

Parks & Recreation



Municipal Manager

Parks & Recreation

Administration

Debt Service

Anchorage Bowl Parks Operation

**Eagle River/
Chugiak Parks & Recreation**

Anchorage Bowl Recreation

Girdwood Parks & Recreation

Areawide Grants

Parks & Recreation

Description

The Municipality of Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department is divided into three service areas: Anchorage, Eagle River/Chugiak, and Girdwood, the Department manages 11,000 acres of parkland, 223 parks, 250 miles of trails, six pools, and eleven recreation and community facilities. The department oversees between \$5M-15M annually in planning and development projects. Parks and Recreation staff works proactively with community councils and user groups to identify and prioritize development projects.

Parks and trails provide great economic and social value to the Municipality of Anchorage. They contribute to MOA resident's quality of life and create healthy communities. The mission of the Parks and Recreation Department is to ensure that parks, trails, and facilities are well maintained and safe for the public. This mission is embodied in the motto "Healthy Parks, Healthy People". To fulfill this mission, the Parks and Recreation Department is guided by a set of eight strategies or core values. These strategies guide the Parks and Recreation Department in the management of Municipal parklands.

Core Values & Strategic Goals

1. Improve Maintenance and Stewardship of What We Have
2. Private-Public Partnership
3. Parks as Community Building Blocks
4. Parks as Economic Engines
5. Balanced Services & Facilities for a Diverse Community
6. Access and Connections
7. Stewardship of Natural Resources
8. Creating a Strong Parks and Recreation Organization

These eight strategies serve as the basis for future action and decision-making and are the product of a comprehensive and on-going public engagement process.

Anchorage Parks and Recreation also works with community partners and volunteers to leverage resources to maintain and improve our parks. Over the past seven years, Anchorage Parks and Recreation (P&R) has worked with the Anchorage Park Foundation (APF) to develop a successful public-private partnership. This partnership has resulted in millions of dollars of investment in Municipal parks and trails and has generated thousands of volunteer hours.

Parks & Recreation (907)343-PLAY (7529)
632 W 6th Ave, Suite 630 Anchorage, AK 99501
<https://www.muni.org/Departments/parks>

Department Services

- Park Maintenance and Operations: maintain and improve the health of the Municipality of Anchorage Park system for the benefit of present and future generations through managed development, and routine care and maintenance of parks, trails, green spaces, trees, flowers, and public facilities.

- Park and Community Development: promote community giving to foster economic growth and community volunteerism in the care and improvement of park assets and in the delivery of Parks & Recreation services.
- Recreation Services: promote healthy lifestyles by delivering year-round recreation and volunteer programs in the Municipality of Anchorage's parks, pools, and recreation facilities.
- Anchorage Memorial Cemetery: Established in 1915, the Anchorage Memorial Park Cemetery provides a final resting place for Alaskans and serves as an important marker for the cultural heritage of Anchorage and Alaska

Divisions

- Anchorage Administration
 - Oversees the administration of the department including contracts, invoicing, use agreements, payroll, and management
- Anchorage Bowl Parks Operation
 - Responsible for the management, maintenance, development, and beautification of Anchorage parks and trails
- Anchorage Bowl Recreation Services
 - Provides recreation programs, events, and the operation of recreation facilities and pools
- Areawide Grants
 - Grants to community-based organizations such as the Anchorage Park Foundation and the Mt. View Boys and Girls Club
- Debt Service – Fund 161
 - Dedicated funding to service department debt
- Eagle River/Chugiak
 - Responsible for the management, maintenance and programming of parks, trails, facilities, and events in the Eagle River/Chugiak service area
- Girdwood
 - Oversees parks and trails in the Girdwood Valley
- Anchorage Memorial Cemetery
 - Manages and maintains the Anchorage Memorial Cemetery

Department Goals that Contribute to Achieving the Mayor's Mission:



Good Government – Ensuring ethical and accountable government, balancing the budget, and delivering quality, effective government services.

- Promote Anchorage's world-class park and trail system to attract businesses and retain a talented workforce.
- Foster public-private partnerships to diversity funding sources for capital improvement projects through state and federal grants, volunteer support and private contributions.
- Maximize budgeted resources through effective scheduling of facility hours and programs to align with community demand.
- Reorganization of Park Maintenance, Horticulture, Community Work Service, and the Cemetery operation to be more effective and efficient through strategic and data driven change.
- Through planned and managed development improve the safety, appearance, and usability of Anchorage Neighborhood Parks in an effective and cost-efficient manner.

- Provide opportunities for residents and visitors to enjoy Anchorage's parks and facilities.
- Offer aquatic programs year-round for public safety and recreation.
- Expand outreach to various Anchorage communities to promote and celebrate parks, trails, and facilities.
- Partner with organizations to provide programming in parks that creates a sense of place and community ownership.



Safe Streets and Trails – Creating a safer, healthier Anchorage for all by addressing homelessness, investing in crisis response services and public health, cleaning up our parks, trails and public spaces, and staffing up our public safety departments.

- Provide recreation opportunities that are safe, secure, and enjoyable.
- Through the practice of routine maintenance, maintain Municipal Park assets to ensure optimum risk management by keeping parks, trails, and facilities in a state of good repair and that are safe and welcoming.
- Coordination with APD and the administration to promptly respond to the camp abatement process.
- Maintain vegetation within public space to open sight lines for public safety while reducing the likelihood of hidden and illegal camps.
- Continued focus on “healthy spaces” camp clean-up program to provide safe welcoming spaces for recreation and environmental stewardship.
- Upgrade aging park infrastructure to provide a safe experience to park and trail users.
- Continued development of inclusive playgrounds to serve the Anchorage population of all abilities.



Building Our Future – Laying the foundation for a more prosperous future through housing solutions, economic development and investments in childcare, public infrastructure and quality of life.

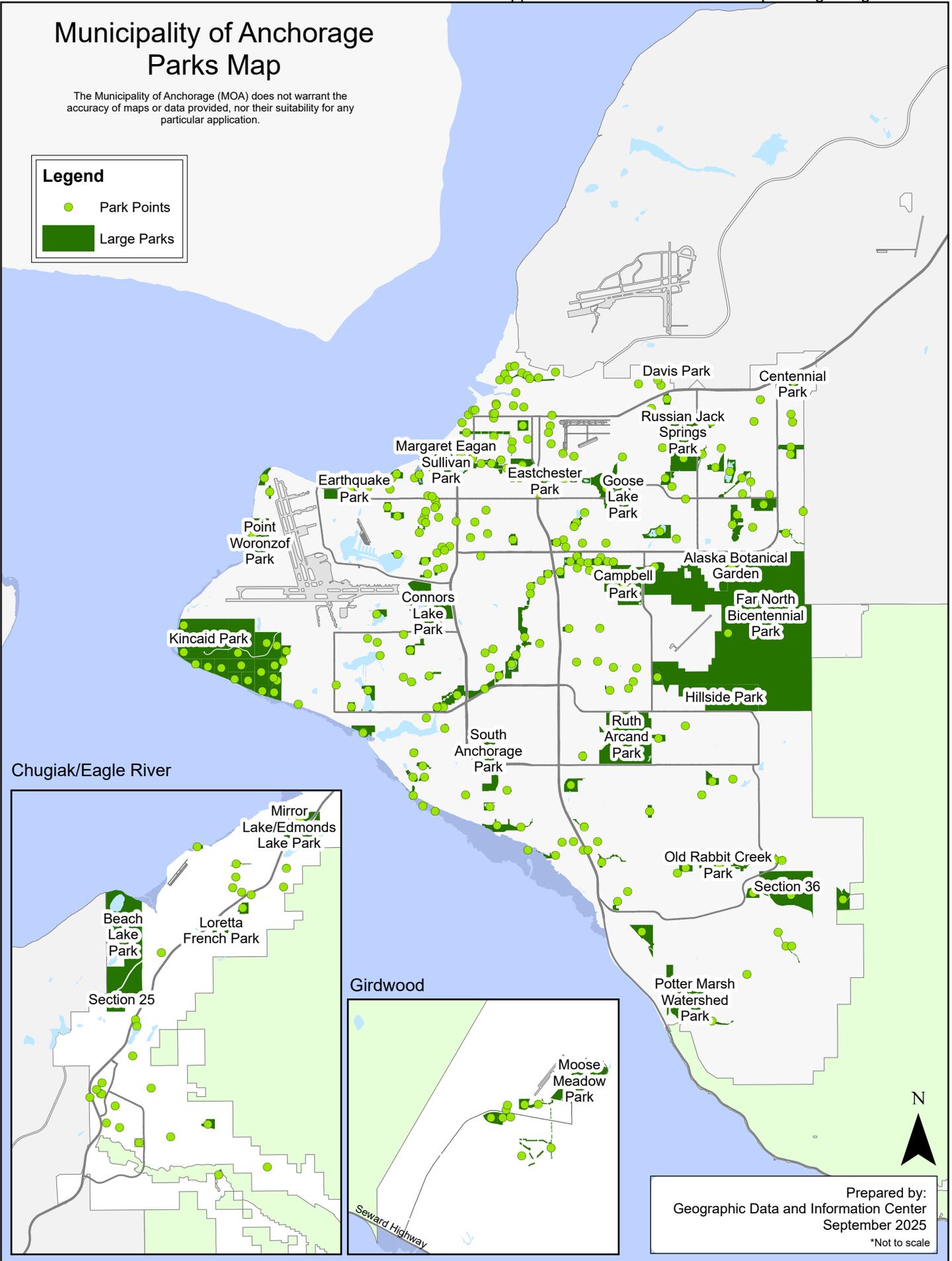
- Engage residents and user groups to actively participate and volunteer in park projects and stewardship.
- Continued investment in parks and trails to create jobs and support construction industry.
- Collaborate with non-profits such as the Anchorage Park Foundation and Visit Anchorage on initiatives to expand tourism in Anchorage.
- Partner with organizations such as the Anchorage Downtown Partnership and other non-profit organizations to provide programming and events in parks.
- Provide new opportunities for concessionaires to operate in parks to support small business while enhancing user experience.
- Provide satisfying positive experiences through quality recreation, leisure and civic programs in Anchorage's parks and facilities.
- Partner with schools to provide outdoor programming opportunities in parks and along trails.
- Provide recreation programs and services that are affordable and accessible to all residents.

