



THE ANCHORAGE PARKS REPORT CARD

COMMUNITY MEMBERS ASSESS THEIR NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS



2008



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Introduction



In September 2008, the Anchorage Parks & Recreation Department (APRD) mobilized over 1000 volunteers to evaluate 53 Anchorage neighborhood parks using the first annual Anchorage Parks Report Card. Volunteers completed over 700 Report Cards. The Anchorage Parks Report Card provides quantitative performance data on neighborhood parks throughout the five park districts in Anchorage, within key service areas or settings, like playgrounds, active recreation areas, park entrances, passive recreation areas including picnic areas and pathways.

The Report Card process has four goals:

1. To involve the community in the assessment process and provide a key vehicle for communication between APRD and the public.
2. To provide communities with an assessment of neighborhood park performance from year to year against a defined minimum level of service. This easily accessible online information system helps communities advocate for improved services in their neighborhood parks and creates accountability for providing both the defined level of service as well as needed improvements for every park throughout the five park districts.
3. To encourage debate among communities, public agencies, and advocates about how best to improve and maintain neighborhood parks in need. The Report Card identifies those parks in greatest need, but more importantly, the Report Card indicates how needs may be addressed. By highlighting both high and low performing parks, as well as systemic issues, best practices can be identified and implemented in select parks citywide.
4. To encourage a more efficient distribution of limited resources toward Anchorage parks and playgrounds that are most "in need" and assist in developing strategies for additional funding sources.

The results (further detailed on page 10 of this report) indicate that overall, Anchorage neighborhood parks scored a C- (71%), or slightly below average, when graded by members of the Anchorage public. Playgrounds, on average, received a slightly higher 71.9% grade. Participants also completed a "Fix It List" for each park, listing over 2,000 items such as broken benches, peeling paint, inadequate trash cans, dead trees, weeds in flowerbeds and graffiti on playground equipment. This list will be used to develop the summer 2009 construction plan, combining funds from taxpayers and the Anchorage Park Foundation with APRD staff work and volunteer labor to make visible and needed improvements in neighborhood parks.

Purpose & Need



The Anchorage Parks & Recreation Department (APRD) is responsible for providing excellent upkeep and maintenance of Anchorage's **11,000 acres of parkland**, spread throughout the city in **223 diverse parks** and over a **hundred miles of greenbelt trails**. APRD has management authority over \$750 million of assets (valued at replacement cost) with an estimated \$275 million in deficiencies or repairs, which indicates that the system is in serious decline and in need of immediate repairs to extend the life of valuable recreation facilities.

In order to spend public and private funds effectively to close this gap, the APRD partners with the Anchorage Park Foundation (APF) to engage park user groups and the community to establish project priorities. Furthermore, the APRD engages volunteer groups and community supporters for assistance in planning and completing park projects that meet the needs of the Anchorage community.

One of the key obstacles the APRD faces to date is the lack of quantifiable data on park assets and conditions, data that are necessary to implement an effective construction and management program. While the department has a working knowledge of where parks are located and the number of features in each park, such as 110 athletic fields and 83 playgrounds, APRD staff often do not know when a piece of equipment is in need of immediate repairs until a community member files a complaint. This is not an efficient way to manage valuable land and assets or provide needed services to the Anchorage community.

Thanks to a generous donation from the Anchorage Park Foundation through the Rasmuson Foundation's Clean & Green Grant, the APRD is working with the Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Lands at Indiana University and community groups to create a comprehensive inventory and assessment of our park assets through the

Anchorage Parks Report Card. This Report Card process utilizes community volunteers to create a comprehensive picture of the park system, reflecting the Anchorage community's opinions, preferences and ideas with regard to its neighborhood parks. The APRD will use this information to strategically employ its funding and volunteer resources to better meet the needs of the Anchorage community.

In September 2008, the APRD mobilized community leaders and volunteers to evaluate parks using five measures: cleanliness, safety, structure, functionality and appearance. APRD staff organized "Report Card" events, where neighborhood participants came together to grade their neighborhood parks and develop "Fix It Lists" for future park projects and action. To prepare for this project, APRD staff and volunteers were trained to identify discrete settings within neighborhood parks and to use examples to evaluate the condition of different aspects of the park, from pathways to landscaping.

The APRD has now compiled this information into a comprehensive, community-based Report Card. The Report Card will assist the APRD in understanding what needs are being met by Anchorage parks and how public and private funds can best be used to meet the needs of the Anchorage community. The APRD will further use the Report Card to communicate the state of Anchorage Parks to user groups, community members and the organizations that fund improvements in the Parks. Ultimately, the APRD will better meet the needs of the Anchorage community by using this information to focus resources on community-identified and supported projects.



The Anchorage Parks Report Cards:

Fulfilling the Parks & Recreation Departments Mission & Goals

The Anchorage Parks Report Card will assist the Parks & Recreation Department in employing its core strategies. ***The eight Core Strategies*** were established through extensive public involvement between 2003 and 2006 and are included in the Anchorage Park Plan, adopted by the Anchorage Assembly in 2006.

1

The Report Card project is improving maintenance and stewardship by identifying and addressing needed repairs.

2

The Report Card project is building partnerships between the APRD and private citizens and organizations to utilize volunteers and private funding sources.

3

The Report Card project is building community by bringing people together in public spaces.

4

The Report Card project is promoting the local economy by improving parks and improving the quality of life.

5

The Report Card project is creating a balanced portfolio of services to serve a diverse community by harvesting community input and tailoring park projects accordingly.

6

The Report Card project is improving access to parks and connections between parks by identifying need connection projects.

7





The Report Card project is engaging the community in the stewardship of natural resources through the evaluation of green spaces.

8

The Report Card project is creating a strong parks and recreation organization by introducing staff to new skills, such as communication and event planning, and improving the staff's interactions with community members.

Park Settings

Identifying separate settings within public parks is one way of creating standards that can be used to compare all parks. Settings refer to the basic building blocks of public parks, such as playgrounds, recreation areas or pathways. Settings are the major components the public might expect to find in the various public areas that they visit. Not all parks are made up of the same settings. These settings vary depending on the intended use and function of the park. A setting is made up of several different elements, and each setting should be clearly recognizable by the general public. The following list of settings provides a broad classification with which to evaluate public parks.

| Setting | Description | Setting | Description |
|--------------------------------|--|-------------|--|
| Outer Park Edges & Entry |  This includes all portions of the entrances and edges of parks. The first major features encountered by park visitors are the public parking lots, signage and entryways welcoming visitors and setting the tone for the park experience. | Playgrounds |  This includes all children's play areas, from tot lots to elementary school age playgrounds, swings and other play equipment. Furthermore, playgrounds include surface areas, edging, and immediate supervision areas as well as parent seating and gathering areas. |
| Active Recreation Areas |  This includes major athletic fields such as soccer, baseball and softball fields (both natural and artificial turf), as well as hard surface courts such as tennis, basketball, skate parks, and other play areas intended for physical and active use by individuals or large groups in formal activities or events. | Pathways |  This includes all pedestrian connections: paved bike trails, sidewalks, nature trails and soft surface pathways. It also includes bridges and tunnels that are part of a larger trail system. |
| Passive Recreation Areas |  This includes informal picnic grounds, open play areas, large lawns for mixed use, outdoor classrooms, community gardens and other areas for individual or groups to engage in unstructured play and community events. | Green Space |  This includes both formal landscapes and natural areas that form the larger open spaces of parks and greenbelts. Formal landscapes may include ornamental trees, shrubs, and flower-beds that are not native to the area and have been planted as part of the overall park design. |

Methodology

In 2008, the APRD kicked off the Report Card process by working with community volunteers to conduct Report Card audits in Neighborhood Parks. Neighborhood parks are defined as close-to-home recreation areas that serve one neighborhood as a focal point for residents and include areas for informal play and family and community building.

In order to grade parks and use the information to compare parks to one another, they were divided into settings. Settings are the major components that the public might expect to find in the various areas that they visit. Not all parks have the same settings, but these vary depending on the intended use and function of the park.



Park Settings

The following settings provide a broad classification by which to evaluate public parks
(See Park Setting Diagram on page 5):

Outer Park Edges and Entry – This includes signage, paved areas, orientation and gateways into the park. Where parks have roadways, it should include paved driveways as well as formal or informal landscape plantings.



Active Recreation Areas – These areas include major athletic fields such as soccer, baseball and softball fields, both natural and artificial turf, as well as hard surface courts such as tennis, basketball, skate parks, and play areas intended for physical and active use by individuals or large groups in formal activities or events.



Passive Recreation Areas – These areas include informal picnic grounds, open play areas, large lawns for mixed use, outdoor classrooms, community gardens and other areas for individual or groups to engage in informal play and community events.

Playgrounds – This includes all children’s play areas from tot lots to elementary school age playgrounds, swings and other play apparatus. It includes surface areas, edging, and immediate supervision areas as well as parent seating and gathering areas.



Pathways – This includes all pedestrian connections including paved bike trails, sidewalks, nature trails and soft surface pathways in a park. It also includes bridges and tunnels that are part of a larger trail system.



Green Space – This includes both formal landscapes and natural areas that form the larger open spaces of parks and greenbelts. Formal landscapes may include ornamental trees, shrubs, flowerbeds, buffer landscapes, focal point landscapes and specialty plantings designed for aesthetic consideration only. Natural Areas may include all native areas such as grasslands, meadows, forest, streams, lakes, and wetlands that are part of the park natural systems.





