

**Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development****Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Anchorage Park Foundation****Federal Tax ID: 412205907****Project Title:****Project Type: Remodel, Reconstruction and Upgrades**

# Anchorage Park Foundation - Moen Park: Neighborhood Park Safety Upgrades

**State Funding Requested: \$260,000**  
One-Time Need**House District: Anchorage Areawide (11-27)****Brief Project Description:**

Moen Park is an underdeveloped neighborhood park in south Anchorage. Funds will be used to construct a soft surface trail, build an accessible playground, and improve safety in the park.

**Funding Plan:**

Total Project Cost:	\$300,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$40,000)
FY2015 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$260,000)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$0

*Funding Details:*

If funding from the AK Legislature is secured for this project, the Anchorage Park Foundation plans to commit at least \$40,000 of Rasmuson Foundation funding to this neighborhood park.

**Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

The Anchorage Parks Report Card offers a comprehensive review of the condition of Anchorage neighborhood parks by reflecting community opinions and ideas. In the Fall of 2011, Anchorage community volunteers evaluated 51 neighborhood parks based on five criteria: cleanliness; safety; structure; appearance; and function. We will use this information to strategically employ resources, both financial and volunteer, to better meet the needs of our community.

In 2011, Moen Park received an F on its Report Card. Neighbors identified a number of areas in which Moen Park needed improvement. The park is very overgrown and has little visibility, both inside the park and from the street looking in. Decreased visibility increases the danger not only of crime but also wildlife encounters; reports of bears and moose in the area are frequent. As such, the park is highly underutilized. The park lacks basic amenities such as trash cans, basic signs and benches. Neighbors also have expressed a desire for a picnic shelter and tables. In addition to all of these improvements to this existing use area of the park, plans are in place to implement a proposed trail system on much of its unused acreage.

In the summer of 2014, the Anchorage Park Foundation and Parks & Recreation Department plan to complete improvements in Moen Park with the help of community volunteers and the input of a neighborhood park committee. We invite the Alaska State Legislature to join us in investing in the future of Moen Park and the South Anchorage community. The Anchorage Park Foundation will match legislative investment in neighborhood park fix-its with volunteer involvement and generous support from the Rasmuson Foundation's Anchorage Parks Initiative.

**\$260,000  
Approved**

Fix-It List

- Implement trail system
- Install trash cans, signs and benches
- Build picnic shelter and picnic tables
- Greatly improve visibility within and around park

This is a Live.Work.Play. Trails Initiative Project.

**Project Timeline:**

Summer 2014 for Youth Employment in Parks trail work.  
Summer 2015 for installation of Playground.

**Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:**

Municipality of Anchorage

**Grant Recipient Contact Information:**

Name: Beth Nordlund  
Title: Executive Director  
Address: 3201 C Street  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503  
Phone Number: (907)274-1004  
Email: Beth@AnchorageParkFoundation.org

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority?  Yes  No

DID YOU KNOW? Since 2004, the Anchorage Park Foundation has invested more than \$18 million in Anchorage parks, trails and recreation programs. Join us this summer to revitalize parks in your district.



[www.AnchorageParkFoundation.org](http://www.AnchorageParkFoundation.org)

2014

CAP SIS Project Number:  
59689

Legislative District: L - 27

## ANCHORAGE PARK FOUNDATION

Anchorage has 10,946 acres of municipal parkland, 223 parks, and over 250 miles of trails and greenbelts linking neighborhoods with natural spaces.

The Anchorage Park Foundation partners with the Parks & Recreation Department to promote Healthy Parks and Healthy People in the Anchorage community. Together, we revitalize the safety, function, and appearance of Anchorage parks and the neighborhoods that surround them.

The Anchorage Park Foundation mobilizes public support and financial resources for Anchorage parks, trails, and recreation opportunities. Do you have a vision for parks, trails, open spaces and recreation in Anchorage? Consider the Anchorage Park Foundation your opportunity to fund community projects through public-private partnerships.