Municipality of Anchorage Parks Map

The Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) does not warrant the accuracy of maps or data provided, nor their suitability for any particular application.

Legend

- Park Points
- Large Parks



Prepared by:
Geographic Data and Information Center
September 2025

*Not to scale

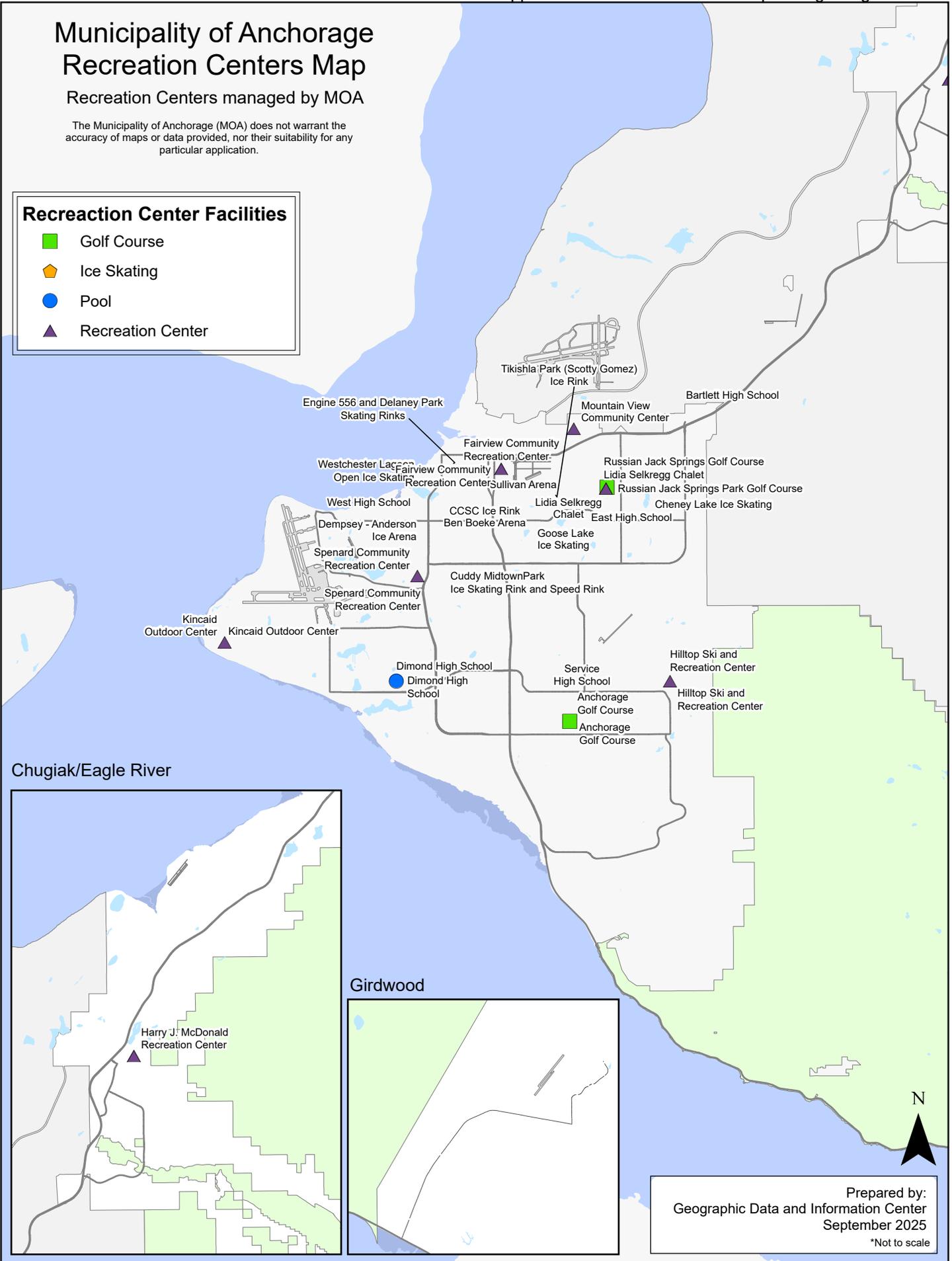
Municipality of Anchorage Recreation Centers Map

Recreation Centers managed by MOA

The Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) does not warrant the accuracy of maps or data provided, nor their suitability for any particular application.

Recreation Center Facilities

- Golf Course
- ◆ Ice Skating
- Pool
- ▲ Recreation Center



Prepared by:
Geographic Data and Information Center
September 2025
*Not to scale

Parks & Recreation Department Summary

	2024 Actuals Unaudited	2025 Revised	2026 Approved	26 v 25 % Chg
Direct Cost by Division				
P&R Anch Administration	1,588,671	4,128,839	1,517,968	(63.23%)
P&R Anch Bowl Parks Operation	9,748,056	9,647,057	9,761,648	1.19%
P&R Anch Bowl Recreation Services	5,165,136	6,255,161	6,455,333	3.20%
P&R Areawide Grants	671,425	452,529	296,175	(34.55%)
P&R Debt Service - Fund 161	3,047,820	3,277,190	3,251,571	(0.78%)
P&R Eagle River/Chugiak	3,703,778	4,244,798	4,493,650	5.86%
P&R Girdwood	419,888	755,099	539,739	(28.52%)
Direct Cost Total	24,344,774	28,760,673	26,316,084	(8.50%)
Intragovernmental Charges				
Charges by/to Other Departments	5,935,050	7,492,243	7,536,192	0.59%
Function Cost Total	30,279,824	36,252,916	33,852,276	(6.62%)
Program Generated Revenue	(2,661,102)	(2,602,940)	(2,610,640)	0.30%
Net Cost Total	27,618,723	33,649,976	31,241,636	(7.16%)
Direct Cost by Category				
Salaries and Benefits	10,715,845	13,872,222	14,603,254	5.27%
Supplies	1,307,934	1,057,554	1,107,959	4.77%
Travel	-	-	-	-
Contractual/Other Services	8,790,187	10,256,465	7,056,121	(31.20%)
Debt Service	3,147,211	3,372,826	3,347,144	(0.76%)
Equipment, Furnishings	383,598	201,606	201,606	-
Direct Cost Total	24,344,774	28,760,673	26,316,084	(8.50%)
Position Summary as Budgeted				
Full-Time	80	85	94	10.59%
Part-Time	254	244	223	(8.61%)
Position Total	334	329	317	(3.65%)

Parks & Recreation Reconciliation from 2025 Revised Budget to 2026 Approved Budget

	Direct Costs	Positions		
		FT	PT	Seas/T
2025 Revised Budget	28,760,673	84	26	218
2025 One-Time Requirements				
- Reverse 2025 1Q - ONE-TIME - \$2.6 GL settlement recovery from tax cap	(2,600,000)	-	-	-
- Reverse 2025 1Q - ONE-TIME - <u>Girdwood Service Area</u> - GBOS approved \$300k increase to capital for suspension bridge	(300,000)	-	-	-
Debt Service Changes				
- General Obligation (GO) Bonds	(102,682)	-	-	-
- Tax Anticipation Notes (TANS)	77,000	-	-	-
Changes in Existing Programs/Funding for 2026				
- Salaries and benefits adjustments	386,294	-	-	-
- Mountain View Community Center (MVCC) full year funding funded with reduction of remainder of grant to Boys & Girls Club related to MVCC	-	-	-	-
- Room Tax	(19,507)	-	-	-
- Fleet	(108,515)	-	-	-
2026 Continuation Level	26,093,263	84	26	218
2026 Proposed Budget Changes				
- Voter Approved Bond O&M - 2023 Bond Proposition A, AO 2023-002 (S)	7,000	-	-	-
- Voter Approved Bond O&M - 2024 Bond Proposition 4, AO 2024-7	35,000	-	-	-
- Voter Approved Bond O&M - 2025 Bond Proposition 3, AO 2025-010	10,000	-	-	-
- <u>Eagle River Chugiak Service Area</u> - Board of Supervisors' approved requested budget changes including funding for one (1) Manager position	122,038	1	-	-
- <u>Eagle River Chugiak Service Area</u> - Board of Supervisors' approved requested budget changes including funding taking to mills of 0.8 Mill for Parks and Recreation Services and 0.2 Mill for Capital Improvements	130,783	-	-	-
- <u>Girdwood Service Area</u> - Girdwood Board of Supervisors' (GBOS) approved requested budget changes	93,000	-	-	-
2026 Assembly Amendments				
- 1A Part-time positions to full-time positions	-	8	-	(14)
- 1E Reduction for Non-Recruited positions	(175,000)	-	(4)	(3)
2026 Approved Budget	26,316,084	93	22	201

This reconciliation represents the actual position counts. The position counts on the Department and Division reports may include positions that are budgeted in multiple fund centers, which may result in a position being counted multiple times.