Evaluation Criteria

Each of the settings was evaluated using five criteria:

- **Cleanliness (Clean and Green)**

Is there litter, glass, graffiti, weeds or other contamination present?

- **Safety (Safe and Secure)**

Do visitors feel safe in the park? Is the park free of blind spots and hidden areas that should be avoided? Are the equipment and facilities in good condition and posing no danger to users?

- **Structure**

Are structures such as play equipment, paved surfaces, benches, fences, shelters, and surfacing usable? Is there any structural deterioration?

- **Functionality**

Is the facility being used as intended? If not, what are some of the other uses and are they appropriate? Is the facility over-used and showing signs of wear?

- **Appearance**

Is the park attractive overall?

Participants scored each criterion within each setting using the "Harvey Balls" system, which enables the participant to fill in a circle divided into quarters to indicate the degree to which the area meets standards.

For example: ○ ◐ ◑ ◒ ◓

Grading the Park

After a park was evaluated by volunteers, it was given both an overall grade and a grade by setting. The overall grade was established using weighted scoring that assigns a higher weight to safety, cleanliness and appearance than it does to structure and functionality.

| Area | Point Weight |
|---------------|--------------|
| Safety | 25 |
| Functionality | 10 |
| Cleanliness | 25 |
| Structure | 15 |
| Appearance | 25 |

The numerical scores were then converted to a final letter grade using the table below.

| Raw Numerical Score | Letter |
|---------------------|--------|
| Grade | |
| 97-100 | A+ |
| 93-96 | A |
| 90-92 | A- |
| 87-89 | B+ |
| 83-86 | B |
| 80-82 | B- |
| 77-79 | C+ |
| 73-76 | C |
| 70-72 | C- |
| 60-69 | D |
| 59 and below | F |

Survey Population

In developing the Report Card, the APRD and APF focused on neighborhood parks. These are parks that range in size from less than 1 acre to up to 20 acres each. Neighborhood parks are intended to be close to home and “walkable” for most residents. The Anchorage Bowl Park Plan recommends that for most urban areas there is a neighborhood park within a 15 minute walk of home (1/4 mile). There are over 85 neighborhood parks that meet these criteria, but some lack development and they were not included in the initial survey.

Participants

Report Card events were conducted throughout Anchorage in September 2008. Close to 1000 members of the Anchorage community, from schoolchildren to seniors, attended more than 50 community events and participated in Report Card evaluations.

Community members were notified by flyers left at their residences, community centers and websites, as well as by an editorial in the Anchorage Daily News. If they were unable or uninterested in participating in a community event, people could also participate by downloading the report card form from the Anchorage Park Foundation website and filling one out on their own.



Findings



The Report Card shows that the varying quality of care results in too many parks receiving below average or failing grades. The purpose and usefulness of the Report Card is in its reflection of community input. The community members who participated in this process have indicated which features need the most attention to provide quality and safe recreation experiences. The outcome of the Report Card process will be the creation of a list of volunteer projects, as many of the project needs identified are straightforward tasks that can be accomplished without extensive training or experience. Ultimately, the APRD is eager to ensure that departmental projects and priorities match the needs and expectations of the community. The Report Card will assist APRD staff in developing projects that meet those needs. The following trends were identified during the Report Card process:

- **Anchorage Neighborhood Parks are Below Average**

The Anchorage Parks Report Card process determined that the average neighborhood park recorded was a 71.4%, (C-) passing score in most schools, but below average. Where there were active recreation areas, they scored a 68.6%, or a high D. The green space areas earned the highest score: a 73.7% (C+). Participants graded the outer park edge and entry areas a 69.98% score, verging on a D+. Other C- areas included passive recreation areas at 71.9% a C-, pathways at 72.5% a C- and playgrounds at 71.9% a C-.

What do these results say? Anchorage parks are below average. They are functional and meet minimum level of expectations from the community, but they do not live up to their potential as community builders or catalysts for economic growth. Anchorage active recreation areas, such as ball fields and hard-surface courts, are even less successful and require more attention to meet community expectations.

Fortunately, park safety was not an issue in most parks. The APRD staff has focused limited resources on ensuring public safety in Anchorage parks, but parks are not maintained at a level that satisfies community wishes.

• Quality of Parks Varies by Park District

The Anchorage Parks Report Card has also identified some of the most problem-filled parks in Anchorage. Parks such as Duldida Park and William B. Lyons Park in Mountain View, Minnesota Park in Spenard, and Standish and Little Dipper Parks in Northeast Anchorage have problems with vandalism, drinking and drug use in the park, graffiti, broken equipment, litter and inadequate maintenance.

Of the 21 parks scoring below 70 points, nine are in the Northeast park district. Furthermore, after removing outlier scores, parks in the Assembly district 4, in the Northeast, have the lowest average score of all the Assembly districts.

• All Parks Need Improvement

The most important outcomes of this project are increased public involvement and input into the park planning process and the "Fix It List", which the APRD will use to strategically employ volunteer funding and resources to improve the parks and recreation system.

Even a B park often has several prominent "fix it" items. For example, Johns Park, a park in the Oceanview area, received an overall score of 85% a B. Nonetheless, community members identified graffiti on playground equipment, a broken swing and a lack of trash receptacles. Many of these projects (graffiti removal, installation of trash receptacles) are tasks that can be accomplished by volunteers with training and supervision from APRD staff. As the Report Card process has identified these "Fix Its", it will enable the APRD to mobilize volunteers to address these needs. With these results, community members will also have information to use to advocate in an informed way with their policymakers or private funders for possible park projects.

Please see the Appendices for additional results and park district profiles. Park profiles are available on the Anchorage Park Foundation website, at www.AnchorageParkFoundation.org/projects/ReportCard.htm.

• Highest and Lowest Performing Parks Citywide

Of the highest performing parks in the 2008 Report Card survey, 6 are from the Northeast Park District while 2 each are from the Southwest and Northeast Park Districts. None of the parks in the Central or Southeast Park District scored in the top 10.

Of the 10 lowest performers in the Report Card survey 4 are from the Northeast District, 3 from the Northwest District, 2 from the Southwest District and 1 from the Central District with none from the Southeast District. Of the 22 parks scoring below 70 points, nine are located in the Northeast Park District.

• Highest Performing 10 Parks

| | | | |
|------------------------------|----|-------|----|
| Cheney Lake Park | NE | 96.2 | A |
| David Green Memorial Park | NE | 91.2 | A- |
| Frontierland Park | NW | 89.62 | B+ |
| Richardson Vista Park | NW | 87.2 | B+ |
| Suzan Nightingale McKay Park | NW | 86.87 | B |
| Cope Street Park | NW | 86 | B |
| Johns Park | SW | 85.24 | B |
| Didlika Park | NW | 84.87 | B |
| Brown's Point | NW | 81.42 | B- |
| Oceanview Park | SW | 81.4 | B- |

• Lowest Performing 10 Parks

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|----|-------|---|
| Meadow Park | CE | 48.75 | F |
| Little Dipper Park | NE | 50.12 | F |
| Standish Park | NE | 50.22 | F |
| Minnesota Park | NW | 50.51 | F |
| Al Miller Park | NW | 52.33 | F |
| Duldida Park | NE | 53.45 | F |
| Wilson Street Park | NW | 53.56 | F |
| Kanchee Park | NE | 57.33 | F |
| Sand Lake Park | SW | 62.09 | D |
| Pamela Joy Lowry Memorial Park | SW | 62.53 | D |



Performance by Setting

Park Settings were used for the Report Card process because these are the most common and recognizable features bringing the community into parks. Average scores for each of the six park settings were close to the average neighborhood park score of 71.4% (C-). The average scores for active recreation areas was a 68.6%, or a high D. The green spaces did better, earning a 73.7% score which is a C. The outer park edge and entry area earned a less impressive 69.98% (D) score. Passive recreation areas scored a 71.9% a C- in the average park, pathways scored a 72.5% (C-) and playgrounds earned a 71.9% (C-).

Park Entry Areas

These areas include parking lots, entry signs and perimeter landscape buffering and scored an average of 69.9% or a D+ grade. Many of the city park parking lots have not been resurfaced and lack striping for parking places or adequate marking for Handicapped Accessible parking spaces. Park signs have not been maintained and are in need of repairs or replacements. Park edges, including bollards and fences, are broken or missing altogether, allowing vandals to drive into some parks.

Active Recreation Areas

This area includes active sports fields as well as hard surface courts for tennis, basketball and skating. The average score for these areas was a 69.6% or a D+. Like parking lots, many of these asphalt surfaces have not had adequate maintenance over the years and have cracks in asphalt and loss of markings. Also, some courts are lacking the proper nets or goals. Proper maintenance should include seal coating every 5 to 6 years which has not happened.



Passive Recreation Areas

These are the open lawns, picnic grounds, shelters and open play areas that serve the general public from kite flying to family picnics. They had an average score of 71.9% or C-. Many of the lawn areas were in need of reseeding and repair, and tables, benches and grills need resurfacing, graffiti removal and replacement.

Playgrounds

Children's play areas are one of the primary purposes of neighborhood parks and received the highest priority for upkeep and maintenance. The average score for playgrounds was 71.9% or a C-, indicating the Anchorage community's dissatisfaction with the condition of playgrounds. Concerns ranged from minor equipment repair to need for completely new playground equipment and more fun play areas.

Pathways

Pathways and trails had a slightly higher than average score of 72.5%, which is a C grade. Nonetheless, many areas need to be repaved or resurfaced to ensure access to all areas of Anchorage parks. Dirt and gravel paths need grading and added surface materials.

