

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Kincaid Project Group, Inc.****Federal Tax ID: 20-2342868****Project Title:****Project Type: New Construction and Land Acquisition**

Kincaid Project Group, Inc. - Health, Recreation & Cultural Enhancements to Kincaid Park

State Funding Requested: \$1,800,000**House District: 27 / N**

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

This funding request would allow for the construction of a biathlon range control building at the new biathlon range and for the purchase and installation of multi-use artificial turf at the newly constructed 1,650 seat stadium and completion of the snowmaking system and biathlon stadium.

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$11,900,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$9,900,000)
FY2012 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$1,800,000)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$200,000

Funding Details:

\$730,000 was received in 2005 and \$1.5 million was received in 2006. Gov. Palin vetoed a funding request approved by the legislature in 2007 and reduced an approved funding request from \$2 million to \$1 million after the 2008 legislative session. As a consequence, completion of this project has been delayed. An additional \$2 million was received in 2010.

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

Specific Request: \$1.8 million in funding to help complete the biathlon and artificial turf infrastructure upgrades at Kincaid Park. This funding request would allow for the construction of a biathlon range control building at the new biathlon range and for the purchase and installation of multi-use artificial turf at the newly constructed 1,650 seat stadium and completion of the snowmaking system and biathlon stadium.

Biathlon: One aspect of the project that is near completion is the new biathlon range which was relocated to an area of the park with more predictable wind currents and better connectivity to the trail system. This range is already in use by local athletes and Olympic hopefuls and is getting rave reviews. Although the range is functional it is still missing an appropriate range control building - a critical element for hosting national and world class competition. Funding is necessary in order to construct this much needed range control building and associated improvements appropriate for this venue. In addition, funding this session will allow for construction and commissioning of the new biathlon range control building in the fall of 2011, in time for hosting national competition during the 2011/2012 season.

Artificial Turf at the new Soccer Stadium: A remaining element of the soccer field upgrades is the purchase and installation

of the artificial turf at the newly constructed 1,650 seat stadium. Installation of this turf at this premier venue will benefit high school teams, club play, local, state, and national tournament play and the entire Alaskan community.

Kincaid Project Group Infrastructure Upgrades - Background: Kincaid Project Group (KPG) is undertaking the largest Parks projects in Alaska's history. The project includes construction of 7 natural grass soccer fields, 1 artificial turf field with stadium seating for over 1,650 fans; a new biathlon range; installation of a snowmaking system; constructing a new disc golf course; and the addition of a paved training loop trail. All of these improvements will be made in Kincaid Park, a 1,500 acre park located in Anchorage.

Kincaid Park is nationally and internationally recognized venue and these new regional infrastructure facilities will benefit residents throughout Alaska who participate in these activities, and will allow for growth in participation in youth and adult programs as well. In addition, state and national cross country ski meets, soccer tournaments, and other events will benefit the Alaska economy by increasing tourism.

The project is being spearheaded by the Kincaid Project Group's (KPG) all-volunteer non-profit board who are undertaking a new model of cooperation between user groups, federal, state and local governments, private citizens and private corporations. Community and individual support for these improvements is extremely strong as is evidenced most clearly by the more than \$4.4 million in private and corporate donations received as of December 2010.

The vision for Kincaid Park that has been in the Master Plan since 1983 but has never been fully realized. The Municipality of Anchorage currently estimates that the city is 17-22 fields short of the number of soccer fields it needs to meet the current demand. Soccer is the most popular sport in the city, with nearly 13,000 participants. In summer 2006, 400 children and youth wanting to play recreational soccer with the local Boys and Girls Club and Cook Inlet Soccer Clubs were turned away due to lack of enough fields in town. The Kincaid Park Project will address this shortfall in a significant manner, which is important to users throughout the region as teams from the Mat-Su Valley participate in the Anchorage soccer league, and teams from across the state play in tournaments in Anchorage on the current substandard fields.

Kincaid Park is known throughout the world as a center for Nordic skiing and serves as one of the few locations in the United States for the development of biathlon. The park has hosted national and international competition ranging from World Cup events World Junior biathlon trials to the 2003 national championships. Over the last two years Anchorage hosted the 2009 U.S. Cross Country Ski Championships, the U.S. Nordic National Masters Championships and the 2010 U.S.

