

April 2006
KINCAID PARK
Master Plan



Update to the September 1983

Anchorage Winter Recreation Development

Program and Kincaid Park Master Plan

for the Municipality of Anchorage

Prepared by the
Kincaid Project Group at the request of the
Anchorage Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission

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INTRODUCTION

This document provides an update to the Anchorage Winter Recreation Development Program and Point Campbell/Kincaid Park Master Plan that was developed for the Municipality of Anchorage in 1983. While that plan was not formally approved by the Anchorage Planning and Zoning Commission or Anchorage Assembly, it was approved by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission on May 12, 1983, and has served as the de facto guide for development of the park for over 20 years.

This update provides currency to the plan. It recognizes development that has taken place, deletes from the plan proposals that have been deemed inappropriate, and incorporates refinements and additions to the plan that fall within the intent of the original plan.

Purpose, Goals, and Objectives

This update is not provided as a complete revisiting of the original plan. Much of the proposed development that was recommended by the 1983 plan remains unfulfilled. However, those projects that have been completed remain fully within the intent and purpose of the original plan. Thus, no actions have taken place that call into question the overall Goals and Objectives of the original plan or the general recommendations put forward by the plan.

The 1983 plan provides the following:

Purpose: The Municipality identified that Pt. Campbell/Kincaid Park was the key winter recreational resource to serve area-wide needs. To that extent, the master plan identified recreation facilities to serve the citizens of Anchorage and identified, “facility/event potentials capable of being hosted at the site. The potentials include local, state, national, and international (including Olympic) events.”

Four major goals were established:

- 1**-Maximize use of the existing facilities at the former Nike Missile site.
- 2**-Identify all potential recreational program elements that are feasible to be sited at Pt. Campbell/Kincaid Park. These recreational elements are primarily to be winter recreation oriented; however, summer uses are also to be identified that have a double use function with the planned winter facilities.
- 3**-Pt. Campbell/Kincaid Park is to be developed as a pedestrian park with major emphasis being to minimize potential pedestrian/vehicle conflicts.
- 4**-All facilities selected to be sited at the Pt. Campbell/Kincaid Park site are to be developed to international standards. The objective of this goal is to allow for hosting of international winter sports competitions. In addition, the objective is to allow for the potential of Anchorage to be designated as an Olympic Training Center Site.

This plan accepts that those tenets are still sound. The activities established within the park have partially fulfilled those tenets and there is active work within the community established by various winter and summer recreation interests to pursue the plan goals. Thus, this plan does not revisit the purpose or goals established for the park, but simply addresses the currency of specific recommendations within the plan with respect to changes within the community or within the criteria for the individual activities.



ELEMENTS OF THE 1983 MASTER PLAN COMPLETED TO DATE

A number of elements of the plan have been completed while others are still awaiting fruition. Elements that have been completed include the following:

Kincaid Chalet

This facility is the community focus for the park, serving for many public functions, both summer and winter. The Chalet is the site of a former Nike Missile Launch Building and was converted to its present use in 1985. It has since undergone a second expansion and renovation (1999/2000) that enlarged the central gathering area and improved the site. Associated with the Chalet improvements have been a picnic shelter and a sledding hill.

The chalet site differs from the master plan in that that master plan located the chalet at the Nike bunker that is east of the present Chalet, at what is now a waxing bunker. Locating it in its current site facilitated better views and connections to the sledding hills and the trail system.

Site Access

Improvement of the Kincaid Access Road (Raspberry Road Extension) was originally proposed to take place in 2000 however public discussion resulted in the delay of construction and led to the “capping” of the road with an asphalt surface course. That surface course was not intended to be a permanent solution to meeting safety and maintenance concerns but provided better maintenance provisions. However, the 2000 project did improve parking and site access around the start/finish area and the Chalet and improved a curve that was problematic near the start/finish area. The remainder of the project was revived in 2005 and the road is proposed to be reconstructed in 2006/2007.

As part of improving the site access, a paved multi-purpose trail is currently under construction and is slated to be completed in summer 2006. It will provide a 10-foot wide trail separated for the most part from the roadway. This will facilitate site access by bicyclists, walkers, runner, and roller bladers. Also, it will facilitate training by athletes during the summer months.

The location of the roadway was changed from the master plan by using the old Nike Site roadway, arriving at the Chalet from the south instead of north as was shown on the plan. This arrangement facilitated connections to trails to the north from the start/finish area.

