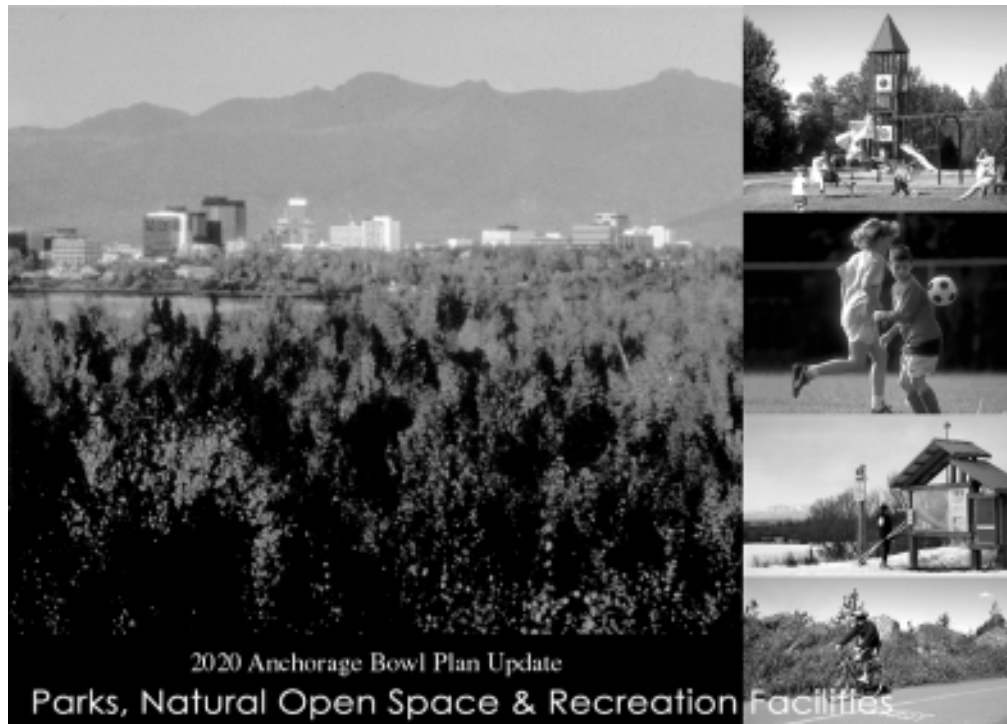


Your preferences for Parks, Open Spaces and Recreation Facilities



A Survey of Anchorage Residents



Please return your completed questionnaire and map
in the enclosed envelope to:

Environmental Science Department
Alaska Pacific University
4101 University Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

Assistance provided by:



Land Design North
441 West 5th Ave.
Anchorage, Alaska 99517



Eppley Institute For Parks and Public Lands
Indiana University
Bloomington, Indiana 47405

This survey asks questions about your preferences for parks, open spaces, and recreation facilities in Anchorage. This information will be used by the Municipality of Anchorage to revise the parks, open space and recreation facilities plan for the city. This survey is an important opportunity for you to help plan the future of parks and recreation in Anchorage.

Please complete as much of the survey as possible. If a question is not clear, simply go to the next question. We have provided a postage-paid envelope to return the survey and map.

We appreciate your participation in this study.

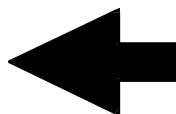
Greg Brown
Associate Professor
Alaska Pacific University

Part 1. Your use of parks, open space, and recreation facilities.

Q-1. How often do you or your family members use parks, recreation facilities, and open spaces in Anchorage? From the list of recreation facilities and activities below, please select your 5 most frequent activities/facilities and estimate the number of times you used them last year (2002)? If an activity or facility is not listed, please write it in. You may list more than 5 if you like.