Tax ID Number: 41-2205907

907.274.1004



## MOEN PARK SAFETY UPGRADES

Park Report Card Grade: F

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## Project Cost Estimate

PROJECT BUDGET	COST
Install Soft Surface Trail	\$40,000
Amenities	\$40,000
Field and Sledding Hills	\$60,000
Accessible Playground	\$160,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$300,000</b>

2013 REQUEST	
State Funding Request	\$260,000
Project Deficit*	\$40,000
<b>Total Project Budget:</b>	<b>\$300,000</b>

\*If funding from the AK Legislature is secured for this project, the Anchorage Park Foundation plans to commit \$40,000 of Rasmuson Foundation funding to this project.

### NEIGHBORHOOD FIX IT

#### PRIORITY LIST FOR MOEN PARK

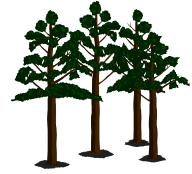
- Install soft surface trail
- Upgrade field and sledding hills
- Install accessible playground
- Greatly improve visibility within and around park

# Moen Park Safety Upgrades



# Rabbit Creek Community Council

P.O. Box 112354, Anchorage, AK 99511-2354



November 19, 2013

To Community Developers and Civic Leaders

RE: Business support for Moen Park Improvements on Goldenview Drive

Dear Community Leaders:

Rabbit Creek Community Council requests your support through donations and in-kind services to develop a 10-acre municipal park at the south end of Goldenview Drive.

Neighbors have jump-started a park improvement project called the Moen Park Challenge Grant. We invite businesses and civic groups who are active in South Anchorage to join the effort in order to collect this grant. This is our chance and YOUR chance—residents and developers and civic leaders - to invest collectively in southeast Anchorage. Together, we can build community identity, contribute to outdoor enjoyment and exercise, and raise property values: a win-win project.

## History

Moen Park began with a donation to the Municipality of 10 acres by homesteader Ruth Moen. In 2001 a Master Plan was completed, but soil conditions created high development costs, and only a small play structure and parking lot were installed. Since then the park has had a lot wind-fallen trees and been largely neglected. As residential development spreads across the Rabbit Creek and Golden View areas, there is an increasing need for nearby community recreation facilities. In the spring of 2013, neighborhood interest ignited a desire to improve Moen Park.

## New opportunity

In May 2013, Moen Park advocates Jim and Michelle Rogers were awarded a 2013/2014 Challenge Grant by the Anchorage Park Foundation. The Foundation offered a matching grant of \$40,000 for Moen Park improvements, to be awarded if matching funds and/or in-kind services and materials are raised. Michelle and Jim Rogers are now the Moen Park Grant Coordinators, responsible for tracking volunteer labor and donations. We are asking your business to contribute and thereby help clinch the Foundation grant.

## Momentum

The first Moen Park Volunteer Day in September 2013 brought out 114 volunteers, raising over \$6,000 in matching funds. In October of 2013 a VIP Committee of eight community members was established to collaborate with the Anchorage Municipal Parks and Recreation Department to oversee the park's progress. A survey of the park was completed so that the first phase of construction take place in the spring/summer of 2014. The first phase will include an expanded playground, grassy area, picnic area, and benches. A legislative request for \$200,000 has been submitted for further development of Moen Park.

## How you can help

Rabbit Creek Community Council is asking realtors, land developers, construction businesses, and

any enterprises invested in southeast Anchorage to contribute to the development of Moen Park by way of

- financial contributions,
- in-kind services,
- donations of materials,
- donations of professional and skilled labor, or
- any contribution your company can offer.

We see this as a win-win for land developers because neighborhood parks help raise property values and home buyers' interest. This is also a chance to build good will within the local community.

Your donations, combined with the Anchorage Park Foundation grant and assistance from the local community, can transform Moen Park into a wonderful community resource. There are many ways you can donate, and there are ways your company can earn publicity and kudos. We look forward to talking or meeting with you to propose specific donations.

