



**MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE  
Parks & Recreation Department  
PARK IMPROVEMENT PROPOSAL**



**2008 ANCHORAGE PARK FOUNDATION CHALLENGE GRANT**

**General Information**

Date March 16, 2008

- Lead Applicant Group or Individual Name: Willard L. Bowman Elementary School
- Address: 11700 Gregory Road, Anchorage AK 99516
- Contact Name (Project Lead): Linda Hulen
- Contact Telephone and e-mail: 742-5600 hulen\_linda@asdk12.org
- Name of proposed project: Tanglewood Park Board Walk
- Proposed project location: Tanglewood Park, Anchorage Ak
- Project type: 1,400-foot boardwalk with gathering areas to serve as an outdoor classroom and public access viewing area for this restored wetland park

Our group plans to raise \$24,779\*\* and requests a match of \$ \$24,779

Our group plans to provide funding, labor and in-kind donations to meet the match.

\*\*We are submitting 3 separate possible budgets for this project, dependent on materials. This is explained in the project description narrative and attachments.

**Applicant Organization Description**

○ **Describe your Organization**

Willard L. Bowman Elementary in south Anchorage houses 5 distinct educational programs for about 550 ethnically mixed students, K-6 grades. Tanglewood Park is a restored wetlands adjacent to the school property and accessed by a footpath through the woods. Teachers at the school enjoy taking students to Tanglewood Park wetlands for a variety of learning experiences that meet cross curricular goals, including those in science, writing and math. A boardwalk, such as we propose in this project, would allow students and members of the public to observe the flora and fauna of this remarkable park without actually walking on the fragile bog and damaging plants, and without having to wear boots or getting muddy. These are serious considerations for teachers now when they try to use Tanglewood Park as an outdoor classroom, and a boardwalk would protect the park while encouraging viewing and would allow students to participate in class outings whether or not they own or brought mud boots to school that day.

This project is coordinated by Linda Hulen, Bowman teacher, with support from Mark Schroeder (Wildlife Biologist, formerly of USFWS Anchorage). Mr. Schroeder coordinated the restoration of damaged wetlands at the project site. The project was developed and designed with input and review from Dr. Plumb-Mentjes (Corps of Engineers), David Mitchell (Great Land Trust), Jack. Mosby (Alaska Trails), and Tom Korosei (MOA Parks and Recreation Department). Letters of support were received from the O'Malley-Huffman Community Council (representing local neighborhoods), the Great Land Trust (holder of Conservation Easement on this property), and the Municipality of Anchorage (landowner), and Darrell Vincek (Principal, Bowman Elementary, Anchorage School District).

[www.AnchorageParkFoundation.org](http://www.AnchorageParkFoundation.org)

Anchorage Park Foundation PO Box 196650 Anchorage, Alaska 99519-6650

o Describe your previous project accomplishments.

We have been awarded 2 grants for this project: a Lowe's Toolbox grant of \$7,500 and an Alaska Conservation Foundation Watchable Wildlife grant of \$4,000. Both are on deposit with the Anchorage School District for use on our Tanglewood Park boardwalk project.

We have support from the Anchorage Lowe's management team: Craig Smith, general manager; and Alvin Gamboa, store manager, south Anchorage Lowe's.

Letters of support are also included with this application.

We have a letter of request currently under review by Weyerhaeuser Co., manufacturer of ChoiceDek planking, requesting in-kind support in the way of discounted prices or materials donation. This request will be considered by Weyerhaeuser executives at a meeting March 24, 2008.

Project Description (attached)

Project Certification

To the best of my knowledge all the information in this application, and each attachment, is true and correct.

REQUIRED

OPTIONAL

Linda Hulew  
Name of Project Leader

Darrell Vinch  
Project Team Member

Linda Hulew  
Name of Project Leader Signature

[Signature]  
Project Team Member Signature

3-21-08  
Date

3/21/08  
Date

Thank you for your interest in Anchorage's Public Parks!

The deadline for the application to be received by the Anchorage Park Foundation is 4:30 p.m., Friday March 21, 2008. The proposal will be reviewed in a competitive process and grant awards will be announced no later than April 15, 2008.

