

**PRAC Director's Report**  
**Marc Matsil, Director**  
**March 23, 2011**

**Information Items:**

**A. Potential Playground Sites at Brigadoon Estates and Bonnie Brae Subdivision:** In support of the PRAC and Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan goals to increase neighborhood pocket parks, the Lands Office led by the very capable Land Manager Heather Marlow will present opportunities for playground development in the Brigadoon Subdivision, off of Skaters Cabin Road. When the subdivision was originally developed several parcels of land were set aside for future open space and playground use. More recently a significant land donation was offered to CBJ, which may come to pass at a later date. Ms. Marlow will identify parcels that are available for potential development of a pocket park and introduce the possibility of an additional parcel in this vicinity.

In North Douglas, the Bonnie Brae subdivision, which has a popular pocket park, also has a significant land area identified for open space use. Given the success of the existing park, planning for more recreational opportunities adjacent to this neighborhood offers potential opportunities. Additional improved access points from Bonnie Brae to the Treadwell Ditch Trail is another priority.

**B. Marine Park, Under-the-Bridge Park (UBP) and Seawalk Connector Updates:** PRAC and Parks & Recreation staff have commented extensively on priorities for Marine Park, UBP and seawalk connections. At a recent staff meeting we made recommendations to commence development and park upgrades to UBP and establish a lawn, potential fenced dog park under the bridge, a frisbee golf hole and others following the removal of the old public works structure. Skye Stekoll will provide a seawalk update, Marine Park design status and UBP development update.

**C. Proposal to Create William Henry Seward Statue:** John Venables will propose tonight a life-sized red cedar carved statue of William Henry Seward by local Native Alaskan carver Leroy Hughes. The statue would be funded by a potential JAHC grant. Potential sites could be the presently unnamed DTC Park.

**D. Juneau Roller Girls (JRG) Update:** JRG's *Jeanne Claude (Crochet) Van Hot Damn* will provide an update, demonstration and video of JRG's progress as a league and entry as Juneau's first professional sports team. *Jeanne Hot Damn* has been working with Marc *Mad Dog* Matsil to hold JRG events in the spring and summer at the Treadwell Ice Arena (post ice season).

**E & F. Upcoming PRAC Retreat, 2010 Goals and PRAC Annual Report:** It's been quite a year for PRAC—taking public comment, commencing and/or completing a number of projects including 2010 PRAC Goals for upgrades to the Treadwell Ditch Trail (footbridges over Lawson Creek and others were completed); Seawalk connectivity Planning phase commenced; ATV site was identified and wetlands investigation, permits and planning will commence this spring and summer at Mile 36; Multi-agency planning for diverse projects including P&R/DOT bike paths, Auke Wayside—State DOT STIP funding has been authorized for these projects; Treadwell Ditch Trail/USFS collaborations commenced—funded by CBJ and grants—upgrades and planning will continue this spring---and the Dimond Park Aquatic Center opens soon! It was another great grant year and many projects were completed.

Dear PRAC Faithful,

The Parks & Recreation Department has had great growth over the past five years, due in large part to your vital input. I am privileged to have worked with an extraordinary PRAC body and superb Parks & Recreation team.

As you know, I have been apart from my family since December. My wife accepted a five month consulting job in New York City that will likely be extended. Our parents are aging, and our desire to spend more time with them is evident by the frequency of trips that we make back east to visit.

It is with great emotion that our family will depart Juneau.

I am extremely proud of my achievements at CBJ and am grateful for your support and input. This includes the soon-to-be-opened Dimond Park Aquatic Center—a long-term PRAC priority. Critical grant funds were secured through the Rasmuson Foundation and Alaska Energy Authority to fund the lazy river and sustainable ground source heat pump components. A new Arboretum opened—and programming and visitation have increased—adding a new gem to the Parks & Recreation portfolio. The Zach Gordon Youth Center received a facelift and augmented programming. Critical funds and support were provided by the Rasmuson Foundation and Zach Gordon Teen Club to execute the improvements (including a covered basketball court and performance stage).

Our trail system has grown and some long-standing restoration improvements were addressed. These improvements were achieved largely through grants and collaborative funding with UAS, TrailMix, State Parks, Land & Water Conservation Fund, Rasmuson Foundation, US Forest Service, and others. New and improved trails include the Auke Lake Trail, Perseverance Trail, Gastineau Meadows Trail, Fish Creek Bridge/Trail, Under Thunder Trail, Treadwell Ditch Trail improvements, Amalga Meadows Trail and others. A new interpretive signs and trail brochure program will be completed and installed this spring.

Project Playground opened with great fanfare resulting from a remarkable collaboration with the community—funded largely by grants and community input and support. This is one of my great life memories.

We worked together to implement several new plans including oversight and Assembly adoption of the Juneau Non-Motorized Transportation Plan; a revision of Chapter 8 of the Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan (including greater protection of anadromous streams); Master Plan for Savikko Park/Treadwell Mine Historical Trail; and Master Plan for Auke Wayside.

I am grateful for our magnificent PRAC and Parks & Recreation team and the support of the Juneau community. We have made many life-long friends.

It has been a privilege to serve. Thank you for your great vision and support.

Sincerely,

Marc

Marc Matsil  
Director  
Parks & Recreation  
City & Borough of Juneau