

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Anchorage Park Foundation****Federal Tax ID: 41-2205907****Project Title:****Project Type:** Remodel, Reconstruction and Upgrades

Anchorage Park Foundation - Arctic Benson Park and East Spenard Neighborhood Park Safety Upgrades

State Funding Requested: \$83,000**House District:** Anchorage Areawide (16-32)

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

East Spenard Neighbors have identified significant repair to Arctic Benson Park in the 2011 Park Report Card Process

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost: \$123,000

Funding Already Secured: (\$0)

FY2013 State Funding Request: (\$83,000)

Project Deficit: \$40,000

*Funding Details:**If this project is funded by the legislature, APF will ask the Rasmuson Foundation to fund \$40,000 for this 2013 Clean & Green project***Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

Neighbors of Arctic Benson Park gave the park an F on the Park Report Card, reporting unsafe activities contributing to the park's decline. Community members are advocating for installing lighting, as well as clearing low limbs and brush from green areas in order to improve visibility, creating a safer park environment.

This park is the only entertainment the many economically challenged children in the area enjoy. The addition of new and safe play equipment and an enclosed dog area would attract many more people to the area -- the most effective way to reclaim the park.

In the Summer of 2013, The Anchorage Park Foundation and Parks & Recreation Department will work with parks volunteers to complete neighborhood park fix-its in Arctic Benson Park. Attached is a proposal originally submitted by the Mid Town Community Council to APF.

Project Timeline:

Summer 2013

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

Municipality of Anchorage

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name:	Beth Nordlund
Title:	Executive Director
Address:	715 L Street Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Phone Number:	(907)274-1004
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

Anchorage Park Foundation

Since 2004, the Anchorage Park Foundation has invested more than \$18 million in Anchorage parks, trails and recreation programs. Join us this summer to revitalize parks in your district.

Volunteers



Build Stronger Neighborhoods



Improve Parks



And Build a Stronger Anchorage



2012

CAPIS Project
Number

57991

Legislative District: 25M

Anchorage Park Foundation

Anchorage has 10,946 acres of municipal parkland, 223 parks, and over 250 miles of trails and greenbelts linking neighborhoods with natural spaces.

The Anchorage Park Foundation partners with the Parks & Recreation Department to promote Healthy Parks and Healthy People in the Anchorage community. Together, we revitalize the safety, function, and appearance of Anchorage parks and the neighborhoods that surround them.

The Anchorage Park Foundation mobilizes public support and financial resources for Anchorage parks, trails, and recreation opportunities. Do you have a vision for parks, trails, open spaces and recreation in Anchorage? Consider the Anchorage Park Foundation your opportunity to fund community projects through public-private partnerships.

Tax ID Number: 41-2205907

907.274.1004



Anchorage Park Foundation

Arctic Benson Park Safety Upgrades

Park Report Card Grade: F

The Anchorage Park Foundation and the Municipality of Anchorage Parks & Recreation Department are working together to address need for "fix-its" in small under-served neighborhood parks.

The **Anchorage Parks Report Card** creates a comprehensive picture of the condition of our neighborhood parks, reflecting the Anchorage community's opinions, preferences and ideas. In Fall 2011, Anchorage community volunteers evaluated 51 neighborhood parks based on 6 different settings. Parks were surveyed based on cleanliness, safety, structure, appearance, and function. Anchorage Parks and Recreation staff will use this information to strategically employ its funding and volunteer resources to better meet the needs of the Anchorage community.

In 2011, Arctic Benson Park recieved an F on it's Report Card. Concerned neighbors reported unsafe activities occurring in Arctic Benson Park, contributing to its decline. Community members identified the need for installing lighting, as well as clearing low limbs and brush from green areas in order to improve visibility, creating a safer park environment. This park is the only entertainment the many economically challenged children in the area can enjoy. The addition of lots of great, new, play equipment and an enclosed dog area would attract many more people to the area and is believed to be the most effective way to reclaim the park.

In the Summer of 2013, the Anchorage Park Foundation and Parks & Recreation Department will work with parks volunteers to complete neighborhood park fix-its in Arctic Benson Park. We invite the Alaska State Legislature to join us in investing in the future of Arctic Benson Park and the East Spenard community. **The Anchorage Park Foundation will match legislative investment in neighborhood park fix-its with volunteer involvement and generous support from the Rasmuson Foundation's Anchorage Parks Initiative.**



www.AnchorageParkFoundation.org

www.AnchorageParkFoundation.org



Arctic Benson Park Safety Upgrades

Project Cost Estimate

Project Budget	Cost
Landscaping & Pruning	\$30,000
Repair Playground	\$40,000
Lighting for Playground/Park	\$13,000
Install Fence Between Arctic Blvd & Park	\$40,000
TOTAL	\$123,000

2012 Request

State Funding Request	\$83,000
Funding Left to Raise	\$40,000

*If funding from the AK Legislature is secured for this project, the Anchorage Park Foundation will ask the Rasmuson Foundation for \$40,000

Total Project Budget:	\$123,000
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Arctic Benson Park

Trying to serve Midtown residents,
business owners, tourists and
families, but we need your help!

Not Safe

People come to the park to drink, fight, sleep, sell drugs and those activities discourage other park goers and make Midtown look sketchy to tourists and businesses. The group to the right grew to 14 and became violent.



Alcohol, Prostitution & Drugs

People come to the park to drink, fight and commit other illegal activities. With a beer in their hands, they like to sit and watch the playground, which makes the children uncomfortable. Many children walk to the park without parental supervision.



Neglect Attracts Problems

Light plugs are broken, flower beds unused, bike rack worn, play equipment outdated and meager, nothing else at the park to attract and serve the community which is why a dog park has been requested. The photo bottom right shows a mother with her two children, two blocks from a park that she says she doesn't feel safe taking her kids. Notice the dirty puddle in the parking lot where they play



Children With No Options

This park is the only entertainment the many economically challenged children in the area can enjoy. Even with the limited resources and dangers they still come. The addition of lots of great, new, play equipment and an enclosed dog area would attract many more people to the area and is the best way, according to law enforcement, to reclaim the park.



Turn secluded into included

The memorial below is to honor a prostitute who was murdered then hung from a tree in the park. We are proposing that the treed area, which is very beautiful, be retained, but enclosed by a fence, thus making that area useful as a dog park. Doing so would prevent crime and provide a very useful amenity for the many dog owners (many of whom are elderly) who live in the area. By bringing more amenities to the park, we attract more people thus discouraging crime. The park location also makes it ideal for the many people who work in the area. It is a great location. It just needs some care.



Your Help Will Make A Huge Difference

With the help from the Parks Foundation, local businesses, the Midtown Community Council and other invested entities, this park can become a real treasure for the people of Anchorage. This Midtown park is close to major businesses, hotels/hostels, restaurants (4-star!), and our community wants it back, but we need your help!



Arctic Benson Park Community Supporters



Mattress Ranch



**Bond, Stephens, & Johnson, Inc.
Commercial Real Estate Services**



Park neighbors



Last Frontier Dive Shop

Other supporters not pictured include:

- CH2M Hill
- Midtown Community Council

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.