For more information or assistance:

Beth Nordlund, 343-4492, nordlundbl@muni.org.

**Project Description:**

We propose to construct a boardwalk nature trail project to expand opportunities for students of Bowman Elementary and other members of the public to readily experience ecologically distinct areas of a local wetland complex - spruce bog, dwarf ericaceous shrub, and seral (restored & recovering) wetland habitats. The proposed project is to construct a 1400-foot-long boardwalk trail in the southeast corner of the 42-acre Tanglewood Park. The proposed boardwalk is designed as a loop that avoids valuable bird nesting areas, will be wheelchair accessible, and will be constructed of low maintenance materials.

The project site, Tanglewood Park (Figure 1), was donated to the Municipality under the terms of a Conservation Easement held by The Great Land Trust to retain its ecological functions and protect its open space value. Ditching and unauthorized motorized activity had significantly damaged or altered much of the site's wetland. Three community-based rehabilitation projects were completed within the wetland area to restore wetland hydrology and the vegetation is recovering (photos of restoration work can be provided upon request). A variety of birds use the site during migration and the nesting season. Small rodents, wood frogs, and other animals are commonly observed. It is an ideal natural laboratory and place for exploration and wonder - especially for elementary age children.

The proposed project is similar in design to that recently constructed across wet areas of trails in the Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge (Figure 2). The typical details of boardwalk and gathering area design are in Figures 3 and 4. There will be no filling of wetlands or other ground-disturbing activity. The project is not located within the coastal zone.

**Community need for this project:**

There is public access to Tanglewood Park, with a footpath connecting the park to the school. Classes visit the site during the school year, but wet areas have/will become damaged by repeated foot traffic, some areas are too wet for small boots, and there are other concerns when muddy shoes make their way back onto classroom carpets. This project would enable most of the school's students to readily participate in outdoor classroom opportunities.

It will also encourage citizens of all ages and abilities, including the many people living in nearby neighborhoods, to enjoy new wildlife viewing opportunities.

Following site restoration, unauthorized motorized activity has been conspicuously less frequent. The boardwalk and increased presence of students/community members would continue to encourage an awareness and understanding of the sites functions and values, demonstrate wetland restoration practices, and continue to discourage unauthorized motorized activity.

**Project costs:**

We initially planned to use treated lumber, but due to concerns about yearly maintenance and chemicals possibly leaching into the bog, we recently started looking at using a synthetic planking. We have been able to get a promise of a 13% discount from the south Anchorage Lowe's store on ChoiceDek, manufactured by Weyerhaeuser Co. The advantages to this polymer: it is made of recycled materials and has a lifetime warranty. Yearly maintenance would be minimal, and snow is easily swept off of this material, unlike wood which absorbs water and can become slick. However, this material is significantly more expensive than treated lumber.

Therefore, we have developed several budget scenarios for this boardwalk and its gathering areas, depending on the materials. **We are seeking a match for only one project, and we would appreciate the input from the Foundation Grant committee and the Anchorage Parks Department.**

We intend to use volunteer labor to construct the project. Donations of rental equipment may be needed depending upon staging areas. We have received seed money already: a \$7,500 Lowe's Toolbox Grant and \$4,000 Watchable Wildlife grant from the Alaska Conservation Foundation.. We are seeking

additional funding and in-kind support for the remaining costs.

The attached spreadsheet shows detailed breakdown of this budget. In summary:

- Proposal A (all treated lumber) would require nearly \$18,000 in materials (based on retail prices March 2008).
- Proposal B (a combination of treated lumber and ChoiceDek) would require about \$42,370.
- Proposal C (all ChoiceDek) would require between \$44,000 and \$48,000, depending on the material used for the toe rails edging the boardwalk.

(The initial design was redrawn for ChoiceDek, to accommodate different dimensions of the material and meet requirements for wheelchair access. A copy of this design accompanies this application.)

We have written Weyerhaeuser Co., the manufacturer of ChoiceDek, requesting a donation of materials, or a deeper discount that has been offered by Lowe's. We are still waiting to hear back.