Parking

Parking improvements were completed in an original start/finish area improvement in late 1983/1984. This was subsequently expanded to provide 400 parking spaces roughly split evenly between the Chalet and start/finish area. Other parking resources within the park include approximately 50 spaces on a gravel lot at the Jodhpur Road entrance to the park and 40 spaces at the Raspberry Road Parking Lot along the access road. Additionally, approximately 30 spaces are available at the Motocross Racing area near the Jodhpur Road entrance.

The parking that has been developed exceeds what was shown on the master plan. The parking illustrated in the master plan was found to be far less than that required to meet public needs.

Waxing Bunker

A waxing bunker has been established in one of the Launch Buildings to the east of the Kincaid Chalet. This facility provides space for waxing in preparation of ski races and serves the Alaska Winter Stars ski training program. The improvements to the structure have included the covering of the former Nike Missile carrier pits, and provision of doorways. It has a largely unimproved interior.

The waxing bunker acts as the athlete “training center” that is addressed by the master plan but is far less than that envisioned in the master plan. The master plan envisioned significant athlete training facility that would serve as a regional Olympic training center for the United States Olympic Committee.

Start/Finish Area

A start/finish area was constructed in 1983/1984 and was further improved in 2000. The start/finish area is approximately 400 feet long, feeding to trails to the north and east. Improvements over the years have included construction of a timing building and scoreboard, as well as a

tunnel that feeds to trails south of the start/finish area. While the start/finish area generally provides for most needs, its northern orientation provides for cold weather conditions due to the predominant northern breezes that flow through the area. Also, the area feeds downhill which does not allow for separation of ability groups during mass start races.

The start/finish area envisioned in the master plan was oriented to the east. The orientation was changed from that in the master plan in order to provide a better variety of trails than was available from the alignment shown in the plan.

Trails

Since the development of the master plan, approximately 20 kilometers of new trail have been established at Kincaid Park, including the Sisson Loop, the Mize Loop, the Lekisch Loops, Elliot's Climb/Roller Coaster Loop, and portions of Margaux Loop. Of the roughly 50 kilometers of trail available at Kincaid Park, approximately 16.5 kilometers are lighted.

The trail improvements have largely met the needs identified in the master plan. Significantly missing from the development programs to date is snowmaking that was envisioned in the master plan.



Biathlon Range

The Kim Berg Biathlon Range was established in the late 1980s and was improved in the mid 1990s. It provides roughly 20 firing points and an improvised target line. The range is too small to meet international meet requirements, suffers from poor trail connections into and out of the range, is oriented poorly, and suffers from swirling winds.

The biathlon range is located roughly in the location that was suggested in the master plan, though approximately one ridge to the west from where it was shown. It was not developed to international standards as is recommended by the master plan.

Archery Range

An archery range was developed in the late 1980s that provides a shooting range and a shooting course. It is located directly north of the Nike Site Administration Center which is

generally referred to as the World Cup Start/Finish Area that was used for the Subaru World Cup Races in 1983.

The range was intended to be located to the south of the biathlon start/finish area and was intended to be a summer use of the biathlon range. However, there is winter use of the archery range and summer use of the biathlon range, leading to potential conflict between the two uses. Thus, a separate location was deemed appropriate for the archery range.

Dog Training Area

A dog training area was established at the World Cup Start/Finish Area. This area provides room for training and competitions and includes structures for working and testing dogs. This use was not contemplated within the master plan and no location for such a facility was recommended.

Motocross Area

The existing motocross area was in existence at the time of the master plan. However the master plan found that there was an inherent conflict between the active motocross area and the cross country ski trails and recommended that the motocross area should be eliminated from the plan. To the contrary, the area has expanded slightly as the old gravel pit continues to erode from winds. Also, the Department of Parks and Recreation has provided improved parking for the motocross to facilitate the unloading of trailers and provide for public parking. At this point in time the motocross area has become a well-established public use area.

FAA Radar Facility/Inholding

The FAA maintains a 40 acre site within the park that is used for a radar that monitors aircraft movements. The site has recently been upgraded and a fiberoptic cable laid that connects to the north, through the archery range, to Ted Steven Anchorage International Airport.



PROPOSED PLANS AND PROJECTS

There a number of issues, plans, and projects that affect Kincaid Park.

