



MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE  
ASSEMBLY INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

No. AIM 8-2024

Meeting Date: January 23, 2024

**From:** Assembly Members Karen Bronga and Daniel Volland

**Subject:** AO 2024-7, AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE QUALIFIED VOTERS OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE, ALASKA, THE QUESTION OF THE ISSUANCE OF NOT TO EXCEED FOUR MILLION THREE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$4,350,000) OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE TO PAY THE COSTS OF CONSTRUCTING, RENOVATING AND EQUIPPING PARK, TRAIL AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS IN THE ANCHORAGE PARKS AND RECREATION SERVICE AREA, AND THE QUESTION OF AN INCREASE IN THE MUNICIPAL TAX CAP LIMITATION TO PAY ASSOCIATED OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE COSTS IN THE ANCHORAGE PARKS AND RECREATION SERVICE AREA, WITHOUT COST TO CHUGIAK, EAGLE RIVER, GIRDWOOD AND OTHER TAXPAYERS OUTSIDE THE SERVICE AREA, AT THE ELECTION TO BE HELD IN THE MUNICIPALITY ON APRIL 2, 2024

The attached memorandum from MOA Parks & Recreation to the Parks & Recreation Commission details the projects included in AO 2024-7 as introduced at the January 9 Regular Assembly Meeting with one exception: project #14. Anchorage Memorial Cemetery Equipment listed in the memorandum was not included in AO 2024-7, but moved into AO 2024-5, a bond proposal to pay the costs of Areawide Cemetery Capital Improvement Projects.

This is provided as a resource to the public to learn more about the projects included in the bond proposal.

**Reviewed by:** Assembly Legislative Services

**Respectfully submitted:** Karen Bronga, Assembly Member  
District 5, East Anchorage

Daniel Volland, Assembly Member  
District 1, North Anchorage



Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska  
**Parks & Recreation Department**

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P.O. Box 196650  
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URL [www.muni.org/departments/parks](http://www.muni.org/departments/parks)



## MEMORANDUM

**Date:** December 7, 2023

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**To:** Parks & Recreation Commission

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**Cc:** Mike Braniff, Director

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**From:** Steve Rafuse, Superintendent

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**Project:** **PRC 23-18 Parks and Recreation Service Area 2024 Bond**

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### INTRODUCTION

The Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department is proposing a \$4,450,000 Capital Improvement Budget (CIB), commonly referred to as the “Parks Bond” for 2024. The proposed 2024 Parks Bond identifies fourteen projects including trails, playgrounds, and other parks and recreation facilities throughout the Anchorage Service Area. The Parks and Recreation Commission is asked to review and recommend the proposed Bond to the Assembly.

### BACKGROUND

The Anchorage Bowl Parks and Recreation Service Area is comprised of 226 parks, 250 miles of trails, 80+ playgrounds, as well as athletic fields, indoor and outdoor recreation centers. A park system of this size requires capital funding to ensure that parks and recreation facilities are modern, safe, and meet the levels of service identified in the 2006 Anchorage Bowl Park, Natural Resource, and Recreation Facility Plan.

Starting in 2012, Anchorage voters have supported Park Bonds in each of the eleven Municipal elections since. Collectively, this amounts to \$40,900,000 in voter approved park bonds. Yet, the total investment in Anchorage Parks and Recreation facilities has been significantly higher, as the department has strategically leveraged bond funds to bring in additional funding from federal and state grants as well as philanthropic dollars from non-profit partners.

The Parks and Recreation Department weighs numerous factors when developing the Capital Improvement Budget and five-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP). These factors include the annual Community Council survey, adopted park master plans and strategic plans, Administration and Assembly priorities, facility needs assessments, opportunities for matching federal and state grant funding, community and user group input, and the priorities identified in the 2006 Park Plan.

### 2024 BOND PROPOSAL

#### Fairview Recreation Center (\$250,000)

The Fairview Recreation Center is an important recreation facility and community center that provides programs and resources that serve both the neighborhood and the broader

Anchorage community. Built in the 1970s, the facility is aging, and new improvements are needed to ensure that the facility can continue to serve Anchorage into the future. In 2023, the Parks and Recreation Department completed a Strategic Plan for the Recreation Center outlining the priorities for facility upgrades and new investments.

### **Playground Development – All-Inclusive (\$300,000)**

Anchorage Parks and Recreation manages over 80 playgrounds and is a national leader for inclusive play. Funding will be used to renovate neighborhood and community use park playgrounds to provide a more inclusive experience by upgrading play equipment and safety surfacing to removing barriers to access for children and families.

