



Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Agenda

September 21, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.
Mona Lisa Drexler Assembly Chambers
Juanita Helms Administration Center
907 Terminal Street, Fairbanks, AK

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. ROLL CALL

C. MESSAGES

C.1. Citizens' Comments - limited to three (3) minutes

C.1.a. Agenda items not scheduled for public hearing

C.1.b. Items other than those appearing on the agenda

C.2. Disclosure and Statement of Conflict of Interest

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the consent agenda passes all routine items indicated by asterisk (*) on the agenda. Consent agenda items are not considered separately unless any commission member or citizen so requests. In the event of such a request, the item is returned to the general agenda.

E. MINUTES

E.1. *Parks and Recreation Commission meeting minutes from June 15, 2026.

F. REPORTS

F.1. Report from Matthew Boyer, Parks and Recreation Director.

F.2. Report from Parks and Recreation Department staff regarding progress updates on Parks and Recreation projects in the Capitol Improvement Program (CIP).

F.3. Presentation by Evan Williams, Recreation Parks Manager, on Chena Lakes Recreation Area operations, to include a discussion.

G. NEW BUSINESS

G.1. Approval of a letter of support to the Parks and Recreation Director and/or Borough Mayor recommending the submission of a grant application to the

Outdoor Recreation Legacy Program under the Land Water Conservation Fund Grant Program for the Artificial Turf Upgrades and Access Improvements Project.

- G.2. Approval of letters of support to the Parks and Recreation Director and/or Borough Mayor recommending the submission of grant applications to the Land and Water Conservation Grant Program for the following projects:

- Tanana Lakes Recreation Area Playground Enhancement
- Allridge Park Playground Enhancement
- Fairbanks Lions Recreation Area Playground Enhancement

- G.3. Approval of letters of support to the Parks and Recreation Director and/or Borough Mayor recommending the submission of grant applications to the Multi-Use Trails Program under the Alaska Trails and Local Access Systems for the following projects:

- Tanana Lakes Recreation Area Flicker Trailhead Enhancement and Trail Alignment
- Chena Lake Recreation Area North Trail Access Improvements

H. EXCUSE FUTURE ABSENCES

I. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS

J. ADJOURNMENT

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH
Parks and Recreation Commission
June 15, 2026
5:00 p.m.

A. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was held Monday, March 16, 2026, in the Mona Lisa Drexler Assembly Chambers of the Juanita Helms Administration Center, 907 Terminal Street, Fairbanks, Alaska.

B. ROLL CALL

There were present:

Connor Ryan	Patrick Burda
Kenneth Barrick	Mark Terra
Linda Unsicker	Carl Pfisterer
David Mongold, Vice-Chair	Mark Oldmixon, Chair

Comprising a quorum of the Commission, and

Matthew Boyer, Park and Recreation Director
Lee Williams, Riverside Superintendent
Trish Levasseur, Parks Project Coordinator
Linda Handeland, Aquatics Manager
Aurora Marhenke, Assistant Clerk I

Members Absent

Judith Kiefer Shiffler

C. MESSAGES

C.1. Citizens' Comments - limited to three (3) minutes

C.1.a. Agenda items not scheduled for public hearing

None

MESSAGES – continued

C.1.b. Items other than those appearing on the agenda

Janie Beaudrault, resident of the Borough, spoke about increasing leash law signage at local lakes and parks to prevent animal attacks.

C.2. Disclosure and Statement of Conflict of Interest

Commissioner Burda declared a potential conflict of interest on agenda item G.3. Review and discussion on the FNSB Aquatic Program's current operations, construction updates, and staff training/recruitment, to include potential recommendations to the Parks and Recreation Director, due to his employment as a swimming coach. Chair Oldmixon ruled that a conflict did not exist as Mr. Burda had no direct financial benefit from the FNSB Aquatic Program.

Chair Oldmixon passed the gavel to Vice-Chair Mongold and declared a potential conflict of interest on agenda item G.3. Review and discussion on the FNSB Aquatic Program's current operations, construction updates, and staff training/recruitment, to include potential recommendations to the Parks and Recreation Director, due to managing a swimming pool for UAF. Vice-Chair Mongold ruled that a conflict did not exist as Mr. Oldmixon had no direct financial benefit from the FNSB Aquatic Program.

