



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

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:** September 5, 2019

---

**To:** Parks & Recreation Commission

---

**Cc:** Joshua Durand, Parks Superintendent

---

**From:** Taylor Keegan, Park Planner

---

**Project:** PRC 19-11 Taku Lake Park - South Gateway Improvements

---

### INTRODUCTION

Anchorage Parks and Recreation is proposing upgrades to the South Gateway at Taku Lake Park for 2020. Improvements were identified in the 2018 *Taku Lake Park Master Plan* and will include a new concrete skatepark, a new inclusive playground, picnic areas, landscaping, circulation improvements, safety upgrades, lighting, and new amenities. These improvements are intended to serve the larger community offering a range of highly desirable recreational opportunities for families and individuals of all ages and abilities.

### ABOUT TAKU LAKE PARK

Taku Lake Park is a 53 acre park located along the Campbell Creek Greenbelt in the Taku/Campbell neighborhood of Anchorage. The park is classified as a Community Use Park in the 2006 *Anchorage Bowl Park, Natural Resource and Recreation Facility Plan*.

The park features both developed facilities and natural areas. Natural areas include Taku Lake and Campbell Creek as well as surrounding wetland and riparian habitat. Developed facilities include: two tennis courts, a small skate park, a picnic shelter and open space area, adult fitness area, a rain garden, as well as paved and soft surface trails.

The South Gateway is located in the southern end of Taku Lake Park and is accessible by vehicle from Dimond Blvd. with parking located at the end of Stormy Place. The South Gateway is also easily accessible to bicyclist and pedestrians from the adjacent neighborhood and from the Campbell Creek Trail.

### PLANNING AND DESIGN

Anchorage Parks and Recreation kickoff the project in early 2019 with two public workshops, and several interdisciplinary meetings to facilitate the improvements as identified in the *Taku Lake Park Master Plan*.

Throughout the planning process, neighbors, park users, local business owners as well as local skaters and snow & skate businesses attended meetings and hosted events to advocate for

upgraded amenities at Taku Lake Park. More specifically, the continued advocacy from the local skate and snowboard community put the skatepark at the top of the priority list and set the stage for future development.

### *Planning and Design Milestones*

- ***Park Bond Passes, April 2016*** - Anchorage voters approve \$400,000 in funding for an inclusive playground and safety improvements at Taku Lake Park
- ***Public Workshop #1: Nov. 30, 2016*** - community identifies potential new improvements at the park, large turnout of local skaters
- ***Public Workshop #2: Jan. 26, 2017*** - community prioritizes the skatepark as a future park improvement
- ***Park Bond Passes, April 2018*** - Anchorage voters approve \$250,000 in funding for a skatepark at Taku Lake Park
- ***Parks and Recreation Commission: May 10, 2018*** - Master Plan approved by the governing board
- ***Planning and Zoning Commission: Sept. 10, 2018*** - Master Plan receives final approval
- ***Skate Jam and Skatepark Design Workshop: May 11, 2019*** - skaters from all over Anchorage come together to skate and work with professionals from Grindlines to guide the design of the skatepark, lots of local media
- ***Taku Lake Park South Gateway and Skatepark Design Workshop: July 13, 2019*** - community members attend to provide feedback on 35% design of Skatepark as well as other improvements surrounding including playground, circulation, and lighting upgrades.

### *Planning and Design Next Steps*

- ***September 2019 - Parks and Recreation Commission Public Hearing***
- ***October 2019 - Urban Design Commission Application Submittal***
- ***December 2019 - Urban Design Commission Public Hearing***

## PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

The design of the park was largely driven by the two public workshops held for the park as well as the Master Planning Process. The proposed playground and skatepark are in the same programmatic location presently, but each of their footprints will be expanded to include more opportunities for use as well as increased accessibility opportunities. The adult fitness equipment on site will be relocated closer to the Campbell Creek Trail, which Parks has seen as a popular model for increasing usership of similar stations across Anchorage.

The skate park and playground's limits were contained and shaped around an existing natural forested floodplain. The project will require importing fill but will utilize terracing to conform to the natural grade changes existing on site. Additionally, we will be utilizing only LED lighting technology and will be both retrofitting existing light posts as well as installing new facilities where necessary. The parking lot area will specifically see upgrades to its existing lighting as well as improved striping, signage, and pedestrian infrastructure.

The overall theme of the space will reflect the natural environment and the existing conditions on site, which includes mature stands of birch trees and a lush understory of native plants. The play equipment will be forest themed, highlighting the colors of the birch grove and its surrounding environment. It was also a request during the master planning process that some sort of placemaking element be included in the design. Currently, this is manifested in the custom play equipment and the Alaska flag themed skate park, but also has potential to be realized in other places, like the fencing or sculptural elements surrounding the space.

