



Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska  
**Parks & Recreation Department**

632 W. 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 630  
P.O. Box 196650  
Anchorage, AK 99519  
**Tel** 907-343-4355

**URL** [www.muni.org/departments/parks](http://www.muni.org/departments/parks)



## MEMORANDUM

**Date:** March 25, 2014

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**To:** Parks & Recreation Commission

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**Cc:** Holly Spoth-Torres, Parks Superintendent

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**From:** Josh Durand, Park Planner

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**Project:** **PRC 2014-15:** 2014 Arctic Benson Park Improvements

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### INTRODUCTION

Last year the Anchorage Park Foundation the Midtown Community Council and the Arctic Benson Very Important Park (VIP) Committee successfully established Anchorage's first fully fenced Dog Park. The new dog park has been very popular and has insured positive use within the park.

### PLANNING AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Park fix-it projects require input and guidance from a dedicated group of volunteers. P&R staff engaged community councils where park fix-it projects were located to recruit volunteers for the Very Important Park Committees. The composition of each VIP Committee featured representatives of the community council, neighbors of the park, and general park users.

#### *VIP Committee Member Tasks*

- ✓ Assist Parks & Recreation by identifying and prioritizing park improvements
- ✓ Keep the Community Council informed of VIP Committee progress
- ✓ Recruit neighborhood volunteers for the volunteer-powered summer project
- ✓ Volunteer on the volunteer day
- ✓ Celebrate the completed park project!

The VIP Committees prioritize park improvements for each project. Fix-it projects focus on improvements to existing facilities in parks that have received poor reviews through the Anchorage Park Report Card.

**Fix-It Date July 12, 2014**

### Arctic Benson Park

Arctic Benson Park is a two-acre neighborhood park located at 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue and Arctic Boulevard in the Midtown area. The park currently features play equipment for 2 – 5 and 5 – 12 year olds, an open play field, and on-street parking for approximately 20 – 25 vehicles.

The VIP committee has elected to utilize residual funds from last year's project to improve access to the existing amenities and to improve recreation opportunities through new play equipment and an outdoor ping pong table. The committee also decided to provide additional signage within the fenced area to ensure understanding of the park rules.

### 2014 Improvements

#### Contracted Work:

- Purchase and install new play equipment
- Provide and improve ADA access to the dog park and playground
- Install pavers in high use areas at the entrance of the dog park

- Provide additional signage, seating and a trash can within the fenced area
- Install an outdoor ping pong table
- Remove existing pea gravel from the playground

Project Funding:

1. APF 2012 Legislative Grant - \$83,000.00
2. APF Challenge Grant - \$40,000.00
3. Private Donations - \$3,600.00
  - Residual Project Funding available - \$61,979.00

Volunteer Effort:

- Install new fall surfacing (engineered wood fiber) within the playground
- Landscape improvements

## **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

The proposed improvements for Arctic Benson Park are supported by the Midtown Community Council and have been selected by the VIP committee. The Department recommends that the Parks & Recreation Commission pass the proposed resolution to support the improvements for the Neighborhood Park Fix-it projects as presented.



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**PRC RES NO. 2014-11**  
**2014 Arctic Benson Park Improvements**

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission serves in an advisory capacity to both the Mayor and the Assembly; and

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission has the responsibility and duty to provide for the long term vision of our park system by ensuring that a balance of parks, natural resources, and recreation facilities provides for the health, welfare, and safety of all residents of the Anchorage Bowl; and

WHEREAS, Parks and Recreation partnered with the Midtown Community Council to establish a Very Important Park (VIP) Committee that convened during the fall of 2012 & winter of 2014 to assist the Department with developing a prioritized list of improvements for Arctic Benson Park; and

WHEREAS, all proposed improvements have received local neighborhood support through the VIP process and Community Council review and approval; and

WHEREAS, the 2013 improvements at Arctic Benson Park have been greatly appreciated by neighborhood park users and dog owner's area wide;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission approves the improvement plans and priorities submitted by the Department and VIP Committee for Arctic Benson Park:

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission this 10th day of April, 2014.