Parks & Recreation Operating Grant and Alternative Funded Programs

Program	Fund Center	Award Amount	Expected Expenditures Thru 12/31/2025	Expected Expenditures in 2026	Expected Balance at End of 2026	Personnel			Program Expiration
						FT	PT	T	
Donor: Anchorage Skates!									
Program: Maintenance, repair and improvement of the oval rink located in Cuddy Family Midtown Park. Funding is used to cover contract services, capital improvements, and supplies.	560300	130,000	120,000	-	10,000	-	-	-	Ongoing
Historically, Anchorage Skates! has donated \$10,000 annually to the Parks and Recreation Department for reimbursement of utility, maintenance, and capital improvement expenditures.									
Donor: Conoco Phillips									
Program: Westchester Family Skate Program. Donated funds are used to cover contract services and supplies.	560300	198,050	185,754	10,000	2,296	-	-	-	Ongoing
Betti's Cuddy Foundation									
Donation from the Betti Cuddy Foundation for the year-round beautification of Cuddy Family Midtown Park	550200	126,288	44,881	10,000	71,407	-	-	-	Ongoing
Festival of Flowers Operating									
Donation to support Town Square Flowers	550200	7,245	5,890	-	1,355	-	-	-	One-time
Planet Walk Maintenance Fund									
Donation from Anchorage Rotary Club for the maintenance and operation of the Anchorage Light Speed Planet Walk.	550200	10,000	-	-	10,000	-	-	-	One-time
Kincaid Project Group Endowment									
Kincaid Endowment for identified projects	550200	21,516	21,516	-	-	-	-	-	Ongoing
Arbor Day Foundation									
Community Tree Recovery	550600	6,600	4,030	-	2,570	-	-	-	Ongoing
Arbor Day and FedEx Grant									
Community Tree Recovery	550600	12,550	4,500	-	8,050	-	-	-	Ongoing
Back to School Fair									
Donations from community to support Fairview Recreation Back to School Fair	560200	500	500	-	-	-	-	-	Ongoing
Total Grant and Alternative Operating Funding for Department		512,749	387,072	20,000	105,677	-	-	-	
Total General Government Operating Direct Cost for Department					26,316,084	93	22	201	
Total Operating Budget for Department					26,336,084	93	22	201	

Parks and Recreation

Performance. Value. Results.

Mission

Provide for “Healthy Parks, Healthy People, Healthy Future” through ensuring Municipality of Anchorage parks, facilities, and programs are well maintained, safe, accessible, and enjoyable.

Core Services

- Park Operations
 - maintain and improve the health of the Municipality of Anchorage Park system for the benefit of present and future generations through managed development, and routine care and maintenance of parks, trails, green spaces, trees, and facilities.
- Community Development
 - promote community giving to foster economic growth and community volunteerism in the care and improvement of park assets and in the delivery of parks and recreation services.
- Recreation Services
 - promote healthy lifestyles by delivering year-round recreation and volunteer programs in the Municipality of Anchorage’s parks, pools, and recreation facilities.

Accomplishment Goals

- Provide opportunities for residents and visitors to enjoy Municipality of Anchorage parks and facilities.
- Deliver recreation opportunities in a cost-efficient manner.
- Provide recreation opportunities that are safe, secure, and enjoyable.
- Engage residents to actively participate and volunteer in the community.
- Foster private-public partnerships and innovated funding sources to establish a balance in the financing of parks and recreation services and in the development of capital improvement projects through state and federal grants, user fees, volunteer support, and private contributions.

Parks Operations Division

Parks and Recreation Department

Performance. Value. Results.

Mission

A stewardship requirement of the Department is to provide safe, aesthetically pleasing, and usable parks and recreation facilities for public use. To accomplish this requirement daily recurrent, frequently scheduled service and monitoring of the facilities is essential to meet the needs of ever-increasing user groups, to support new and existing recreation programs and to reduce liability risks throughout the system. The Parks Operations Division will fulfill its stewardship requirement by organizing and implementing a maintenance zone management system.

Core Services

- Park Maintenance
 - Anchorage maintains the Anchorage Bowl Park Inventory of 10,861 acres of park land that includes 113 developed parks and 107 undeveloped parks. Property includes 220 miles of trails and greenbelts that link neighborhoods with surrounding natural open spaces and wildlife habitat.
 - Eagle River/Chugiak operations support and maintain a park inventory of over 2,500 acres with 16 developed and 13 undeveloped park properties. Properties include 32 km of groomed ski trails, 10 playground areas, 11 picnic shelters, and 2 million sq. ft. of turf.
 - Girdwood Parks and Recreation manages 120 acres including 13 miles of trails, oversees ten parks, a town square, a modern children's playground with a separate "tot lot", a newly redesigned skate park with rails and ramps, a disc golf course, and two sheltered park pavilions with picnic tables.
- Horticulture and Forestry
 - Anchorage Horticulture is responsible for the operation of the Municipal Greenhouse, the annual growth of 83,000 flowers, and the landscaping and maintenance of 350 beautification sites. The Forestry Section is responsible for the strategic planning and maintenance of Anchorage's tree canopy and natural parks.
 - Eagle River/Chugiak plant and maintain over 3,000 flowers and 50 hanging baskets each summer while coordinating approximately 100 community volunteers at 15 flower bed locations.
- Healthy Spaces
 - The Alcoholic Beverages Retail Sales Tax Program funds the Healthy Spaces Division within the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department. The Healthy Spaces Division provides resources to prevent and address Anchorage's

homelessness crisis through the year-round clean-up of camps within parks, trails, and greenspaces.