Green Space

These open natural areas had the highest score of all areas within the park settings with an average of 73.7% , but this is still a C grade. Green spaces need various kinds of work and maintenance, from tree trimming to invasive weed removal. Landscaped areas need to be watered and weeded more often, and some areas that should have landscaping are overgrown and unattractive. Other major concerns were the presence of homeless camps and the lack of visibility along pathways.

Fix It List: Recommendations for Future Action



The 2008 Report Card on Parks shows that Anchorage Parks are slightly below average and in need of improved maintenance and repairs to meet community expectations. The Anchorage Park Foundation has taken steps to help ensure Clean & Green, Safe & Secure parks by awarding Challenge Grants and “Clean and Green” Grants to community members to improve local neighborhood parks. The APRD has also acquired some additional funding from the 2007 Park Bonds as well as additional operational funds to improve maintenance at local parks. The State of Alaska has also contributed funding to local parks through state grants.

These are important first steps, but these steps alone will not be adequate to meet the larger need of the overall park system as outlined in the Anchorage 2020 Comprehensive Plan and the Anchorage Bowl Park Plan. Still, with over \$2.7 million in funding available, APRD and APF can continue to make major improvements with the help of local citizens.

It is not expected that our neighborhood parks will become “A” or even “B” parks overnight, but all Anchorage community members should expect their neighborhood parks to be above average. Following these next steps will help our community meet this goal.

The following recommendations address the needs documented by the Report Card process while working to meet local citizen requests for improved recreation facilities and services:



1. Playgrounds

Report Card participants repeatedly expressed concern about needed repairs in community playgrounds. Whether it was a minor equipment repair or improvements to safety surfaces, most park playgrounds are in need of some attention. Volunteers also identified difficulty in access to equipment in instances where equipment was not ADA-accessible.

In some cases, volunteers believed that the existing equipment was inadequate for neighborhood demand. In these playgrounds, installation of a swing-set or other piece of equipment would improve the playground's usefulness to the community. Furthermore, some park playgrounds are in need of a complete makeover, where old, sometimes unsafe equipment should be removed and replaced with new, safer, more interesting equipment.

Maintenance staff and volunteers can accomplish many minor repair projects with guidance from park planners and volunteers. In cases where a more dramatic change is needed, APRD will work with community groups and policymakers to establish an appropriate course of action and priority level. The Anchorage community has consistently expressed that neighborhood playgrounds are the highest use area in Anchorage parks. Ensuring that these playgrounds meet minimum safety and use standards is the APRD's top priority for neighborhood parks. With minimum safety goals accomplished, the APRD will focus on increased play value.

2. Graffiti

Throughout the Anchorage Parks Report Card, community members identified graffiti in every park setting, on a variety of surfaces. From signs to playground equipment, trees to pavement, a few members of the Anchorage community are doing extensive damage to their own parks.

The Municipality employs fulltime staff devoted to removing graffiti, and the APRD and APF have organized a group of "Graffiti Busters", volunteers who work to mitigate graffiti damage on parks and trails throughout the city. This effort should have additional resources, including additional funding for staff, equipment and volunteer recruitment.

Fix It List: Recommendations for Future Action

The Report Card results indicate that community members are extremely concerned about the effect of graffiti on their neighborhood parks and on the community at large. As a result, the APRD will focus its volunteer coordination resources to mobilize volunteers to remove graffiti and create clean, safe neighborhood parks. The APRD could fund Graffiti Buster vehicles and seek funding for one added position.

Ultimately, the solution for the graffiti problem is not solely improving removal, but addressing the source of the problem. Unsafe park conditions, lack of positive youth activities and inadequate community engagement in neighborhood parks create conditions where graffiti grows. The APRD and APF are actively working to address the root causes of this problem by developing programs targeted towards building community, positively engaging youth and connecting communities to their public lands. All of these efforts are linked.

3. Line of Sight (Safe & Secure)

Anchorage community members are concerned about the safety conditions in their neighborhood parks. Overgrown natural areas and inadequate lighting create dark areas and potential hiding places. Community members do not feel safe in parks if they do not have a safe perimeter of visibility. While lighting is expensive to install, trimming trees and removing underbrush are common volunteer projects that, when done, can improve public security.

Creating long sightlines and a safe and secure, welcoming park system is a top priority for both the APRD and the APF. Most of these projects can be accomplished easily by volunteers with guidance from staff. The APRD has recently employed an Urban Forester and provided Arborist training for a staff volunteer coordinator in order to create staff capacity to address this critical need. With trained staff on board, the APRD is prepared to mobilize volunteers and improve safety in neighborhood parks.

4. Seating Areas

In the Anchorage Parks Report Card, community members expressed a desire for additional attractive gathering places, to foster community connectedness and enjoyment of public lands. In some parks, existing benches and tables are dirty and in disrepair, and in other parks, there are simply not enough seating areas.

In some cases, installing new amenity equipment will be the solution for this need, and in other cases, repairing and repainting existing benches and tables will create the environment desired by community members. These repairs are necessary to create a comfortable and welcoming park system that provides a real service to the Anchorage community. The Anchorage Park Foundation has generously provided funding for purchase and installation of some amenities, and the APRD will continue to seek outside support to design and install these areas. Additionally the APRD believes that repair of existing benches and tables can be accomplished by maintenance staff and volunteers working in tandem.

5. Trash

Despite extensive maintenance and volunteer efforts, Report Card participants consistently identified unacceptable trash situations in neighborhood parks. Participants requested a variety of solutions, from increasing maintenance hours and providing more trash cans to posting more “No Litter” signs. The APRD has found that these actions do little to curb the litter problem in Anchorage parks.

At this time, the APRD spends 25% of its park maintenance budget on litter removal, both picking up trash and emptying trash cans. Each additional trash can costs thousands of dollars to purchase, install and empty regularly. The APRD believes that increasing maintenance hours or installing more trash cans would constitute a poor use of taxpayer funds.

Where trash cans are obviously inadequate, such as in some high-use community parks, the APRD and APF are prepared to install long-lasting, attractive trash cans to meet community needs. Addressing the littering problem at its core is a larger task.



Fix It List: Recommendations for Future Action

The APRD and APF are exploring partnerships with other agencies and organizations to communicate the consequences of littering to Anchorage residents. While this is one possible next step, the APRD is open to community input on addressing this consistent problem.

One effective solution employed by some communities is the “Take it in—Take it out” policy for some natural areas and close-to-home parks. If adopted, this policy could save up to \$500,000 each year, which will provide additional labor to mow, repair and monitor parks.

6. Dog Stations

Report Card participants voiced a need for more dog stations in small neighborhood parks to provide dog waste removal bags for dog owners. The APRD has installed hundreds of these stations in Anchorage parks, and has developed relationships with dog owners’ organizations, who are responsible for policing and removing waste.

The APF will continue to work with Anchorage community members to increase access to dog stations in Anchorage parks. Supporters of this effort can make contributions to the Anchorage Park Foundation to install dog stations in their local park.

7. Active Areas

Active recreation areas such as tennis courts, basketball courts, baseball fields and soccer fields are suffering from neglect and inadequate maintenance. Volunteers identified ballfield backstops and fences in need of repair, turf with large gaps and paved surfaces that have been ruined by tree roots and frost heaving over time.

APRD staff members are presently working with a local engineering firm to complete a detailed inventory of APRD active recreation areas, including their structure, condition and value and a full upgrade plan. With this information, the APRD will be better prepared to partner with communities to set priorities for action and seek public and private funds to make improvements.

8. Parking Lots

Neighborhood parks are intended to serve residents within walking distance of the park and thus often do not have parking lots. Where parking lots are present, participants commonly noted asphalt in poor condition, unmarked handicapped spaces, entry signs in poor condition, unpaved areas and drainage concerns.

The APRD does not presently have internal capacity to install or repair parking lots, but APRD is exploring partnerships with other municipal agencies as well as private contractors to achieve cost savings in many repetitive tasks, such as parking lot restoration. The APRD will address parking lots as one of many possible projects in upcoming priority-setting work with Anchorage community members.

9. Ornamental Landscapes

Anchorage is known as a “City of Flowers”, and Anchorage residents appreciate vibrant flower beds and attractive landscaping in public spaces. Dead, overgrown or unhealthy plants in ornamental landscape areas were a common problem identified in Anchorage Parks Report Card, as well as many requests for new flowerbeds and added color to popular park areas.

The APF and APRD have developed several volunteer programs to supplement the APRD Horticulture Department’s efforts. At this point, additional space in the APRD greenhouses is needed before the APRD can consider any large increase in flowerbeds in parks. Increasing volunteer capacity will assist the APRD in caring for existing landscaping, but the APRD must expand its greenhouse capacity to create any lasting change in the amount of landscaped areas in Anchorage parks. Zone gardening has



Fix It List: Recommendations for Future Action

been initiated in several larger parks in Anchorage to allow dedicated Horticulture staff to work directly with volunteers to pull weeds and water flower beds.

10. Improve General Maintenance (Clean & Green)

One of the most basic items identified in the Anchorage Parks Report Card was that general maintenance practices need to be reviewed and improved throughout Anchorage parks. Report Card participants identified substandard or inadequate mowing, weeding, fertilizing, and watering in all Anchorage parks. Current staffing levels are half of what is required to maintain parks to a “B” standard.

The consequences of extensive use of popular park areas are a problem throughout the city. Erosion, bare spots in lawns and cleanups needed in natural and ornamental areas are the result of extensive use of popular parks.

