - remind them of legal responsibilities to not allow pets off-leash or near wildlife.

- remind them of legal responsibilities to not allow pets off-leash or near wildlife.
- Also, appropriate design features should be included (for example, fencing, plantings, facility positioning) that discourage off-trail access.

FAR is happy to provide this letter of support. We also are pleased to work with the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department and their contractor(s); Great Land Trust; appropriate agencies and other park stewards to develop signage and other appropriate facility design. FAR was honored to be an active contributor to the Potter Marsh Master Plan and looks forward to working with all who will be involved with the Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area Parks Plan. FAR is unique in our knowledge of the Campbell Creek estuary by virtue of the expertise of our members and the time we devote to stewardship of the ACWR, including the wildlife surveys we conduct. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

*Barbara Švarný Carlson*

Barbara Švarný Carlson  
President and Executive Director

cc: Dan Sullivan, Mayor, Municipality of Anchorage  
Senator Lesil McGuire, Alaska Legislature  
Representative Mia Costello, Alaska Legislature  
Representative Craig Johnson, Alaska Legislature  
Phil Shephard, Great Land Trust  
Joe Meehan, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Lands and Refuge Program Coordinator  
Jessy Coltrane, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, ACWR Manager  
Geoff Haskett, United States Fish and Wildlife Service  
Bob Hoffman, Bayshore/Klatt Community Council President  
Dan Burgess, Sand Lake Community Council  
Harriet Drummond, Anchorage Assembly  
Ernie Hall, Anchorage Assembly

*FAR is a 501 (c3) non-profit organization of citizens and professionals whose mission is to preserve the integrity and biological diversity of the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge.*



# MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE



Parks and Recreation Department

Phone: 907-343-4562

*Mayor Dan Sullivan*

January 31, 2012

Alaska State Legislature-

The Municipality of Anchorage Parks & Recreation Department, the Assembly, and the Mayor have pledged their support for the projects listed below. While you will find these projects listed in the Municipality of Anchorage 2012 State Legislative Program Booklet, please note the Anchorage Park Foundation is requesting the funds and will be the primary grant recipient.

The Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department works closely with the Anchorage Park Foundation in our efforts to improve and maintain our park assets with volunteers, private and public funding.

As an Ex-Officio Board Member to the Anchorage Park Foundation, I am informed about all policies and programs. I support each project listed, and urge your continued support sustaining the world class recreation opportunities in Anchorage.

Sincerely,



John Rodda, Parks and Recreation Director

## **NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS 2012 LEGISLATIVE REQUESTS**

These Neighborhood Parks have been identified for repair rehabilitation by neighbors during the 2011 Parks Report Card process. APF plans to work with individual legislators and their constituents to acquire private and public funding and volunteer support for these fix-its.

- Scenic Park, Muldoon Neighborhood Park Repair and Youth Employment in Parks Trail Work TPS, 57897  
APF Ask: \$83,000
- Storck Park, Rabbit Creek/Bear Valley Neighborhood Park Renovation TPS 57898  
APF Ask: \$200,000
- Forsythe Park, O'Malley TPS 57989  
APF Ask: \$180,000
- Arctic Benson Park, East Spenard Park Safety Upgrades TPS 57991  
APF Ask: \$83,000
- Kiwanis Fish Creek Park, Spenard TPS 57993  
APF Ask: \$160,000
- Campbell Park, Replace Aging Playground Equipment, TPS 57821  
APF Ask: \$200,000
- Fairbanks Park, Replace Unsafe Toddler Playground Equipment, Fairview TPS 57884  
APF Ask: \$50,000
- Fairview Lions Park, Replace Aging Playground Equipment, Fairview TPS 57885  
APF Ask: \$200,000

## **ANCHORAGE PARKS & TRAILS 2012 LEGISLATIVE REQUESTS**

- Davis Park Athletic Field Upgrades with Polar Little League, Mountain View TPS 56090  
APF Ask: \$500,000
- Elderberry Park Rehabilitation & Safety Upgrades, Downtown TPS 57899  
APF Ask: \$300,000
- NE Anchorage Skate Park, TPS 57997  
APF Ask: \$250,000
- Rovers Run Trail Reroute, Far North Bicentennial Park TPS 57975  
APF Ask: \$75,000
- Ruth Arcand Park, Equestrian Trail Rehabilitation with Youth Employment in Parks TPS 57996  
APF Ask: \$25,000
- Coastal Trail Surface and Safety Improvements, TPS 57896  
APF Ask: \$1,000,000
- Mulchahy Rinks Reconstruction at Chester Creek Sports Complex, TPS 55319  
APF Ask: \$250,000
- Downtown Streetscapes, TPS 55368  
APF Ask \$310,000
- Campbell Creek Estuary, Build Trail and Trailhead for Public Access with Youth Employment in Parks TPS 56998  
APF Ask: \$200,000

## **ADDITIONAL FUNDING REQUEST FOR PLAYGROUND PROJECT**

The North Russian Jack Springs Park project was not identified for a legislative proposal until after the Assembly voted on their 2012 State Legislative Program. This project has had ample community involvement, and Phase I of construction is planned for 2012. The APF requests \$300,000 to complete the project as an iconic Anchorage play area.