**Maintenance:**

Maintenance is expected to be low as materials are intended to last a long time. Periodic maintenance may be needed in the spring if winter freeze-thaw alters ground contours such that the boardwalk surface would need a slight adjustment to remain near level. As the wetland is essentially flat and the boardwalk cribbing lays on this low-relief surface, large scale maintenance is not anticipated. This maintenance work will be completed by committed project volunteers.

Once the boardwalk is constructed, we anticipate regular community use. A large residential area flanks the school and new, large homes border the utility easement leading to the bog, so summer will find a number of local residents enjoying this park improvement. The more people use this park, the more eyes will be watching to protect the boardwalk from mischief.

We will erect signs at the head of the boardwalk that will list sponsors and give telephone numbers to call and report problems.

We also will ask a local boy scout troop to adopt the boardwalk to help us keep it inspected during the year.

**Public Support:**

ASD Bowman Elementary teachers, parents, and students

Municipality of Anchorage (Letter of Approval/Support)

Dr. Mary Lee Plumb-Mentjes, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (site/design review)

David Mitchell, The Great Land Trust (Letter of Support)

Jack Mosby, Alaska Trails (site/design review)

Lowes – \$7,500 Toolbox Grant for materials, currently on deposit with ASD; also in-kind contribution of discounts on materials

Alaska Conservation Foundation, — \$4,000 Watchable Wildlife Grant, on deposit with ASD

**Potential Sponsors/Supporters:**

local equipment rental firms (generators/drills/saws)

King Career Center (cutting lumber, preassembly)

Bob Klein, Tanglewood Lakes Golf Course (access to staging area)

Attachments: Figures 1-4; Design for Proposals B&C/ChoiceDek; Budget; Resolution from Community Council; Letters of support

TangleWood Park Budget

**Estimate Project Costs Proposal A / Treated Lumber**

|                             |            |          |           |
|-----------------------------|------------|----------|-----------|
| Total Project Cost Estimate |            | \$17,998 | retail    |
|                             | Cash       | In-Kind  | APF Match |
| Design                      |            | \$5,950  |           |
| Materials                   | (\$11,500) | \$2,185  | \$6,498   |
| Equipment                   |            | \$1,000  | \$1,000   |
| Labor/Installation          |            | \$11,562 |           |
| Total                       |            | \$20,697 | \$7,498   |

Proposal A is estimated to cost \$17,998. Applicant has \$11,500 cash already raised, and has in-kind contributions of design, materials, equipment and labor equal to \$19,697. The grants are NOT included as our in-kind contributions. **We are seeking an APF Match of \$7,498 to be used for materials and equipment needed during construction.**

**Estimate Project Costs Proposal B / Combination**

|                             |            |          |           |
|-----------------------------|------------|----------|-----------|
| Total Project Cost Estimate |            | \$42,372 | retail    |
|                             | Cash       | In-Kind  | APF Match |
| Design                      |            | \$5,950  |           |
| Materials                   | (\$11,500) | \$5,656  | \$24,168  |
| Equipment                   |            | \$1,000  |           |
| Labor/Installation          |            | \$11,562 |           |
| Total                       |            | \$24,168 | \$24,168  |

Proposal B is estimated to cost \$42,372. Applicant has \$11,500 cash already raised to offset the cost, but is NOT included in figuring the match. Our in-kind contribution of design, materials, equipment and labor equals \$24,168. **We are seeking an APF Match of \$24,168 for materials needed during construction.** This APF match would make construction of Proposal B possible.

**Estimate Project Costs Proposal C / All Choice Dek**

|                             |            |          |           |
|-----------------------------|------------|----------|-----------|
| Total Project Cost Estimate |            | \$48,200 | retail    |
|                             | Cash       | In-Kind  | APF Match |
| Design                      |            | \$5,950  |           |
| Materials                   | (\$11,500) | \$6,267  | \$24,779  |
| Equipment                   |            | \$1,000  |           |
| Labor/Installation          |            | \$11,562 |           |
| Total                       |            | \$24,779 | \$24,779  |

Proposal C is estimated to cost \$48,200. Applicant has \$11,500 cash already raised to offset the cost, but is NOT included in figuring the match. Our in-kind contribution of design, materials, equipment and labor equals \$24,779. **We are seeking an APF Match of \$24,779 for materials needed during construction.** We are also seeking addition support from Weyerhaeuser Co., to proceed with an all ChoiceDek project, and our request is being discussed in a corporate meeting on March 24, 2008.