### **Russian Jack Springs Park Safety and ADA (\$600,000)**

A master plan for Russian Jack Springs Park was completed in 2022. The master plan identifies community priorities for investment in current and new facilities. Funding will be used to implement the master plan and includes projects such as safety improvements, ADA access improvements, Chalet area upgrades, paved trail rehabilitation and bridge replacement, lighting, as well as new wayfinding, signage, and amenities.

### **Sand Lake Dock (\$200,000)**

The dock at Sand Lake Park is a popular feature with neighborhood families and the rowing club. In recent years, the pathway and abutment to the dock has heaved and the surrounding ground has eroded, making ADA access to the existing dock difficult. Funding will be used to reconstruct the pathway and dock abutment to create uniform ADA access to support water sports activities for all users.

### **Campbell Creek Trail Rehabilitation and Wayfinding (\$300,000)**

The Campbell Creek Trail is one of five major multi-use trails maintained by Anchorage Parks and Recreation. Funding will be used as part of a multi-year effort to resurface the trail with new asphalt, improve drainage, install new wayfinding, and replace aging bridges.

### **Fish Creek Trail to the Ocean (\$50,000)**

The Fish Creek Trail to the Ocean project provides a new non-motorized trail connection from the Fish Creek Trail at Northern Lights Blvd. to the Tony Knowles Coastal Trail. Parks and Recreation in partnership with AMATS is planning, designing, and constructing this new connection. Funding will be used as a 9.03% local match to the Department of Transportation's federal share.

### **Tony Knowles Coastal Trail to Ship Creek Trail Connection (\$1,500,000)**

The Tony Knowles Coastal Trail to Ship Creek Trail Connection project provides a new non-motorized trail connection from the Ship Creek Trail to the Tony Knowles Coastal Trail. Parks and Recreation in partnership with AMATS is planning, designing, and constructing this new connection. Funding will be used as a 9.03% local match to the Department of Transportation's federal share.

### **Mountain View Neighborhood Park Improvements & Safety Enhancements (\$350,000)**

Mountain View is one of Anchorage's most densely populated and diverse neighborhoods. The neighborhood has relatively few parks, all of which see heavy use and are in need of investment and safety enhancements. Funding will be used to implement priorities identified

in the 2015 Davis Park Master Plan as well as other neighborhood park safety enhancements and lighting.

### **Jonny Ellis Bridge & Park Placemaking (\$100,000)**

Johnny Ellis Rainbow Bridge and Park is located in the Fairview and South Addition neighborhoods along 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue and A Street. The park is named after the late Alaska State Senator Jonny Ellis who represented those communities in the legislature from 1987 to 2017. Funding will be used to add amenities, signage and placemaking elements to honor the late Senator.

### **Athletic Fields (\$200,000)**

Areawide upgrades of athletic fields for improved safety and maintenance. Parks and Recreation is working with sports groups to identify improvements to athletic fields and supporting infrastructure.

### **Eastchester Park (\$300,000)**

Eastchester Park is located in the Fairview and Rogers Park neighborhoods along the Lanie Fleischer Chester Creek Trail. The Parks and Recreation Department is currently leading a community master planning effort to identify and prioritize future improvements at the park. Funding will be used to implement priorities identified through the master planning process.

### **Government Hill Parks Improvements (\$100,000)**

Government Hill is Anchorage's oldest neighborhood. Existing park infrastructure is aging and in need of upgrades and modernization. Funding will be used to implement park and trails projects identified in the recently completed Government Hill Neighborhood Parks and Trails Plan.

### **Chester Creek Complex Facility Safety, Security and ADA Upgrades (\$100,000)**

The Chester Creek Sports Complex is a large sports complex located in the Fairview neighborhood. The complex includes the Kosinski ballfields, Mulcahy Stadium, the Anchorage Football Stadium, and the Bonnie Cusack Memorial Hockey Rinks. Facilities are aging and in need of repair or replacement. Upgrades will address health and safety codes, infrastructure upgrades, and ADA accessibility improvements.

### **Anchorage Memorial Cemetery Equipment (\$100,000)**

Funding will be used to upgrade maintenance equipment necessary to continue operations at the Anchorage Memorial Cemetery.

## **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

The Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department recommends that the Parks and Recreation Commission support the Anchorage Bowl Parks and Recreation Service Area 2024 Bond Proposition.



**Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska**  
**Parks & Recreation Commission**

632 W. 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 630  
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**PRC RES NO. 2023-13**  
**Park and Recreation Bond 2024**

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission serves in an advisory capacity to both the Mayor and the Assembly; and

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission has the responsibility and duty to provide for the long-term vision of our park system by ensuring that a balance of parks, natural resources, and recreation facilities provides for the health, welfare, and safety of all residents of the Anchorage Bowl; and

WHEREAS, investments in capital projects provide needed upgrades to aging facilities as well as new development in line with community plans and priorities; and

WHEREAS, proposed investments in capital improvement projects are based on community priorities identified through the annual community council CIP survey as well as adopted comprehensive and park master plans, and are confirmed through ongoing engagement with the public, user groups, and other stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, the proposed 2024 Park Bond includes the following projects totaling \$4,450,000:

1. Fairview Recreation Center: \$250,000
2. Playground Development: \$300,000
3. Russian Jack Springs Park Safety and ADA: \$600,000
4. Sand Lake Dock: \$200,000
5. Campbell Creek Trail Rehabilitation and Wayfinding: \$300,000
6. Fish Creek Trail to the Ocean: \$50,000
7. Tony Knowles Coastal Trail to Ship Creek Trail Connection: \$1,500,000
8. Mountain View Neighborhood Park Improvements & Safety Enhancements: \$350,000
9. Jonny Ellis Bridge & Park Placemaking \$100,000
10. Athletic Fields \$200,000
11. Eastchester Park \$300,000
12. Government Hill Parks Improvements: \$100,000
13. Chester Creek Complex Facility Safety and ADA Upgrades: \$100,000
14. Anchorage Memorial Cemetery Equipment: \$100,000

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission recommends the proposed 2024 Park Bond.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission this 7th day of December 2023.

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Brian Looney, Chair  
Parks and Recreation Commission

ATTEST:

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Mike Braniff, Director  
Parks & Recreation Department

# Attachment A:

Anchorage Parks and Recreation Service Area 2024 Bond  
Assembly Amendments (November 21, 2023)

**Proposed Amendment #49 to AO 2023-96  
2024 General Gov't Capital Improvement Budget**

**Submitted by:** Assembly Members Bronga and Volland

This in an omnibus amendment for Parks & Recreation bond funded projects, as described:

Line	Project	Description	Amount	Sponsor	Ref
1	NEW	Mountain View Parks Improvements and Safety Enhancements	350,000	Bronga, Constant, Volland	33, 34
2	NEW	Johnny Ellis Bridge & Park Placemaking	100,000	Volland	36
3	PR2017015	Athletic Fields - shift from 2025 to 2024	200,000	Bronga	40
4	PR2020004	Eastchester Park - shift from 2025 to 2024	300,000	Bronga	38
5	PR2019007	Government Hill Parks Improvements - start in 2024 at \$100K	100,000	Volland	43
6	PR2019005	Russian Jack Safety and ADA Improvements - increase by \$300K for FY2024 (\$600K total)	300,000	Bronga, Volland, Martinez	42
7	PR2017001	Playground Development - All-Inclusive - increase by \$150K for FY2024 (\$300K total)	150,000	Bronga, Volland, Martinez	41

Omnibus Total	1,500,000
FY24 Proposed CIB for P&R Bond Total	2,750,000
<b>P&amp;R CIB Bond Total</b>	<b>4,250,000</b>

**Line 1 – Add New Project**

**Project Name:** Mountain View Neighborhood Park Improvements & Safety Enhancements

**Amount:** \$350,000

**Description:** This creates a new project for Mountain View neighborhood park improvements and safety enhancements at \$350,000 for 2024. The intention is to include a funding request on the 2024 Parks & Recreation Capital Bond for improvements to Davis Park which implement projects identified in the Davis Park Master Plan and for safety enhancements, such as better lighting, in multiple parks within the Mountain View neighborhood.

**Funding Source:**

Revenue Sources	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Total
Bonds	350	0	0	0	0	0	350
State	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total (in thousands)</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>350</b>
<b>O&amp;M Costs (in thousands)</b>							
	<b>18</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18</b>
<i>O&amp;M will be for utilities and operation costs to keep new assets in working order</i>							

**Line 2 – Add New Project**

**Project Name:** Johnny Ellis Rainbow Bridge & Park Placemaking

**Amount:** \$100,000

**Description:** This creates a new project for Johnny Ellis Rainbow Bridge and Park Placemaking at \$100,000 for 2024. The intention to include a funding request on the 2024 Parks & Recreation Capital Bond for the Johnny Ellis Rainbow Bridge and Park placemaking effort.

**Funding Source:**

Revenue Sources	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Total
Bonds	100	0	0	0	0	0	100
State	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total (in thousands)</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>O&amp;M Costs (in thousands)</b>							
	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>
<i>O&amp;M will be for utilities and operation costs to keep new assets in working order</i>							



**Line 3 – Change Existing Project**

**Project Name:** Athletic Field Safety Improvements, PR2017015

**Amount:** \$200,000

**Description:** This shifts the project to start in 2024 instead of 2025. This money would be used to address the most pressing needs for upgrades of athletic fields and for improved safety and maintenance in a timely manner. It also allows the Parks department to focus on areas of the city that may not have received a park bond in this funding year. Our athletic fields are important to youth and adults and are heavily used. There comes a time in which they may need a ‘facelift’ and safety improvements.