To learn more about how to contribute, please contact the Moen Park Challenge Grant Coordinators, Jim and Michelle Rogers, at [moenpark@gmail.com](mailto:moenpark@gmail.com)

Thank you,  
Nancy Pease, Chair

# Youth Employment in Parks

A program of the Anchorage Parks & Recreation Department  
and the Anchorage Park Foundation



Beaver Pond Trail in Girdwood

## 2013 Annual Program Report

ANCHORAGE



PARKS & RECREATION







# Youth Employment in Parks

A joint program of the Anchorage Parks & Recreation Department  
and the Anchorage Park Foundation

## What is YEP?

Youth Employment in Parks (YEP) is a joint program of the Anchorage Park Foundation and the Municipality of Anchorage's Parks & Recreation Department. YEP aims to positively engage a new generation of diverse young leaders as conservation stewards of public lands and of the Anchorage community through meaningful job training, employment and education.



Since 2007, YEP has hired over 200 Anchorage youth to complete park improvement projects. The teens learn valuable natural resource management job skills by building trails and restoring stream banks. In addition, youth engage in relevant educational opportunities to increase their civic engagement, environmental awareness, recreational activity and leadership skills. At the end of the program, Mentorship Week links their new skills to future careers.

**YEP puts teens to work making a difference in our community!**

## YEP Goals

- 1) Create a meaningful "first job" experience and open a career pathway for diverse youth to work in the outdoors and natural resources fields.
- 2) Expose youth to the outdoors and connect them with nature to support healthy lifestyles.
- 3) Provide youth with community action skills and character development so they may become effective citizens.
- 4) Build community through enhanced recreation opportunities, parks and public spaces.



## Accreditation

In 2013, Youth Employment in Parks became one of the first provisionally accredited youth corps programs in the country by the Corps Center of Excellence. Accreditation assures partner agencies and donors of the quality of the program.

Guidelines for accreditation were determined by the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps Federal Advisory Committee. The committee was composed of leaders of corps programs, representatives from federal and industry partners.

Alaskan members of the committee included:

**Beth Nordlund,**  
**Anchorage Park Foundation**

**Carol Ann Wren,**  
**Cook Inlet Tribal Council**



## Senior Crew Members

Each YEP crew has a Senior Crew Member, hired to help lead crews on projects and serve as peer role models.

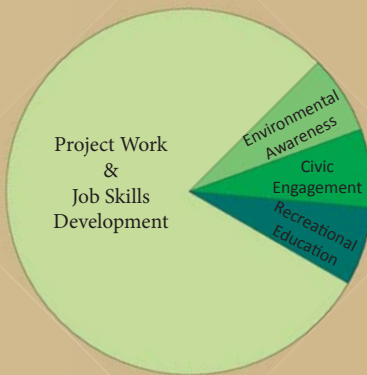
Senior crew members are selected from previous YEP crew members and youth leaders in the community.

After a summer of work with crew leaders developing technical skills, teamwork, and leadership, Senior Crew Members are challenged to develop a Community Action Project.

**In 2013 the Senior Crew Members organized a YEP Arts and Crafts Fair.**

## Program Design

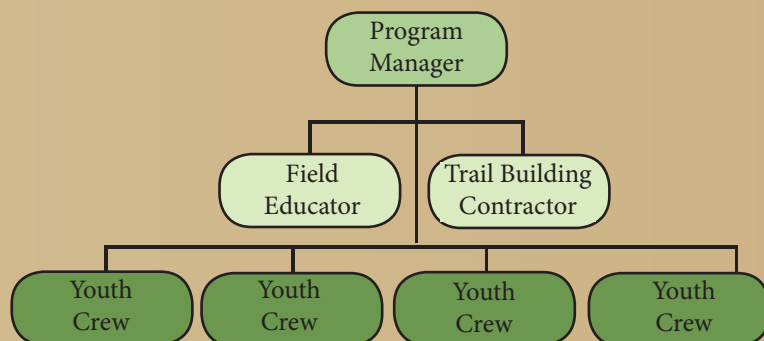
Youth Employment in Parks is modeled after the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) program of the 1930s. YEP is designed as a service learning program which balances the work product with job skills training, recreational activities, civic engagement and environmental education. YEP employs staff to design and implement relevant service learning activities that will help the youth to realize the meaningfulness of the work and become engaged citizens.



The summer program lasts for ten weeks and coincides with the Anchorage School District schedule to ensure opportunities are available to area youth without interfering with school schedules.