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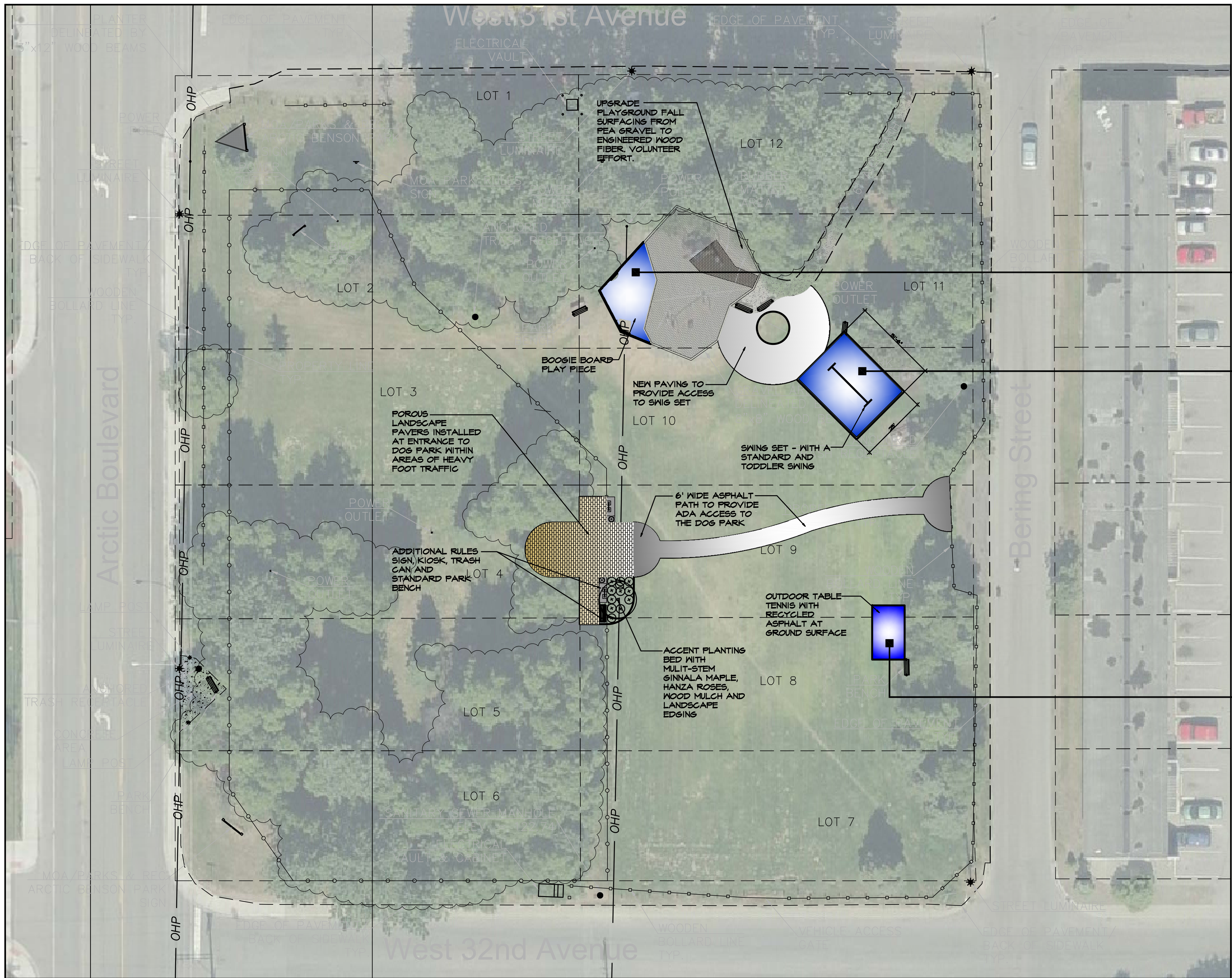
Chair  
Parks and Recreation Commission

ATTEST:

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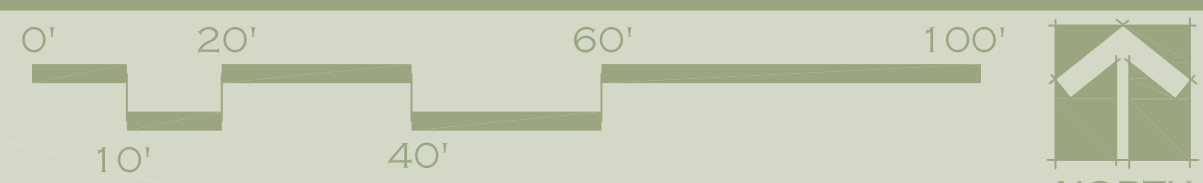
John Rodda, Director  
Parks & Recreation Department





# Anchorage Parks & Recreation

## Arctic Benson Park Park Improvements 2014 Anchorage Alaska



Scale: 1" = 20' - 0" @ 22" x 34"

Date: 3-25-2014

Drawn By: JD

Checked By: -

Landscape Plan 1 of 1