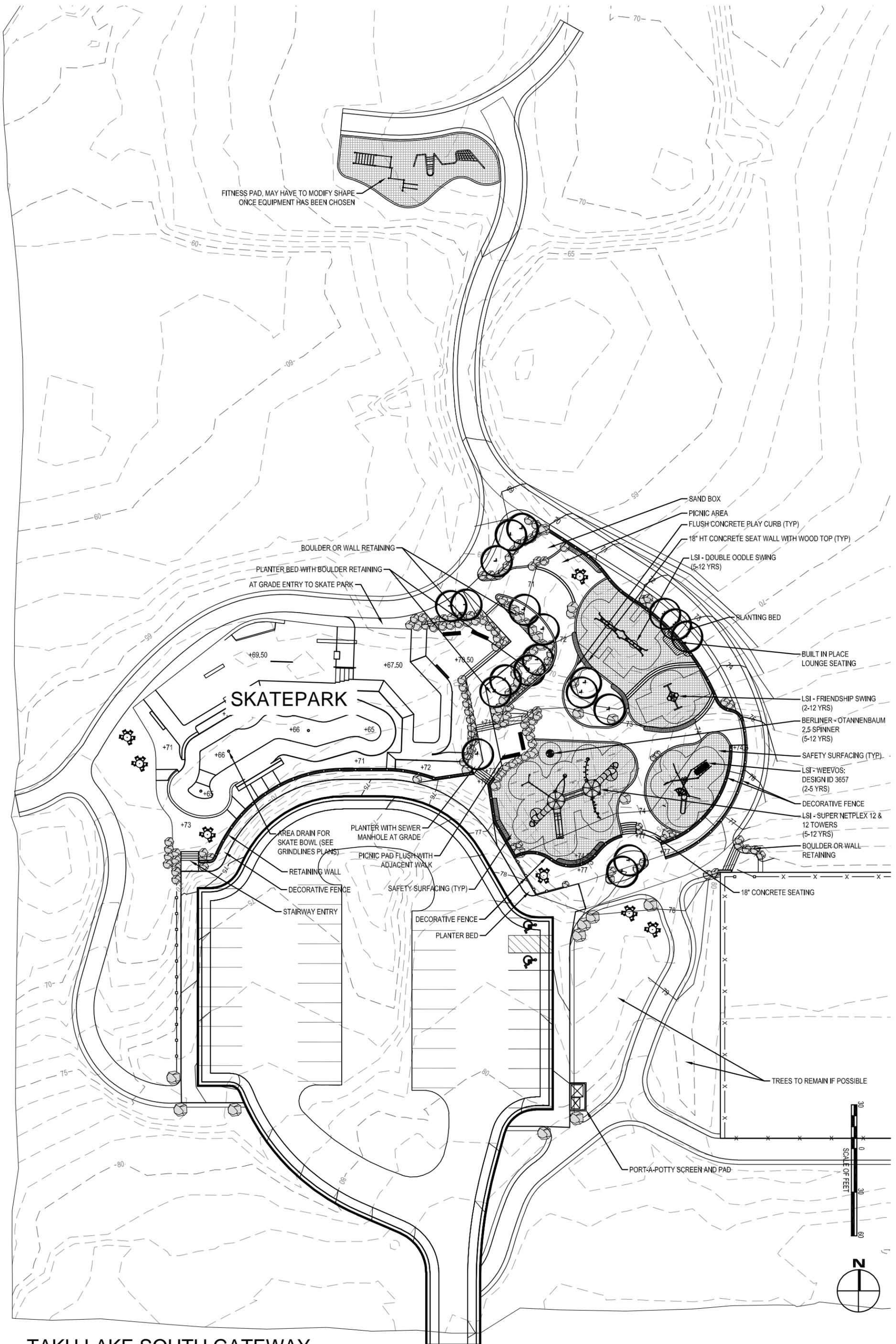
### PROJECT FUNDING

<b><u>Current Funds Available</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,040,000.00</u></b>
2016 Parks Bond	\$400,000.00
2018 Parks Bond	\$250,000.00
APF	\$350,000.00
Challenge Grant	\$40,000.00
<b><u>Expended Funds to Date</u></b>	<b><u>\$114,813.00</u></b>
Taku Lake Park Master Plan	\$61,338.00
South Gateway Parking Lot Gate	\$3,800.00
Survey and Geotech	\$49,675.00
<b><u>Construction Estimate and Goal</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,900,000.00</u></b>
Design Services	\$200,000.00
Skate Park	\$700,000.00
Play Area	\$550,000.00
Additional Amenities, Lighting and Sitework	\$415,000.00
Landscaping	\$35,000.00
<b><u>Current Funds Available</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,040,000.00</u></b>
Expended Funds to Date	\$114,813.00
Construction Estimate and Goal	\$1,900,000.00
Total Anticipated Funds Expended	\$2,014,813.00
Remaining Amount to Fundraise	\$974,813.00

Additionally, the project is currently under consideration for an AARP FitLot Fitness Park grant which will cover the costs of materials, installation and promotion of adult fitness equipment. This will add value to the project by offsetting costs under "Additional Amenities."

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The Department recommends that the Parks & Recreation Commission pass the proposed resolution in support of improvements identified for the South Gateway of Taku Lake Park. The playground and skate park upgrades will facilitate a safer community space through investing in facilities for a range of users while improving the overall amenities of the space including seating, lighting, and circulation. Additionally, adult fitness equipment is slotted to be included in these upgrades to provide further opportunities for the diverse users of Taku Park and the Campbell Creek Greenbelt.





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

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)



**PRC RESOLUTION NO. 2019-08**  
**Taku Park South Gateway 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, Taku Lake Park is a 53 acre park located along the Campbell Creek Greenbelt in the Taku/Campbell neighborhood of Anchorage; and

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department collaborated with local community members and stakeholders on the 2018 *Taku Lake Park Master Plan* to identify improvements proposed for the South Gateway; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Department has continued to work with the community throughout the design development process soliciting input from the community advisory group, skatepark users, local businesses, and the general public through a series of workshops and design meetings; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed South Gateway improvements include skatepark upgrades, a new inclusive playground, picnic areas, circulation improvements, safety upgrades and lighting, landscaping, and new amenities;

WHEREAS, the proposed improvements are intended to serve the larger community offering a range of highly desirable recreational opportunities for families and individuals of all ages and abilities; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission approves the Taku Lake Park South Gateway 2020 Improvements project.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission this 9th day of September, 2019.

---

Jon Dyson, Chair  
Parks and Recreation Commission

ATTEST:

---

John Rodda, Director  
Parks & Recreation Department