## Staff Structure

The staff is divided into four field crews that consist of five youth crew members, a youth senior crew member and an adult leader. On work sites there is a professional trail building contractor to manage the project and ensure a professional quality of work. The field educator manages the service learning and educational components for the program.



# Youth Employment in Parks

A joint program of the Anchorage Parks & Recreation Department  
and the Anchorage Park Foundation

## Recruitment

In 2013, YEP held four public outreach sessions at Fairview Recreation Center, Spenard Recreation Center, Mountain View Boys & Girls Club and the Muldoon Boys & Girls Club. These sessions reached approximately 40 youth.

Youth Employment in Parks' main outreach and recruitment tool was 11 High School presentations.

The Alaska Department of Labor's Youth Hiring Center was a major recruitment partner, providing additional outreach and working with the YEP program manager to organize application workshops for 62 Anchorage teens.

## Interviews and Participant Selection

As part of the first job experience, YEP interviews all crew member applicants who meet the basic qualifications:

- a resident of the Municipality of Anchorage
- 16-19 years old on June 1st, 2013
- engaged in high school or GED education

With 115 qualified applicants, interviewing becomes a challenge. Youth Employment in Parks engages community partners to help interview and select applicants.

Our community partners interviewed 107 applicants and selected 20 YEP crew members.

## Interview and Selection Partners

Alaska Youth for  
Environmental Action

Alaska Department of Labor

Anchorage Parks &  
Recreation Department

Anchorage Park Foundation

Anchorage Community Land  
Trust

Friends of the Anchorage  
Coastal Wildlife Refuge (FAR)

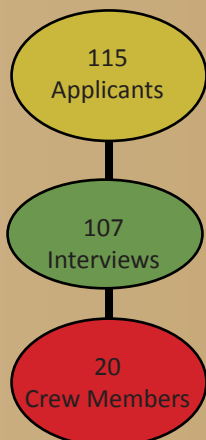
Great Land Trust

Recreational Equipment Inc  
(REI)