Improvements in maintenance practices, including reseeding lawn areas or creating pathways where there are social trails can address these problems, as well as educating the Anchorage community on the variety of parks and recreation facilities available to them can reduce pressure on popularly used Anchorage parks.

In all of these cases, staff training and development are the keys to meaningful improvement of park conditions. With strong leadership, maintenance staff can follow best practices to maintain a minimum level of service and provide efficient and effective maintenance to all Anchorage parks. The APRD has secured funding to hire an Operations Superintendant, who will provide leadership, set goals and ensure accountability for the Maintenance Department.

11. Restrooms

Restrooms are desired by citizens in neighborhood parks throughout the city. APRD does provide portable restrooms during summer months in high-use parks, but participants expressed a need for even more bathrooms, particularly for children’s use near playgrounds.

Cleanliness of existing portable restrooms continues to be a problem. The APRD contracts the portable restrooms out to a private service, and seeking improved maintenance and service will be a priority. With support from the Anchorage community, the APRD and APF can seek funding and support for additional bathrooms and the additional funding they will require.

12. Pathways

Report Card participants identified problems with park pathways that render them unusable for many Anchorage residents, including cyclists, families with strollers or disabled people in wheelchairs. When pavement is cracked, rooted or heaved in hard-surface pathways, this limits access to the Anchorage park system. Additionally, soft-surface trails have holes, puddles and muddy areas that are both inconvenient and sometimes hazardous.

The Anchorage Park Foundation has invested in equipment and training for a Trail Repair Crew, which is active during the summer construction season. Many pathway problems in soft-surface trails can be repaired through volunteer projects, especially on National Trails Day each June along with YEP conservation projects for trail repairs and upgrades.





Conclusion

The outcomes of the Anchorage Parks Report Card process are many: increased public involvement in Anchorage parks; mobilized volunteers; improved staff relationships with community members and perhaps most importantly, a list of projects for future action that have been identified by park users and community members. With this comprehensive representation of community perspective on their neighborhood parks, the APRD will create construction and maintenance plans that meet community expectations and address concerns.

The Anchorage community has a strong affection for their parks and expects that they meet minimum standards. The community has the right to expect these important public facilities are better than “Below Average”. At the same time, adequate funding for operational upkeep as well as capital improvements must be provided through taxpayer support and legislative action. Without long-term, stable funding, the APRD cannot sustain the quality of standards above the current level.

Each neighborhood will be confronted with a basic question: “Is a C- good enough?” Some neighbors will pitch in with volunteer hours and advocate for funding, park by park. Some neighborhoods will not be inspired to increase investment simply by a below average grade. Some highly transient neighborhood populations will receive good service through responsive Assembly members and State Legislators.

The public owns public lands like parks, and we all share responsibility to ensure that public lands receive the support they need to contribute to our quality of life.



Find Your Park

How did your neighborhood park fare on the 2008 Anchorage Parks Report Card? The following section lists the results by park district and in alphabetical order by park.

The Report Card provides communities with comparative park grades in order to offer the fullest picture of results so that they may advocate for improved care of their local play areas. Community Council, Assembly and State legislature district information as well as park data is available for each park.

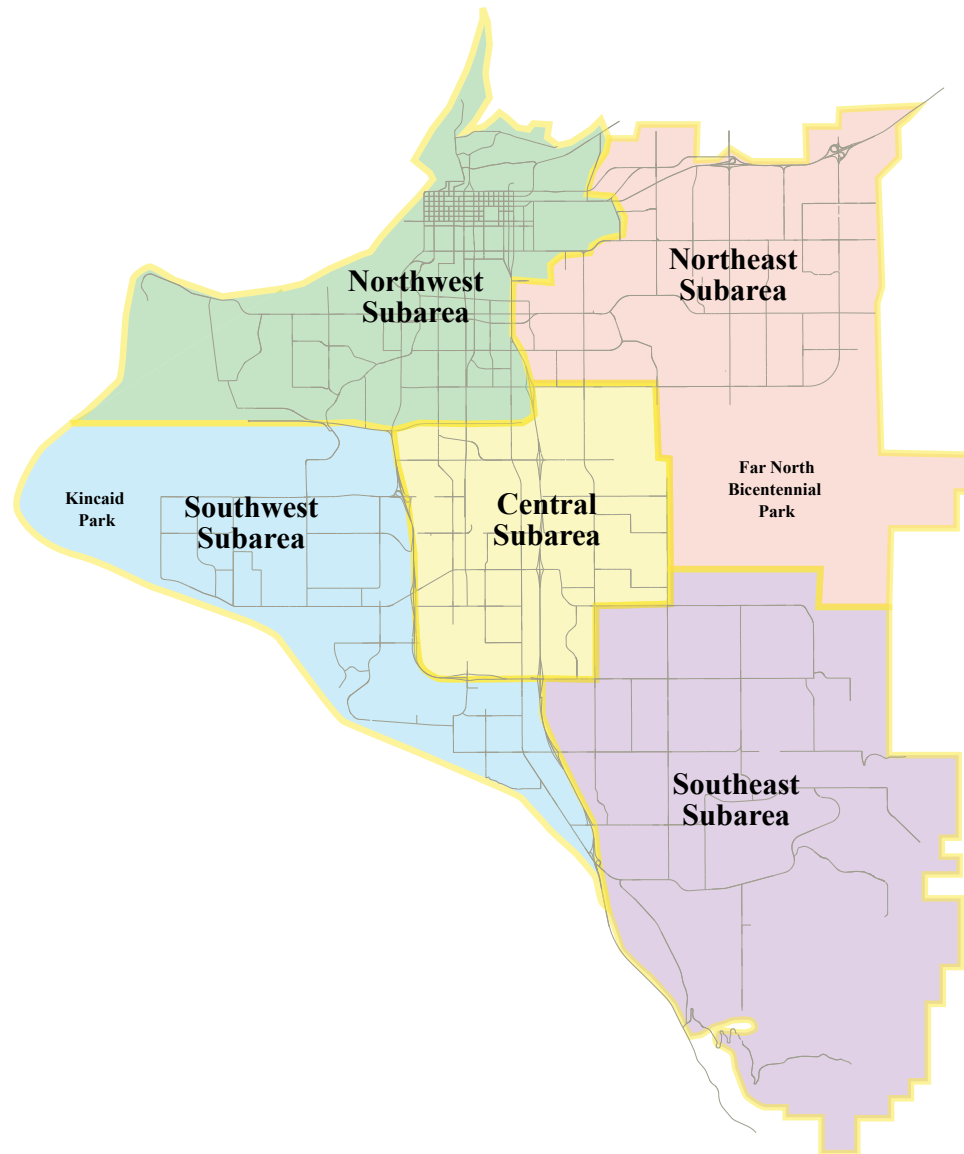
For a more in-depth look at your park's results, please visit the APF website – **[wwwAnchorageParkFoundation.org](http://www.AnchorageParkFoundation.org)** – and download the "Park Profile" for your park. These profiles provide detailed scores for each park setting along with Community District information.

Average Score by Assembly District

- 1 C (74)
- 2 C- (70)
- 3 D (68)
- 4 C (73)
- 5 D (68)
- 6 C (75)

Average Score by Legislative District

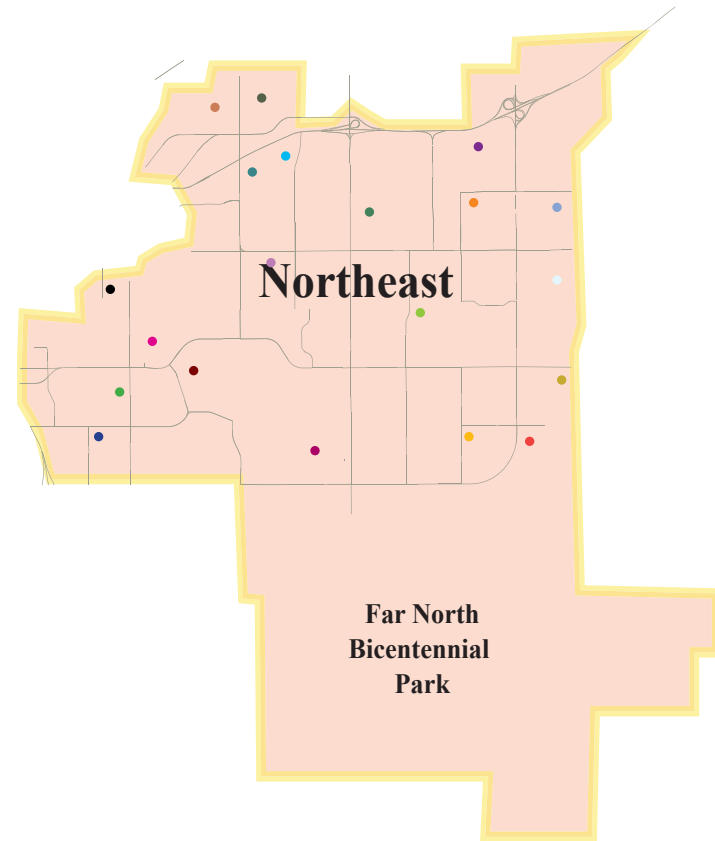
- | | |
|------|---------|
| 18 I | C (73) |
| 19J | C- (71) |
| 20J | D (62) |
| 21K | D (64) |
| 22K | C (76) |
| 23L | C+ (77) |
| 24L | C- (70) |
| 25M | D (68) |
| 26M | C+ (77) |
| 27N | D (68) |
| 28N | C+ (78) |
| 29O | C- (71) |
| 31P | C (74) |
| 32P | D (66) |



Northeast Park District

Description: The Northeast Park District is characterized by established neighborhoods with pockets of higher density and new development. This is the most populous area with a total population of 69,779. The population growth allocation of the 2020 plan assumes continued growth with a projected population of 83,443 by 2020. Additional redevelopment of the area is anticipated with higher residential densities, creation of a town center in Muldoon and expansion of the University-Medical District. This expansion will increase demand for additional park and recreational facilities and programs.