**Funding Source:**

Revenue Sources	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Total
Bonds	200 0	0 200	200 0	200	0 200	0	600
State	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total (in thousands)</b>	<b>200 0</b>	<b>0 200</b>	<b>200 0</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>0 200</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>600</b>
<b>O&amp;M Costs (in thousands)</b>	<b>10 0</b>	<b>0 10</b>	<b>10 0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0 10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>30</b>
<i>O&amp;M will be for utilities and operation costs to keep new assets in working order</i>							

**Line 4 – Change Existing Project**

**Project Name:** Eastchester Park, PR2020004

**Amount:** \$300,000

**Description:** This shifts the project to start in 2024 instead of 2025. Eastchester Park is a high use park next to substantial low-income concentrated housing units. It would benefit from a complete revisioning and this plan is complete and shovel ready. The Fairview Community Council has received a \$17,000 Challenge Grant from the Anchorage Parks Foundation to start things off. However, the Park needs substantial improvements. \$300,000 is requested for the long-overdue upgrade. It is the Number 1 Park Priority for the Fairview Council. Project scope: Eastchester Park or Woodside Park as some call it, is in desperate need of improvement. It could use paved parking. It warrants a substantial investment as the South Fairview area has numerous high-density developments but almost no recreational facilities. Project elements would include historical kiosks, picnic shelter, play equipment for young teens, consideration of a basketball court, etc.

**Funding Source:**

Revenue Sources	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Total
Bonds	<u>300 150</u>	0	300	0	300	300	<u>1,200</u> <del>1,050</del>
State	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total (in thousands)</b>	<u>300 150</u>	0	300	0	300	300	<u>1,200</u> <del>1,050</del>
<b>O&amp;M Costs (in thousands)</b>	15	0	15	0	15	15	60
<i>O&amp;M will be for utilities and operation costs to keep new assets in working order</i>							

## Proposed Amendment #37 to AO 2023-96 2024 General Gov't Capital Improvement Budget

Submitted by: Assembly Members Brawley and Bronga

PROPOSED AMENDMENT  Add New Project  Change Existing Project

Department: Parks and Recreation

Project Name: Anchorage Memorial Cemetery Equipment, PR2024001

Amount: \$100,000

**Description of amendment:**

This project is currently listed in the Capital Improvement Program to be a bonded project in 2025. The amendment shifts half of this project from 2025 to 2024, to allow for replacement of currently inoperable lawn care equipment that can maneuver easily around the grounds. The remaining equipment purchases would remain in 2025.

**Funding Source:**

Revenue Sources	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Total
Bonds	<u>100 0</u>	<u>100 200</u>	0	0	0	0	200
State	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total (in thousands)</b>	<b><u>100 0</u></b>	<b><u>100 200</u></b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>200</b>
<b>O&amp;M Costs (in thousands)</b>	<b><u>5 0</u></b>	<b><u>5 10</u></b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>
<i>O&amp;M will be for utilities and operation costs to keep new assets in working order</i>							

**Proposed Amendment #39 to AO 2023-96  
2024 General Gov't Capital Improvement Budget**

Submitted by: Assembly Member Bronga

<b>PROPOSED AMENDMENT</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Add New Project <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Change Existing Project
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**Department:** Parks & Recreation

**Project Name:** Chester Creek Complex Facility Safety and ADA Upgrades, PR2019012

**Amount:** \$100,000

**Description of amendment:**

This amendment shifts the project to start in 2024 instead of 2025. Funds are needed annually at this location to address safety and security due to the housing crisis. Improvements will address health and safety codes, electrical upgrades, fencing replacement, and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) access improvements.

**Funding Source:**

Revenue Sources	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Total
Bonds	<u>100 0</u>	100	100	<u>350 100</u>	350	<u>0 350</u>	1,000
State	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total (in thousands)</b>	<b><u>100 0</u></b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b><u>350 100</u></b>	<b>350</b>	<b><u>0 350</u></b>	<b>1,000</b>
<b>O&amp;M Costs (in thousands)</b>	<b><u>10 5</u></b>	<b>5</b>	<b><u>5 0</u></b>	<b><u>18 5</u></b>	<b>18</b>	<b><u>0 18</u></b>	<b>51</b>
<i>O&amp;M will be for utilities and operation costs to keep new assets in working order</i>							