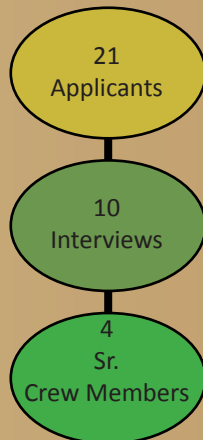
Wells Fargo

**Thank you for  
helping to select the  
2013 YEP Crew!**

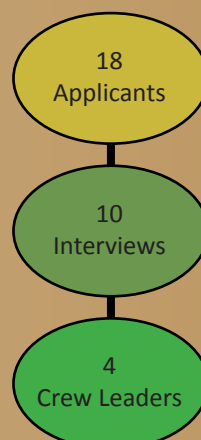
### Crew Members



### Senior Crew Members



### Crew Leaders





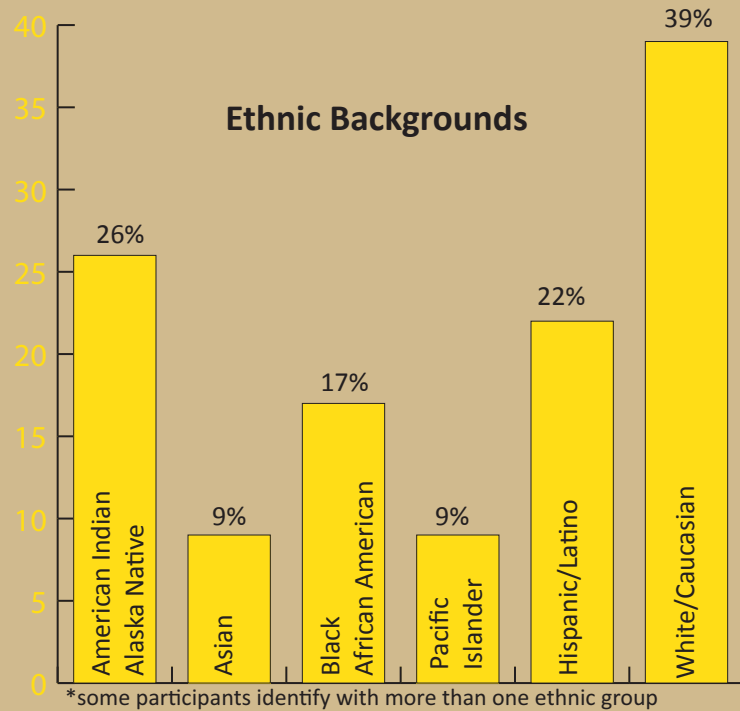
### Participant Backgrounds

- 21% live in a single parent home
- 43% have families that are considered low income
- 18% have parents who are unemployed
- 35% are from military families
- 13% are members of Alaska Native corporations
- 9% experience a disability
- 22% identify as LGBT

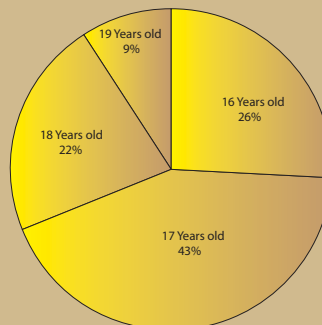
**In 2013, YEP was a first job for 8 Participants**

## Opportunities For All

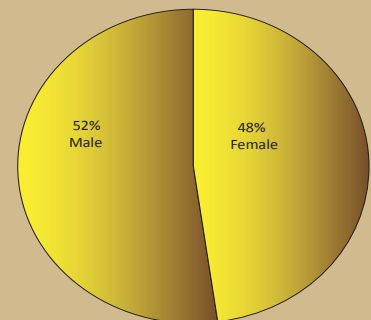
The YEP program seeks to hire from all areas of Anchorage. The program coordinates with local recreation centers, hiring centers, and the Anchorage School District to get applicants. One of the strengths of the program are participants who come from a large range of backgrounds. Anchorage features a diverse ethnic and socioeconomic population and YEP strives to represent that diversity.



