



2015 RECAP **YOUTH** EMPLOYMENT IN PARKS



2015 RECAP

Week ONE

| June 1: **Training + Balto Seppela**

Week TWO

| June 12: **Chester Creek + Park Founder's Day**

Week THREE

| June 19: **Centennial Park Campground**

Week FOUR

| June 26: **Earthquake Park + Hernandez Hatchery Tour**

Week FIVE

| July 3: **Far North Bicentennial Park**

Week SIX

| July 10: **Far North Bicentennial Park**

Week SEVEN

| July 17th: **Mount Baldy**

Week EIGHT

| July 20 : **Kincaid Park+ Anchorage Community Land Trust**

Week NINE

| July 20 : **Kincaid Park + Bird TLC**

Week TEN

| July 20 : **Mentorship Week and Closing Dinner**



June 5 | **BALTO SEPPALA PARK**

CONSTRUCTED a 650 foot gravel trail inspired by Balto the sled dog and the annual Iditarod sled race. It will feature informational plaques about the race along the path.

The crew's main task was to **CUT INTO THE PARK'S SOD AND DIG UP THE SOIL TO MAKE WAY FOR THE GRAVEL TRAIL** cut into the park's sod and dig up the soil to make way for the gravel trail.

Later, **CKTV CHANNEL 11 NEWS** arrived to do a feature story on the YEP program. Several of the crew members were interviewed for the story and expressed their excitement with YEP program and having the opportunity to work outside. Anchorage Park Foundation Executive Director, Beth Nordlund, also spoke about the importance of the YEP program and its direct effects on Anchorage Parks.

WEEK ONE





WEEK TWO

June 12 | CHESTER CREEK + PARK FOUNDERS DAY

For a busy second week, the crew headed to the Chester Creek near **WEST CHESTER LAGOON TO PLANT NATIVE TREES AND SHRUB** along the banks of the lagoon. The Chester Creek Stream bank Restoration project was **designed to improve the fish habitat** at Westchester Lagoon. Additionally, the crew had a **lesson about salmon habitat** and the impact of their work from the Fish and Wildlife Service.

The YEP crew also worked at **VALLEY OF THE MOON PARK**. For this project, the Yeppies were tasked with **restoring Valley of the Moon's stone stairway water access area**. The stairway was a project that was originally constructed by the 2013 YEP crew, but over time had become washed away by rising waters from the creek.

The week closed by celebrating the **10 year anniversary** of Anchorage Parks foundation at **PARK FOUNDER'S DAY**. The YEP crew made the event go smoothly and they helped by loading and unloading materials and dressing up as Anchorage's moose mascot and goodwill ambassador, Seymour of Anchorage and a sled dog.



