



FNSB CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

2019 Project Nomination Form

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MAYOR'S OFFICE

Nominations will be accepted from **August 12 to October 11**. Please fill out the nomination form as completely as possible. If a section does not apply to the project you are nominating, please leave that section blank. Please attach additional relevant information to this nomination packet as appropriate. There is no limit to the number of projects that can be submitted.

Completed nomination forms can be submitted:

In person at:

Fairbanks North Star Borough
Attn: Mayor's Office
907 Terminal Street
Fairbanks, AK 99701

By mail to:

Fairbanks North Star Borough
Attn: Capital Improvement Program
PO Box 71267
Fairbanks, AK 99707

NOMINATOR'S NAME:	<u>Donnie Hayes</u>	DATE:	<u>10/6/2019</u>
ORGANIZATION (IF APPLICABLE):	<u>FNSB Parks and Recreation</u>		
AFFECTED DEPARTMENT:	<u>Pioneer Park</u>		
PHONE: ()	EMAIL: <u>dhayes@fnsb.us</u>		

Name of Proposed Project: Pioneer Park Playground

Project Scope/Description:

This project proposes to replace, and revitalize the aging playground infrastructure and an accessible playground within Pioneer Park. The idea is to create an Alaskaland in Pioneer Park. The goal is for this playground to focus on our Alaskan history, it's prominent features, and our industry.

This project is seeking to create an accessible playground that is also affordable for Pioneer Park to build through grants, sponsorships, and naming rights of specific pieces of playground equipment.

Features of the Playground will have features that replicate the Alaskan pipeline, a cruise ship, Mt. Denali, an airline inspired zipline, etc.

It would also be a wonderful place for experiential education features. hoof prints showing the herds of animals crossing the state, or animal climbing features showing the size of a moose or a bear.

This project would be all about Alaska.



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SAFETY AND CODE COMPLIANCE

1. Does the project reduce or eliminate a health or safety risk?

Yes No

Please explain:

Pioneer Parks playground has sustained vandalism that has closed parts of it due to the difficulty of finding replacement parts because of its age. Its age is also a concern since it is made of wood and some of the areas are become soft and degrading.

The playground is also not ADA accessible and is surrounded by pea gravel one of the worst fall protection surfaces.

2. In your opinion, what is the current condition of the facility?

Poor This is a new facility
 Fair
 Good
 Excellent

Please explain:

Broken features, degrading wood, vandalism, non-ADA compliance, and pea gravel issues are just some of the reason that it is in poor condition.

3. Does the project improve accessibility compliance? (For example: parking lot design, doorway design, counter height, floor access, restroom access, etc.)

Yes No

Please explain:

This project will install surfacing that is ADA accessible. It will also include play features that allow for ADA access. Something that isn't currently found in any playground near Pioneer Park or in just about any of the Borough playgrounds.

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FACILITY CONDITION

4. How old is the facility since original construction?

- 41+ years This is a new facility
 31 - 40 years
 21 - 30 years
 11 - 20 years
 0 - 10 years

5. Does the project replace an existing facility?

- Yes No

If yes, please identify the building it would replace and any other supporting information, including the condition of the existing facility (poor, fair, good, excellent):

The project will replace the current playground features that are present in Pioneer Park.

PROJECT FUNDING

6. What is the status of project funding?

- Fully funded
 Partially funded
 No funding

Please identify the source and amount of any funding that is already secured in support of this project:

Currently Pioneer Park has just over \$50,000 raised to produce a simple artists rendering of the playground so that we can use it to increase public support and to solicit sponsorships.

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7. Are there grant, foundation, sponsorship, or other alternative sources of funding available for this project?

Yes No

- a. If yes, is there a match requirement?

Yes No

- b. If a match is required, how much? Please choose the most applicable option.

- 1 - 10% match required
 11 - 20% match required
 21 - 30% match required
 31 - 40% match required
 +41% match required

Please identify the potential funding sources, how the project is eligible for such funds, any work done to commit such funds (i.e., application or proposal submitted and/or approved), and any additionally relevant information:

The Parks and Recreation Department is continually seeking grant and partner funding for all of our projects. Generally match amounts are between 9% and 50%.