Resources and Facilities: This area is one of the older regions in the Anchorage Bowl and has the largest concentration of parks, recreation facilities and natural resource with a total of 2,578 acres. The area has 30 athletic fields, 25 playgrounds and 13 picnic shelters. Key parks, natural resources and recreational facilities within this region include Russian Jack Springs Park, Cheney Lake Park, Goose Lake Park, University Lake Park, and the Mountain View Recreation Center. The primary natural resource in the area is the Chester Creek Greenbelt, Ship Creek Greenbelt Baxter Bog Park, portions of Russian Jack Springs Park and Far North Bicentennial Park. In addition the foothills of the Chugach Mountains border the eastern boundary of the area.

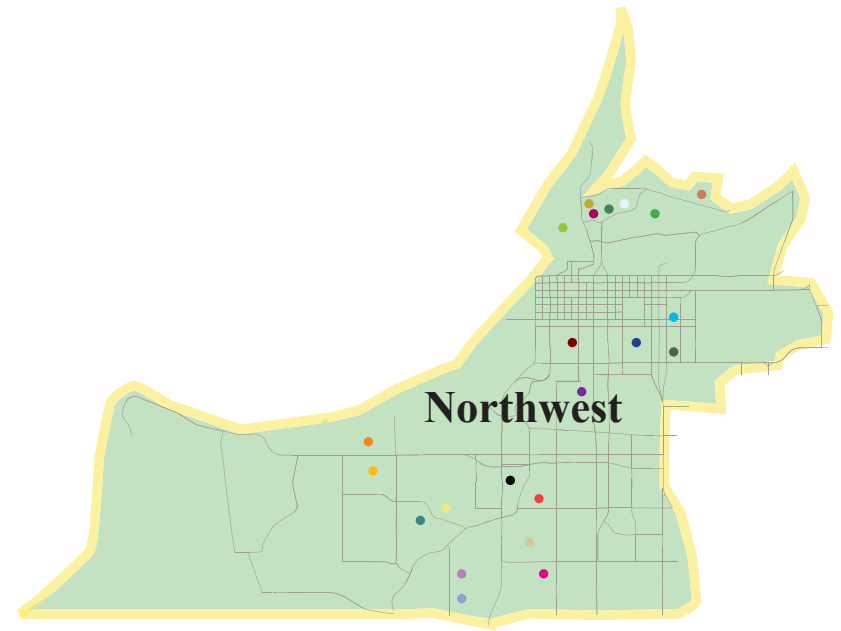


| | | | | | Community Participant Responses | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------------------|--------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Park Name | Park District | Community Council District | Legislative District | Assembly District | Overall Grade | Active Rec. Areas | Green Space | Outer Park Edge & Entry | Passive Rec. Areas | Pathways | Playgrounds |
| Northeast | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ● Carlson Park | NE | Rogers Park | 24L | 4 | 68.5 | 68.62 | 73.91 | 74.47 | 65.48 | 75.14 | 53.3 |
| ● Castle Heights Park | NE | University Area | 22K | 5 | 79.1 | 97.5 | 87.5 | 76 | 86.5 | 61.5 | 65.5 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ● Cheney Lake Park | NE | Northeast | 19J | 5 | 96.2 | N/A | 100 | 94 | 100 | 95 | 92 |
| ● Chugach Foothills Park | NE | Scenic Foothills | 21K | 5 | 63.1 | 68.5 | 30.5 | 69.5 | 58.75 | 72 | 79.33 |
| ● Creekside Park | NE | Northeast | 19J | 5 | 66.6 | 65.4 | 74.42 | 67.6 | 67.4 | 61.2 | 63.3 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ● David Green Memorial Park | NE | Tudor Area | 24L | 4 | 91.2 | N/A | 85 | 96 | 95 | 85 | 95 |
| ● Dave Rose Park | NE | Russian Jack | 20J | 5 | 64.0 | 63.18 | 60.98 | 63.21 | 58.64 | 69.33 | 68.75 |
| ● Duldida Park | NE | Mountain View | 20J | 1 | 53.5 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 53.45 |
| ● Goose Lake Park | NE | University Area | 22K | 4 | 77.0 | 66.45 | 85.33 | 69.88 | 80 | 72.43 | 87.63 |
| ● Kanchee Park | NE | Russian Jack | 20J | 5 | 57.3 | N/A | 53.75 | 53.5 | 58.75 | 55 | 65.67 |
| ● Little Dipper Park | NE | Scenic Foothills | 21K | 5 | 50.1 | N/A | 60 | 50.5 | 45 | N/A | 45 |
| ● Scenic Park | NE | Scenic Foothills | 21K | 5 | 78.0 | 88 | 93 | 73 | 80 | 88 | 46 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ● Standish Park | NE | Northeast | 19J | 5 | 50.2 | 51 | 55.5 | 45 | 44.8 | 52.25 | 52.77 |
| ● Ira Walker Park | NE | Russian Jack | 19J | 5 | 69.3 | N/A | 77 | 70.33 | 61.67 | 81 | 56.33 |
| ● Sitka Street Park | NE | Airport Heights | 23L | 4 | 80.2 | 83.5 | 85.33 | 73.67 | 91 | 66.33 | 81.5 |
| ● Tikishla Park | NE | Airport Heights | | | 74.2 | 67.67 | 77.83 | 77.33 | 71.2 | 76.2 | 75.17 |
| ● Turpin Park | NE | Northeast | 18I | 5 | 70.4 | 78.5 | 71.67 | 79 | 72.5 | 54 | 66.5 |
| ● Willawaw Park | NE | Northeast | 22K | 5 | 72.3 | 73.5 | 67.5 | 75 | 67.5 | 66.5 | 83.5 |
| ● William B. Lyons | NE | Mountain View | 20J | 1 | 71.3 | 75.67 | 74.5 | 71.54 | 66.07 | 75.5 | 64.67 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ● Windsong Park | NE | Northeast | 19J | 5 | 74.5 | N/A | 74.6 | 77.4 | 70 | 79.67 | 70.6 |
| District Average | | | | | 70.3 | 72.883846 | 73.06947 | 71.41736842 | 70.54 | 71.447222 | 68.2985 |
| District Median | | | | | 70.8 | 68.62 | 74.5 | 73 | 67.5 | 72.215 | 66.085 |

Northwest Park District

Description: As the oldest settled part of Anchorage, this area has the greatest potential for renewal and redevelopment and the second largest population base at 40,413. It has the second largest concentration of parks and recreation facilities. The area has the most multi-family housing, with high occupancy rates by seniors, non-family households and single people. There are also some thriving older single-family neighborhoods. Anchorage 2020 assumes a growth revival in the Downtown and Midtown mixed-use redevelopment areas. Increased densities and aging population will change the recreational demand for this area over time with anticipated population growing to 61,592 by 2020.

Resources and Facilities: This area has the largest concentration of parks and recreation facilities in the Anchorage Bowl, but has the lowest park acreage of any sub-area with only 817 total acres. This area has the largest concentration of parks and recreation facilities in the Anchorage Bowl, but has the lowest park acreage of any sub-area with only 817 total acres. Key parks, natural resource areas and recreational facilities within this region include Delany Park Strip, Town Square Park, Westchester Lagoon, Valley of the Moon Park, Spenard and Fairview Recreation Center, the Tony Knowles Coastal Trail and the Chester Creek and Ship Creek Greenbelt. The area has 28 athletic fields, 30 playgrounds and 10 picnic shelters. In addition to the close to home parks listed below the area also has access to over 500 acres of regional natural resource areas at 24 different locations. Town centers are identified at Northern Lights Boulevard and Minnesota Drive.