Most Frequent Activities in Anchorage **Estimated Number of Times in 2002**

1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____
5. _____	_____



Select from this list:

- a. Children's playgrounds
- b. Outdoor basketball courts
- c. Outdoor volleyball courts
- d. Baseball/Little league fields
- e. Softball fields
- f. Soccer fields
- g. Football fields
- h. Indoor ice skating rinks
- i. Indoor hockey rinks
- j. Golf courses
- k. Park picnic areas
- l. Swimming pools
- m. Indoor soccer
- n. Park lodges/chalets
- o. Downhill ski area (Hilltop)
- p. X-country skiing on groomed trails
- q. Jogging/running on all trails
- r. Riding bicycle on paved trails
- s. Mountain biking on unpaved trails
- t. Riding horses on city trails
- u. Hiking/walking on city trails
- v. Trail use (non-motorized) in Chugach State Park
- w. Fishing in city lakes or streams
- x. Boating city lakes or streams
- y. Watching/observing wildlife
- z. Dog walking
- aa. Skijoring
- bb. Snowshoeing
- cc. Sledding
- dd. Skateboard park
- ee. Community school programs
- ff. Recreation centers
- gg. Outdoor public ice skating
- hh. Motorcross track
- ii. Nature centers (Campbell Creek)
- jj. Tennis courts
- kk. Other _____
- ll. Other _____

Additional Activities

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Part 2. Anchorage Park Facilities and Recreation Opportunities.

Q-2. What are the most important park facilities and recreation opportunities in Anchorage? **PART A.** From the list below, please indicate their importance to you and your household. **PART B.** How satisfied or unsatisfied are you with these facilities and recreation opportunities in Anchorage? *(Please circle one response for Part A and one response for Part B)*

	PART A How important are these to you?				PART B How satisfied are you with these facilities/opportunities/programs?						
	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important		Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Very Dissatisfied	No basis to judge			
	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	
Recreation Facilities	Children's playgrounds	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Outdoor basketball courts	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Outdoor volleyball courts	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Baseball/Little league fields	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Softball fields	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Soccer fields	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Football fields	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Indoor skating rinks	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Golf courses	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Skate board areas	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Swimming pools	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Tennis courts	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Park lodges/chalets	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Off-road vehicle areas	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Downhill ski area	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Recreation Centers (Spenard, Mt. View, Fairview)	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	6
	X-Country ski trails	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Jogging/running trails	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Paved multi-use trails	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Unpaved trails	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	6
Equestrian (horse) trails	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Nature trails	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Ski-jouring trails	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Lakes	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Streams/creeks in natural areas	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Natural undeveloped areas	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Activities	Little league baseball	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Adult softball leagues	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Youth soccer leagues	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Adult soccer leagues	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Summer youth programs	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Youth swim lessons	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Youth hockey leagues	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Adult hockey leagues	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Community school programs	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Botanical/community gardens	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	6
Other _____	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	6	

Part 3. Parks, open space, and recreation issues in Anchorage.

Q-3. In this question, we'd like to know your general opinions about different parks and open space issues in Anchorage. Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the statements below. The responses range from "Strongly Agree" to "Strongly Disagree".

(Please circle one response for each question)

Strongly Agree **Moderately Agree** **No Opinion** **Moderately Disagree** **Strongly Disagree**


EXAMPLE

	1	2	3	4	5
Outdoor recreation is important for physical fitness.	1	2	3	4	5
a. There is enough land set aside for natural open space in the Anchorage bowl.	1	2	3	4	5
b. Housing for people is more important than wildlife habitat.	1	2	3	4	5
c. The municipality manages parks and recreation facilities well.	1	2	3	4	5
d. Anchorage needs more neighborhood parks and play-grounds.	1	2	3	4	5
e. Public schools should be utilized more to meet municipal recreation needs.	1	2	3	4	5
f. Anchorage needs more trails and greenbelts to connect neighborhoods.	1	2	3	4	5
g. Anchorage needs more multi-field baseball, softball and soccer complexes.	1	2	3	4	5
i. Future roads should be built to improve transportation even if they go through parks.	1	2	3	4	5
h. Trails in the Anchorage bowl are getting too crowded.	1	2	3	4	5
i. The municipality recreation budget needs to be larger even if it means higher taxes.	1	2	3	4	5
j. Improved trail access to Chugach State Park is needed.	1	2	3	4	5
k. Improved trail access to the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge is needed.	1	2	3	4	5
l. Anchorage should develop recreation facilities such as athletic fields in current, undeveloped dedicated parkland.	1	2	3	4	5
m. There should be more public recreation facilities close to my home.	1	2	3	4	5
n. Anchorage parks and recreation facilities are well maintained.	1	2	3	4	5

Part 4. Mapping places in Anchorage.

