

Anchorage Parks & Recreation January Volunteers of the month “South Addition Trash Fairies”



Our New Year starts with a group who have been working in the parks and on the trails for over 30 years. During those years the members have changed but the mission has remained the same. Our group dedicates an hour or two every morning five days a week all year long keeping areas

clean of trash as well as having an opportunity to socialize and exercise. They come outfitted with trash pickers, trash bags and in the winter, reflective vests. They are flexible and have three different routes they walk to keep trash at bay in South Addition. They find a variety of items during their trash removal walks. Some of the items are taken to the Good Will and others have been reunited with their owners. A few members have even added to their wardrobes with their finds.

Making their outing even more interesting, they work on finding the “Grand Slam”. This consists of five unusual items they try to find, and sometimes they have been successful finding them.

On trash pickup days, as they work their way through the neighborhood, they also engage in recycling. They find flower pots, chairs and even a discarded toilet to make into a flower display area. Many of their special finds are delivered to agencies who can use them.

Trash depends on the day of the week and the time of year. Mondays are a heavy trash day, as well as breakup.

They deposit their loot in trash cans along the way and end their journey at City Market to enjoy coffee, and sometimes pick up the parking lot there as well.

So if you are at the Delaney Park Strip, Elderberry Park or along the Tony Knowles Coastal Trail look for our special group of trash warriors and give them a big thank you.

Their Quote: “Recycle as You Walk”

Nominated by: Nancy Beardsley, Volunteer Coordinator