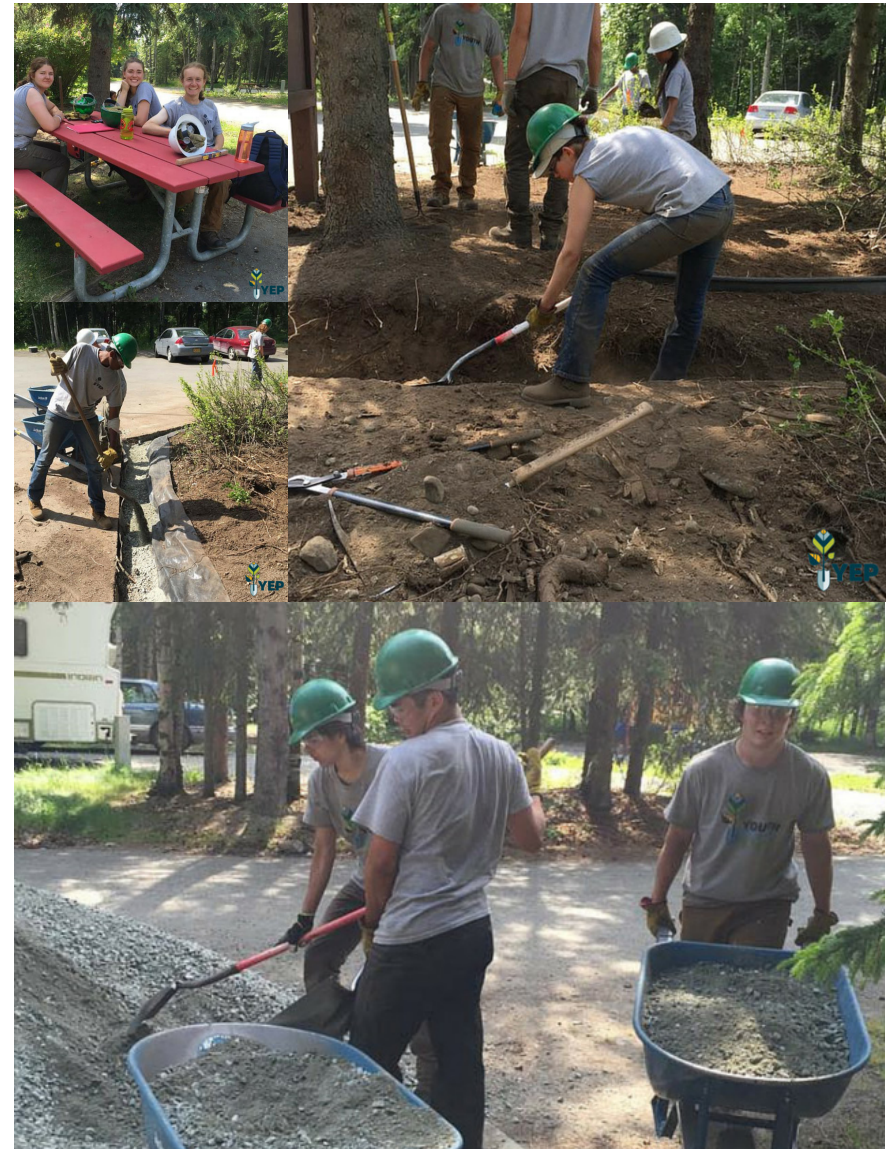


June 19 | CENTENNIAL PARK CAMPGROUND

WEEK THREE

In week 3 of the YEP season the crew members headed to the Centennial Park Campground, which offers rustic camping opportunities and a total of 200 campsites! The YEP kids were tasked with **building a new boarder around the campground's shrub garden**. The crew also **laid out a new foundation** in the picnic area that is behind the campground's cabin entrance.

In a memorable moment, during one of the hot summer days, the YEP crew was pleasantly surprised by a couple staying at the campground who decided to bring all crew members a much needed drink. With nearly **10 six-packs of Gatorade** every member was able to get refreshed and finish their task.





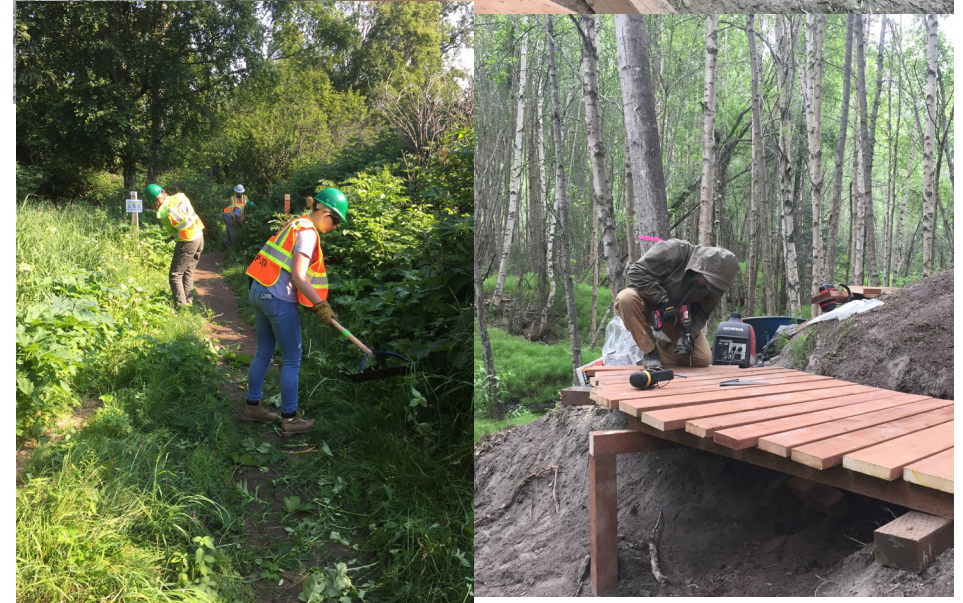
June 26 | EARTHQUAKE PARK + HERNANDEZ HATCHERY