As with all park projects, the Rasmuson Foundation is a potential donor. There are a few other small grant opportunities (\$5-20,000) to provide accessible play features.

The Department does not have any current proposals submitted to funding agencies for this project.

8. If applicable, does your organization plan on contributing any funds?

Yes No

If yes, please identify the amount and source of funds planned in contribution of this project:

The Borough may contribute construction funds, matching funds and maintenance funding. This would include the \$50,000 that has been raised for this project.

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ENVIRONMENTAL

9. Will the project clean up contamination (such as lead, asbestos, fuel contamination, etc.)?

Yes No

Please explain:

10. Does the project improve air quality?

Yes No

Please explain:

11. Will the project reduce storm water runoff?

Yes No

Please explain:

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12. Will the project improve groundwater quality?

Yes No

Please explain:

13. Will the project improve energy efficiency?

Yes No

Please explain:

PUBLIC USE

14. Will the project improve the customer experience?

Yes No

Please explain:

This project will result in a high quality, accessible playground, accentuating an inclusive atmosphere for family and community gatherings, events, and activities that are held at Pioneer Park annually.

Home prices within close proximity to parks and playground are typically 20% more valuable than similar homes that are not. This playground will help to contribute to home values in the surrounding neighborhoods.

The cleanliness, and accessibility of our playground directly effects the way in which our community, and visitors view our Park.

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15. Is the project served by a fixed transit route?

Yes No

Please explain:

Pioneer Park is served by the Blue Line and Red Line of the Borough's MACS Transit System.

16. Will the project improve facility capacity?

Yes No

Please explain:

The proposed project will improve the existing facility and potentially attract more users but will not create additional capacity.

ONGOING MAINTENANCE COST

17. Will the project reduce utility expenses on a cost per square foot (\$/SF)?

Yes No

Please explain:

N/A

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18. Will the project reduce maintenance expenses on a cost per square foot (\$/SF)?

Yes No

Please explain:

New products are generally less expensive to maintain than older and partially worn out products. The reduction of pea gravel on this project will lead to a significant decrease in the amount of hours sweeping pea gravel into appropriate required fall safety depths.

19. Will the project extend the life of an existing facility?

Yes No

Please explain:

PLANNING AND DESIGN

20. Does the project have complete designs?

Yes No

Please explain:

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21. Have there been any project scope and/or engineering studies done?

Yes No

If yes, please explain all work that has been done on this project to date. Please attach and submit all relevant information as part of the project nomination packet.

BUDGET IMPACT

22. How will the project impact the operation budget for the affected department?

- Increase the operating budget
 Maintain the operating budget
 Decrease the operating budget

Please explain:

The proposed improvements will decrease staff time necessary for maintenance. This will allow staff to spend additional time on other deferred maintenance needs.

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POPULATION REACHED

23. What type of population will be served by the proposed project?

- Regional areawide users
- Single community
- Multiple neighborhoods
- Single neighborhood

Please describe the area, population served, and the need that will be met by this project:

Pioneer Park contains parks and facilities that serve the entire Fairbanks population. It also has been chosen as one of the top three visitor attractions in Fairbanks for many years by the community. Park use metrics show nearly 300,000 plus visitors to the Park each year. Pioneer Park events fill the parking lots and sidewalks nearly every weeknight during the summer and many winter weekends. This project is expected to serve well over 300,000 plus visitors per year where long summer days draw many people outside onto paths and into parks.

With over 20 separate Pioneer Park managed events yearly, including HalloweenTown, the 4th of July, Ride and Dine with Santa, Military Appreciation Day, the community and its tourists make Pioneer Park a priority.

Pioneer Park is also home to our interior communities history, multiple museums, Fairbanks Arts Association, Fairbanks Folk School, and the Pioneer's of Alaska to name a few.

A vibrant community relies on safe connections and accessible parks. The surrounding neighborhoods, community facilities, event centers, commercial areas, and schools have the potential to draw more use from residents and visitors. Three census blocks within this area have greater than 60% Low-to Moderate Incomes (LMI), this project supports a part of our community in need of investment.