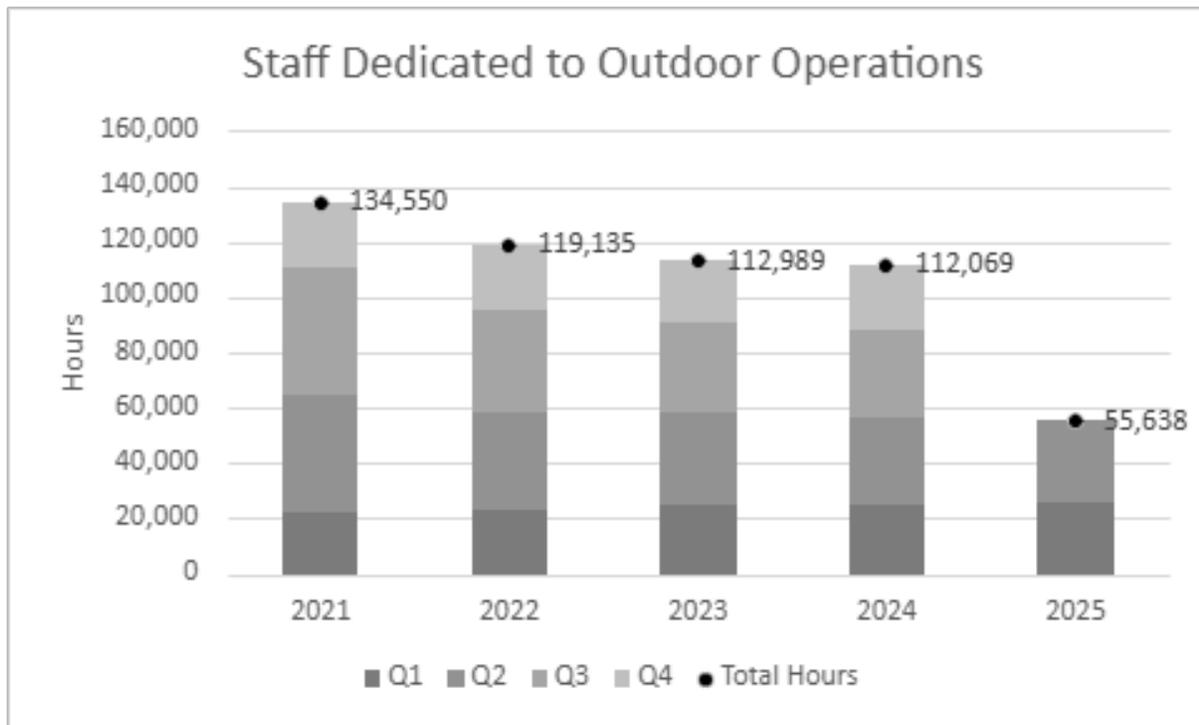
Accomplishment Goals

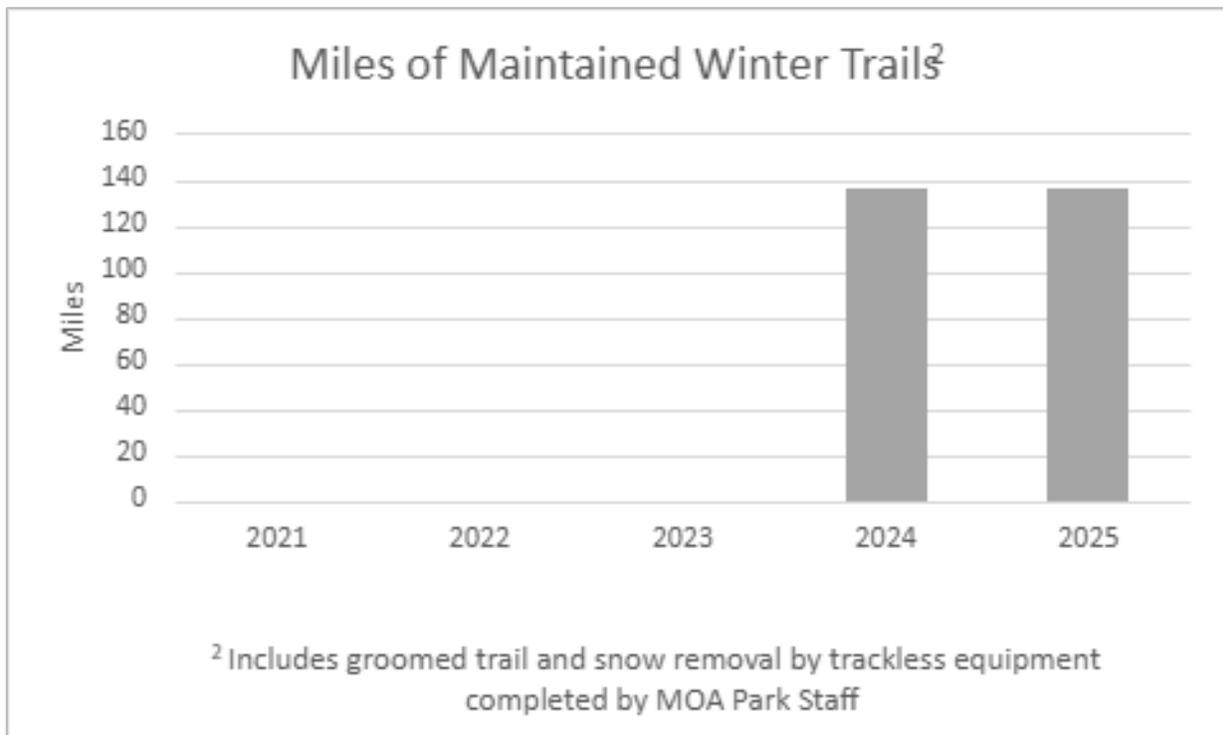
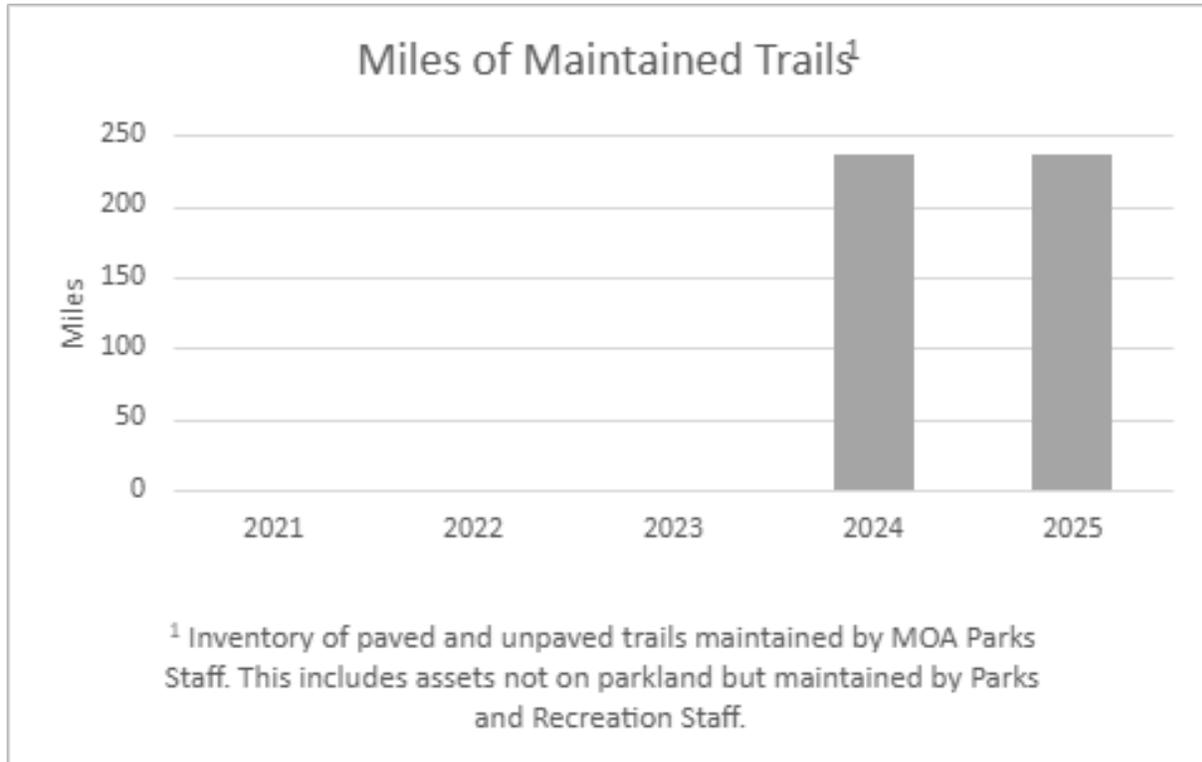
- Through the practice of routine maintenance, maintain Municipal Park assets to ensure optimum risk management by keeping parks, trails, and facilities in a state of good repair, and that are safe and welcoming.
- Through planned and managed development improve the safety, appearance, and usability of Municipal Neighborhood Parks in an effective and cost-efficient manner.

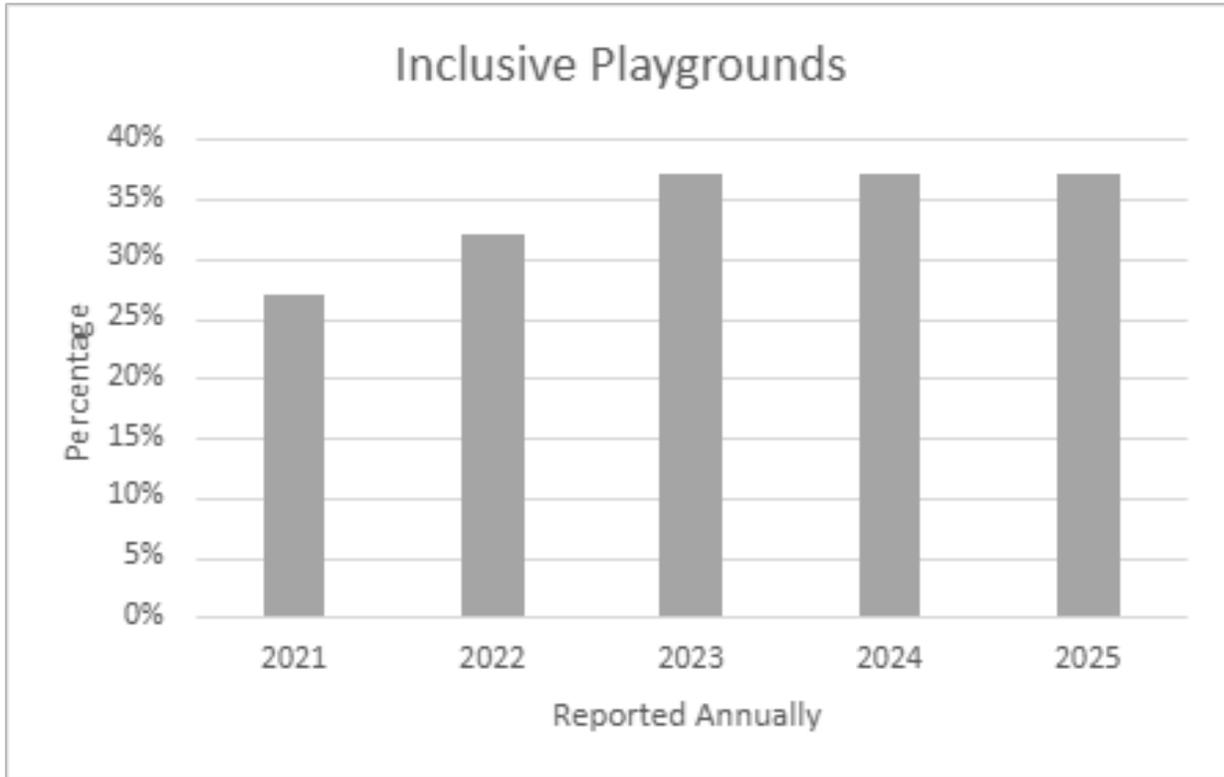
Performance Measures

Progress in achieving goals will be measured by:

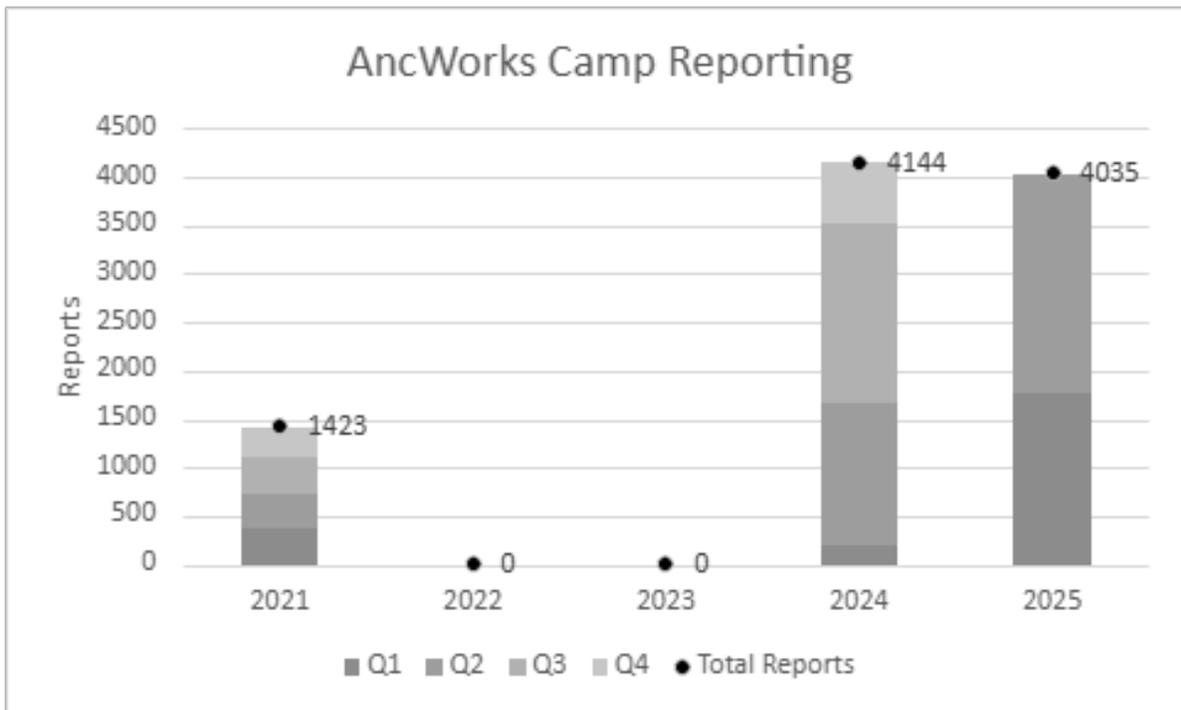
Measure #1: Parks and Trails that are designed and maintained to ensure the safety and security of park goers.

