

MOA PARKS + RECREATION NORTHEAST DISTRICT

March 30, 2009

I. Stories from our Parks

- Trails
- Non-motorized transportation options
- Solstice bonfire in Centennial Park
- Connection to Chugach State Park
- Children’s laughter safe place to play
- Lyons Park in Mt. View celebrations
- Mayor’s Marathon
- Kid’s running or skiing programs
- Folker Park celebration for AK abilities
- Flowers – moose/bear
- Spending the day walking through quiet of Russian Jack, seeing wildlife “solace” “natural open space”
- Being able to ride a bike from east to west
- Pocket parks created by neighbors in area
- People with dogs, dog parks
- St. Patrick’s day events, summer programs at Russian Jack
- Looking at dean creeks
- Dog sleds
- Fall walk in Cheney Lake, wind, birds, falling leaves, zombies
- Variety of program treasure hunt, it was fun and cheap, staff friendly
- Watching people in community gardens
- Sledding and skiing
- Skate board, free style biking behind totem, no real place exists today
- Dog park at university lake
- Bike trail exploration with kids
- Campbell Creek salmon fishing at Lake Otis castle
- Appreciate natural trails (versus paved)
- Bicycling on new ship creek trail
- Meeting legal campers
- Connectivity “need more”
- Tuesday Night Races
- Safe bridges
- Ice skating at goose lake
- Safe place to sled, Sitka St. park
- Nice clean trails where you can run

II. Issues

Open Space/Habitat/Gardens

- Tuesday Night Races should be more environmental conscious
- 2020 Plan and Title 21 should comply not butt heads
 - NE region transit and access is key for marketing improvements
 - People Mover
 - Light transit trails
 - Low income ways to access park
- Title 21, high density should provide for green space, kinds to play, aesthetics, accessibility access to formal parks
- Easier access
- Clear interactive signage

Playground

- Replacing worn play equipment, pro-activity non-reactive
- Coordination (better or some) between Muni agencies...like they should
- Adequate parking

Public Participation

- Feeling is that parks and recreation comes in and tells us what they're going to do, they don't ask
- Inform people earlier about pending decisions
- Nice to have personal relationship with staff
- District managers working? Yes
- E-mail to the right person

Recreation

- Safety
 - Homeless camps in park by Folker and Tudor (rescue mission)
- No master plan for parks – for example hotel in dog park (University Lake), lot of waste, fast growth, multi-cultural
 - 110 parks – not all have master plans
- Make sure each age group has an activity in the park
- East side of NE districts short on trails
 - Programs good but cost is shocking
 - Need better advertising, e.g. flyers at community centers, library, schools
 - Community councils don't necessarily appeal to wide group, so not a great way to keep
 - Access is an issue – young kids can't get bus passes, many families don't have cars
 - Family oriented is current focus (response to feedback e.g. "Family frolic in the Park" –monthly)

Safety

- University Lake dog – bike conflict on multi-use trail, finish master plan, finish(start) master plan for this park
- Boniface access needs to be shut off at trail so cars can't get on trails no cars to shelter
- Russian Jack west side from Pine St. allows car access to trails
- Inebriate problem north Muldoon, abundance of cash and carry liquor store
- Stop hiring people to clean up parks if they are part of the problem
- There is a homeless camp problem in our parks – repeat offenders
- Use problem people stay away

Trails

- Trails plan – did not address management (equestrian use)
- Multi-use conflicts. Figure out a way so most people are happy in using
- Parks is under represented in Title 21 pay attention to planning
- Trails coordinator should be in parks and rec. not in Planning Dept
- Address conflict between safety (visibility) with trail quality
- Trail aesthetics, ROW widths, aesthetic that is imposed by ROW

III. Goals/Themes

Open Space/Habitat/Gardens

- No net – loss for parks in development, protect natural areas – woods! Protect urban forest – better utilization of ball fields all hours (rather than more fields) and if new fields are needed, put them in already cleared areas – don't clear more areas
- Permanently set aside areas for natural space – long term

Playground

- Ensure every neighborhood has playground
- Maintain good and safe equipment and grounds

Trails

- Trail standards – apply city wide, get this done in strategic park period
- Connecting the trails

IV. Strategies

Open Space/Habitat/Gardens

- Push to acquire little Campbell Lake as park dedicated land
- Develop growth with parks and open space in mind
- Comply with 2020 Comprehensive Plan as it relates to natural open space and wildlife habitat
- Work with other agencies to increase natural park areas
- Beatification – enhance natural

Playground

- Teach kids how to play in programs for community garden, play equipment, etc.
- Playground for all ages to reduce vandalism
- Boy scouts, volunteer partnership
- Communication, to everyone always regardless of side
- New products be resistant to vandalism
- Graffiti and trash park specific crew (paid experts)
- Schools have equipment – use as resource
- Build awareness of parks – where are the playgrounds?