Ted Stevens International Airport

Portions of what are recognized as Kincaid Park actually are located on lands owned by Ted Stevens International Airport. This includes the northern half of the Sisson Loop, and Little Campbell Lake and the trails east of the lake. Airport master planning has considered airport use of these lands at different times and the area occupied by portions of the Sisson Trail is used on an occasional basis for gravel extraction. Future planning efforts may affect those portions of park use that occurs on airport land.

South Extension of the Coastal Trail

The Tony Knowles Coastal Trail connects from downtown Anchorage to the Kincaid Chalet. Plans for the trail from the early 1980s placed the trail extension through Kincaid Park. Environmental studies that began in 1997 sited this extension more particularly between the Lekisch Loop and the “Ice Box”/Mize’s Folly loop.

This location has raised concerns on the part of the Nordic Skiing Association of Anchorage (NSAA) that there may not be enough room to accommodate this trail location and the existing trails and that it may lead to conflicts between the trail users and skiers. The NSAA has recommended that it would be more appropriate and less expensive to provide a trail that connects from the Kincaid Access Road Trail, near the bridge site, to Jodhpur Road, and that it then parallel Jodhpur Road. The “Preferred Alternative” recommended in the Environmental Impact Statement was not recommended for construction in the “Record of Decision” issued by the Federal Highway Administration due to the lack of support by key municipal and state transportation entities.

Dimond Boulevard Construction

A project is currently in planning for the improvement of Dimond Boulevard, from the Jodhpur Road intersection to Sand Lake Road. The improvements will provide widening, shoulders, and trail improvements.

Kincaid Project Group

A non-profit organization was created to advocate for the development of many of the facilities proposed in the 1983 master plan for Kincaid Park. The group's current project list includes the re-location of the biathlon range, the provision of snowmaking for 2.5 kilometers of trail, the development of a disc golf course, and the provision of 8 soccer fields. One of the soccer fields is proposed to be an artificial turf stadium "exhibition" field for both soccer and high school football. The organization has secured approval by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission for biathlon range construction and has received concept approval for other plan elements, which are incorporated into this plan.



CHANGES THAT AFFECT THE MASTER PLAN

Since the original Anchorage Winter Recreation Development Program and Point Campbell/ Kincaid Park Master Plan was created, standards for some facilities have changed that affect the provision or design of those facilities. Also, since the plan was developed, other locations in Anchorage have been developed to address some of the needs. Following is a discussion of some of those issues.

Ski Jumping

The location that was recommended for ski jumping in the master plan is exposed to predominant northern winds that make that site less than desirable as a ski jumping site. Additionally, any towers that would be developed to international standards would intrude into the “airfield clear zone criteria” and would not be permissible by the Federal Aviation Administration. Recognizing these deficiencies, structures were developed at Far North Bicentennial Park at the Karl Eid Ski Jump. The recommendations in the master plan for ski jumping facilities are not carried forward in this revision.

Speed Skating Oval

The master plan provided for the development of a speed skating oval at Kincaid Park. The Anchorage Winter Sports and Recreation Plan developed by the Department of Parks and Recreation investigated potential sites and has recommended that sites other than Kincaid Park would be more appropriate. Among concerns are southern winds that deposit silt onto Kincaid Park. While these winds are responsible for the formation of the well-drained loess soils that are prevalent in the park, the wind-blown silt would create a less than desirable ice surface for speed skating. A speed skating oval is not continued within this revision to the master plan.



Federation Internationale de Ski Homologation

The nature of cross country skiing has evolved in the 20 years since the development of the original master plan. Also, the spectator nature of the sport has also changed. Fundamental to these changes are combinations of smaller loops, the development of “sprint courses,” and changes to the

criteria relative to “climbs.” The shorter courses allow more time for spectators to view skiers and, as a result, has led to a drastic increase in the “air time” that networks devote to cross-country skiing. This was most evident in the recently concluded 2006 Olympics in Turin, Italy. This is also true for the sport of biathlon which is now the fastest-growing spectator sport in Europe. These changes have promulgated alterations to trails at Kincaid Park that are included in these recommendations.

New Sports

Dog training and disc golf are sports and recreation activities that were not foreseen in the 1983 master plan.