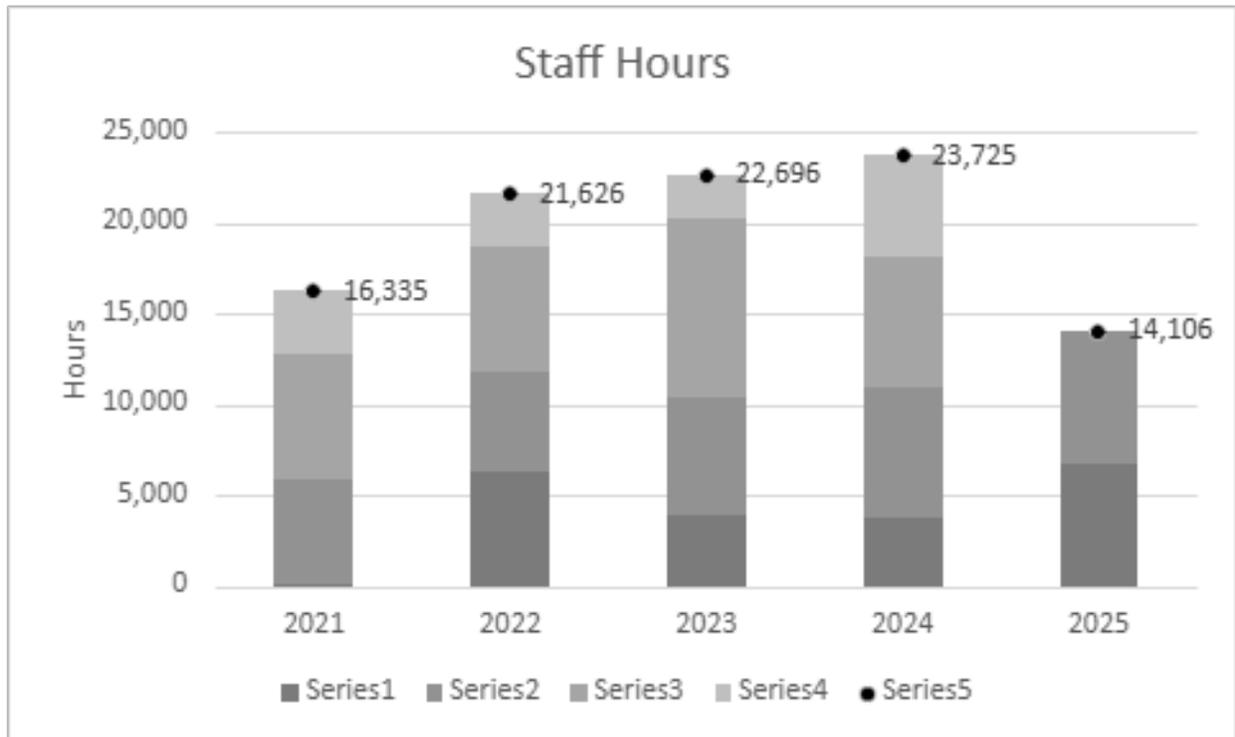
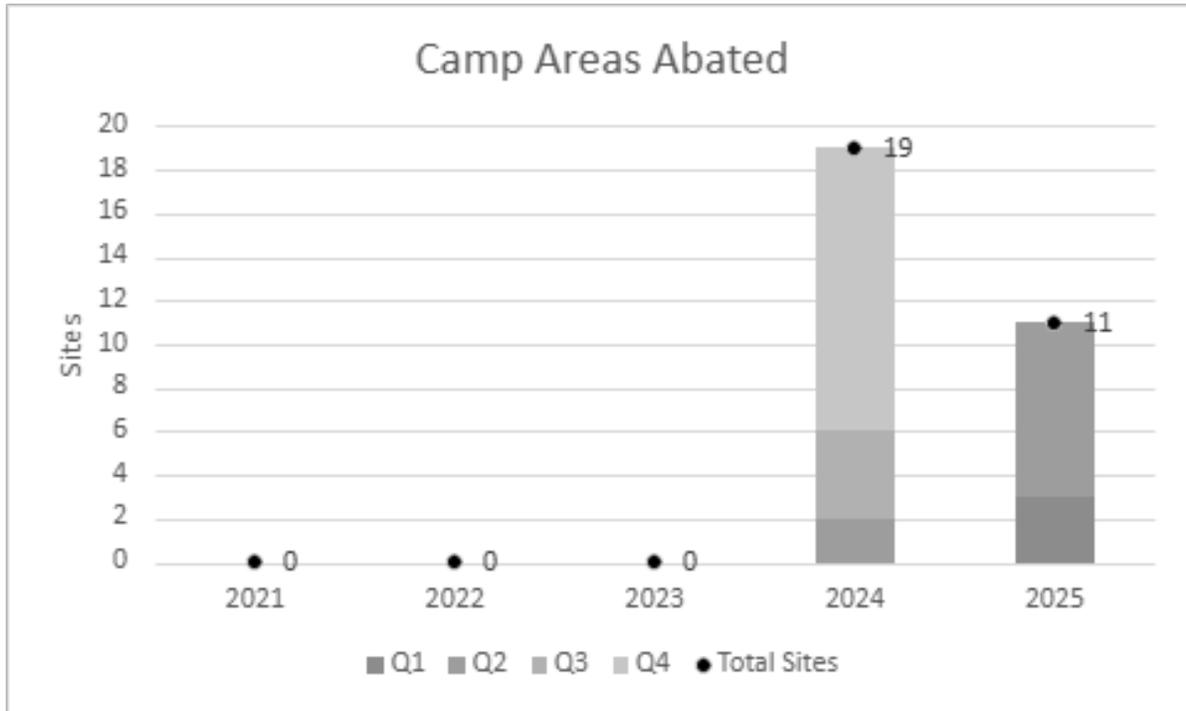


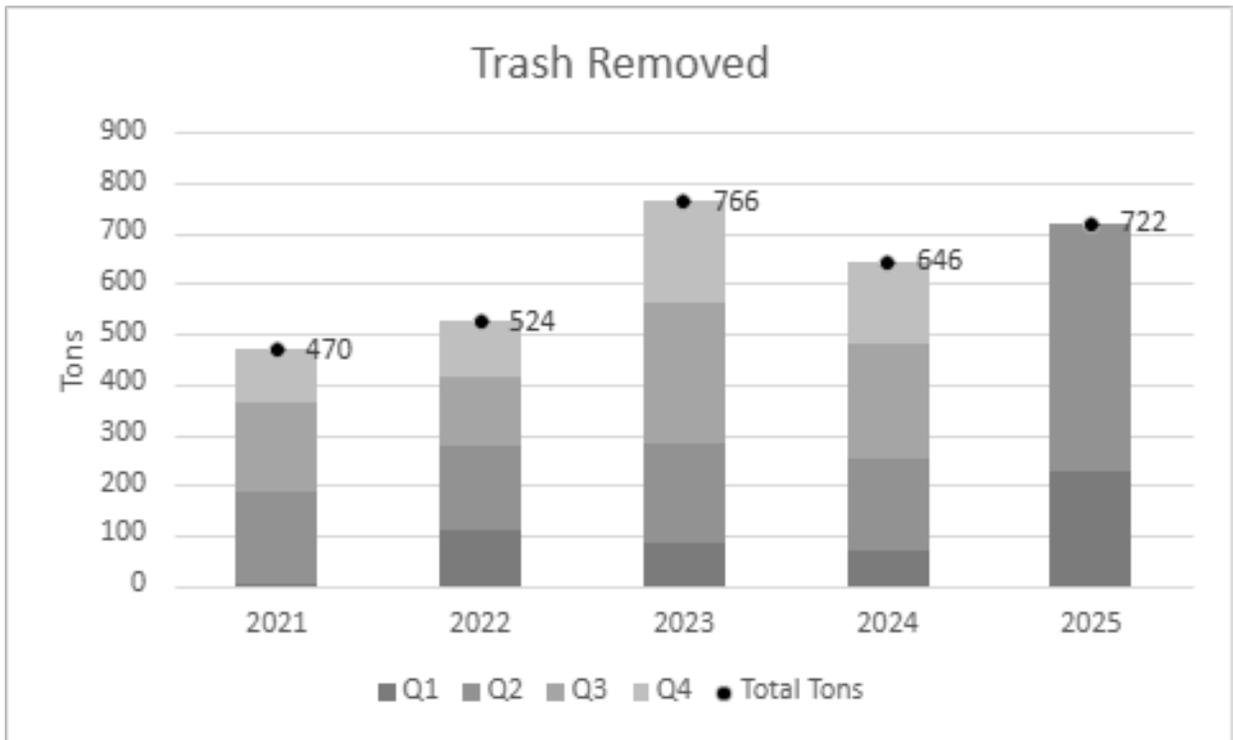




Measure # 2: Illegal Camp Clean-up







Community Development Parks and Recreation Department

Performance. Value. Results.