Commissioner Mongold passed the gavel back to Chair Oldmixon.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the consent agenda passes all routine items indicated by asterisk (*) on the agenda. Consent agenda items are not considered separately unless any commission member or citizen so requests. In the event of such a request, the item is returned to the general agenda.

MONGOLD,
Seconded by BARRICK

moved to approve the agenda and consent
agenda as read.

VOTE ON MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA AS READ.

Yeses:

Burda, Unsicker, Terra, Barrick, Ryan,
Pfisterer, Mongold, Oldmixon

Noes:

None

MOTION CARRIED

8 Yeses, 0 Noes

E. MINUTES

E.1. *Parks and Recreation Commission meeting minutes from March 16, 2026.

Without objection this measure was read by title and approved under the consent agenda.

F. REPORTS

F.1. Report from Matthew Boyer, Parks and Recreation Director.

Matthew Boyer, Parks and Recreation Director, reported on the following:

- Parks visitor count.
- Parks and Recreation survey.
- Drafting a new comprehensive plan.
- 2026 Senior Recognition Day.
- Fairbanks 50+ wellness event.
- Senior resource guide and summer activity guide.
- Seasonal staffing.
- Facility supervisor retiring from the Big Dipper.
- Trail's Coordinator position open.
- Capital Improvement Projects.

G. NEW BUSINESS

G.1. Review and make a potential recommendation to the Parks and Recreation Director on the request from the Arbor Day Committee for a memorial plaque to be installed next to an Arbor Day tree in Pioneer Park/Alaskaland.

Trish Levasseur, Parks Project Coordinator, and Matthew Boyer, Parks and Recreation Director, provided a staff report and recommended approval of installation of the Richard Farris memorial plaque at a later date to comply with FNSBC 2.28.040(B)(4)(d).

MONGOLD,
Seconded by UNSICKER

moved to recommend approval of
installation of the Richard Farris memorial
plaque next to an Arbor Day tree after
January 10, 2027.

Discussion ensued on the impact of the location and the placement date needing to be after the 12 months required by Borough Code.

VOTE ON MOTION TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF INSTALLATION OF THE Richard FARRIS MEMORIAL PLAQUE NEXT TO AN ARBOR DAY TREE AFTER JANUARY 10, 2027.

Yeses: Unsicker, Burda, Barrick, Ryan, Pfisterer, Terra, Mongold, Oldmixon

Noes: None

MOTION CARRIED 8 Yeses, 0 Noes

G.2. Discussion on classifying Pioneer Park/Alaskaland (and possibly other spaces) as a non-motorized space in reference to the proliferation of electric powered bicycles, scooters, and motorcycles.

Lee Williams, Riverside Superintendent, and Matthew Boyer, Parks and Recreation Director, provided a presentation.

Discussion ensued on the following:

- Pedestrian safety.
- Outlets for youth and recreation.
- Distinctions between different motorized devices.
- Prevalence of e-bikes.
- Options for changing policy.
- Existing five mile per hour speed limit within the park.
- Seasonality of proposed restrictions.
- Potential for extreme accidents.
- Responsibility to protect people in the parks.

G.3. Review and discussion on the FNSB Aquatic Program's current operations, construction updates, and staff training/recruitment, to include potential recommendations to the Parks and Recreation Director.

Linda Handeland, Aquatics Manager, and Matthew Boyer, Parks and Recreation Director, provided a staff report.

Discussion ensued on the following:

- Options to counter lifeguard shortages.
- Dangers during Open Swim.
- High staff turnover.
- AK DEC health and medical standards for public facilities.
- Appreciation for the aquatics manager.

No recommendation was made.

H. EXCUSE FUTURE ABSENCES

None

I. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS

Vice-Chair Mongold expressed curiosity on recent developments for pickleball fields in the Borough.

Commissioner Barrick commented on grant funding received for design of a pickleball complex.

Chair Oldmixon thanked everyone for their contributions.

J. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Parks and Recreation Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 6:49 p.m.



