

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Anchorage Park Foundation****Federal Tax ID: 41-2205907****Project Title:****Project Type: Remodel, Reconstruction and Upgrades**

Anchorage Park Foundation - Connors Bog Park Safety Fencing

State Funding Requested: \$25,000**House District: Anchorage Areawide (16-32)**

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

Conner's Bog Dog Park located at the southwest intersection of Jewel Lake Road and International Airport Road, Anchorage, Alaska, is one of the City's most accessible, popular, and utilized family parks.

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$25,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$0)
FY2013 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$25,000)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$0

Funding Details:

Money appropriated this year will be used to start project in July. The project will be completed by fall 2012.

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

Conner's Bog Dog Park is one of the most popular and utilized family parks in Anchorage. The reason for this Capital Budget Request is due to resolve the safety issue that currently exists at this park.

Problem: The parking lot area shares an open boundary with the very busy arterial, Jewel Lake Road. This open boundary poses a very real danger to park visitors, children and pets. This requests an appropriation in the total amount of \$XXXX be made to Anchorage Friends of Neighborhood Dog Parks to improve park safety for all visitors to Connors Bog Family Dog Park. Erection of this fence will improve park safety for its visitors, and minimize the risk of liability should a tragic accident occur because of this open, busy, roadway.

In the summer of 2012, a safety fence of high quality material will be installed the length of the open boundary along Jewel Lake Road - up to the parking lot entry road - on park side ground.

It will act as a barrier to protect children and pets from running into a busy roadway. It may also stop an out of control car from sliding off of the steep and curving hill into the parks entry. It will not impede the open natural look of the park, or the migration of moose and other wildlife passing through this greenbelt.

Anchorage Friends of Neighborhood Dog Parks, Inc., (AFNDP) assures compliance with all federal, state, and city requirements. AFNDP further assures collaboration with all appropriate agencies and stakeholders, including but not limited to: State Department of Transportation, Municipality of Anchorage, Ted Stevens International Airport administration, and

local District Councils.

Project Timeline:

This appropriation will be used for only direct costs such as permitting fees, building materials, labor and installation of a protective guard, or safety fence, along the open boundary.

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

The Municipality of Anchorage

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name: Beth Nordlund
Title: Executive Director
Address: 715 L Street, Suite 200
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
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

Karen M. Procter
2500 St. Elias Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99517-1249
Tel. 248-1602

February 27, 2012

Dear Rep. Costello:

I am an avid Connor's Bog Dog Park user, and have been for the past six years. The lack of protective fencing between the dog park and Jewel Lake Road has been an issue concerning all of the dog walkers I know. Like many other users, I have witnessed dogs run out onto Jewel Lake Road. I have had to run after someone's dog on more than one occasion to prevent the dog from reaching the road. It is very scary. I have never seen a dog hit by a car out there, fortunately, but am aware of several instances where this has happened.

A number of us planted rose bushes one summer hoping to form a border for at least a small portion of the area running along the road. The bushes did not thrive; even if they had, it would have been years before they filled in enough to begin to act as any sort of barrier. The past few years, we have planned to plant one type or another of bushes along the parking area, but it would take years for the bushes to grow and fill in before they would act as a barrier. Even then, they might not thrive and perform as expected. Anchorage Unleashed raised money to provide the plants, with many of us Connor's Bog users contributing to the fund raising.

The obvious solution to this problem has always been a fence. We have only considered plants because we had no other alternative. If the DOT is now reconsidering putting in a fence between the park and Jewel Lake Road, this would be ideal. I know every park user would be very much in favor of this resolution of the potential danger, as it would be the safest possible barrier. A simple three- or four-foot fence would serve beautifully.

Thank you for your support of the fencing for Connor's Bog Dog Park.

Sincerely,

Karen M. Procter

February 27, 2012

Dear Representative Costello,

Please help us get funding for this fence. I am wearing two hats writing this letter. As a member of the Anchorage Animal Care and Control Board, we have following this issue for years. And, as president of Anchorage Unleashed we have been working to solve this problem.

I can tell you that people have long wanted a safety barrier at the Connor's Bog designated off-leash area to separate the parking lot from Jewel Lake Road. It was our understanding that DOT requirements would cut the parking lot to such a narrow strip that a fence would be basically eliminate the parking lot. It seems as though they now feel both can co-exist. We are delighted.

Because of the many requests we have tried to be as creative as possible and have plans to put in a bush barrier. Such a barrier is not as effective as a fence and would require years for anything we planted to be effective. A fence would be a great improvement.

Connor's Bog is the best off-leash area in Anchorage. There are limited areas available for off-leash dog use yet there is a great need for it. It is understood that off-leash exercise socializes dogs...and a number of dog related problems are reduced. Personally we have seen this in two dogs we have adopted. My mother-in-law's dog was nick named the "dog from hell" because of his many problems such as indoor marking, excessive barking, repeatedly jumping on guests, and so on. He came to us after my mother-in-law had a dog related fall which left her with a broken leg. After he was allowed an hour a day in off-leash areas all of those issues simply ended with no special attention or discipline.

It is our responsibility to keep our dogs on leash. Still, dogs can be unpredictable. Even under expert care a puppy or very excited dog can jump out of a car in their rush to the dog park and thwart an owner's best intentions. In these circumstances there is danger to the dog and to car attempting to avoid that dog.

Please do what you can to give us that needed barrier.

Kayla Epstein
Anchorage Unleashed

February 27, 2012

Dear Representative Costello,

I walk my dog there all the time at least when she is up for it, she's getting on in her years. Having a fence to keep the dogs from wondering out on to the road seems like a good idea but I would be concerned if the fence is used to restrict the area that can be accessed reducing the size of the park. It is such a free open area and people clean up after their dogs. If the plans for the fence are to make the area that is used smaller and less free I would be opposed to it. I'm on the mailing list for dog park users that is who informed me that you are involved.

Connors parking lot is full on any given weekend and often full in the early evenings. There are more users of the dog park than any soccer field I know of in the area given its year round use.

Another interest fact is that the land is owned by the airport I was told at one time. Of course the airport is own by the state.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping 'D'.

davidc@ak.net