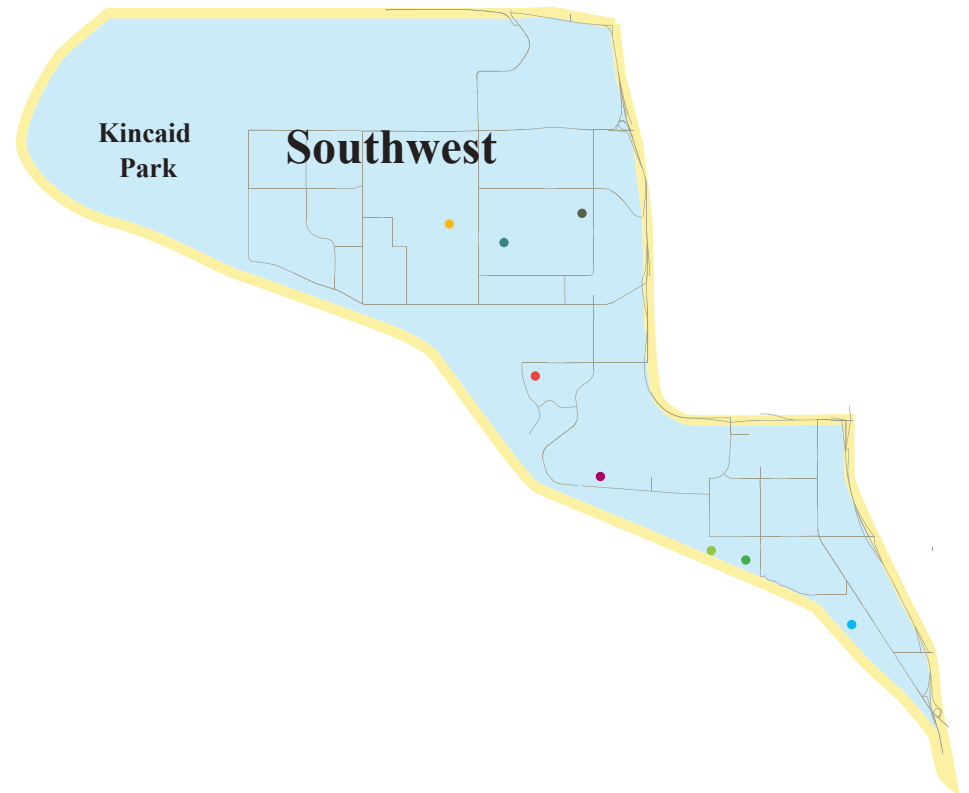


| | | | | | Community Participant Responses | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------------------|--------------------|----------|-------------|
| Park Name | Park District | Community Council District | Legislative District | Assembly District | Overall Grade | Active Rec. Areas | Green Space | Outer Park Edge & Entry | Passive Rec. Areas | Pathways | Playgrounds |
| Northwest | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ● Alderwood Park | NW | Government Hill | 18I | 1 | 72.4 | 84.17 | 75.8 | 74.74 | 75.17 | 54.03 | 70.33 |
| ● Al Miller Park | NW | Government Hill | 18I | 1 | 52.3 | N/A | 59 | 58 | 60.67 | N/A | 31.67 |
| ● Brown's Point | NW | Government Hill | 18I | 1 | 81.4 | N/A | 76 | 74.9 | 81.14 | 93.67 | N/A |
| ● Cope Street Park | NW | Spenard | 25M | 3 | 86.0 | N/A | N/A | 73 | 100 | 82 | 89 |
| ● Didlika Park | NW | Turnagain | 26M | 3 | 84.9 | N/A | 86.5 | 78.5 | 86 | N/A | 88.5 |
| ● Fairbanks Park | NW | Fairview | 23L | 1 | 63.9 | N/A | 60.15 | 62.54 | 60.07 | 71.23 | 65.35 |
| ● Fairview Lions Park | NW | Fairview | 23L | 1 | 76.5 | 76.75 | 76.86 | 75.19 | 76.14 | 78.83 | 75.14 |
| ● Fairview Park | NW | Fairview | 23L | 1 | | | | | | | |
| ● Frontierland Park | NW | South Addition | 26M | 1 | 89.6 | N/A | 85 | 90 | N/A | 90 | 93.5 |
| ● Harvard Park | NW | Government Hill | 18I | 1 | 71.2 | 64.78 | 69 | 74.25 | 68.33 | 79.42 | N/A |
| ● Kiwanis Fish Creek Park | NW | Turnagain | 26M | 3 | 68.7 | 65.42 | 70.5 | 70.67 | 76.67 | 56.17 | 73 |
| ● Lloyd Steele Park | NW | Turnagain | 26M | 3 | | | | | | | |
| ● Suzan Nightingale McKay Park | NW | Government Hill | 23L | 1 | 86.9 | 87 | 93.35 | 90.53 | 91.89 | 78.57 | 79.88 |
| ● Minnesota Park | NW | Spenard | 25& 26 M | 3 | 50.5 | 22.5 | 58.5 | 47.75 | 58.67 | 55 | 60.67 |
| ● Pop Carr Park | NW | Spenard | 25M | 3 | | | | | | | |
| ● Red Bridge Park | NW | Spenard | 25M | 3 | 69.7 | 34 | 76.67 | 84.33 | 77.33 | 71 | 74.75 |
| ● Richardson Vista Park | NW | Government Hill | 18I | 1 | 87.2 | 93.42 | 99.33 | 82.86 | 76.17 | 90.63 | 80.84 |
| ● Sisterhood Park | NW | Spenard | 25M | 3 | 70.0 | 66 | N/A | 54.5 | 82.5 | N/A | 77 |
| ● Sunset Park | NW | Government Hill | 18I | 1 | 74.5 | 72 | 79.5 | 73.21 | 70.19 | 74.56 | 77.62 |
| ● Valley of the Moon Park | NW | South Addition | 25M | 1 | 79.0 | 68 | 80 | 73.18 | 81.82 | 86.45 | 84.55 |
| ● Wilson Street Park | NW | Spenard | 25M | 3 | 53.6 | 36 | 50 | 51 | 54.33 | 75 | 55.08 |
| ● Woodland Park | NW | Spenard | 26M | 3 | 62.7 | 63 | 64.47 | 58.5 | 68 | 45.5 | 76.5 |
| AVERAGE | | | | | 72.7 | 64.1 | 74.2 | 70.9 | 74.7 | 73.9 | 73.7 |
| MEDIAN | | | | | 72.4 | 66.0 | 76.0 | 73.2 | 76.2 | 76.8 | 76.5 |

Southwest Park District

Description: This area is primarily residential with about 70 percent single-family housing and 30 percent multi-family housing and is anticipated to grow with similar patterns. The current population is 24,511 and anticipated growth will have a population of 46,103 by 2020. The area includes the Sand Lake gravel pits and other vacant residential tracts directly south of the airport poised for development.

Resources and Facilities: This area has a large concentration of Natural Resource Use areas, but has a low amount of developed parks. The major parks for this area include Kincaid Park with over 1,000 acres of natural open space with world-class summer and winter recreational trails, South Anchorage Sports Complex, Javier de la Vega Sports Park, and Jewel Lake Park. The area has 22 athletic fields, 10 playgrounds and 4 picnic shelters. In addition to the developed parks listed below the sub-area has over 1,769 acres of regional parks and open space including Kincaid Park and 14 other sites. Town centers are identified at Dimond Boulevard and Jewel Lake Road and at Huffman and Old Seward Road.



| | | | | | Community Participant Responses | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------------------|--------------------|----------|-------------|
| Park Name | Park District | Community Council District | Legislative District | Assembly District | Overall Grade | Active Rec. Areas | Green Space | Outer Park Edge & Entry | Passive Rec. Areas | Pathways | Playgrounds |
| Southwest | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ● Hamilton Park | SW | Huffman/O'Malley | 28N | 6 | 69.1 | 76.67 | 72.67 | 62 | 65 | 72 | 66.33 |
| | | Old | | | | | | | | | |
| ● Johns Park | SW | Seward/Oceanview | 28N | 6 | 85.2 | N/A | 87.48 | 82.46 | 84.13 | 81.29 | 90.86 |
| ● KFQD Park | SW | Bayshore/Klatt | 28N | 6 | 77.7 | 87.33 | 77.48 | 77.89 | 75.43 | 74.22 | 73.78 |
| | | Old | | | | | | | | | |
| ● Oceanview Park | SW | Seward/Oceanview | 28N | 6 | 81.4 | 75.24 | 84.89 | 82.83 | 81.17 | 80.72 | 83.56 |
| ● Pamela Joy Lowry Memorial Park | SW | Sand Lake | 27N | 3 | 62.5 | N/A | 71.25 | 61.4 | 63 | 64 | 53 |
| ● Pioneer Park | SW | Bayshore/Klatt | 28N | 6 | 74.3 | N/A | 68.6 | 67.5 | 75 | 85 | 75.33 |
| ● Sand Lake Park | SW | Sand Lake | 27N | 3 | 62.1 | 83.5 | 68.55 | 51.56 | 47.86 | 59 | N/A |
| ● Shady Birch Park | SW | Sand Lake | 27N | 3 | 78.3 | 74.39 | 72.98 | 77.3 | 78.76 | 82.87 | 83.43 |
| AVERAGE | | | | | 73.8 | 79.4 | 75.5 | 70.4 | 71.3 | 74.9 | 75.2 |
| MEDIAN | | | | | 74.3 | 78.0 | 73.0 | 70.4 | 75.0 | 74.9 | 75.3 |

Central Park District

Description: This is a new planning sub-area and includes a diversity of land uses with access to north-south transportation corridors. The area is land-locked from the coast and mountains with geographic boundaries major roads, to the north Tudor Road, west Boniface Road extension and Far North Bicentennial Park, to the south by O'Malley Road and to the east by Minnesota Drive. The area is further bisected by the Seward Highway, effectively cutting off neighborhoods, greenbelts and trail access to local schools and parks. It has a mix of single-and multi-family subdivisions, plus scattered small residential pockets without park and recreation facilities and industrial land. The present population is 36,500 and projected to grow to 52,048 by 2020. The 2020 population growth allocation assumes infill development of existing residential lands, extensive multi-family housing development along transit corridors and continued industrial and commercial expansion.

Resources and Facilities: This park district has the fewest parks and recreational facilities of any of the sub-areas with a total of 20 acres of developed Neighborhood Use areas in mini and neighborhood parks, 17 acres of Community Use areas, 206 acres of Special Use Areas and 1,975 acres of Natural Use areas. Of the developed parks, Campbell Park is the largest with a total of 286 acres, but most of this is undeveloped natural resource area part of the Campbell Creek Greenbelt and Trail system. The most significant park feature for the area is the Campbell Creek Greenbelt and Trail which runs east to west through the sub-area connecting Far North Bicentennial Park and Chugach State Park to the east with Kincaid Park and the Coastal Trail to the west. The area has 13 athletic fields (6 on private land), 6 playgrounds and 2 picnic shelters, including the fields at the new Abbott Loop Community Park. In addition the area has over 200 acres of natural resource areas at 9 sites as well as access to Far North Bicentennial Park along the eastern boundary. Town centers are identified at Dowling Road and Lake Otis Parkway and at Abbott Road and Lake Otis Parkway.



