

Project Playground  
Dawn Welch  
8537 Steep Place  
Juneau AK 99801  
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Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee:

I am writing this letter to accompany a packet of informative materials about a proposed community-built playground which I will be presenting to you at the PRAC meeting in November. At that meeting, I will ask for your suggestions, concerns and hopefully approval to move forward with this project at Twin Lakes. The purpose of the proposed playground is to create a destination facility that provides a large accessible playground with climbing structures, slides, swings, and other exciting play facilities that could be used year round. This type of large play areas are popular in communities across the country and we feel it is time to have one here in Juneau.

James King and I have discussed three possible locations with Kim Kiefer and Bob Grochow that would benefit from a new, accessible playground. Sandy Beach was considered because of its need to be made more accessible and current plans to upgrade the playground in the near future. We concluded that there was too much going on with current plans and funding for that area and was, therefore, not ideal for a community-built effort. Dimond Park was also considered. Although a large, new playground at little expense to the city would compliment the new facility at Dimond Park, we felt that it would not be an easy location to coordinate efforts at the moment.

Twin Lakes became our top choice for many reasons. First, the current park, although it provides opportunity for many wonderful activities, fails to provide active play facilities for younger children outside of the grassy area and four swings. The proposed community-built playground will provide a play area appropriate for children ages 5 and up as well as a toddler area for children under 5. Second, Twin Lakes is a central location serving families throughout the community. Finally, existing facilities such as the picnic shelter, bathrooms, open space and parking all add to the appeal of this location.

The community-built playground will be created under the direction of Leather's and Associates coordinated locally by James King and myself. It will be built through donations and by hundreds of volunteers in a 5-day barn-raising type event to create a wonderful, unique, accessible playground for the children in our community. Leather's and Associates has been building community-built playgrounds for 30 years. In Alaska, there is one in Haines and Wasilla and one currently being planned in the Anchorage area. If you need more information on Leather's and Associates you may search their website at [leathersassociates.com](http://leathersassociates.com).

I have enclosed a number of pictures of various projects completed by Leather's and Associates. Each project is unique and ours will be, too. A designer will come to Juneau and discuss the needs of our community as well as get design ideas from the children. Before the end of the day the designer will have a rough draft of what our playground will look like and what we will need to create it. Our goal is to raise enough money and get enough community support and involvement to have the playground completed during the summer of 2006.

I ask for your support for this project with your approval at the November PRAC meeting to proceed at the Twin Lakes location. I have included an aerial photo of the park and the proposed area we would like to use for the new playground. I would also like approval to move and/or replace the current swings if needed to use the space more effectively, as decided by the designer. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dawn Welch".

Dawn Welch