Fairbanks North Star Borough

DEPARTMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY Boards and Commissions Clerks

clerks@fnsb.gov
Main: (907) 459-1401
Fax: (907) 459-1224

September 21, 2026

TO: Matthew Boyer, Parks and Recreation Director
Fairbanks North Star Borough
1920 Lathrop Street
Fairbanks, AK 99701

Re: Letter of recommendation to award Outdoor Recreation Legacy Program funding to the Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks and Recreation Department's "Artificial Turf Complex-Access Improvements" project

Dear Mr. Boyer,

On September 21st, 2026, the Fairbanks North Star Borough's (FNSB) Parks and Recreation Commission (Commission) passed a motion recommending the Parks and Recreation Department's grant application for funding to improve accessibility deficiencies and improve site functionality of the Outdoor Artificial Turf Complex located on Davis Rd. This recreation area serves a multitude of youth and adult sports in the Fairbanks Community along with visitors to the area and is in need of upgrades to the facility.

This site has not received major site improvements since the turf fields were constructed and installed in 2014. This project proposal is also included in the current FNSB Capital Improvement Program (CIP), with \$1.6 million programmed in FY2035 for construction to provide access and site functionality improvements. This project will also not only improve the Artificial Turf Complex, but it will also begin the first phase in preparing the decommissioning of the Kiwanis Field behind the Big Dipper, as part of a larger project to eventually construct an Interior Field House as stated in the FNSB CIP.

The Artificial Turf Complex is encompassed within an existing Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) site set aside for public recreation use and is eligible for the ORLP funds requested through this grant application. Currently, access to and throughout the site is very limited, there are no accessible bleachers for spectators, and there are no permanent restrooms. If funded this project would greatly improve the overall functionality and longevity of the facility and the long-term vision for this community asset.

The Parks and Recreation Commission respectfully urges your consideration of the ORLP application.

Sincerely,

Mark Oldmixon, Chair
Parks and Recreation Commission
Fairbanks North Star Borough





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September 21, 2026

TO: Matthew Boyer, Parks and Recreation Director
Fairbanks North Star Borough
1920 Lathrop Street
Fairbanks, AK 99701

Re: Letter of recommendation to award Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Program funding to the Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks and Recreation Department's "Tanana Lakes Recreation Area Playground Enhancement" project

Dear Mr. Boyer,

At its September 21st, 2026 meeting the Fairbanks North Star Borough's (FNSB) Parks and Recreation Commission (Commission) passed a motion recommending the Parks and Recreation Department's grant application for funding to complete playground enhancements at the Tanana Lakes Recreation Area (TLRA). TLRA is a 750-acre multi-use recreation area that is a popular year-round destination for a multitude of activities including boating, fishing, swimming, picnicking, hiking, skiing, and ice-skating. The park is unique in offering activity nodes distributed throughout the lake area, which helps spread use across the facility and provide diverse recreation experiences and opportunities.

Music Meadows is a particularly popular activity node featuring a pavilion, vault toilet, picnic areas, BBQ grills, lawn games including tetherball and corn hole, and direct access to the park's trail network. A 2016 Land and Water Conservation (LWCF) grant supported the development of the playground at this location, and the requested LWCF funding would build upon this investment by adding swings. The addition of swings expands the playground's functionality and appeal, representing an efficient and strategic use of grant funds to revitalize a well-used and popular playground at TLRA.

Swings provide a play experience that is universally enjoyed by children, families, and users of all abilities, making them an important component of a well-rounded playground. Swings offer a simple and intuitive sensory experience with smooth and rhythmic movement. This experience is complemented by locating swings next to waterbodies or scenic spaces, such as TLRA's Music Meadows. The broad appeal of swings and their ability to be tailored for accessibility extends the number and type of potential users served by the playground. For these reasons, the Commission strongly supports the Parks and Recreation Department's effort to secure LWCF funding to complete this TLRA playground with swings.



The Commission respectfully urges your favorable consideration of this LWCF application. The proposed project represents a cost-effective opportunity to complete an existing community asset.