Cross Country Ski Championships which also served as the Olympic Trials.

While great strides have been made, key improvements are needed to address the unpredictability of the Anchorage winters. Recent winters have shown us that our snow is not as dependable as our location would suggest.

This lack of snow not only impacts the training that local athletes can do, but impacts our community in other ways as well. Winter sports events of world and national stature are scheduled years ahead of the actual competition. These events bring millions of dollars into our economy and reliable snow is needed if Anchorage is to host these prominent events. In the winter of 2007-08 a national biathlon event scheduled to be held on the new, nearly complete Kincaid Biathlon range was moved to another state due to lack of snow which cost our state almost \$1 million in lost economic benefit. The middle school and high school ski races, including the State meet, were severely impacted by lack of snow and numerous races were cancelled throughout the season. A snow making system is needed to assure the ability to provide and maintain a consistent winter snow base. Alyeska Resort and Hilltop Ski Area have known this for years and have provided snowmaking to meet alpine skiing demands.

Finally, in addition to bringing health benefits and cultural education to citizens of Alaska, this project will provide economic stimulus as well. The improvements will allow Kincaid to host large regional, national and international tournaments. In our

communities, competitions of this size provide between \$1 million - \$10 million in economic benefit per event.

Project Timeline:

The improvements in which we are seeking funding are targeted for completion by Fall 2011. All expenditures are expected during the construction season.

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

A maintenance endowment that we have raised funds for

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

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

MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE



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Mayor Dan Sullivan

February 11, 2011

To whom it may concern:

This letter is in support of the efforts of the Kincaid Project Group (KPG) to upgrade the Kincaid Park facilities in Anchorage. KPG is nearing completion of the snow-making system, the turf soccer field and the biathlon range control building. Once complete, these improvements will ensure participants of all ages and abilities have an opportunity to learn and develop their skills and live healthy lifestyles year-round, whether they are competitive athletes or recreational skiers and soccer players.

The park is a local treasure and a state-wide, national and international destination. The upgrades will not only benefit Alaskans but will continue to help Alaska attract national and international events thereby enhancing the overall economic impact of tourism year-round. These events can bring between \$1 million and \$10 million in economic benefit per event.

KPG has developed a strong public-private partnership and has already raised \$4.5 million in private donations. With State funding of \$1.8 million this year, KPG and the MOA will be able to complete the project.

With this in mind, I ask that you join me and strongly consider supporting this worthwhile project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dan Sullivan".

Dan Sullivan
Mayor

February 23, 2011

Dear Representative Mia Costello,

Thank you for your continued support of the Kincaid Project and participating in the Kincaid Soccer Field Ribbon Cutting this summer. We are in the final phase of completing the project and I am asking for your support of \$1.8 million in funding for the Kincaid Project Group to complete the snowmaking, biathlon range timing/official/storage building, and artificial turf soccer field.

The completed project will not only provide a positive place for the youth of Anchorage to use, it also will provide a venue for the entire community to improve their health and fitness. In addition to Anchorage, the entire state will benefit by having facilities that can host Local, State, National or International events in cross country skiing, biathlon, and soccer.

This year we experienced another low snow year with Chinook winds and rain that impacted both recreational and competitive skiers and made it very difficult for the Nordic Ski Association groomers to provide acceptable trails. The snowmaking system is extremely important if we are to host national or international competitions. Snowmaking is one of the requirements for submitting bids to host any national or international competition. It will also insure that our local skiers will have adequate snow throughout the ski season.

The new artificial turf soccer field, with a beautiful setting, and stadium seating, will provide the Cap Stone for the soccer complex. These fields will be used by all levels of soccer programs and will provide an enjoyable and safe experience for all participants. The tournament last fall was extremely successful on the grass fields.

The new biathlon range is an international class facility. However, to complete the venue we need to provide a timing/official/storage building and pave the penalty loop and access to the bike trail for summer roller ski training and competition. As a longtime biathlon official at local, national, and international events, and one of three members of the KPG Board who introduced and provided major input to design of the venue, I have a particular interest in completion of this facility to international standards so that in the future we can bid to host competitions such as World Cup that have made biathlon the top winter spectator sport in Europe, with tens of thousands at each venue and millions watching TV coverage each weekend.

Thank you, Senator McGuire, for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Joel Hubbard