Dog training requires an open lawn space for shouting commands and space for dogs to move and respond. The World Cup Start/Finish area provides an open lawn area and structures for dog training and competition.

Disc golf has become a very popular sport and has resulted in courses at several locations in Anchorage. A course exists at Kincaid Park and is widely used. The proposed soccer fields proposed by the Kincaid Project Group conflict with the location of the existing disc golf holes and the Kincaid Project Group has incorporated the re-location of those fields into their plans.

Park Management

The Kincaid Chalet was developed such that it would provide a Municipal “presence” within the park. Space is provided for administration and a residence was provided for a caretaker. Municipal policy has since removed the caretaker residence as an acceptable use for a public facility. However, a caretaker presence is provided within the park by a summer park camper/steward program. Via this program, a motorhome resident is present in the summer months.

The management function has varied through the past years and for periods the chalet was closed during some weekdays. There have been recent changes to the framework of park management city-wide. Under the new “Park District” format, the Kincaid Chalet is now the district headquarters for west Anchorage parks and provides a daily presence of parks administrative personnel seven days a week.

Park Maintenance

Through the years, maintenance has evolved to be a partnership between the Municipality of Anchorage and various non-profit organizations, primary among them being the Nordic Skiing Association of Anchorage (NSAA). The NSAA has established a strong identity within the park, being a primary user of the chalet for numerous events and being responsible for all trail maintenance within the park. The NSAA uses a former magazine bunker as a maintenance facility, providing a location for maintaining numerous grooming machines that are used throughout Anchorage.

Parks Maintenance uses two lower Launch Buildings for storage. The facilities do not receive daily use but are used for long-term storage of equipment or materials needed for park maintenance activities.



FACILITY MASTER PLAN

This master plan update recognizes the changes that have taken place and the practicalities that are evident since 1983. The plan recognizes current use, activities that have been approved by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission, future needs within the park, and practical development that is sustainable. The proposed plan proposes more intensive use of existing facilities such as parking and utility systems by the expansion of winter and summer recreation and sports activities. Following is a description of individual activities and facilities.

Administrative Center/Visitor Center

The proposed plan provides for a reorganization of the uses within the Launch Control Buildings from the former Nike Site. It recommends that the Chalet remain as the primary special events center, catering to weddings, gatherings, and events while administration be consolidated in what is the existing wax bunker, recognizing the expanding role of Kincaid Park as a park district headquarters. Following are specific recommendations for the two facilities

Chalet

The Kincaid Chalet would continue providing rooms for events and celebrations. It would be the primary facility for company gatherings, weddings and events. It would continue to be a source of income to Parks and Recreation, taking advantage of its location for visitors to view Cook Inlet, Anchorage, and Mt. McKinley. It provides a direct tie to outdoor facilities including the picnic shelter and sledding hill/amphitheater area as well as a location that would serve an increased role in active sports such as high school football (with completion of an artificial turf stadium) and soccer tournaments, as well as its continuing role in support of winter sports events.

Headquarters/Visitor Center

The 1983 master plan proposed a park headquarters building be sited near the park entrance. However, the likelihood of this actually being constructed is highly doubtful.

However, there is a need for a facility that serves as a “park headquarters,” particularly meeting the park district concept. This plan proposes that the existing Wax Bunker be improved in the long term to serve as the primary administrative/headquarters facility, and also to serve as an interpretive and visitor center. This visitor center function was recognized in the 1983 master plan, though the site was to be the FAA inholding which continues to be used for FAA radar needs.

The administrative portion of the building would provide administrative space for the Park District Headquarters and would also provide space for expanded non-profit involvement in the park, recognizing the expanding relationships between Anchorage Department of Parks and Recreation and non-profit organizations. The administrative facilities would accommodate space for Parks administrative functions and the NSAA as well as potentially the Kincaid Project Group should they expand into summer maintenance of park facilities as is contemplated.

The administration/visitor center would also potentially provide a destination for tours, an activity that has slowly been evolving at the park. Buses currently visit the park for the potential wildlife viewing opportunity as well as the dramatic views that are available. The development of an interpretive exhibit would provide the potential for an expanded visitor experience, potentially creating a revenue stream. Kincaid Park provides an excellent visitor experience opportunity through the ability to interpret the natural setting, the Nike Missile period, the military role in Alaska’s development, and the importance of Kincaid Park in the role of winter sports in the United States.

