



MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
ANCHORAGE PARKS & RECREATION



DATE: November 2, 2009
TO: Park and Recreation Commission
FROM: Suzanne R. little, Senior Park Planner

SUBJECT: Valley of the Moon Park Improvements

At the August PRC meeting, Commissioners received an introductory presentation about the plans for a park construction project at Valley of the Moon Park. This month, the Parks and Recreation Commission presentation is for the purpose of consideration and approval of the project design in preparation for submittal to Urban Design Commission on December 9th. The projected schedule will put the project out to bid in January 2010 for construction during the 2010 summer season.

Attached:

- Overall Park Upgrade Plan
- Project Budget
- Park Ownership Map
- Draft Parks and Recreation Commission Resolution
- Design Study Report – Ralph Rentz, Landscape Architect, Project Management and Engineering

Valley of the Moon - Process Overview

The 10-person Valley of the Moon Park Citizen’s Advisory Group met on 10 occasions to discuss improvements desired for the park. The Citizen’s Advisory Group reserved the picnic shelter at Valley of the Moon (VOM) Park for a public gathering on June 24, 2009 - held for the purpose of gaining additional input from the neighborhood and users of the park regarding prioritization of park improvements. Approximately 60 people participated in the dot-mocracy prioritization exercise regarding park improvements at Valley of the Moon Park. Below is a list members of the Valley of the Moon Park Citizen’s Advisory Group.

Kathleen Weeks (SACC President)
Ashley Kalli (SACC)
Lanie Fleischer (SACC)
Matt Johnson (NSCC President)
Susan Miller (NSCC)
Sharon Schlicht (NSCC)
Tracy Fischbach (NSCC)
Xavier Schlee (NSCC)
Robert Shipley (Anch Waterways)
Chone (Laotian Community)
Mark Butler (FCC/NSCC)

Park Overview

Valley of the Moon Park is a 21.78 acre community-use park located within the Chester Creek Greenbelt bordering both the South Addition and North Star neighborhoods. The park is bordered by Chester Creek along the southern border on the western two thirds of the park while the northern border continues along 16th & 17th Avenues. The developed areas of the park are used for a variety of community events with upwards of 100,000 users each summer. Roughly half the park is undeveloped and heavily wooded with a birch, poplar, and spruce forest.

There is a 5-acre in-holding in the park owned by the Greater Friendship Baptist Church and there is a community desire to investigate the possibility of a trade to eliminate this in-holding at Valley of the Moon Park.

Improvement Overview

Through extensive public input concerning desires at the park, the Taskforce prioritized potential improvements at the park that are included in this project.

Of critical concern were desired improvements at the playground and an addition of a second picnic shelter for benefit of the current park users. Additionally a scoping study funded under this project is planned to investigate the method and cost of addressing the stream-bank degradation at this location. An adult fitness station is planned along with updated signage for the entrance and way-finding. Additionally new picnic tables and coal disposal bins will be installed as part of this project.

Project Budget:

The total Budget for the project is \$590,694 with approximately \$400,000 going directly to construction. The funds are derived from a 2008 Parks Bond and a Legislative appropriation.