*page*  
I wasn't sure this <sup>page</sup> transmitted, so I am sending it again.

*Linke*

Tanglewood Park Board Walk

**Proposal A: Treated Lumber** (Top-Choice structural timber hemlock fir)

| Item/Description                                   | # needed                       | Retail      |                    | Discounted  |                    | Difference / In-kind donation |
|--|--------------------------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
|  |                                | \$ per item | Extended price     | \$ per item | Extended price     |                               |
| Planking #24717 ST 2x10x12                         | B 504                          | \$18.97     | \$9,560.88         | \$17.07     | \$8,603.28         | \$957.60                      |
|  | G 30                           |             | \$569.10           |             | \$512.10           |                               |
| Cribbing #109681 ST 6x6x12                         | B 126                          | \$39.80     | \$5,014.80         | \$34.33     | \$4,325.58         | \$689.22                      |
|  | G 15                           |             | \$597.00           |             | \$514.95           |                               |
| Toe Rail #24099 ST 2x4x12                          | B 252                          | \$7.97      | \$2,008.44         | \$6.46      | \$1,627.92         | \$380.52                      |
|  | G 12                           |             | \$95.64            |             | \$77.52            |                               |
| Screws #64208 25# red 8x2<br>1/2 phillips sc 07250 | approx. 5200 screws/<br>bucket |             |                    |             |                    |                               |
| 5040/B + 360G                                      | 2                              | \$76        | \$152              | \$76        | \$152              | \$0                           |
| <b>TOTAL A</b>                                     |                                |             | <b>\$17,997.86</b> |             | <b>\$15,813.35</b> | <b>\$2,184.51</b>             |

**Proposal B: Polymer Material & Treated Lumber/** ChoiceDek & Top Choice

| Item/Description   | # needed        | Retail      |                    | Discounted  |                    | Difference / In-kind donation |
|--|-----------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
|  |                 | \$ per item | Extended price     | \$ per item | Extended price     |                               |
| Planking #116145 Gray<br>ChoiceDek 2x6x12                                | B 936           | \$26.97     | \$25,243.92        | \$23.46     | \$21,958.56        | \$3,285.36                    |
|  | G 45            |             | \$1,213.65         |             | \$1,055.70         |                               |
| Cribbing #109681 ST 6x6x5'<br>(468-12' cut in half) ST<br>6x6x8' #109646 | B 234           | \$39.80     | \$9,313.20         | \$34.33     | \$8,033.22         | \$1,279.98                    |
|  | G 15            |             | \$429.30           |             | \$429.30           |                               |
| Toe Rail #24099 ST 2x4x12  | B 234           | \$7.97      | \$1,864.98         | \$6.46      | \$1,511.64         | \$353.34                      |
|  | G 12            |             | \$95.64            |             | \$77.52            |                               |
| Screws #31581 (~ 10,000<br>needed)                                       | B 12<br>buckets | \$30        | \$359.64           | \$26.07     | \$312.84           | \$46.80                       |
| <b>TOTAL B</b>   |                 |             | <b>\$38,520.33</b> |             | <b>\$33,378.78</b> | <b>\$5,141.55</b>             |
| 10% land variables   |                 |             | \$42,372.33        |             | \$36,716.65        | \$5,655.68                    |

