

“The existing trail system is great and compares to outside facilities.”

– Comment from a meeting attendee

MOA PARKS + RECREATION SOUTHWEST DISTRICT

I. Stories from our Parks

- Funding question
- Free dog running experience
- Parks are everywhere
- RC committee great local
- Wildlife eagles’ nest, bears
- Considerate users
- Best bike trails system
- Lots of dog owners in room
- Extension of green belt for apt./condo residents
- RC racing
- Developed and Wildland parks both exist
- Partnering with non profits
- Community health in general
- Gates to Kincaid are open more, but not predictably perhaps
- Parks everywhere – access
- Fishing
- Parks are free
- Trail system
- Variety of terrain
- Kincaid park, Connors off-leash
- Groomed trails
- 500 motocross users using
- For most part, parks are clean, trash-free
- Kincaid – has improved greatly in last 1-2 years, partnership

II. Issues

Open Space/Habitat/Environment

- Realize that some parks or park areas need to remain open space areas with simple trails or areas with simple trails or areas without paved improvement or special use areas - Naturalism

Playground

- Need adoption/volunteer at two most used parks
- Need better understand money distribution process, need to work better with community councils what process is to get money (e.g. how to get picnic table at a park)
- Better communication! About designs, plans, funds
- Slide at Ocean View

- Nature walk/boardwalk at John's Park, below bluff
- CIP list not reflective of community council wants
- Mountain View, Fairview organized councils, get most of dollars (need help understanding how it works)
- Playgrounds need bathrooms/Identify where they are
- Playground at Gladys Wood School – what is the idea behind this? (volunteer system trails and improvements at Gladys Wood, leave alone as space)

Public Participation/Outreach/Participation

- Better connection to community councils

Recreation Program

- Equity between user groups of municipal facilities
- Hard to find stuff on website

Safety

- South anchorage sports park – increasing number of known vicious dogs off-leash
- People with more (4 or 5) dogs off leash than they are capable of controlling
- Anchorage Sports Park – inappropriate/unlawful use of parking lots
- Poor lighting/security
- Bears!

Special Interest Space

- Ideal RC space is 2 acres (access to water ideal)
- RC issues and actions- Menu of alternatives/locations, Choose permanent location
- Dog Parks- Does not have to be open field – trails and trees
- Current space is heavily utilized; we are losing it-turning into dog park (designated areas are underutilized – re-evaluate)
- Current space – what's going to happen? We want to see a map with future uses
- What's happening with area designated for paint ballers
- Baseball fields should be accessible to all users – should not be a proprietary issue
- Conners – is this DOT/Muni land – is there a chance we will loose this?
- Installation of fencing for safety purpose (roads, dumpsites, sewage) How to do this?
- Water access an issue – working with Municipality unleashed to engineer environmental friendly access to water

Trails

- More general information about trails is needed, closures, use, activities, location, identify multi-use trails, seasonal use
- User group conflicts need info to educate users about ongoing trail use
- General trail mannerisms
- Revisit the south coastal trail extension project, build sections that can be built
- Wildlife conflicts are occasional but hardly avoidable

III. Goals/Themes

Open Space/Habitat/Environment

- Let kids be kids – recreate socialized playing

Playground

- Kids building jumps is ok, to parks are for them

Recreation Program

- Provide diversity of programs (e.g. community schools)

Special Interest Space

- Maintaining/keeping space we have

IV. Strategies

Playground

- Need clean-up process, what is scope of what (how happening, what to do, evaluation/feedback)
- User driven design and volunteer fund raising for playgrounds - all users need to show up to design

Recreation Program

- Advertise!!! Promotion!!!
- Ask PTAs about what we need
- Ask Parks and Recreation staff about what we should do in next five years

Safety

- Trail Watch

V. Action Items

Open Space/Habitat/Environment

- Year round usage (Gladys Wood Park great model)

Playground

- Have playground and park clean-up day (get local schools involved)

Public Participation/Outreach/Participation

- Better advertising of existing programs.
 - Schools (PE teachers)
 - Through existing programs
 - Social events with Parks and Recreation department (picnic, free food)

- Bulletin boards and parks and kiosks
 - Partnering with ACS, other private entities
 - Email alert system thru community councils
 - Stakeholders groups/leads share info with members
 - News stories
 - Link to programs on interest group websites
 - Standardization of Parks and Recreation website (calendar/categorize programs)
 - Facebook/twitter
 - Targeted topics for planning processes
 - Online survey
 - Anchorage Daily News – community
 - The Press, cost distribution
- Recreation Program
 - Tuesday Night races great – expand to include skiing, ice skating, biking, running, walking, swimming, lake fishing
 - Recreation hotline and business sponsors
 - Year round multi-use programs
 - Fees (facility rental fees)
 - Family programs (expand from “kids” programs and “adult” programs and teen programs)
 - Better communication and utilization of existing facilities

Safety

- Webcams
- Enforce leash laws
- Work with volunteers
- Parking lot crime (Connors) break ins
- Lighting
- Animal control on bikes
- Barriers for safety (e.g. rosebush, fencing) approval for installation at dog parks
- Sign of rules of park
- Video surveillance monitored by APD @ high crime parks
- Clean up/removal homeless camps
- Increased use by RC group of less desirable parks
- Locking up parks at night

Special Interest Space

- Designate special interest parks
- Motorsports Parks
- Expansion of off-leash
- Sharing like interest spaces
- Create multi use areas for interest groups to mix (model – South Anchorage Sports Park)
- Fenced dog area – Valley of the Moon/Nunaka Valley users are good model

Trails

- Animal control is responsible for leash laws – be more visible
- Involve volunteers to maintain/upgrade trails
- Allow cooperative relationships in which volunteers can work on trails
- Mechanism to match volunteer groups with need that is identified for construction of trails or maintenance of trails
- Enforce leash laws to reduce user conflicts, safety considerations, wildlife conflicts

VI. CIP List

Playground

- Kaboom playground at Hamilton Park – Home Depot/Lowes, e.g. Willawaw Park, volunteers
- Community building

Recreation Program

- Fix the trails

Special Interest Space

- Area just for dog training – agility sports

Trails

- University Lake – Northern Lights Blvd trail connection to be completed