### Age Distribution



### Gender Ratio

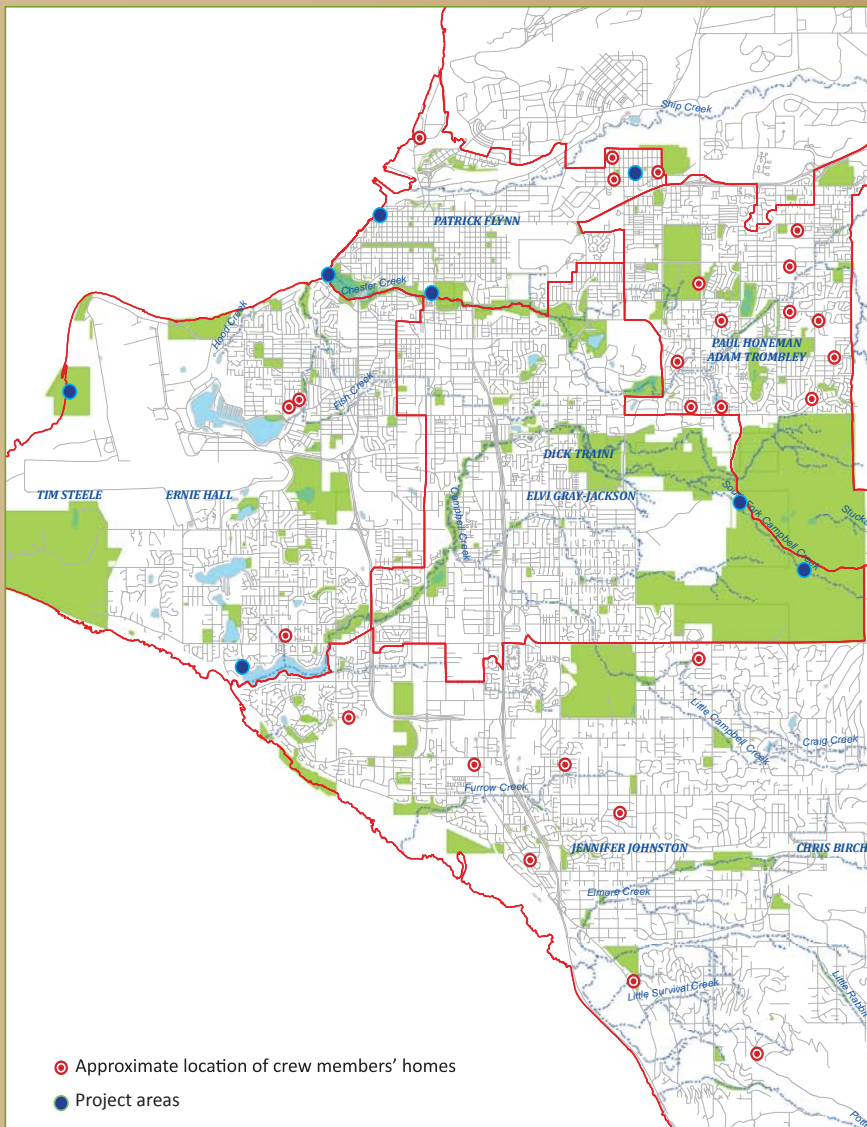


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## We Reflect Anchorage

YEP teens represent neighborhoods throughout the Anchorage bowl.



## 10 High Schools Represented

AVAIL

- Bartlett High School
- Benny Benson
- Dimond High School
- East High School
- Frontier Charter School
- Grace Christian School
- South High School
- Stellar Secondary School
- West High School

## 6 Languages Spoken

- French
- Hmong
- Japanese
- Samoan
- Spanish
- Thai

**26% speak a language other than English at home**



## Why did you apply to YEP?



### Trails Curriculum

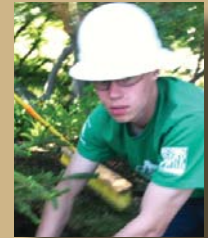
YEP Crew Members receive specialized training based on the Urban Trails Curriculum.

This curriculum was developed for the YEP program by professional Alaskan trail builders under a grant from the Alaska Department of Natural Resources.

The curriculum is designed to develop the next generation of trail builders and resource managers in large urban areas with extensive trails systems like Anchorage.

It adapts skills used to build trails in the wilderness to build successful, sustainable trails in an urban environment.

“To earn money for College while doing a job that allowed me to be outside”  
- Carson, YEP Senior Crew Member



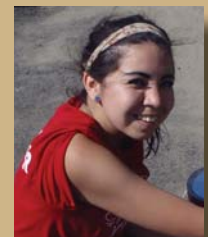
“I want to make a difference in my community”  
- Tyler, YEP Crew Member

“I wanted an opportunity to be a part of something great and to help give back to a community I love”  
- Cheng, YEP Crew Member



“I applied to YEP because I wanted to learn how to work”  
- Mina, YEP Crew Member

“I wanted to gain skills and experience with a job that is engaged in our community”  
- Jamie, YEP Crew Member



# Youth Employment in Parks

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## Education

Youth Employment in Parks includes a strong educational element. The program operates under the philosophy that understanding why your work matters increases ownership and stewardship in your project and your community.

Educational aspects are tied directly to the project crew members work on. YEP focus on four areas of education:

1. Job Skills
2. Environmental Education
3. Civic Engagement
4. Recreation Activity



First day of YEP 2013

## Job Skills for Successful Futures

### Job skills developed in the YEP Program:

- Basic on-the-job conduct
- Punctuality
- Preparation for the work day:  
being well-rested, packed lunch  
and a positive attitude
- Workload management
- Conflict resolution
- Team building
- First Aid & CPR certification
- Theory and philosophy of the  
management of public lands
- Resume building
- Interview skills
- Leave No Trace training for  
minimum environmental impact  
during outdoor activities.
- Work place safety
- Tool use and safety

YEP strives to give crew members the tools and stamina to stand out amongst their peers as skilled and reliable employees, stewards of their community and leaders of the future.



## Anchorage Assembly Presentation

The Anchorage Assembly offered YEP the opportunity to present their work at an Assembly meeting. Crew members each spoke before the Assembly about their YEP experience and learned how local government works.

The Assembly asked crew members about their projects and thanked them for helping make Anchorage a great city to live in.