Mission

Core Services

- Volunteer
 - The Parks and Recreation department has a robust volunteer program that includes a variety of activities and ways to support public spaces. A volunteer coordinator position exists at the Anchorage Parks and Recreation office and works with neighbors, community members, non-profit groups and corporate organizations.
- Park Development
 - Is responsible for open space planning, site planning, landscape reclamation, project management and technical services associated with the delivery of new or updated park and recreation infrastructures and for generating community involvement and private funds for park improvement projects.

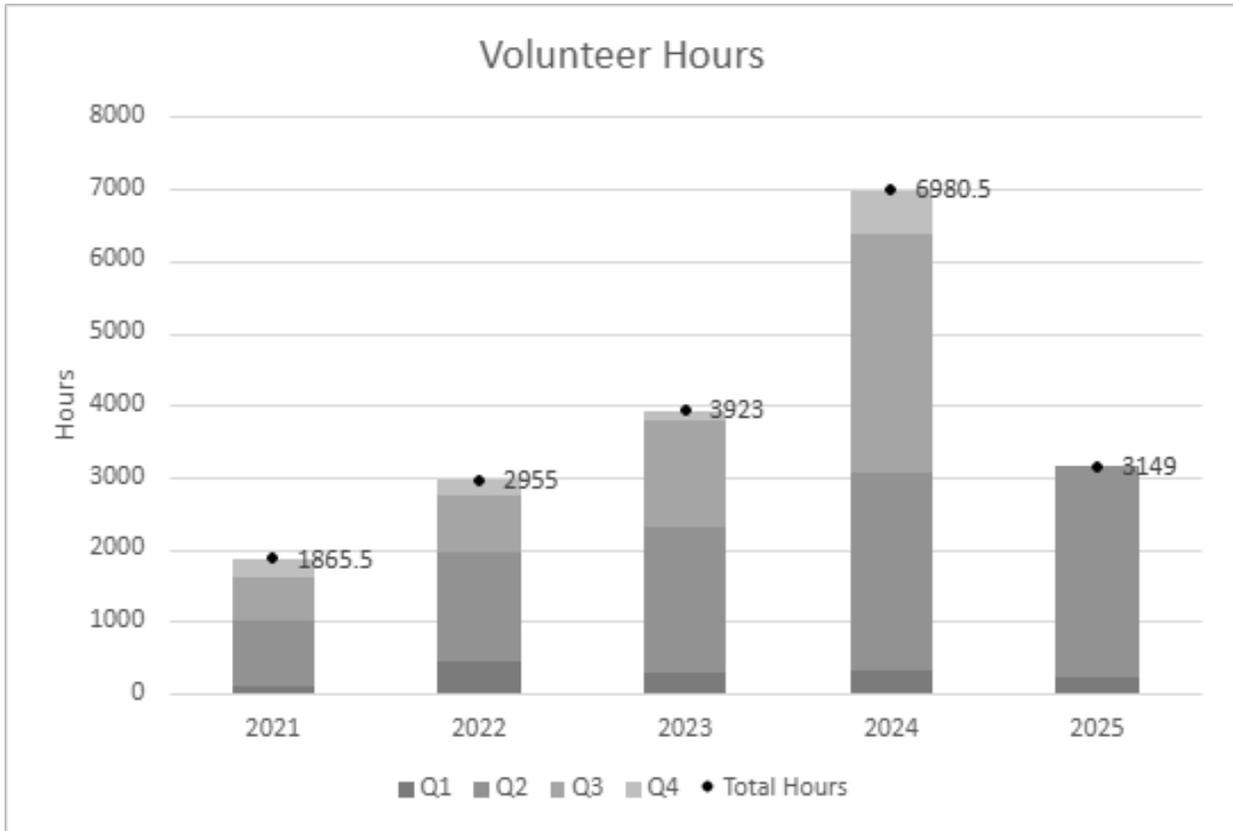
Accomplishment Goals

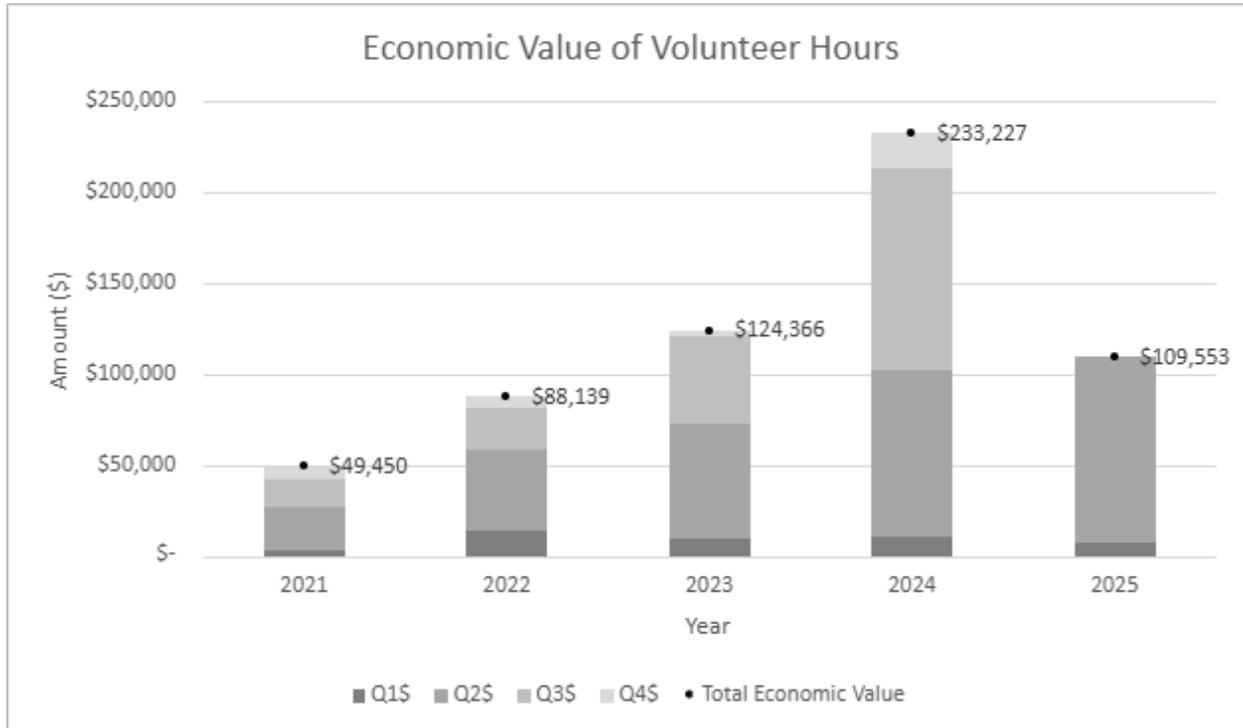
- Engage residents to actively participate and volunteer in the community.
- Foster private-public partnerships and innovated funding sources to establish a balance in the financing of parks and recreation services and in the development of capital improvement projects through state and federal grants, user fees, volunteer support, and private contributions.

Performance Measures

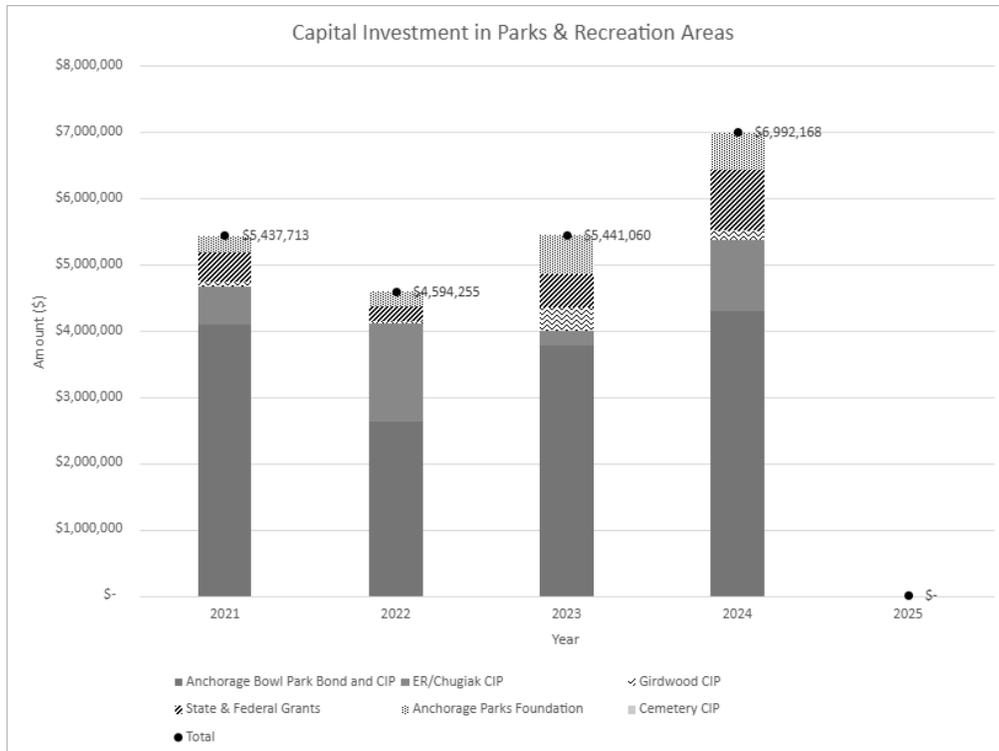
Progress in achieving goals will be measured by:

Measure #3: Number of volunteer hours and the economic value of the community in the maintenance of park assets and in the delivery of parks and recreation services.





Measure #4: Annual capital investment in Park and Recreation Assets



Recreation Services Division

Parks and Recreation Department

Performance. Value. Results.

Mission

The mission of the Recreation Services Division is to assist residents of all ages in achieving a state of physical and social wellbeing through health-promoting activities, and to provide children and youth with positive experiences which enable them to be healthy, responsible, creative, productive, environmentally aware, and active in community life.