SUPPORT

24. Please select all applicable form of support this project has:

- Resolutions of support (agencies, governments, etc.)
- Letters of support (groups, businesses, organizations, etc.)
- General public support or letters from residents

Please explain levels of support identified above and provide specific examples:

Testimonials from the Spring 2019 Borough Parks and Recreation Survey:

"To an enormous extent, the measure of a community is its commitment to well-maintained, appealing and accessible public spaces. Community is built and strengthened wherever people congregate to socialize, relax, stay healthy through exercise, and develop a love of place. All of that is what makes us choose to stay and support the city we call home."

"Well maintained trails, playgrounds, and facilities really add to the quality of life in the borough."

"Pioneer Park is an extremely valuable and delightful centrally located area and an important attraction for our visitors. Volunteers could help out here, if funds shrink to maintain"

"We've noticed Pioneer park could use some updates to the playground. It's becoming a little dated and some things don't work as well as they used to. My kids would love a really big slide and a maze. It would also be awesome to have parkour or ninja warrior type obstacles. I wish I could attach pictures because there are so many neat new playgrounds out there to get ideas from."

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25. Does this project meet any goals or objectives that are identified in any Borough plans (such as the Comprehensive Plan)?

Yes No

If yes, please identify which goals and objectives in specific plans that this project meets:

Borough Parks and Recreation Plan (1990)
Goal 1, Obj A, Policy 1: "Place emphasis on upgrading and maintaining existing facilities before developing new facilities."
Goal 1, Obj D, Policy 1: "Insure that all facilities provide adequate access for people experiencing disabilities."
Goal 2, Obj B, Policy 1: "Establish maintenance of existing recreational facilities as a priority in Capital Improvement Project requests."
Goal 2, Obj B, Policy 2: "Include safety and accessibility improvements in all budget proposals."

Borough Comprehensive Plan (2005) Community and Human Resources:
Goal 1, Strategy 2, Action A: "Consider special needs of individuals and groups in the development of public and private facilities, programs, and social support services."
Goal 1, Strategy 4, Action B: "Provide quality and economical public services facilities that: Fully utilize and maintain existing facilities; replace antiquated and wasteful facilities; build new space to accommodate needs; improve accessibility to all public facilities."

Pioneer Park Master Plan (2005)
Section 4 Recommendations
"All new structures will comply with industry standards and codes and will meet Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility requirements."
"...the existing park utilities and infrastructure will require ongoing maintenance and repair."

PROJECT COST

26. What is the estimated project cost? \$ 2.5 Million

Please explain why this cost is reasonable and should be allocated to this project:

Pioneer Park makes up over 40 acres of Borough Parks. The playground project is part of an effort by the Borough to create a better customer and community experience.

This park provides an opportunity for a diverse array of community activities in a central location. The area attracts many residents and visitors year round. The playground has reached the end of its useful life and needs to be updated to support Fairbanks as a vibrant, accessible, and inclusive community.

As one survey respondent stated:

"Community Parks and Facilities are what make a town feel like a community. Their availability sends the message that people are welcome here and that individual and family quality of life is valued here."



Alaskaland at Pioneer Park

A Playground for all!

Goals of the playground:

1. Focus on Alaska's history, prominent features, and industry.
2. Make the Playground affordable
3. Make the Playground Accessible

How do we do this?

- Through a combination of Pour in Place, Artificial Turf, and Landscaping (Grass, Rock, shrubs, water features) creating a map of the state of Alaska.
- Playground features
 - Swings under Homer sign and Halibut hanging- largest Halibut caught by recreational fisherman
 - Kids zipline with Alaska Airlines plane on top
 - Mt. Denali climbing structure
 - Pipeline climber/crawler/slide
 - Cruise Ship on the coast with slides, and additional play features
 - A Crab Climber from LSI
 - Salmon rockers or a spinner with salmon on it and seaweed, etc.
 - Whale Bone slides for Barrow/Utqagviak.
 - A temperate rainforest play structure
 - Some sort of mining play feature
- Educational experiences
 - Find the different types of footprints around the playground.
 - Moose, fox, bear, birds, eagles, etc.
 - Signage showing bird's Wing Spans
 - A large Moose with signage telling it's story
 - Etc.