

**Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development****Grants to Municipalities (AS 37.05.315)****Grant Recipient: Fairbanks North Star Borough****Federal Tax ID: 92-0030612****Project Title:****Project Type: Remodel, Reconstruction and Upgrades**

# Fairbanks North Star Borough - Parks and Recreation Facility Improvements - Birch Hill

**State Funding Requested: \$1,600,000****House District: Fairbanks Areawide (7-11)**

One-Time Need

**Brief Project Description:**

This request is to fund improvements to the Birch Hill Recreational facility that need to be addressed in preparation for Birch Hill's hosting the 2013 Junior Olympics and the 2014 Arctic Winter Games.

**Funding Plan:**

Total Project Cost:	\$1,600,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$0)
FY2013 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$1,600,000)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$0

*Funding Details:**Funds are not secured for the project.***Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

Birch Hill Recreational facility is hosting the 2013 Junior Olympics and the 2014 Arctic Winter Games. The FNSB anticipates that events of similar magnitude will be held at the Birch Hill facility well into the future. To ensure that the Birch Hill facility continues to be a preferred venue for high profile, international events, the FNSB is seeking funding to address facility improvements including:

- parking and trailhead improvements,
- updating and renovating the waxing and competition support facilities,
- connecting the facility to Phase 3 power, and
- insulating the registration and bib pick-up cabin, and
- completing various facility upgrades to improve energy efficiency

In addition, the Birch Hill maintenance facility is inadequate to store and work on all the required equipment to groom the expanded trails. This funding request will allow for the construction of a new maintenance facility.

The FNSB Parks and Recreation Department, in partnership with the Nordic Ski club of Fairbanks, offers the Birch Hill Recreation Area and the Jim Whisenant Cross Country Ski Trail system for recreational use. The trail system includes more than 32 km of world-class groomed trails, with over 8 km of lit trails. The Nordic Ski Club of Fairbanks maintains the trail system and hosts the facility's ski races.

Birch Hill Recreation Area is the site of the beautiful Birch Hill Cross Country Ski Center that opened in February 2003. This 10,000+ square foot facility can be reserved for meetings and events. There is also a biathlon facility, two log cabins for warming up and race headquarters, and a timing chalet that also hosts the Junior Nordics office.

Birch Hill Recreation Area has had and will host several prestigious events that are important to Fairbanks and the State of Alaska, including:

#### International Events

2014-Arctic Winter Games

1988-Actic Winter Games

1984-International Ski Federation Men's World Cup Race

1982-Actic Winter Games

#### National Events

2013-US Ski Association Junior Olympics

2003-US Ski Association Junior Olympics

1995-US Ski Association Junior Olympics

1977-US Ski Association Junior National Championships

#### Other Major Events

Sever Nor-Am/SuperTour events in the 1980's, 1990's and 2000's, including the US Ski Team and/or the Canadian Ski Team, as well as many to national- level racers for the US and Canada, some college teams visiting from the lower 48, and occasional Japanese participants. 1-2 Tang Cup/Besh Cup USSA Alaska/Cross County Alaska (CCAK) Junior Olympic Qualifying races each year from the late 1970's through the present day.

2002-ASAA State High School Championships

2003-ASAA State High School Championships

2004-ASAA State High School Championships

2005-ASAA State High School Championships

The use of the facility continues to grow considerably each year with over 187,000 expected to enjoy the facility this winter for an annual three year average growth of approximately 110%.

Construction of these upgrades will allow Birch Hill to better host the 2013 Junior Olympics and the 2014 Arctic Winter Games and further the sport of cross country skiing in the Interior and throughout Alaska.

### **Project Timeline:**

The FNSB will begin the project in 2012 and will complete it in 2013.

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

FNSB Parks and Recreation Department will provide ongoing maintenance and operational costs.

**Grant Recipient Contact Information:**

Name:	Luke Hopkins
Title:	FNSB Mayor
Address:	809 Pioneer Rd Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
Phone Number:	(907)459-1300
Email:	lhopkins@fnsb.us

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

<i>For use by Co-chair Staff Only:</i>
3:15 PM 5/2/2012

## **FNSB Parks and Recreation Facility Improvements – Birch Hill**

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