

**From:** pl hamlett [plhamlett@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 15, 2012 9:43 AM  
**To:** info@communitycouncils.org  
**Subject:** FW: Berta's Briefings - Gov's Budget Announcements: Waldron Lake Approved, Voluntary Pre-K and Alcohol Treatment Cut

Mark'

pls fwd to CPCC members

Thanks  
PETER HAMLETT  
CPCC Chair

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**From:** [Representative Berta Gardner@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Representative_Berta_Gardner@legis.state.ak.us)  
**To:** [Representative Berta Gardner@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Representative_Berta_Gardner@legis.state.ak.us)  
**Subject:** Berta's Briefings - Gov's Budget Announcements: Waldron Lake Approved, Voluntary Pre-K and Alcohol Treatment Cut  
**Date:** Mon, 14 May 2012 22:28:13 +0000



## **BERTA'S BRIEFINGS**

### REPRESENTATIVE BERTA GARDNER

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**MAY 14, 2012**

# **Gov's Budget Announcements: Waldron Lake Approved Voluntary Pre-K and Alcohol Treatment Cut**

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Today, the Governor announced his budget decisions, and I am very pleased to let you know that Waldron Lake has been saved and will remain an open space for children, families, fire-fighters, dog training clubs, varied wildlife and all the other users of this wonderful green space in the heart of our district. My deep gratitude goes to Senator Ellis who has championed this project, to Cherie Northon who has organized the support and to each and every person who wrote letters and emails to urge support of the project. Your effort shows that citizens can indeed make this happen.

Other approved projects in midtown Anchorage may have interest you:

\$800,000 for Midtown Schools;

\$2.5 Million for the Lake Otis Parkway Safety Upgrade;

\$200,000 to upgrade the Campbell Park Play Equipment and Safety Resurfacing

\$200,000 to improve Campbell Creek Trail and Estuary;

\$6 million for pavement rehab for midtown and downtown roads;

\$12 million for Anchorage Fire Department and Anchorage Police Department Public Safety Equipment.

There was some bad news on the operating budget. The Governor has vetoed funding for voluntary Pre-K programs and also made deep cuts in funding for alcohol treatment. This is immensely short-sighted from a man who has worked for merit scholarships for Alaskan students and talks about "choosing respect".

Does he not understand that pre-school experience, particularly for disadvantaged children is a strong equalizer, giving kids a leg-up for academic success? While I do support the merit scholarship program, it is clear that our rural students are at a disadvantage in qualifying. Access to a quality pre-school is one way to help them. Similarly if the Governor is serious about "choosing respect" to reduce domestic violence and abuse, does he not understand that alcohol abuse is one of the major contributing factors? Frankly, Governor, I'm very disappointed!

I'm Berta and I'm still listening,



A sunny day at Waldron Lake in Midtown Anchorage.



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