Q-4. And now for something different! In this question, we ask you to show us on the enclosed map where you recreate in Anchorage, where you might like to see new parks (if any), what you personally value about open space in Anchorage, and your favorite special places in Anchorage. **Please follow the directions below.**

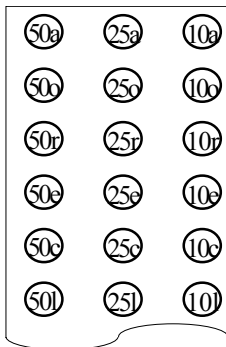
STEP ① Map Your Home/Work Place

Find the enclosed "Anchorage Map Dots" sheet. First, place the dot labeled "50s" on the location of your home. Close is good enough! Next, place the dot labeled "50w" on your primary place of work, if employed.

STEP ② Map Your Recreation Places

Find the 3 sets of recreation dots for summer, winter, and indoor recreation places. Place these dots on your favorite recreation places. These dots have "importance" ratings of 50, 25, and 10 points. The highest point dots go with your favorite recreation places.

Anchorage Map Dots



Stick them
→
on map....

Anchorage Map



STEP ③ Map Open Space Values

Besides recreation, open space provides other values. The dot sheet lists 7 other possible values for open space in Anchorage ranging from natural value to development value. Place these open space dots in the areas of Anchorage that you think have these values. There is no right or wrong dot placement! Place *as few or as many* dots as you like.

STEP ④ Map New Parks

Find the set of dots marked N1, N2, and N3 for *new parks* and the dots marked A1, A2, and A3 for *new access points*. Use these dots to mark any preferences you might have for locating new parks or recreation access points in the Anchorage Bowl.

STEP ⑤ Map Your Special Places

Find the 3 "Special Place" dots marked P1, P2, and P3. These dots represent your most favorite or "special places" in the Anchorage bowl. These places can be special for *any* reason. Place up to 3 dots on the map. *In the space provided on the map, write the reasons why these places are special to you.*

Part 5. Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facility Preferences.

Q-5. What type of parks and recreation facilities do you think are most needed in your area? (Please circle one response).

- 1 Undeveloped natural open space
- 2 Minimally developed neighborhood parks (e.g., those with picnic areas, playgrounds)
- 3 Highly developed neighborhood parks (e.g., those with athletic fields and shelters)
- 4 No additional parks or recreation facilities

Q-6. If a municipal bond issue were on the ballot to provide improved or additional park and trail facilities, would you vote for the bond if your property taxes would increase by... (Please circle the *highest* dollar amount you would *vote* to accept).

- 1 \$0 a year
- 2 \$2 a year
- 3 \$5 a year
- 4 \$15 a year
- 5 \$25 a year
- 6 \$50 a year
- 7 \$100 a year
- 8 More than \$100 --> \$_____

Q-7. Given that some property tax dollars are collected for parks and recreation purposes in Anchorage, how would you prefer to see the parks and recreation budget money spent? Please allocate 100 percent to the categories below any way you like.

EXAMPLE	
25	Add additional park lands
_____	Add additional trails
20	Add new recreation facilities
5	Add new recreation programs and services
50	Maintain existing park lands, facilities, and services
100%	Total

YOUR PREFERENCE	
_____	Add additional park lands
_____	Add additional trails
_____	Add new recreation facilities
_____	Add new recreation programs and services
_____	Maintain existing park lands, facilities and services
100%	Total

Q-8. Anchorage Parks currently provides a wide variety of services, facilities, programs, parks and open space to residents. With limited funding the department may have to limit its services. How would you prioritize the services of the Anchorage Parks & Recreation Department? Please assign a number from the list below to the services listed.

- _____ Youth recreation programs
- _____ Senior recreation programs
- _____ Adult recreation programs
- _____ Competitive sports programs
- _____ Recreational sports programs
- _____ After school sports programs
- _____ Trails in greenbelts/open spaces
- _____ Preserve natural open space
- _____ Provide sports facilities in parks
- _____ Provide smaller neighborhood focussed parks
- _____ Specialized facilities like pools, indoor ice rinks, etc.
- _____ Winter sports facilities
- _____ Turf fields and areas for recreational play/practices
- _____ Programs for "youth at risk" (youth with behavioral problems) or individuals with special needs

**Place
Numbers**

Priority Choices	
1	No priority, service should be discontinued
2	Nice to have; use partners to provide service or charge substantial user fees
3	A priority service, but carefully limit expenditures/service level
4	Must have; should be a fundamental mission of Anchorage Parks

Q-9. Presently, about 21 percent (2,350 acres) of parklands in the Anchorage bowl are developed with playgrounds, athletic fields, shelters, and other permanent facilities. In your opinion, how much **developed** parkland should the Municipality provide in the next 10 years? (Please circle one response).

