



MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

PRC # 08-73



DATE: December 1, 2008
TO: Park and Recreation Commission
FROM: Holly J. Spoth-Torres, Park Planner
SUBJECT: Section 36 Project Update

Background and Description

Section 36 is located at the east end of Rabbit Creek Road, southeast of Bear Valley Elementary School. It is located in the Southeast Park District, which has the largest concentration of natural use areas and the lowest amount of developed parks in the Anchorage Bowl. The population growth expected in this area over the next fifteen years will increase the demand for parks and recreation services in the area.

Parks & Recreation has engaged DOWL Engineers to prepare a Park Master Plan to guide development of Section 36 in a manner that is sensitive to its hillside location, valuable natural resources, scenic vistas, and potential for outdoor education and trail-oriented recreation. The Master Plan will document how Section 36 fits into the regional recreation resources and will evaluate the potential for connecting this park to other southeast recreation facilities and to Chugach State Park. Special attention will be given to viewsheds and other features that define the area's character, and to possible connections to other recreation trails and greenbelts. The designs will be sensitive to the area's natural resources, taking advantage of areas that are more suited to development for parking areas and any other intense facilities, citing trails for various levels of recreation challenges, and opportunities for using more sensitive areas, such as the wetlands, for natural resource education areas.

The Park Master Plan document is expected to include:

- Overview of Section 36, including the park's context within Anchorage,
- Inventory of the natural and scenic resources within Section 36,
- Preferred conceptual site plan for Section 36,
- Potential phasing for construction of park improvements,
- Estimated costs for each phase of park development,
- Funding sources for park development, and
- Action plan for implementing the first phase of development, including funding strategies for construction and maintenance.

Public Involvement and Project Schedule

Winter 2008	Stakeholder Interviews Initial Community Advisory Group Meetings: The Mayor's office is in the currently in the process of appointing this group of citizens
Winter 2008-2009	Develop Conceptual Site Plans
Winter 2009	Public Review of Conceptual Site Plans
Summer 2009	Public Review of Master Plan
Fall 2009	Final Master Plan Completed

As we begin this process, we have been communicating with potential stakeholders, community councils and interested individuals through a project newsletter which is attached to this memo.