Athlete Training Center

The 1983 master plan envisioned a major role for Kincaid Park as an Olympic Training Center. This is less probable given the path of development of Olympic training facilities in other national locations, however the role of Alaska in the development of winter sports athletes is not to be underestimated. The Alaska Winter Stars has been fertile ground for the development of winter athletes and this program has tremendous opportunity to expand. This plan recommends that one of the northern Launch Buildings be used as an expanded athlete training facility with cardiovascular training and testing, full weight programs, and other diagnostic testing. It would also include classrooms, administrative space, dressing rooms, showers, and other athlete training needs.

Maintenance

The 1983 master plan envisioned that a maintenance center would be developed at the World Cup Start/Finish area. This plan recognizes that the NSAA maintenance bunker will continue to be used. However, this plan recommends that one of the two northern bunkers that is not used for the Athlete Training Center should be used to serve maintenance of the expanded summer and winter improvements that are anticipated as part of this project. This would include the provision of garage and storage space. The plan recommends that the current Parks and Recreation storage functions could better be located elsewhere, including either the old Warhead Storage Building that is located just west of the Chalet, or in the High Explosives Magazine that is just east of the NSAA maintenance bunker.

FAA Inholding

This plan recognizes that the FAA inholding will remain into the foreseeable future. The facility was held over from transfer from the Federal government and was recently improved to provide an ASR-17 radar for Anchorage International Airport. The FAA has a good history of working with Parks and Recreation and allowing use of overflow parking areas and trails within the site. It must be recognized however that the FAA requires clear vision from the ASR-17 radar which requires that they maintain trees at a height below the radar to ensure safety and long-term use of the radar.

Archery Range

This master plan recommends that the archery range be maintained in its current location. The current facility includes both a measured distance range as well as an archery course.

Biathlon Range

Biathlon is the fastest growing spectator sport in Europe and it received significantly more television coverage in the 2006 Olympics than has ever been received in the past. The current Kim Berg Biathlon Range is highly deficient on many fronts in its ability to meet international competitive standards and is proposed to be located to the east of its current location, with construction beginning in 2006.

Biathlon requires several loops of trail tied to the start/finish and biathlon range with relatively short distances between 2km and 5km. Also, it requires a location with relatively low wind exposure, and a north orientation to keep sun out of competitors' eyes during shooting. This

is achievable at the location shown in this master plan. Additionally, the location provides for a penalty loop of 150 meters just east of the biathlon range. The improved pad for the range will provide a range control building location. Also, the adjacent northeast-facing hillside provides the ability

to accommodate a stadium with views to the start/finish area, shooting range, penalty loop, and incoming and outgoing trails. The range provides 30 shooting points at 2.75m wide for each.

The biathlon range will also include a separate biathlon start/finish area as was denoted in the 1983 master plan. The start/finish area will serve dual purposed, serving not only biathlon, but also other cross-country skiing events when the existing start/finish area receives winds that make the area too cold to use for scheduled events.

Soccer Field Development



The 1983 master plan provided for almost 20 acres of field development for soccer, baseball, and softball. The need for softball and baseball facilities has largely been met with improved facilities at numerous locations throughout Anchorage as well as by a leveling out of the demand for these types of facilities. However, soccer has continued to grow in popularity and the provision of fields has not kept up with growing demand.

The Kincaid Project Group has advocated for the development of eight soccer fields at Kincaid Park, with seven natural turf fields in the Nike Missile site cantonment area, and one artificial turf field to be located at the former site of the relocated biathlon range. This would provide for the development of fields in areas that have largely been cleared over the past 40 years, thus little “old growth” forest would be disturbed. Also, having eight fields at one location would simplify maintenance, promoting the adoption and maintenance of the fields by the Kincaid Project Group or other non-profit organizations. The natural turf fields would be irrigated, capitalizing off of a water system developed for snowmaking purposes and constructed of “engineered” materials ensuring high quality playing surfaces.

The artificial turf field is proposed to serve both soccer and high school football. It would have

bleachers on the west facing hillside that overlooks the field, providing a top-notch viewing facility. Having the facility at that location would also promote use of the Chalet for rental by booster clubs during high school football events.

