

Public Meetings

Thursday - January 8

6:00 pm

at

Spenard Rec Center

Thursday - February 12

6:00 pm

at

Anchorage School District
Education Center
(Northern Lights)

PRESERVE RUSSIAN JACK



Friends of Russian Jack Springs Park

ATTENTION NEIGHBORS

Come to a meeting and voice your opinion regarding Russian Jack Springs Park changes.

The Municipal Parks and Recreation Department has presented 4 new alternatives for the proposed changes to Russian Jack Springs Park (RJSP). As citizens of the community **we need to inform the Parks and Recreation Commission** of our choices and/or opinions of the suggested alternatives.

In 2006 Proposition 3 was passed approving the long-term lease of the golf course at RJSP to First Tee, of *dedicated municipal park land – for the purpose of upgrading and maintaining public golf facilities*. The 2006 ordinance in support of this proposition stated that there will be no public or private economic effect. Today, 2 years later, this “lease approval” has now grown into a significant land use issue and a poorly vetted redesign of Russian Jack Springs Park. There has been no public outcry to redesign RJSP.

One million dollars has been allocated from the Alaska State Legislature and Municipal Bonds that could be used for clearing up to 7.5 acres for a driving range and other improvements to the park. Future maintenance of the golf course (during the lease and upon expiration of the lease) will be funded with public dollars. First Tee’s only financial commitment to the golf course would be to construct, operate and maintain the driving range.

Public testimony before the Parks and Recreation Commission is crucial to express our views and our opposition to Alternatives 3 and or 4. We oppose Alternatives 3 and 4 and support either Alternatives 1 or 2 (including required safety improvements to the sledding hill). Alternative 2 reflects what was presented to the voters in Proposition 3 “upgrading and maintaining public golf facilities.”





The First Tee in partnership with MOA Parks and Recreation has appeared before the Parks and Recreation Commission at least four times. Since First Tee last presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission there are five new commission members who need to be educated on the public’s opposition to changes in RJSP.

Northeast Anchorage is the most densely populated area of Anchorage. RJSP is unique in its proximity to the City Center. It encompasses at least five community council districts and it is a park that the residents of this area want to preserve and maintain for future generations. The Anchorage 2020 Comprehensive Plan designates all of the wooded area of RJSP as preservation area. Northeast Anchorage’s current undisturbed natural spaces are and will continue to be eliminated. Additions such as the new east Anchorage box stores, the APU hotel, the UAA/APU sports complex, and the proposed Bragaw extension will significantly reduce and dilute the current undisturbed natural spaces in Northeast Anchorage. As these additions occur RJSP will remain the last uninterrupted open green space in Northeast Anchorage.

There will be only two more meetings where you can testify before the Parks and Recreation Commission. In addition to oral comments before the Commission; the Commission also solicits written comments.

Thank you for taking an interest in the future of Russian Jack Springs Park, knowing that the time and effort we put in today will leave a permanent footprint behind for generations that follow us long after we are gone.

To show your support to preserve Russian Jack Springs Park, please take a few moments to join the "Friends of Russian Jack Springs Park" email list. **Simply send a blank email to friendsofrjsp-subscribe@googlegroups.com.**

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| <p>Alternative #1, 0 acres cleared</p>  | <p>Change No Action</p> | <p>Email your comments to cramerdl@muni.org and dunkerbe@muni.org</p> <p>Please make it clear that your comments should also go to the Parks Commission Members. Comments will be accepted until January 15, 2009.</p> <p>Testify before the Parks and Rec Commission</p> <p>January 8, 2009 (Thursday) at 6:00pm Spenard Rec Center at 2020 W.48th Ave. (Boys and Girls Club).</p> |
| <p>Alternative #2, 0 acres cleared</p>  | <p>Upgrade Existing Tee, Boxes and Greens Shorten Hole Number #5 Move Tee Box, Shorten Hole #4 Shorten Hole #3 Picnic Shelter and Playground</p> | <p>Testify before the Parks and Rec Commission</p> <p>February 12, 2009 (Thursday) at 6:00pm Anchorage School District Education Center at 5530 E. Northern Lights Blvd. (at Boniface). Attending this meeting will have the greatest impact.</p> |
| <p>Alternative #3, 1.6 acres cleared</p>  | <p>Course Re-Route in Existing Footprint Install Pitch & Putt Practice Area New Tee Boxes & Greens Pitch and Putt Practice Area Snowboard Area Picnic Shelter and Playground Improved Parking Sledding Hill Clearing Existing Trail (Typical)</p> | <p>The Parks and Recreation Commissioner will take public testimony at both meetings and then at the February 12, 2009 meeting will recommend a plan to the Urban Design Commission for review and approval.</p> |
| <p>Alternative #4, 7.5 acres cleared</p>  | <p>Course Re-Route in Existing Footprint Install Driving Range Install Pitch & Putt Practice Area with Learning Center New Tee Boxes & Greens 225 Yard Golf Range OR 100 Yard "Limited Flight Golf Ball" Range Pitch & Putt with Learning Center Snowboard Area Picnic Shelter & Playground Improved Parking Sledding Hill Clearing</p> | <p>The proposed driving range in Alternative 4 would be developed in mature Birch forest, the poles would be 60 to 65 feet tall and covered, top and sides, in netting. There is much concern as to what this will do to the birds and wildlife that frequent this area, as well as the industrial look of a driving range. Many people like the serene, quiet beauty of this area of the park and are against these changes. ☺</p> |