- 1 Decrease amount of developed parkland per resident**
- 2 Maintain current amount of developed parkland per resident**
- 3 Increase amount of developed parkland per resident**
- 4 No opinion**

Q-10. Presently, about 79 percent (7,700 acres) of parklands in the Anchorage bowl are natural with trails, lakes, greenbelts and undeveloped open space. In your opinion, how much **undeveloped** parkland should the Municipality provide in the next 10 years? (Please circle one response).

- 1 Decrease amount of undeveloped parkland per resident**
- 2 Maintain current amount of undeveloped parkland per resident**
- 3 Increase amount of undeveloped parkland per resident**
- 4 No opinion**

Q-11 and 12. Presently, Anchorage has about 128 miles of paved and 157 miles of unpaved trails in the Anchorage bowl. In your opinion, how many new paved and unpaved trail miles should the Municipality provide in the next 10 years? (Please circle one response for each trail type).

Paved Trails

- 1 Decrease paved trail miles per resident**
- 2 Maintain current paved trail miles per resident**
- 3 Increase paved trail miles per resident**
- 4 No opinion**

Unpaved Trails

- 1 Decrease unpaved trail miles per resident**
- 2 Maintain current unpaved trail miles per resident**
- 3 Increase unpaved trail miles per resident**
- 4 No opinion**

Q-13. Anchorage has experienced continued growth in housing development over the past decade with little increase in parkland and a loss of access to existing parks. In your opinion, should private subdivision developers be required to dedicate parks and trail easements for public use? (Please circle one response).

- 1 Yes**
- 2 No**
- 3 No opinion**

Q-14. Presently, the Anchorage School District has 88 schools in the Anchorage municipality. Should the school facilities (indoor and outdoor) be available to the public for summer, evening, and weekend recreational activities when not used for school-related programs? (Please circle one response).

- 1 Only outdoor school facilities should be available to the public**
- 2 Only indoor school facilities should be available to the public**
- 3 Both indoor and outdoor school facilities should be available to the public**
- 4 No school facilities should be available to the public**
- 5 No opinion**

Q-15. Engineered or artificial athletic fields (e.g., football, baseball, soccer) cost more to build than natural grass fields but they can be used more frequently, increasing the availability of athletic fields for Anchorage recreation programs. What direction should Anchorage go with athletic fields? (Please circle one response).

- 1 No change in policy--continue with building natural grass athletic fields**
- 2 New athletic fields should be synthetic**
- 3 New athletic fields and some existing athletic fields should be converted to artificial**
- 4 No opinion**

Q-16. An important issue for Anchorage is whether to use existing undeveloped parks (natural open space) for organized recreation facilities to meet growing community demand or protect remaining natural open space by adding new parks for organized recreation. What option do you prefer? (Please circle one response).

- 1 Develop more recreation facilities and services in current undeveloped parks as needed**
- 2 Protect remaining natural parklands from further development--acquire new parklands for developing new facilities**
- 3 No opinion**

Q-17. How often have you or your family members used school facilities for recreational activities (not school-related) in the last year? (Please circle one response).

- 1 0 times last year**
- 2 1-5 times last year**
- 3 6 to 10 times last year**
- 4 11 to 15 times last year**
- 5 16+ times last year**

Q-18. How far do you travel to participate in your most frequent recreation activity (winter and summer seasons) and what is your most common way to get there? (Please circle one response for each season).

IN SUMMER		How do you get there?		IN WINTER		How do you get there?	
1 None		1 Car		1 None		1 Car	
2 Less than 1.5 miles		2 Walk		2 Less than 1.5 miles		2 Walk	
3 1.5 to 5 miles		3 Bike		3 1.5 to 5 miles		3 Bike	
4 5 to 15 miles		4 City bus		4 5 to 15 miles		4 City bus	
5 Greater than 15 miles		5 Other _____		5 Greater than 15 miles		5 Other _____	

Q-19. What is the most important reason(s) you recreate? (Please circle all responses that apply).