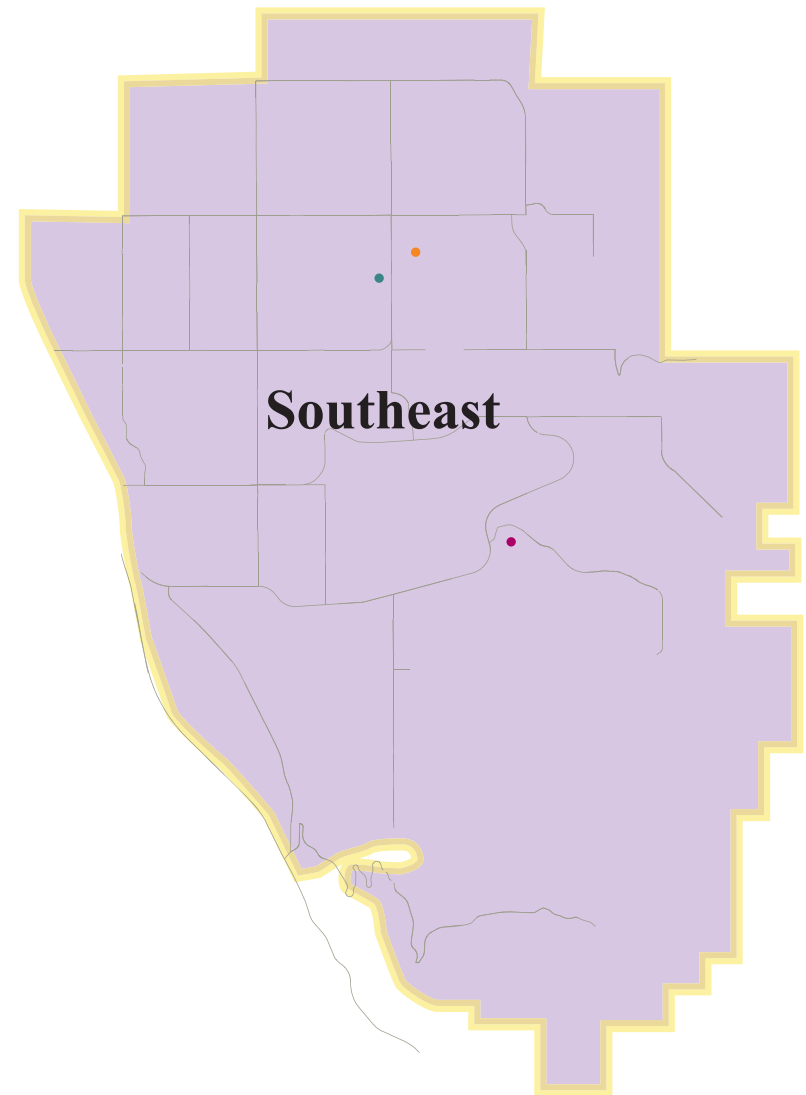
| | | | | | Community Participant Responses | | | | | | |
|------------------|---------------|----------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------------------|--------------------|----------|-------------|
| Park Name | Park District | Community Council District | Legislative District | Assembly District | Overall Grade | Active Rec. Areas | Green Space | Outer Park Edge & Entry | Passive Rec. Areas | Pathways | Playgrounds |
| Central | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ● Bancroft Park | CE | Campbell Park | 24L | 4 | 72.4 | 75.25 | 69 | 59.5 | 62.75 | 83.33 | 84.5 |
| ● Meadow Park | CE | Abbott Loop | 24L | 4 | 48.8 | N/A | 54 | 46 | 58 | 37 | N/A |
| ● Taku Lake Park | CE | Taku/Campbell | 29O | 4 | 71.2 | 60.04 | 76.73 | 70.17 | 70.87 | 73.09 | 76.31 |
| AVERAGE | | | | | 64.1 | 67.6 | 66.6 | 58.6 | 63.9 | 64.5 | 80.4 |
| MEDIAN | | | | | 71.2 | 67.6 | 69.0 | 59.5 | 62.8 | 73.1 | 80.4 |

** Note: The Central and Southeast districts are represented by one Park District Manager, due to the lower population and facility density at this time. As Anchorage grows and as added funding is available, the two districts will be managed separately.

Southeast Park District

Description: The Southeast Park District is composed mostly of single-family housing on large lot subdivisions (1/2 to 1+ acre lots) with well and septic services. Some medium-density multi-family housing is assumed to take place along the western portion of the lower Hillside. All residential development in the rural portion of the service area boundary is low density. The present population is 18,786 with growth expected to bring the population to 35,733 by 2020. Specific changes in the location of the sewer service area boundary and allowances for higher residential densities will be established in the proposed Hillside District Plan to allow expanded population growth. This will have an impact on the level of parks and recreational services that will need to be developed to accommodate future population growth.

Resources and Facilities: This area has the largest concentration of Natural Resource Use areas in the Anchorage Bowl, but has the lowest amount of developed parks as any sub-area. Key parks, natural open space and recreational facilities within this region include Ruth Arcand Park, Far North Bicentennial Park/Hillside Park, Hilltop Ski Area, Anchorage Golf Course, and Rabbit Creek Greenbelt. The area has 9 athletic fields, 3 playgrounds and 2 picnic shelters. Besides the close to home parks listed below the area also has access to Far North Bicentennial Park 4,000 acres as well as an additional 735 acres of regional parks and open space at 18 sites. While there are no commercial centers within the area there are Town centers identified at Abbott Road and Lake Otis Parkway and at Huffman and Old Seward Highway.



| | | | | | Community Participant Responses | | | | | | |
|----------------------|---------------|----------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------------------|--------------------|----------|-------------|
| Park Name | Park District | Community Council District | Legislative District | Assembly District | Overall Grade | Active Rec. Areas | Green Space | Outer Park Edge & Entry | Passive Rec. Areas | Pathways | Playgrounds |
| Southeast | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ● Ray E. Storck | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Homestead Park | SE | Rabbit Creek | 32P | 6 | 66.0 | 65 | 70 | 67.25 | 65 | 71.25 | 57.67 |
| ● Bob & Arlene Cross | | Huffman/O'Malle | | | | | | | | | |
| Park | SE | y | 31P | 6 | 69.8 | 56.67 | 71 | 55 | 75 | 78 | 83 |
| ● Forsythe Park | Se | Mid-Hillside | 31P | 6 | 78.2 | 72 | 92.5 | 74 | 80.5 | 74 | 76 |
| AVERAGE | | | | | 71.3 | 64.6 | 77.8 | 65.4 | 73.5 | 74.4 | 72.2 |
| MEDIAN | | | | | 69.8 | 65.0 | 71.0 | 67.3 | 75.0 | 74.0 | 76.0 |

** Note: The Central and Southeast districts are represented by one Park District Manager, due to the lower population and facility density at this time. As Anchorage grows and as added funding is available, the two districts will be managed separately.

