

January 25, 2024



The Abbott Loop Community Council (ALCC) is pleased to offer strong support to the Alaska Native Cultural Charter School's (ANCCS) application for funding through the RuralCAP Orchards and Food Forests program.

ALCC has long had an interest in developing a community orchard in Atkins Park, which is three acres of dedicated park land bordering the school. The opportunity to partner with the ANCCS in this project is very exciting in several ways. In time it would produce fruit, vegetables and plants for both the school and the community. More immediately it would build a school/community partnership that would benefit both. The project would have children, parents and other community members working together to plan the project, prepare the ground, plant, tend, and harvest together. The ALCC area has an ethnically and racially diverse population. The project creates opportunities for people to get to know neighbors and to learn more about the various cultures that exist within our community.

As essentially a garden project it also fosters respect for the land, a deeper knowledge of soils, what plants need to grow and the interconnectedness of all living things. A branch of Campbell Creek flows through the park, further enhancing many learning possibilities and opportunities.

Both the ANCCS and ALCC have individuals, teachers and community members, who have expressed a strong desire to work on this project and make it successful. With this application the Alaska Native Cultural Charter School is seeking funding to get the project started. The Abbott Loop Community Council will also pursue additional funding through the Anchorage municipality, State of Alaska, and other grant making agencies that are available. It will also look for additional community partners.

If ever there was a win-win opportunity, this is it. The ALCC is delighted to be a part of it and, again, offers strong support for the ANCCS application for funding.

At the ALCC January 25th, 2024, regular monthly meeting, members in attendance voted to support ANCCS and their application requests as well as to write this formal letter showing our community support.

In gratitude,

Kathleen Easley
Secretary Abbott Loop Community Council
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