- 1 To be with friends**
- 2 Health benefits**
- 3 Learn new skills**
- 4 Spend time with family**
- 5 Get into nature**
- 6 Other _____**

Q-20. What is the most important reason you don't recreate more? (Please circle one response).

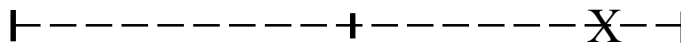
- 1 Lack of money**
- 2 Not enough time**
- 3 Lack of transportation**
- 4 No child care**
- 5 Lack of ability/skill**
- 6 Lack of interest**
- 7 Poor health**
- 8 Lack of facilities**
- 9 Lack of information about recreation opportunities**
- 10 Other _____**

Part 6. Parks, Open Space, and Recreation Facilities Trade-offs.

Q-21. Providing recreational opportunities for the general public often involves trade-offs. Below are a set of potentially conflicting choices for yourself or the Anchorage Municipality. On the lines listed below, where do your preferences lie? (*Please mark a position on each line indicating your response*).

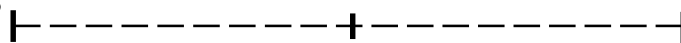
EXAMPLE

**Sports
Programs in
School**



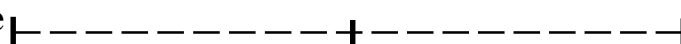
**Academic
Programs in
School**

**Undeveloped parks
and natural
areas**



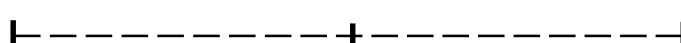
**Developed parks and
recreation facilities**

**Municipal purchase
of parkland**



**Require parkland
from new
development**

**New recreation
services paid by
property taxes**



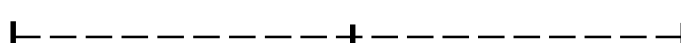
**New recreation
services paid by
user fees**

**Recreation facilities
provided by
public agencies**



**Recreation facilities
provided by
private
organizations**

**Encourage large
wildlife in
Anchorage**



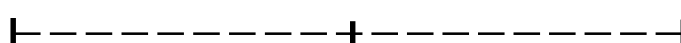
**Discourage large
wildlife in
Anchorage**

**Participate in
organized
recreation
programs**



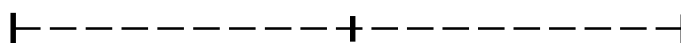
**Recreate on
your own**

**Preserve private
and public open
space through
purchase**



**Encourage private
development**

Paved trails



Unpaved trails

Part 7. Information about you. This information helps us see how survey respondents compare with the Anchorage population.

Q-22. How long have you lived in Alaska? _____ YEARS

Q-23. How long have you lived in Anchorage? _____ YEARS

Q-24. How long have you lived at your present address? _____ YEARS

Q-25. I live in a: (Please circle one response)

- 1 **Detached single family home**
- 2 **Duplex, apartment, townhouse, or condo**
- 3 **Mobile home**
- 4 **Other** _____

Q-26. Do you rent or own your home? (Please circle one response).

- 1 **Rent**
- 2 **Own**

Q-27. What is your gender? (Please circle one response).

- 1 **Male**
- 2 **Female**

Q-28. What is your race/ethnicity? (Please circle one response using these U.S. Census categories)

- 1 **White (non-Hispanic)**
- 2 **Hispanic**
- 3 **Black/African American**
- 4 **Alaska Native or Native American**
- 5 **Asian**
- 6 **Pacific Islander**
- 7 **Other** _____

Q-29. What is your highest level of formal education? (Please circle one response)

- 1 **Less than 9th grade**
- 2 **9th to 12th grade, no diploma**
- 3 **High school graduate**
- 4 **Some college, no degree**
- 5 **Associate degree**
- 6 **Bachelor's degree**
- 7 **Graduate or professional degree**

Q-30. What is your age? _____ YEARS

Q-31. What are the ages of others who live in your household? ____, ____, ____, ____, ____, ____ YEARS

Q-32. Do you and your family belong to a private athletic/health club?

- 1 **No** 
- 2 **Yes**

About how often do you go a month? _____ TIMES

Is there anything else you would like to tell us about parks and open spaces in Anchorage and what you would like to see in the new plan? We would appreciate any comments.

Would you like to receive a copy of the survey results?

YES. PLEASE SEND ME THE SURVEY RESULTS.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!