After completing projects in nearly every corner of Anchorage, the YEP teens headed to historical **EARTHQUAKE PARK** to **improve existing social trails along the park and install interpretive signage for trail users.**

Social trails are paths that have been developed by erosion from human and animal foot traffic. The YEP crew's improvement to Earthquake park's social trails gives Anchorage residents easy access to other parks along the trail.

Also, **Landscape Architect Dwayne Adams** of Earthscape introduced the crew to the **park's unique features and history.**

The crew also took time to take a **tour** of the **Hernandez Hatchery**; later in week ten two crew members spent their mentorship day with the hatchery.



WEEK FIVE + SIX

July 3 | FAR NORTH BICENTENNIAL PARK

At the midway point of the YEP program, the crew headed to Far North Bicentennial Park for the first week of a two week scheduled project at the park. Crew members worked on **maintaining and improving trails** at Far North by **setting down gravel as the new foundation for the trail**.

A video of a GoPro attached to one of the wheel barrels traveling through Far North is available to see on the Youth Employment in Parks Facebook page.

After a long week of work at Far North Bicentennial Park, the YEP crew made sure to also have an **educational day** around the trails at Far North. The crew hiked around the park and **learned about Far North's plant habitat**. Each YEP teen had a handy **dichotomous key** to help **identify the different types of trees and wild flowers** that surround the park.





July 10 | **MT. BALDY** in **EAGLE RIVER**

The YEP finished up at Far North and made their way to Mt. Baldy in Eagle River to **improve and lay down gravel on the mount's trail**. This was the first time in the YEP program history that a project took place in Eagle River.

In an earlier week they climbed Mt. Baldy, many for the first time. This was **hands down, the favorite project** of the summer.

Also during this week, **lessons on salmon habitat** continued in the **West Chester Lagoon** along the Chester Creek Trail.

WEEK SEVEN





WEEK EIGHT+ NINE

July 24 | **KINCAID PARK + ASSEMBLY**

The YEP crew started their last project of the summer this week by **building a new and sustainable trail** at **Kincaid Park**. The trail will give **access to Kincaid's beach** and will offer **interpretive information** about the park. Other social trails along Kincaid Park will also be rehabilitated and improved.

While working at Kincaid, **Alaska State Senator Mia Costello** stopped by. Sen. Costello helped secure a State Legislative grant to the Anchorage Park Foundation for the Kincaid Beach Trail project. She and her staff celebrated with a visit to the YEP crew that included ice cream sundaes from **Tastee Freez** on a sunny day! She thanked the crew members for their hard work and offered the crew members the opportunity to include her as a future reference after seeing their hard work at Kincaid.



FINAL WEEK

AUGUST 3 | MENTORSHIP WEEK + CLOSING DINNER



- Job Shadowing
- Resume Writing
- Leave No Trace
- Environmental Careers Panel
- Swimming at Little Campbell Lake
- Visit to NOLS in Palmer
- Closing Dinner



THANKS!

