



Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska
Parks & Recreation Department

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MEMORANDUM

Date: April 10, 2014

To: Parks & Recreation Commission

Cc: Holly Spoth-Torres, Parks Superintendent

From: Josh Durand, Park Planner

Project: **PRC 14-17:** 2014 Challenge Grants

INTRODUCTION

Since 2006, the Anchorage Park Foundation (APF) has offered Challenge Grants to individuals and community organizations for capital improvements to Anchorage parks and trails. With financial support from the Rasumson Foundation, APF matches volunteer hours, cash contributions, and in-kind donations.

As of 2014, APF has funded 80 projects providing close to \$1.4M in matching grants. As a result, the Anchorage community has accomplished significant revitalization of Anchorage parks.

PLANNING AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Challenge Grant projects require input from the community and guidance from Parks and Recreation staff. P&R staff has worked closely with Challenge Grant recipients to ensure that park improvements are consistent with the goals of Anchorage Park Plan and align with the interest of the local community. The following APF Challenge Grant projects have been presented to and approved by local community councils.

2014 CHALLENGE GRANT PROJECTS

In 2013, the Anchorage Park Foundation awarded a total of \$257,672 in Challenge Grants. This report presents three of the seven Challenge Grant projects to be completed this summer.

ATA Court Amenities and Maintenance **\$31,446**

In summer 2104, the Anchorage Tennis Association (ATA) will be repairing and replacing nets, post, sunscreens and windscreens at several tennis courts in Anchorage Parks. This project is aimed at improving safety and providing for a more enjoyable tennis experience. ATA will be making improvements at the following parks:

- Delaney Park (one new sunscreen over bleachers)
- Taku Lake Park (four new posts and two new nets, and one new door)
- Forsythe Park (one new windscreen, four new posts and two new nets)
- Scenic Park (one new windscreen, four new posts and two new nets)
- Pop Carr Park (one new windscreen, eight new posts and four new nets)

Little Dipper Park Eagle Scout Overlook **\$12,000**

In summer 2014, Eagle Scout candidate Brian Durr will construct a viewing platform and bench in Little Dipper Park. The 10'X10' viewing platform will be located near a tributary of Chester Creek and will provide outstanding views of the Chugach Mountains. The platform will limit future erosion of riparian areas by concentrating users to a designated viewing area. P&R staff has worked closely with the Challenge Grant recipient to ensure that all necessary permits and approvals are acquired. The project has been reviewed by Long Range Planning and was recently approved by the Army Corps of Engineers.

Lloyd Steele Park Field Repairs (AK RUSH)

\$40,000

In summer 2014, AK Rush Soccer Club will make repairs and improvements to the soccer fields at Lloyd Steele Park. Improvements include purchasing new maintenance equipment, adding shrubs near the shelter and exercise stations, adding more garbage cans to meet the needs of larger events, and purchasing additional mutt mitt dispensers to minimize animal waste. In 2013, AK Rush organized over 230 hours of volunteer cleanup at the park.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The proposed improvements of the Challenge Grant projects have been reviewed of Park Planning staff and are supported by their relevant community council. The Department recommends that the Parks & Recreation Commission pass the proposed resolution to support the improvements of the Challenge Grant projects as presented.

PRC RES NO. 2014-13
2014 Challenge Grant Projects

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, the Anchorage Park Foundation provides Challenge Grant funding for capital improvement projects in Anchorage parks and trails; and

WHEREAS, Parks and Recreation staff provided consultation to Challenge Grant recipients and oversight of Challenge Grant projects to ensure that improvements are consistent with the desires of the community and all relevant park plans; and

WHEREAS, all proposed improvements have received Community Council review and approval;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission approves the improvements submitted by the Department for the 2014 Challenge Grant projects: Alaska Tennis Association Areawide Amenities and Maintenance, Little Dipper Park Eagle Scout Overlook, and Lloyd Steele Park Soccer Field Repairs by AKRush.

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

Chair
Parks and Recreation Commission

ATTEST:

John Rodda, Director
Parks & Recreation Department

Little Dipper Park Eagle Scout Platform

Image 1: Proposed Location of the Platform

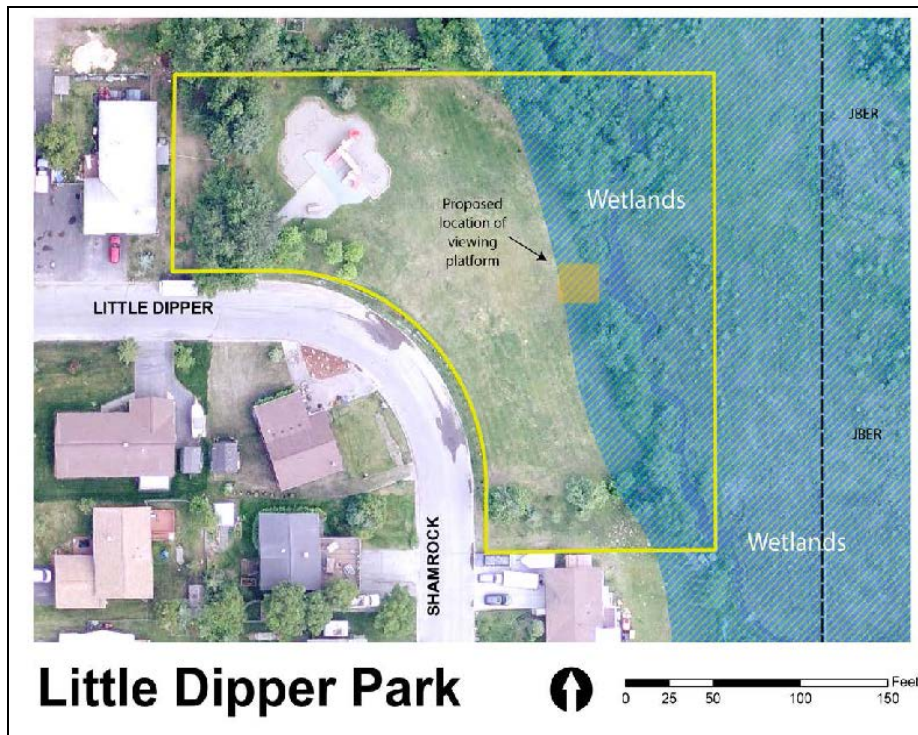


Image 2: View of the Creek and Mountains from location of Proposed Platform