Core Services

- Recreation Facilities
 - Operates six recreation centers indoor, two campgrounds, and one lodge/cabin facility.
- Recreation Programs
 - Delivering city-wide recreation and leisure programs and activities.
- Aquatics Facilities
 - Manages six indoor pools.
- Athletic Fields and Courts
 - 42 soccer fields, 73 athletic courts and 69 ball fields.

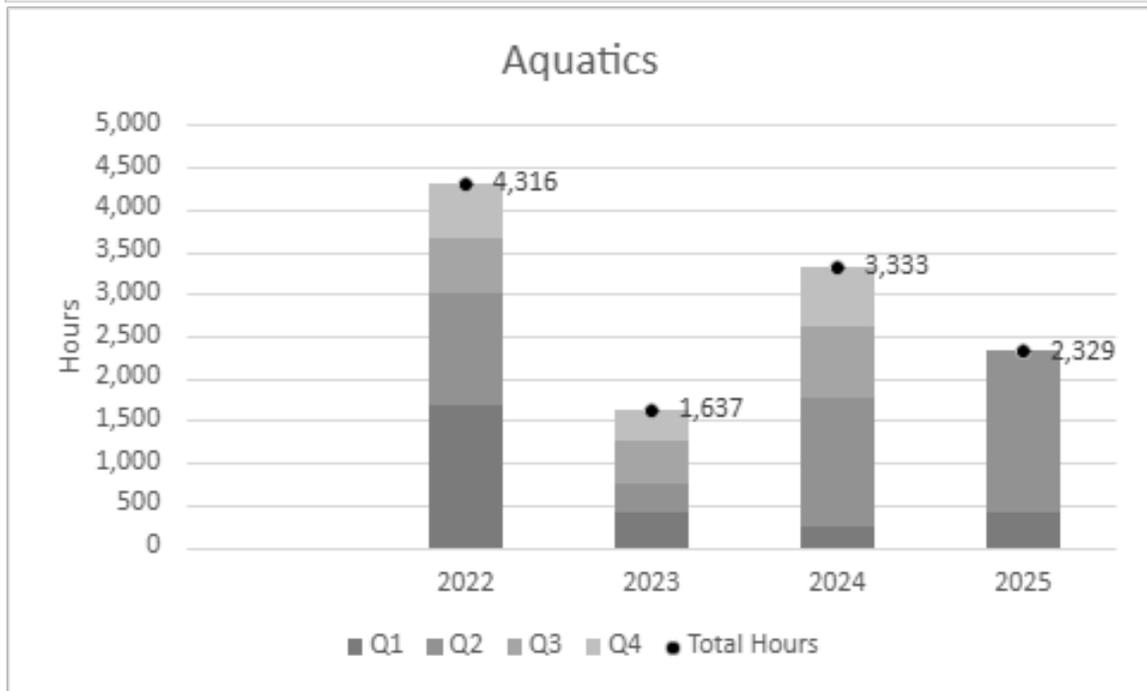
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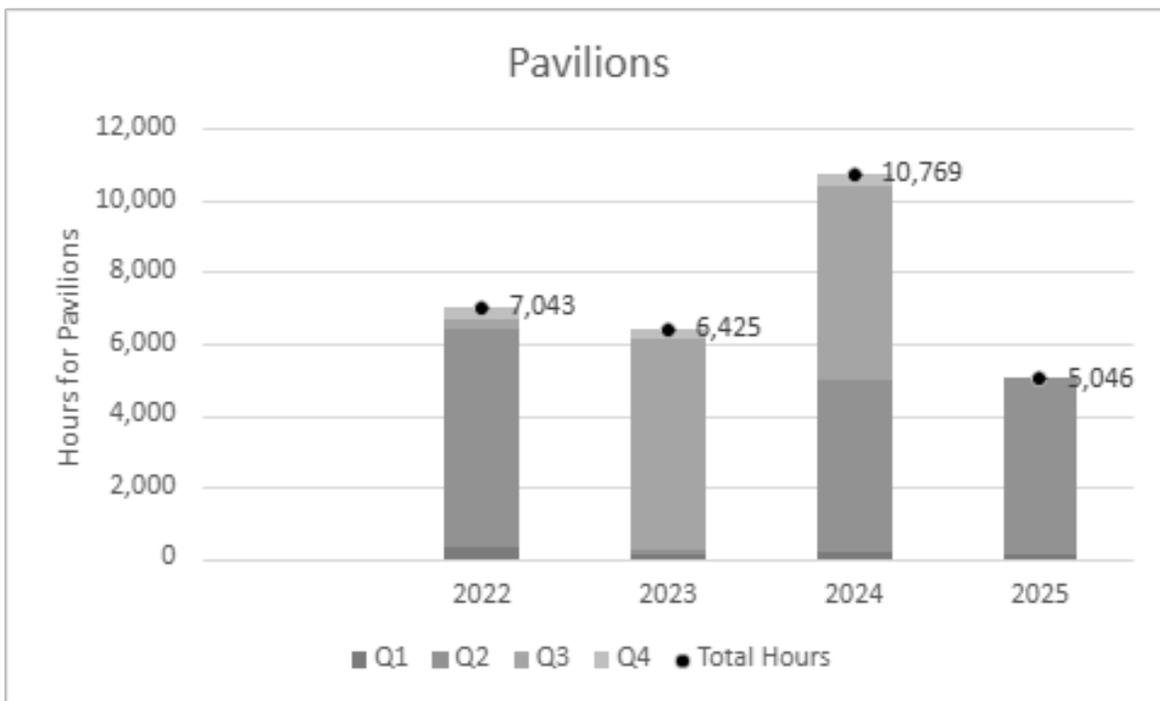
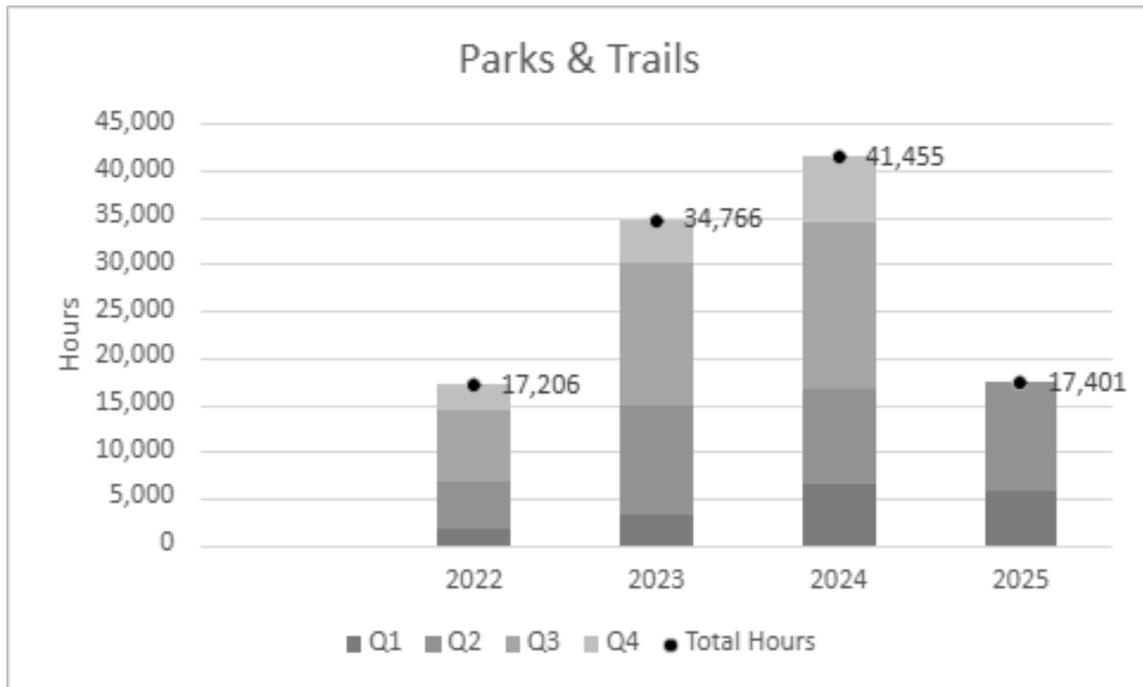
- Provide satisfying positive experiences through quality recreation, leisure and civic programs in Municipality of Anchorage parks and facilities.
- Maximize budgeted resources through effective scheduling of facility operational and program hours by matching demand to capacity.
- Deliver recreation services in a cost-effective and efficient manner.
- Offer aquatic programs year-round for public safety and recreation.