Disc Golf

Disc golf was not a part of the original plan but has been a very popular recreation activity at Kincaid Park. The proposed soccer field complex is located where that activity takes place, thus the disc golf course is proposed to be located west of the existing Nike Site “cantonment area.” It would be located within and around the Mize Loop, in an area that is open forest, ideal for disc golf. The course provides for 18 holes and is intended to be of a quality that it could host northwest regional events. Additionally, this plan proposes that it be considered with the development of a community park facility at the Jodhpur Road entrance.

Community Park Facility

Though the 1983 master plan did not propose the development of a community park facility, the plan did include a number of facilities at several locations that each served community park purposes. Since the plan was developed, the Kincaid area has seen dramatic growth, with little provision of park facilities to meet the area’s needs. Meanwhile, the Jodhpur Road parking lot has seen much vandalism over the years, with damage to informational kiosks and automobiles.

This plan proposes that a community park facility be developed at the Jodhpur Road entrance. The park would meet Kincaid area needs, with provision of field areas, a picnic shelter, playground, a small amphitheater, view platforms for views to Turnagain Arm, and improved trailhead facilities. Parking should be expanded to meet community park needs, as well as those of the trailhead and the motocross area. The plans for development of a community park must pay particular attention to the relationship with the motocross area for the protection of motocross area users, the non-motocross public, and trail facilities. A separate planning effort is needed to determine what facilities are appropriate at the community park location and what configuration best serves the needs..

Motocross

This plan incorporates the Motocross area into the plan, though it was recommended for removal in the 1983 master plan. The Motocross area is located on the southeast corner of Kincaid Park, is on the bluff, and is approximately 17 acres in size. It is a combination of a natural terrain motocross track with “super-cross” style obstacles. The dirt is a very loamy sand/topsoil which when watered provides ideal conditions for motocross. The area is open year round for practices and races (city and state series) run during the weekends from May to September. The track is not lighted. There is an established gate fee of \$5 with practice being free. Racing fees consist of a \$50 membership fee and \$20 for 1st class entered and \$10 for each class after that.

Open Field/Canine Training

The World Cup Start/Finish area is proposed to continue to serve the small user group that uses the site to train dogs. The use is complementary to other park uses. This plan also proposes that the area be expanded into the area occupied by old Nike Missile site footings and foundations in order that it might also provide two soccer facilities available for tournament play. Priority use would be to dog training, with soccer use available only on a special use/tournament basis.

Parking

The current parking facilities at Kincaid Park include the following:

- Raspberry Parking Lot-1/3 mile from Gateway on Kincaid Park Access Road (41 unpaved parking spaces, scheduled for paving in 2006/7)
- Jodhpur parking lot trailhead (50 spaces unpaved)
- Jodhpur motocross (25 spaces plus trailer parking unpaved)
- Overflow parking in FAA Inholding area (approximately 50 planned for 2006/7 w/ reclaimed asphalt)
- Lower main parking lot start/finish area (182 spaces paved, 68 spaces unpaved)
- Upper main parking lot at the Chalet (209 spaces)

Additional to the parking that is identified above, this plan proposes the following additional parking:

- Soccer field additional parking (140 spaces proposed)
- Parking suitable for a community park located at the Jodhpur entrance

The provision of the soccer field additional parking area would provide spaces to address

increased demand expected for the soccer fields. Based on the formulas used for sports and recreation facilities for Anchorage, the eight fields would generate a need for 265 spaces. While this is readily met by the existing 400 spaces, the need for parking for trail users and special events at the Chalet will on occasion demand additional spaces. The addition of 140 spaces near the northern Launch Buildings (near the proposed soccer fields) will provide a total of 540 spaces which should suffice to meet projected needs, including special events at the Chalet. Also, the 140 additional spaces will facilitate the Athlete Training Center contemplated by this plan.

Playgrounds

Given the use of the Chalet for special events during the summer, there is a need to develop a play area in the proximity of the chalet. Also, with the advent of more summer use related to soccer, there will probably be increasing desire for playground facilities.

This plan proposes that a new playground be constructed near the Chalet. The playground should meet all ages, with age specific play equipment. Additionally, a second playground should be constructed at the community park proposed to be constructed at the Jodhpur Road trailhead.

Sledding Hill/Amphitheater

The sledding hill located north of the Chalet is very popular and one of only three designated “sledding hills” within the Anchorage Bowl. The plan provides for the continuation of this use.