**Proposal C: All Polymer / Choice Dek**

|   |       |         |                    |         |                    |                   |
|---|-------|---------|--------------------|---------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Cribbing #62374 Gray<br>ChoiceDek Post<br>1/4 x 51" | B 234 | \$28.88 | \$6,757.92         | \$25.13 | \$5,880.42         | \$877.50          |
|   | G 15  |         | \$433.20           |         | \$376.95           |                   |
| Toe Rail #116145 Gray<br>ChoiceDek 2x6x12           | B 234 | \$26.97 | \$6,310.98         | \$23.46 | \$5,489.64         | \$821.34          |
|   | G 12  |         | \$323.64           |         | \$281.52           |                   |
| SubTotal  |       |         | \$13,825.74        |         | \$12,028.53        | \$1,797.21        |
| SubTotal B (Planking & Screws<br>only)              |       |         | \$26,817.21        |         | \$23,327.10        | \$3,490.11        |
| <b>TOTAL C</b>                                      |       |         | <b>\$40,642.95</b> |         | <b>\$35,355.63</b> | <b>\$5,287.32</b> |
| 10% land variables                                  |       |         | \$44,707.24        |         | \$38,891.19        | \$5,816.05        |

**Proposal D All Polymer / Choice Dek with studier toe rails**

|   |     |         |                    |         |                    |                   |
|---|-----|---------|--------------------|---------|--------------------|-------------------|
| ChoiceDek Top and Bottom Rail<br>as toe Rails 3.65"x2.5"x12'        | 246 | \$39.88 | \$9,810.48         | \$34.70 | \$8,536.20         | \$1,274.28        |
| <b>TOTAL with T/B rails</b> (C<br>cribbing, Subtotal B, & T/B rail) |     |         | <b>\$43,818.81</b> |         | <b>\$38,120.67</b> | <b>\$5,698.14</b> |
| 10% land variable   |     |         | \$48,200           |         | \$41,932.73        | \$6,267.27        |

March 20, 2008

Anchorage Park Foundation  
701 West 8<sup>th</sup> Ave., Suite 230  
Anchorage, AK 99501

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of Bowman Elementary School in Anchorage, Alaska, in support of our teachers' application for an Anchorage Park Foundation Challenge Grant.

Bowman Elementary is located next to a tract of wetlands known as Tanglewood Park. This natural, undeveloped parkland was donated in 2000 to the Municipality of Anchorage by the Great Land Trust conservation organization, which maintains a conservation easement to ensure the land will remain in its natural state. At the time of purchase six years ago, the southern portion of the wetlands contained a drainage ditch and had suffered damage from unauthorized motor vehicles. In the time since, the functions and values of the wetlands have been rehabilitated through a three-phase restoration program conducted by the local resource agencies/conservation groups and community volunteers, including some teachers from our school. The hydrology of the site is largely restored and the plants and animals associated with this wetland are now thriving.

The teachers and students of Bowman Elementary have taken a keen interest in the wetland site, and Great Land Trust has encouraged educational use of the area. A number of class projects have focused on the area (affectionately called Moose Meadow Bog by the students because of moose they've observed feeding there) and the students enjoy exploring nature here. Unfortunately, our ability to explore the area is limited by where students can negotiate wet and uneven ground. Students are asked to bring proper boots for these trips, but some invariably forget and either cannot participate or spend the rest of the day in wet shoes. Despite being very careful, some mud always seems to get tracked back into the classrooms. We would love the opportunity to expand our ability to safely explore and study the area for projects that are consistent with the school district's curriculum and to help them grow to become good stewards of the environment.

To alleviate some of these problems and to promote learning about a variety of habitat types in the wetland complex, we would like to construct a modest elevated boardwalk in the southern part of the site. This would allow the students to walk through the various habitats without damaging the vegetation or getting their feet mucky. Three larger areas would be included at strategic spots to allow students to gather for group instruction, instead of being lined up along the boardwalk. The proposed pathway was chosen to provide study in spruce-bog forest, a natural wetland area, and the southern portion of the recovering restoration area. The alignment stays away from sensitive nesting areas for geese, shorebirds, and other birds in the area. The boardwalk is consistent with the conservation easement.

We have been working with the resource agencies to design the boardwalk and pursue funding for materials. Our parent group supports our efforts and has pledged in-kind donations of labor and maintenance as needed.

Our teachers' application to the Anchorage Park Foundation Challenge Grant, in whatever amount is available, would be applied to the cost of materials for construction.

Thank you for your consideration of Bowman's outdoor classroom project.

  
Darrell Vincek, Principal  
W.L. Bowman Elementary School