Sincerely,

Mark Oldmixon, Chair
Parks and Recreation Commission
Fairbanks North Star Borough



Fairbanks North Star Borough

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September 21, 2026

TO: Matthew Boyer, Parks and Recreation Director
Fairbanks North Star Borough
1920 Lathrop Street
Fairbanks, AK 99701

Re: Letter of recommendation to award Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Program funding to the Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks and Recreation Department's "Allridge Park Playground Enhancement" project

Dear Mr. Boyer,

At its September 21st, 2026 meeting the Fairbanks North Star Borough's (FNSB) Parks and Recreation Commission (Commission) passed a motion recommending the Parks and Recreation Department's grant application for funding to complete playground enhancements at Allridge Park. Allridge Park is a neighborhood park in south Fairbanks located within walking distance of key community destinations, including schools, hospitals, and major recreation spots like the Big Dipper Ice Arena and Hez Ray Complex.

Allridge Park is a three-time recipient of Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) assistance for development and redevelopment projects in 1974, 2005, and 2024. Most recently, LWCF funding supported improvements to the parking lot and the park entrance including paving, signage, site furnishings, fencing, and other infrastructure that made the park more appealing to visitors. These grant funds supplemented local funding from the Small Park Replacement Program, commonly known as Park-A-Year. Together, these investments transformed Allridge Park into a welcoming and highly valuable community asset.

The 2025 Park-A-Year project at Allridge Park was transformative, providing an investment that will leave the park in excellent condition for decades to come. This proposal seeks to complete the playground vision through the addition of swings, the final major play element not included in the 2025 project. The current playground offers colorful and dynamic play opportunities with a tall three-dimensional net climber, slides, and other climbing elements. While the playground is exceptional, community members have expressed concern about the absence of swings. Swings are consistently among the most requested and heavily used playground features, but they are often separated as an additive bid item and are only awarded if project budgets allow due to significant materials and surfacing costs. Swings provide a play experience that is universally enjoyed by children, families, and users of all



abilities, making them an important component of a well-rounded playground. For these reasons, the Commission strongly supports the Parks and Recreation Department's effort to secure LWCF funding to complete the playground with swings.

The Commission respectfully urges your favorable consideration of this LWCF application, building upon prior local and federal investments.

Sincerely,

Mark Oldmixon, Chair
Parks and Recreation Commission
Fairbanks North Star Borough



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September 21, 2026

TO: Matthew Boyer, Parks and Recreation Director
Fairbanks North Star Borough
1920 Lathrop Street
Fairbanks, AK 99701

Re: Letter of recommendation to award Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Program funding to the Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks and Recreation Department's "Fairbanks Lions Recreation Area Playground Enhancement" project

Dear Mr. Boyer,

On September 21st, 2026, the Fairbanks North Star Borough's (FNSB) Parks and Recreation Commission (Commission) passed a motion recommending the Parks and Recreation Department's grant application for funding to complete playground enhancements at Fairbanks Lions Recreation Area (FLRA). FLRA is a large multi-use recreation area located adjacent to Anne Wien Elementary School, within walking distance of Randy Smith Middle School, and situated on the banks of Noyes Slough near the state-owned Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge. The recreation area hosts three ball fields, a playground, a pavilion, a boat launch, picnic areas, BBQ grills, and a walking loop. As one of the few Borough park facilities serving this area of Fairbanks, FLRA is an important neighborhood recreation destination.

The site has not received a major reinvestment in many years and is currently included in the FNSB Capital Improvement Program (CIP), with \$1.5 million programmed in FY2033 for improvements, including enhanced accessibility, expanded playground features, and upgrades to the usability of parking areas, walking routes, and the pavilion. FLRA is also a candidate location for the Borough's Pickleball Court Development project, demonstrating a growing interest in the site and momentum for future development.

FLRA is a two-time recipient of Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) assistance for acquisition and development projects in 1975 and 1976, respectively. The proposed LWCF project would build upon prior investments by adding swings to the existing playground. Swings are a dynamic and highly requested play feature that would supplement the single play structure currently onsite. While more extensive playground improvements are planned through the upcoming CIP project, LWCF funding would offer a significant boost to the park's opportunities in the meantime and would provide a strong foundation for the future playground work. With FLRA's proximity to schools, location near densely populated Fairbanks



neighborhoods, and growing momentum for local reinvestment into the site, the proposed LWCF project is a strategic contribution to the long-term vision for FLRA.