| Park Name | Park District | Community Council District | Legislative District | Assembly District | Overall Grade | Active Rec. Areas | Green Space | Outer Park Edge & Entry | Passive Rec. Areas | Pathways | Play-grounds |
|---------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------------------|--------------------|----------|--------------|
| Al Miller Park | NW | Government Hill | 18I | 1 | 52.3 | N/A | 59.0 | 58.0 | 60.7 | N/A | 31.7 |
| Alderwood Park | NW | Government Hill | 18I | 1 | 72.4 | 84.2 | 75.8 | 74.7 | 75.2 | 54.0 | 70.3 |
| Bancroft Park | CE | Campbell Park | 24L | 4 | 72.4 | 75.3 | 69.0 | 59.5 | 62.8 | 83.3 | 84.5 |
| Bob & Arlene Cross Park | SE | Huffman/O'Malley | 31P | 6 | 69.8 | 56.7 | 71.0 | 55.0 | 75.0 | 78.0 | 83.0 |
| Brown's Point | NW | Government Hill | 18I | 1 | 81.4 | N/A | 76.0 | 74.9 | 81.1 | 93.7 | N/A |
| Carlson Park | NE | Rogers Park | 24L | 4 | 68.5 | 68.6 | 73.9 | 74.5 | 65.5 | 75.1 | 53.3 |
| Castle Heights Park | NE | University Area | 22K | 5 | 79.1 | 97.5 | 87.5 | 76.0 | 86.5 | 61.5 | 65.5 |
| Cheney Lake Park | NE | Northeast | 19J | 5 | 96.2 | N/A | 100.0 | 94.0 | 100.0 | 95.0 | 92.0 |
| Chugach Foothills Park | NE | Scenic Foothills | 21K | 5 | 63.1 | 68.5 | 30.5 | 69.5 | 58.8 | 72.0 | 79.3 |
| Cope Street Park | NW | Spenard | 25M | 3 | 86.0 | N/A | N/A | 73.0 | 100.0 | 82.0 | 89.0 |
| Creekside Park | NE | Northeast | 19J | 5 | 66.6 | 65.4 | 74.4 | 67.6 | 67.4 | 61.2 | 63.3 |
| Dave Rose Park | NE | Russian Jack | 20J | 5 | 64.0 | 63.2 | 61.0 | 63.2 | 58.6 | 69.3 | 68.8 |
| David Green Memorial Park | NE | Tudor Area | 24L | 4 | 91.2 | N/A | 85.0 | 96.0 | 95.0 | 85.0 | 95.0 |
| Didlika Park | NW | Turnagain | 26M | 3 | 84.9 | N/A | 86.5 | 78.5 | 86.0 | N/A | 88.5 |
| Duldida Park | NE | Mountain View | 20J | 1 | 53.5 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | | 53.5 |
| Fairbanks Park | NW | Fairview | 23L | 1 | 63.9 | N/A | 60.2 | 62.5 | 60.1 | 71.2 | 65.4 |
| Fairview Lions Park | NW | Fairview | 23L | 1 | 76.5 | 76.8 | 76.9 | 75.2 | 76.1 | 78.8 | 75.1 |
| Forsythe Park | Se | Mid-Hillside | 31P | 6 | 78.2 | 72.0 | 92.5 | 74.0 | 80.5 | 74.0 | 76.0 |
| Frontierland Park | NW | South Addition | 26M | 1 | 89.6 | N/A | 85.0 | 90.0 | N/A | 90.0 | 93.5 |
| Goose Lake Park | NE | University Area | 22K | 4 | 77.0 | 66.5 | 85.3 | 69.9 | 80.0 | 72.4 | 87.6 |
| Hamilton Park | SW | Huffman/O'Malley | 28N | 6 | 69.1 | 76.7 | 72.7 | 62.0 | 65.0 | 72.0 | 66.3 |
| Harvard Park | NW | Government Hill | 18I | 1 | 71.2 | 64.8 | 69.0 | 74.3 | 68.3 | 79.4 | N/A |
| Ira Walker Park | NE | Russian Jack | 19J | 5 | 69.3 | N/A | 77.0 | 70.3 | 61.7 | 81.0 | 56.3 |
| Johns Park | SW | Old Seward/Oceanview | 28N | 6 | 85.2 | N/A | 87.5 | 82.5 | 84.1 | 81.3 | 90.9 |
| Kanchee Park | NE | Russian Jack | 20J | 5 | 57.3 | N/A | 53.8 | 53.5 | 58.8 | 55.0 | 65.7 |
| KFQD Park | SW | Bayshore/Klatt | 28N | 6 | 77.7 | 87.3 | 77.5 | 77.9 | 75.4 | 74.2 | 73.8 |
| Kiwanis Fish Creek Park | NW | Turnagain | 26M | 3 | 68.7 | 65.4 | 70.5 | 70.7 | 76.7 | 56.2 | 73.0 |
| Little Dipper Park | NE | Scenic Foothills | 21K | 5 | 50.1 | N/A | 60.0 | 50.5 | 45.0 | N/A | 45.0 |

| Park Name | Park District | Community Council District | Legislative District | Assembly District | Overall Grade | Active Rec. Areas | Green Space | Outer Park Edge & Entry | Passive Rec. Areas | Pathways | Play-grounds |
|--------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------------------|--------------------|----------|--------------|
| Meadow Park | CE | Abbott Loop | 24L | 4 | 48.8 | N/A | 54.0 | 46.0 | 58.0 | 37.0 | N/A |
| Minnesota Park | NW | Spenard | 25& 26 | 3 | 50.5 | 22.5 | 58.5 | 47.8 | 58.7 | 55.0 | 60.7 |
| Oceanview Park | SW | Old Seward/ | M | 6 | 81.4 | 75.2 | 84.9 | 82.8 | 81.2 | 80.7 | 83.6 |
| Pamela Joy Lowry Memorial Park | SW | Oceanview | 28N | 3 | 62.5 | N/A | 71.3 | 61.4 | 63.0 | 64.0 | 53.0 |
| Pioneer Park | SW | Sand Lake | 27N | 6 | 74.3 | N/A | 68.6 | 67.5 | 75.0 | 85.0 | 75.3 |
| Ray E. Storck Homestead Park | SE | Bayshore/Klatt | 28N | 6 | 66.0 | 65.0 | 70.0 | 67.3 | 65.0 | 71.3 | 57.7 |
| Red Bridge Park | NW | Rabbit Creek | 32P | 3 | 69.7 | 34.0 | 76.7 | 84.3 | 77.3 | 71.0 | 74.8 |
| Richardson Vista Park | NW | Spenard | 25M | 1 | 87.2 | 93.4 | 99.3 | 82.9 | 76.2 | 90.6 | 80.8 |
| Sand Lake Park | SW | Hill | 18I | 3 | 62.1 | 83.5 | 68.6 | 51.6 | 47.9 | 59.0 | N/A |
| Scenic Park | NE | Sand Lake | 27N | 5 | 78.0 | 88.0 | 93.0 | 73.0 | 80.0 | 88.0 | 46.0 |
| Shady Birch Park | SW | Foothills | 21K | 3 | 78.3 | 74.4 | 73.0 | 77.3 | 78.8 | 82.9 | 83.4 |
| Sisterhood Park | NW | Sand Lake | 27N | 3 | 70.0 | 66.0 | N/A | 54.5 | 82.5 | N/A | 77.0 |
| Sitka Street Park | NE | Spenard | 25M | 4 | 80.2 | 83.5 | 85.3 | 73.7 | 91.0 | 66.3 | 81.5 |
| Standish Park | NE | Airport Heights | 23L | 5 | 50.2 | 51.0 | 55.5 | 45.0 | 44.8 | 52.3 | 52.8 |
| Sunset Park | NW | Northeast | 19J | 1 | 74.5 | 72.0 | 79.5 | 73.2 | 70.2 | 74.6 | 77.6 |
| Suzan Nightingale McKay Park | NW | Government | 18I | 1 | 86.9 | 87.0 | 93.4 | 90.5 | 91.9 | 78.6 | 79.9 |
| Taku Lake Park | CE | Hill | 23L | 4 | 71.2 | 60.0 | 76.7 | 70.2 | 70.9 | 73.1 | 76.3 |
| Tikishla Park | NE | Government | 18I | 5 | 74.2 | 67.7 | 77.8 | 77.3 | 71.2 | 76.2 | 75.2 |
| Turpin Park | NE | Taku/ | 29O | 5 | 70.4 | 78.5 | 71.7 | 79.0 | 72.5 | 54.0 | 66.5 |
| Valley of the Moon Park | NW | Campbell | 25M | 1 | 79.0 | 68.0 | 80.0 | 73.2 | 81.8 | 86.5 | 84.6 |
| Willawaw Park | NE | Northeast | 22K | 5 | 72.3 | 73.5 | 67.5 | 75.0 | 67.5 | 66.5 | 83.5 |
| William B. Lyons | NE | South Addition | 25M | 1 | 71.3 | 75.7 | 74.5 | 71.5 | 66.1 | 75.5 | 64.7 |
| Wilson Street Park | NW | Northeast | 22K | 3 | 53.6 | 36.0 | 50.0 | 51.0 | 54.3 | 75.0 | 55.1 |
| Windsong Park | NE | Mountain View | 20J | 5 | 74.5 | N/A | 74.6 | 77.4 | 70.0 | 79.7 | 70.6 |
| Woodland Park | NW | Spenard | 25M | 3 | 62.7 | 63.0 | 64.5 | 58.5 | 68.0 | 45.5 | 76.5 |



Anchorage Park Foundation



Vision: The people of Anchorage recognize parks are vital for community health and connectivity, and demonstrate a strong park stewardship ethic.

- Parks provide access to outdoor recreation opportunities; support healthy lifestyles; and sustain clean water, land, and natural habitat, which in turn attract businesses and visitors, and increase prosperity for a healthy economy.
- Parks and trails connect neighborhoods, offer connection to the natural environment, and connect the community to each other through place, special events, cultural festivities, recreation and fun.
- Anchorage residents recognize the importance of parks and trails in their lives and to their community, and they take responsibility for our community assets with investments of time, individual and corporate contributions, and tax dollars.
- Anchorage residents benefit from a healthy park system and recreation opportunities available to all, regardless of where they live, income, ethnicity, or special needs.

Board Members

Eleanor Andrews •

Jeff Clarke •

Jeff Dillon •

Vic Mollozzi •

Kristin Sholton •

David Wight •





Mission: The Anchorage Park Foundation strives to build Healthy Parks & Healthy People by mobilizing public support and financial resources for Anchorage parks, trails, and recreation opportunities.

Priorities:

Clean & Green, Safe & Secure

The Anchorage Park Foundation is focusing its first five years of operation (2004-2009) to rehabilitating existing neighborhood parks and trails.

Connectivity

The Anchorage Park Foundation seeks to engage community and build community relationships through vehicles such as challenge grants, volunteer opportunities, promotion, and investment opportunities.

Goals:

Philanthropy -- Anchorage generously invests in Anchorage parks, trails and recreation programs.

Education & Promotion -- Anchorage is well informed about the importance of parks, trails & recreation, and knows about opportunities for investment.

Financial Support -- The Anchorage Park Foundation improves our system of parks, trails & recreation programs.

Organizational Capacity -- The Anchorage Park Foundation has the capacity to sustain its operations.



THANK YOU ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

THE ANCHORAGE PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT AND THE ANCHORAGE PARK FOUNDATION WOULD LIKE TO THANK:



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- **Neighborhood volunteers throughout Anchorage who participated in the Report Cards process**
- **Supporters of the Anchorage Park Foundation, especially the Rasmuson Foundation, who made this project possible through their generous contributions**
- **The Eppley Institute for Parks & Public Lands for their technical support**
- **The Mountain View Weed & Seed Program**

