



Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska  
**Parks & Recreation Department**

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**URL** [www.muni.org/departments/parks](http://www.muni.org/departments/parks)



## MEMORANDUM

**Date:** July 13, 2017

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**To:** Parks & Recreation Commission

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**Cc:** Josh Durand, Parks Superintendent

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**From:** Steve Rafuse, Park Planner

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**Project:** **PRC 17-27:** Elderberry Park – Oscar Anderson House ADA Upgrades and Heritage Gardens

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### INTRODUCTION

Anchorage Parks and Recreation and Anchorage Park Foundation are proposing upgrades to the Oscar Anderson House at Elderberry Park. The proposed improvements include upgrades to ADA access, drainage improvements, and the development of heritage garden beds. These improvements were identified in the 2015 Master Plan which was approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission in December 2015.

### BACKGROUND

Elderberry Park is a 1.46 acre neighborhood use park located in the Bootlegger Cove neighborhood in downtown Anchorage. The park serves both the local neighborhood as well as the larger community and is a popular tourist destination. Elderberry Park is also the home of the historic Oscar Anderson house and museum.

In 2015, Anchorage Parks and Recreation partnered with Earthscape, a local planning and landscape architecture firm, to begin a master planning and public involvement process. The result is a master plan that addresses issues and concerns and establishes a framework for future development. The master plan identifies several deficiencies related to the Oscar Anderson House including poor ADA access, limited visibility of the house from the park, drainage issues, and the desire for gardens that provide historic context indicative of the time period of habitation.

### ADA ACCESS UPGRADES AND HERITAGE GARDENS

With funding from the Anchorage Park Foundation, Anchorage Parks and Recreation proposes the development of new walkways and heritage gardens. The new walkways will improve ADA access to the Oscar Anderson House while also addressing drainage issues impacting the foundation of the house. Raised planter beds or “heritage gardens” will also be planted to reflect the time period of Oscar Anderson, providing historical context of life in the early Anchorage.

Proposed improvements were designed in coordination with representatives from the Oscar Anderson House as well as the Master Gardeners and are supported by the South Addition Community Council.

Figure 1: Illustration of  
 ADA upgrades and  
 Heritage Gardens

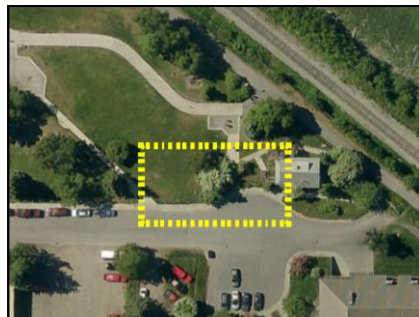
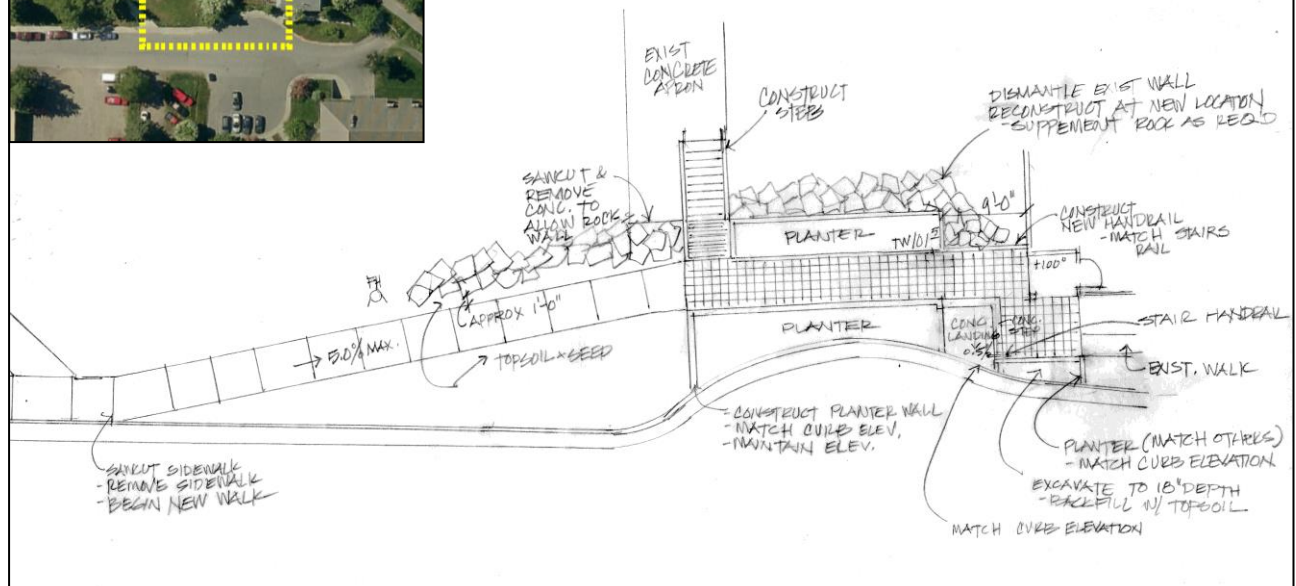


Figure 2: Oscar Anderson House ADA  
 Improvements and Heritage Garden  
 Site Plan



## **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

The Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department recommends approval of the Elderberry Park – Oscar Anderson House ADA Upgrades and Heritage Gardens. The proposed improvements are consistent with the 2015 Elderberry Park Master Plan and relevant stakeholders have been engaged in the planning and design process.

The Department recommends that the Parks and Recreation Commission pass the proposed resolution in support of the Elderberry Park – Oscar Anderson House ADA Upgrades and Heritage Gardens.



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**PRC RES NO. 2017-15**

**Elderberry Park – Oscar Anderson House ADA Upgrades and Heritage Gardens**

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 Elderberry Park master plan was approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission in 2015 and provides a 20 year vision that will address issues and guide future development at the park; and

WHEREAS, the proposed improvements include upgrades to ADA access, drainage improvements, and the development of heritage garden beds at the Oscar Anderson House; and

WHEREAS, these improvements were identified in the 2015 master plan and are based on community and stakeholder input and have been further developed in coordination with representatives from the Oscar Anderson House and the Master Gardeners; and

WHEREAS, the proposed improvements have received support and approval from the South Addition Community Council; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission approves the proposed improvements submitted by the Department for Elderberry Park and the Oscar Anderson House.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission this 13th day of July, 2017.

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Chair  
Parks and Recreation Commission

ATTEST:

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John Rodda, Director  
Parks & Recreation Department