The 1983 master plan provided for the development of two amphitheaters within the park. These have never been developed, however the sledding hill is used for numerous events during the summer, including the popular “Blues on the Green” event. The use of the sledding hill as an amphitheater has proven to work well, with relatively easy management and control and with parking and public utilities available to meet needs. This plan proposes that the sledding hill be continued for use as an amphitheater and does not suggest that an amphitheater is appropriate elsewhere unless incorporated into the community park.

Camp Sites

The 1983 master plan recommended the provision of primitive camp sites throughout Kincaid Park. The active use within the park raises the question of whether such activity is appropriate.

The ability to supervise such use and to ensure the prevention of fire hazard is questionable. This plan removes such use from the master plan.

Little Campbell Lake

The 1983 master plan recommended that Little Campbell Lake be improved and that a vendor be found to provide concessions at that location. The use of Little Campbell Lake does not generate such use to merit a vendor opportunity though that possibility should not be removed from consideration in the future.

View Platform

This is a proposal by a non-profit organization to construct an overlook at the location of the existing munitions storage bunker located just northwest of the existing chalet. The facility would provide an elevated view of the Kincaid area, as well as views to Cook Inlet and the Alaska Range. This is incorporated into the plan as part of the overall development of user-friendly accommodations in proximity of the Chalet, including the existing picnic shelter and the proposed playground.

Trails

There are a number of trail types within the park. Following is a description of the types of trails and recommendations with respect to each type.

Paved Multi-Purpose

The Kincaid Park Trail Connection Project (2005/6) will connect two existing paved trails, from the chalet area to the Kincaid Park entrance. The proposed improvements include replacing the Upper Tunnel and reconstructing three sections of roadway. The existing bridge will be replaced with a longer and wider structure. Landscaping amenities include revegetation and trail rest areas with benches, trash receptacles, interpretive exhibits related to the Nike Missile site use, and plantings. The proposed trail section includes a 10-foot wide asphalt surface with 3-foot wide grass shoulders (see multi-use trail cross section above). Continuous lighting is proposed along the length of the trail.

Paved Multi-Purpose- Proposed

The South Coastal Trail Extension FEIS Preferred Alternative was proposed to be located between the Ice Box-Mize's Folly trail and the Lekisch Loop. The location may pose a conflict with Lekisch Loop at a location north of Tobben's Turn. The NSAA has proposed that this location be changed to one that connects from the newly constructed Access Road trail (above) to the Jodhpur Road/West Dimond intersection. While construction of the South Coastal Trail extension has been denied for the present by the Federal Highway Administration, it is possible that a separate effort may take place to build the FEIS preferred alternative through Kincaid Park. Before such action takes place, it requires further coordination to ensure that it does not place conflicts upon existing trails. Planning and design efforts should consider the NSAA proposed alternative.

Unpaved Trails

The unpaved trail system within Kincaid Park forms the heart and soul of the park. Trail additions to the park since 1983, including the Mize Loop, the Lekisch Loops, the Sisson Loop, and Margaux' Loop have added immeasurably to use of the park. However, changes within FIS homologation standards have relegated Kincaid Park to being out of compliance with international standards for competition, in conflict with the goals and objectives for the park. This plan provides for a number of changes to meet the changing face of competition, as well as to eliminate conflict and simplify maintenance. The referenced numbers respond to numbers on the master plan and the proposed year of construction is included in parentheses.

- 1.** Elliott's Climb Widening – This trail is needed for mass start races. The FIS homologation specification calls for a trail width of 26 ft in the flats and 30 ft in the uphill. The trail is now 17-18 ft wide. Additionally a new section will be added at the top of the hill to connect to the World Cup Start trail. This will change the classification of the climb from a "B" to an "A" and it will reduce the length of trail that needs widening. (2006)
- 2.** Stadium Tunnel Ramps - The purpose of this proposed improvement is to allow mass start races to proceed from north to south. The trail up and over the tunnel that leads to the Lekisch Loops needs to be widened and lengthened to allow mass starts and sorting of skiers. A retaining wall will be needed on the lip of the tunnel and the eastern side. This project will require 2000 – 3000 cubic yards of fill material. (2006)