The Commission respectfully urges your favorable consideration of this LWCF application.

Sincerely,

Mark Oldmixon, Chair
Parks and Recreation Commission
Fairbanks North Star Borough



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September 21, 2026

TO: Matthew Boyer, Parks and Recreation Director
Fairbanks North Star Borough
1920 Lathrop Street
Fairbanks, AK 99701

Re: Letter of recommendation to award Multi-Use Trails Program funding for the Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks and Recreation Department's "Tanana Lakes Recreation Area Flicker Trailhead Enhancement and Trail Alignment" project

Dear Mr. Boyer,

On September 21, 2026, the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB or Borough) Parks and Recreation Commission (Commission) passed a motion recommending the Tanana Lakes Recreation Area (TLRA) Flicker Trailhead Enhancement and Trail Alignment project for funding through the Alaska Trails and Local Access Systems (ATLAS) Multi-Use Trails Program. TLRA is a 750-acre Borough-operated recreation area that attracts year-round activities, including boating, fishing, swimming, picnicking, hiking, skiing, and ice skating. The park's activity nodes are distributed around the lake's perimeter, helping to spread use across the facility and provide diverse recreational experiences and opportunities.

The Flicker Trailhead is the only formal trail access point on the east side of the park and Cushman Lake. It is a popular starting point for visitors completing a loop around the lake and offers the Borough community a unique, close-to-town recreational experience along a waterbody in a natural setting. Many of TLRA's amenities are concentrated on the west side of the park, while the east side currently lacks basic support infrastructure, including restroom facilities. The loop trail is also incomplete, requiring trail users to rely on park roads or maintenance routes to piece together the 5-kilometer route around the lake.

The proposed project would improve the Flicker Trailhead by adding a vault toilet, upgrading the parking lot, addressing accessibility deficiencies, and making site improvements that better define the parking area, trail access point, and vehicle circulation routes. The project would also improve trail delineation where the trail transitions from a wooded corridor onto a flood-control groin that also functions as a park maintenance road and the Eastlake trail connector. This segment is a key connection in the lake loop trail system, and the proposed grant-funded work would more clearly separate vehicles from trail users and better align the trail on the groin, improving both safety and the visitor experience.



The Commission respectfully urges your favorable consideration of this ATLAS application. The proposed project presents an ideal opportunity to enhance a valuable community asset.

Sincerely,

Mark Oldmixon, Chair
Parks and Recreation Commission
Fairbanks North Star Borough



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September 21, 2026

TO: Matthew Boyer, Parks and Recreation Director
Fairbanks North Star Borough
1920 Lathrop Street
Fairbanks, AK 99701

Re: *Approval of a Letter of Support to the Parks and Recreation Director and/or Borough Mayor recommending the submission of a grant application to the Multi-Use Trails Program funding for the Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks and Recreation Department's "Chena Lake Recreation Area North Trail- Trail Access Improvements" Project*

Dear Mr. Boyer,

On September 21, 2026, the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB or Borough) Parks and Recreation Commission (Commission) passed a motion recommending a letter of support to the Borough Mayor to submit a grant application requesting funding through the US Department of Transportations (DOT) Alaska Trails and Local Access Systems(ATLAS) Multi-Use Trails Program to begin constructing a circumnavigational trail around Chena Lake within the recreation area, to improve year round access and satisfy a long term goal of the Parks and Recreation Department.

CLRA draws both summer and winter trail users, however the trail system is not quite finished, nor does it provide fluid ADA accessibility around the lake. There will soon be a new connection point accessing the recreation area via the Plack Rd entrance. This project proposes beginning the first phase of constructing trail from the Plack Rd entrance, going northward to complete the first phase of completing a circumnavigational trail at CLRA. The request for funding this project will improve the recreation area tremendously.

The Parks and Recreation Commission would like to see this first phase of constructing a circumnavigational trail around Chena Lake started. This project will further improve access for non-motorized trail users year-round and provide more outdoor recreation opportunities for both locals and visitors to the area.

Sincerely,

Mark Oldmixon, Chair
Parks and Recreation Commission
Fairbanks North Star Borough