Public Participation

- Delay process to give community council large role
 - Make community councils active partners in planning process
 - Community council should be informed of all planned parks
 - Work with community councils from the beginning
 - Set up liaisons from each community council
 - “showing up with a completed community plan is a bad idea”
 - Find ways to be efficient (e.g. bring together multiple community council representatives)
 - Community councils are share holders
 - Progression – pick up litter, then others gather in, then people get involved
 - “A lot of bad history”
 - How to get people involved in areas like Tudor/U-Med district? – work with big land owners e.g. mediator – transient areas, need places for kids to go (not on their “too small” properties)
- How to reach out to less wealthy, transient populations?
 - Website?
 - Door hangers (like with transition projects) (community council members)
 - Need better connection points to contact at community council (2-3 people, not 1)
- What gets young people out the door?
 - Friends
 - Indoor group activities
 - Dances (Junior high after school)
 - Dance lessons, instruction – “so you think you can dance”
 - When would you prefer to be active? – after school, later in early evening
 - Summer programs – use schools (empty), sports camp
 - Great summer program, several years back, but funding was cut (APU)
 - Expectations not too high – with other kids, safe, active
 - Timing – so an 8-4 camp that doesn’t extend to end of adult working day (issue – level of quality vs. convenience) e.g. certified
- Ideal process / process issues
 - Go to community council and announce beginning of the project – “put community council in drivers seat”

- Distinct managers meet regularly with community council to understand what Community Council wants and Community Council would determine priorities
- Too often “cart before horse”, don’t spend money on architects and consultants
- Give Community Council a bigger role. “pay better attention to us” – love to hear “what do you think?”
- To set budgets – need 2 years advance planning. So set up schedule: Fall Year 1 – Community Council identifies ranked priorities; “nobody is listening to the public!”

Recreation

- Turn cemented areas into hop scotch and four square
- More partnerships – YMCA (help with programs and staffing)
- “Open” programs – gyms (utilize Anchorage School District) all ages, volleyball, basketball – e.g. \$1 per head
- Community councils involved (put together) most are plans for parks, volunteers drove changes in specific parks, administrative changes change focus, photos of pre & post what happened on website
- Community centers?
 - Use Federation of Community Councils annual flyer
 - The Dome gets the kids out
 - Free catalog in newspaper
 - E-mail of current events – information
- Best place for programs?
 - Visible, well known, easily found
 - On convenient bus routes (a lot more teens are riding the bus)
 - Nearby school fields and parks are essential, e.g. Muldoon elementary – very well used, some parks to minimal
 - Latouche and 36th – heavily used great park equipment
 - Places to walk dogs – really important
 - Ultimate park? (from your youth) sand box, skate park, water park, Dome (for rainy days), foam things on ground, fenced in

Safety

- Allow or enable “graffiti Parks”
- Require deposits for glass
- Mark beverage containers to id stores
- Police needs to get out of cars, bike police
- Stop selling glass bottles because they break and litter the park
- Harry Crawford bill – this may solve park problem

Trails

- Don’t build summer trails in bear habitat
- User groups will put in trail, need help in management, equestrian conflicts in far north
- Do not build trails adjacent to roads with row trails
- Use stimulus money to resurface trails
- Water ways as recreational facilities turn into park land

- Send the plans to Community Council for review
- Planning department needs to communicate with parks and rec.
- Reserve easements and rows for trails, more diligence for identifying the easement, easement along Chugach State Park

V. Action Items

Open Space/Habitat/Gardens

- Check out the inside of the loop of Muldoon Glenn Hwy. over pass. It has tunnel access and room for a fenced in dog park – noisy but doable
- Converting bog at Russian Jack Springs Park back to Lake area halfway between pine and Boniface S. of Debarr
- Continue to work with land trust (Great Land Trust, Anchorage Park Foundation) to acquire green belts, important habitat and open space

Playground

- Fenced in area along gas line, turn into garden
- Playground scavenger hunt
- Skateboard park in NE
- Climbing rocks, more centennial park (N Muldoon)
- Bike trail heading N into Russian Jack Springs Park, marsh area that use to be a lake, return it to lake status
- Lights on playgrounds
- Specific hotline for parks (graffiti, broken, equipment, vandalism)
- Trash cans, adequate location for servicing
- Removal of graffiti
- Provide temporary equipment to underserved areas – Totem fields – Turpin/Glenn Hwy new housing development
- Moa budget dept. – CIP lists for each community council
- Volunteer, waste facilities, private partnerships network for parks trash

Public Participation

- Central website

Recreation

- Climbing structure/web rope Chugach Foothills park for older kids – Pioneer Drive
- Trail – repair and linkage, new trails
- Skateboard park in Chugach Foothills park

Safety

- Greenhouse move needs early public participation, public bath next to power plant, using excess heat
- Centennial abandoned light poles remove unused light poles
- Provide better visibility for instruction to be obvious, good signage is important
- “Slow down when dogs are present sign”

- Folker Park is checking twice a day for trash, homeless, people loitering

Trails

- Bike trail plan-implement
- Manage trail use conflicts in far north
- Provide bike and pedestrian easement from neighborhoods to begin school
- North South easement at military civilian boundaries
- MOA trail crew specializing soft pass and hardened (gravel) trail

VI. CIP List

Trails

- Access to Davis Park from Pine St.
- Goose Lake fix existing to UAA
- Muldoon /Debarr park to military boundary trail
- Centennial to far north along boundary / gas line
- Baxter bog to Begich School
- Russian jack to Begich School
- South coastal extension
- Far north to Chugach State Park gas line or south side of Stuckagain
- Creek corridor – green belt from Abbot to Muldoon
- Chester Creek bike trail surfacing deteriorated