3. Spectator Ridge Race Trail – Integral with the tunnel ramp, a race trail will proceed from south to north on the western side of the start/finish area, between “spectator hill” and the water storage tank down a ramp to the lower proposed soccer field, west of the spectator hill ridge. (2006)
4. Mize Loop Reroute – The new soccer fields displace a small section of the Mize loop. About 300 m of new trail with lights will be needed. (2006)
5. Spectator Bridge – The surplus Raspberry Road trail bridge will be used to provide spectator access to “spectator hill” which is the ridge to the west and above the timing building. This is a key feature to providing spectator appeal. The project will also include abutments, trail excavation and an access ramp or stairs to the stadium. (2006/7)
6. Sprint Hill and Nordic Terrain Park – A sprint course requires a significant climb close to the stadium, which is only available on the hill due east of the northern portion of the start/finish area. A Nordic terrain park will be incorporated into this hill as a part of junior skier development and a connection to the bunker tunnel will also be added. (2007)
7. Biathlon Race Trails – Biathlon races will start from west to east. Trail connections are needed to accommodate the various lengths needed for races. Modifications to the Lekisch Loop are included (but not shown on the map). Additionally, the portion of Margaux Loop east of the new biathlon start/finish area will need to be widened from 19 feet to 30 foot width to “Top of the Form” to accommodate mass starts from the new start/finish area. (2007)
8. Race Trail Options – The spectator bridge opens up numerous options for race trails to the west of the stadium but conflicts arise with the sledding hill. This project will reconfigure the berm around the water tank bunker to separate the trail from the sledding hill and allow a westerly and northerly race trail path. (2007)
9. Lekisch Trail Reroute – construction of a soccer a soccer field at the site of old biathlon range will require a short trail reroute of approximately 100 meters. (2007)

10. Radar Hill Competition Trails – This new section of trail provides an “A” climb close to the snowmaking system. It will facilitate a high-level competition racecourse that can be served by the snowmaking system. (2007/8)

11. Trail Loop Completions—These improvements will provide a series of 5 kilometer loops in specific areas that are geared to better meeting new FIS criteria. These provide a series of loops in three separate locations, that combined with other trails allow trails of specific lengths. (2008 and beyond)

12. Trail Connections—The configuration of trails within Kincaid Park result in numbers of locations where grooming equipment is “dead ended” requiring operators to turn equipment around or pass over trails that were just groomed. These connections will allow more efficient grooming as well as additional trail possibilities within the park.

Single Track Trails

The 1983 master plan did not envision the advent of current “mountain biking” technology or enthusiasm. Since that time numbers of “single tracks” have developed within the park. These narrow paths are wide enough for only one bicycle and incorporate roots and rough terrain as desirable elements of the path.

This plan recognizes that these paths exist and that additional trails will probably develop. However, the plan places precedence to the original intent of the park and the need that cross-country ski trails and other facilities within the park meet international standards. This is contrasted with other parks such as Far North Bicentennial Park, where no such precedence is established. Thus the needs for single track trails is secondary to meeting larger goals established in the 1983 plan and restated in this plan.

Snowmaking

The 1983 master plan provided for the development of 7.5km of snowmaking. None of this has been completed to date. The Kincaid Project Group has proposed an initial 2.5km of trail with snowmaking with the capacity of wells and storage to expand to 7.5km. This would be tied to the biathlon start/finish area, as well as the existing start/finish stadium, and would initially serve the “dark alley” trail and the portion of Margaux Loop that connects from the start/finish area to the new proposed biathlon area. Water storage would be located in a pond proposed to be

located just to the northeast of the NSAA maintenance bunker. The snowmaking system would form the basis for the irrigation system that would serve the soccer complex.

Trail Lighting

The needs for trail lighting have largely been met within the park. However, with the addition of snowmaking, this plan proposes that the “dark alley” trail be lighted in order that when snow conditions are poor in the rest of the park, a groomed trail with man-made snow and lighting would be available to serve the community.

Training Trail

Since the development of the 1983 master plan, there has been an evolution in training for winter sports. An important component of this is the development of paved training loops that serve cross-country skiing and biathlon activities. The trail is to be 10 feet wide with an asphalt surface that includes rubber that softens the impact of ski poles and the energy that is transmitted to the shoulders, easing the impact to shoulders. This plan provides for the paving of a 2.5km loop using the same trail as is proposed for the snowmaking system. The system would also tie to the new multi-purpose trail that is being constructed along the Kincaid Access Road. The trail would pass through the biathlon range in order that biathletes could train during the summer.