



Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska
Parks & Recreation Department

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MEMORANDUM

Date: June 10, 2021

To: Parks & Recreation Commission

Cc: Josh Durand, Director

From: Brad Muir, Natural Resource Manager

Project: **PRC 21-12 Earthquake Park Trail Improvement**

OVERVIEW

Anchorage Parks and Recreation is proposing new trail improvements at Earthquake Park for summer 2021. The project will include trail improvements that are consistent with community priorities outlined in the master plan and reaffirmed through the public process that will include small wooden bridges and boardwalks to improve an existing social trail adjacent to the Knik Arm in Earthquake Park.

BACKGROUND

Earthquake Park is a 134-acre park set in the woods where, in 1964, an entire neighborhood slid into the ocean during last century's most powerful earthquake. The earthquake was measured at a 9.2 on the Richter scale and lasted 4 minutes. Today, this event is commemorated in Anchorage's Earthquake Park, where you'll find signs explaining the circumstances of the quake and its effect on the area.

Earthquake Park is also a great place to explore, relax or exercise. This large wooded park sits on the coast along the Knik Arm, between Hood Creek and Point Woronzof. Earthquake Park allows for some dramatic views; on the north side of the park you'll find open views of the Knik Arm and Alaska Range, while other spots have good views of Anchorage and the Chugach Mountains.

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

The Parks and Recreation Department is proposing trail upgrades at Earthquake Park which will focus on improving an existing soft surface trail that spurs off the Coastal trail and meanders through the woods with views of downtown Anchorage, the Chugach Mountains and the Knik Arm. Small wooden bridges and platforms will help create a more sustainable trail in Earthquake Park and address the community's desire for investment in Earthquake Park.

Overview of Proposed Improvements

- Approximately 10 - 14 small wooden bridges, boardwalks and platforms will be constructed in wet areas along the existing social trail.
- These structures will be constructed out of pressurized treated lumber and create a more sustainable trail adjacent to the Knik Arm in Earthquake Park.

Project Funding

- All materials and labor donated by Paxson Woelber

Planning and Public Involvement

September 2020: Site Visit with Parks and Recreation Staff

October 2020: Presentation to Turnagain Community Council, unanimous vote of support

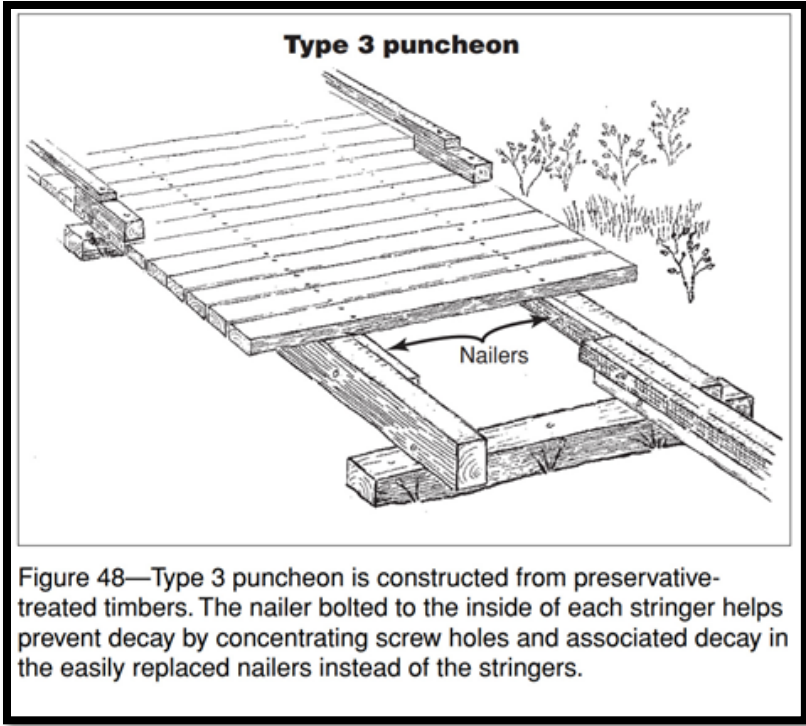
October 2020: Turnagain Community Council Resolution of Support for Improvements to Trail

June 2021: Presentation to Parks and Recreation Commission for approval

Summer 2021: Construction of proposed improvements

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The Parks and Recreation Department recommends the approval of the proposed trail improvements for Earthquake Park. These improvements will upgrade an existing trail and create a more sustainable trail and improved access through Earthquake Park.





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URL www.muni.org/departments/parks



PRC RES NO. 2021-09
EARTHQUAKE PARK TRAIL IMPROVEMENT

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, community member Paxson Woelber would like donate materials, construct trail structures and improve a social trail in Earthquake Park; and

WHEREAS, the improvements would be made by constructing small wooden bridges and boardwalks over wet portions of an existing social trail to create a more sustainable trail and access in Earthquake Park; and

WHEREAS, the improvement implementation will focus on addressing public safety concerns, trail improvement and sustainability, as well as the community's desire for investment at Earthquake Park; and

WHEREAS, the proposed trail improvements are supported by the Turnagain Community Council; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission approves the proposed trail improvements for Earthquake Park as submitted by the Parks and Recreation Department.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission this 10th day of June, 2021.

Chair
Parks and Recreation Commission

ATTEST:

Josh Durand, Director
Parks & Recreation Department