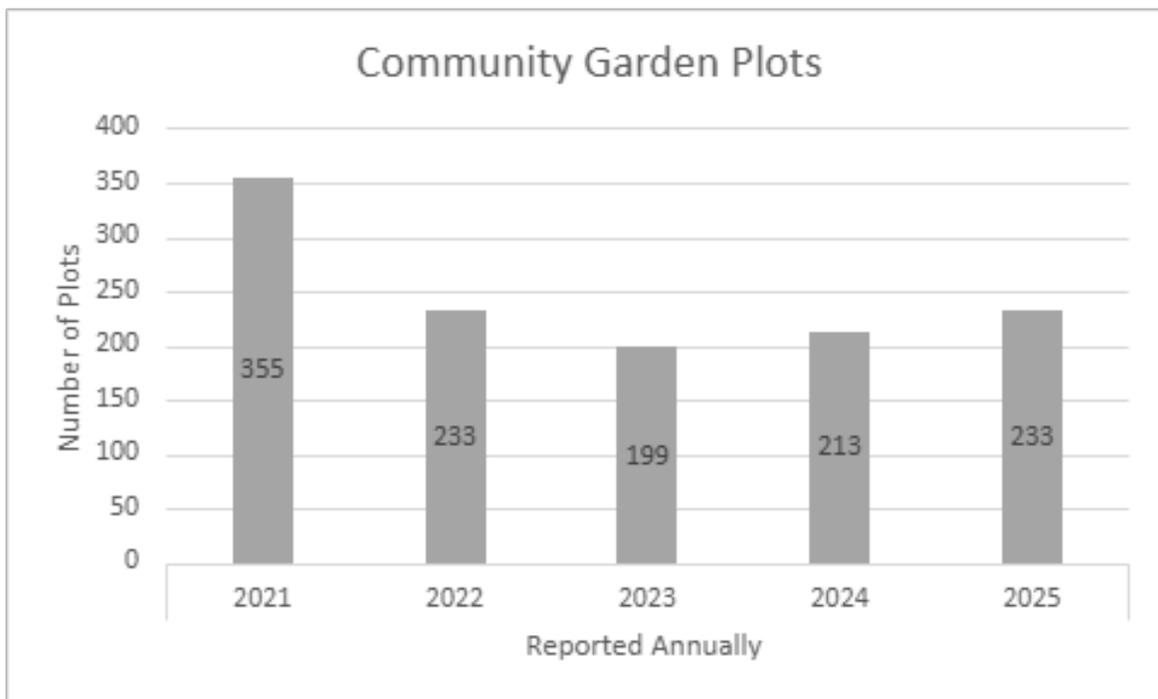
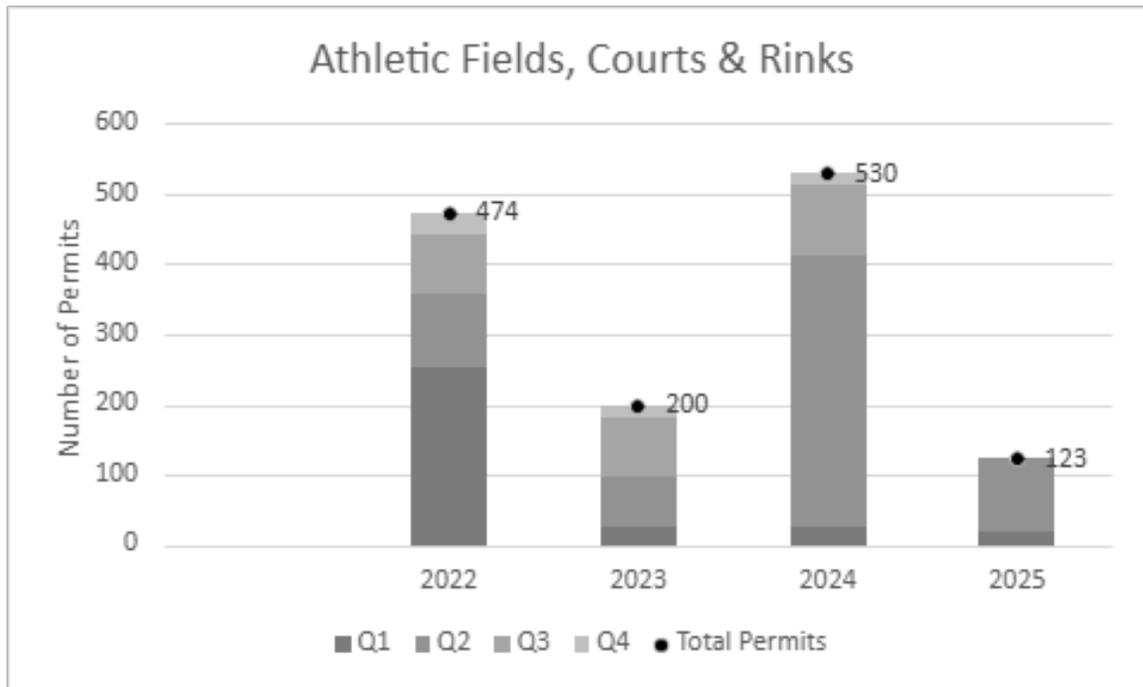
Performance Measures

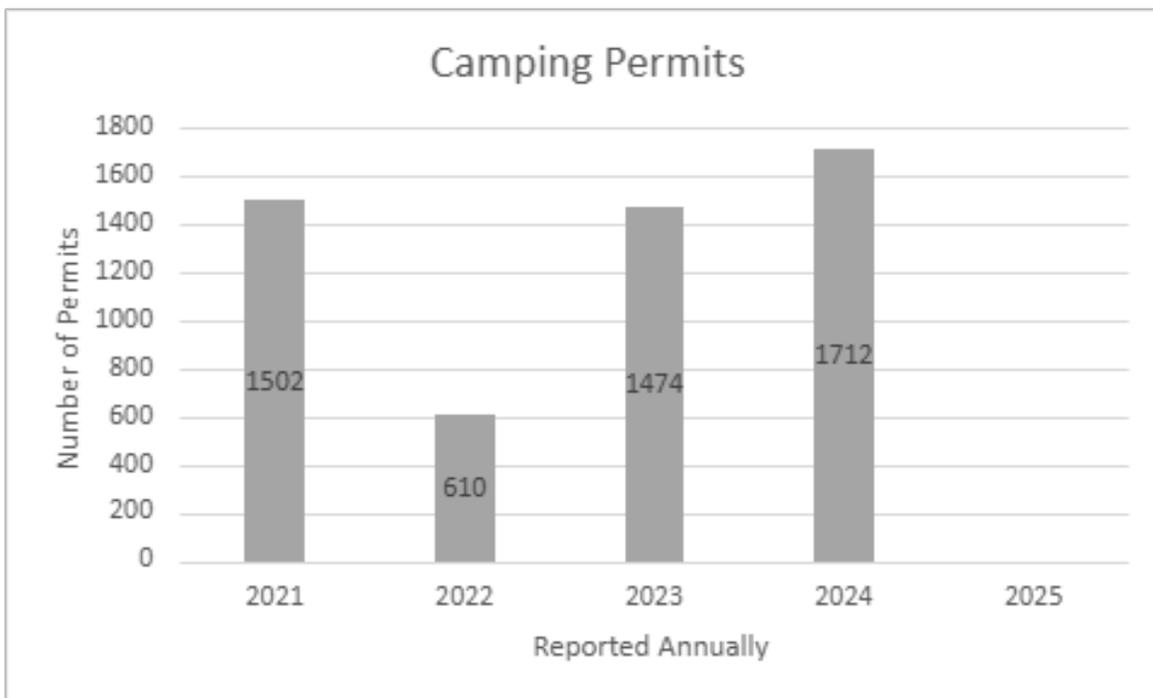
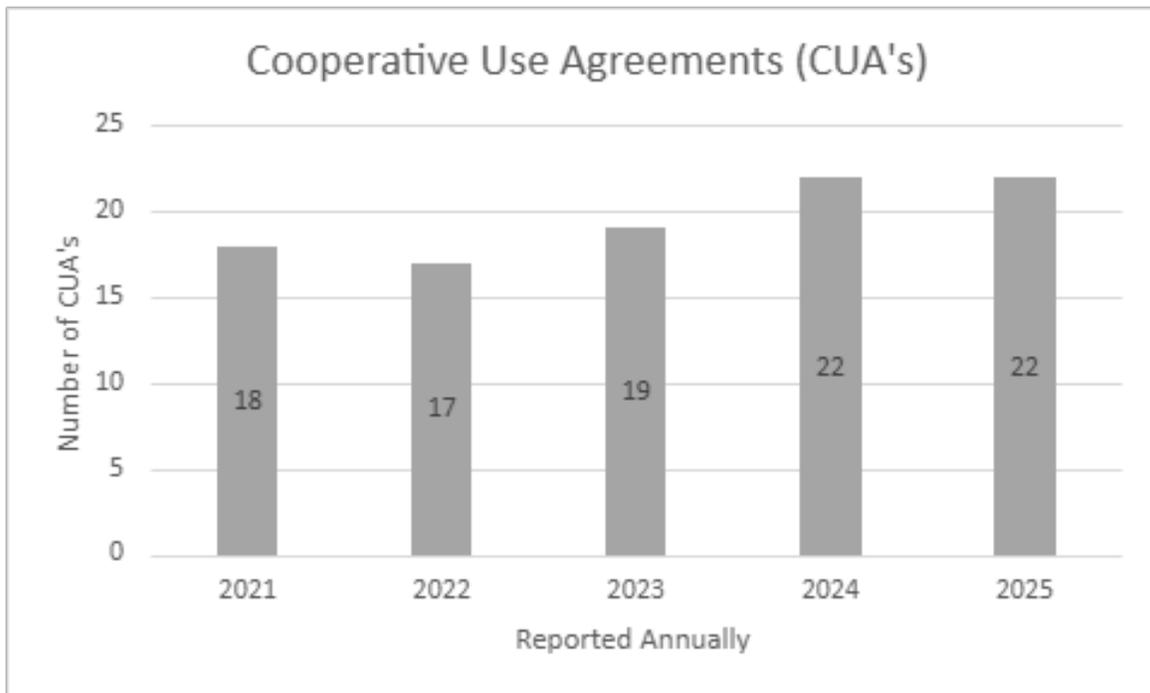
Progress in achieving goals shall be measured by:

Measure #5: Permitted us of Municipal parkland and facilities.









Measure WC: Managing Workers' Compensation Claims

Reducing job-related injuries is a priority for the Administration by ensuring safe work conditions and safe practices. By instilling safe work practices, we ensure not only the safety of our employees but reduce the potential for injuries and property damage to the public. The Municipality is self-insured and every injury poses a financial burden on the public and the injured worker's family. It just makes good sense to WORK SAFE.

Results are tracked by monitoring monthly reports issued by the Risk Management Division.

