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MEDIA ADVISORY
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Celebrate Art, History and Culture at Indigenous Peoples Day Ceremony
Potter Marsh is “Hkatidali” to Anchorage’s First People

Anchorage, AK – The third of 32 Dena’ina place name signs in Anchorage parks and trails will be celebrated at Potter Marsh on Monday in a ceremony featuring Dena’ina dancers Ida’ina K’eljeshna. Speakers include Aaron Leggett, Native Village of Eklutna President/Anchorage Museum Senior Curator of Alaska History & Indigenous Cultures, Mayor Dave Bronson, Assembly Chair Suzanne LaFrance, Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang and Anchorage Park Foundation Executive Director Beth Nordlund.

Potter Marsh was created in 1917 when the construction of the Alaska Railroad impounded Rabbit Creek (Ggeh Betnu, “Rabbit Creek”) and other streams. Before this, the area was a tidal estuary, as reflected in the Dena’ina name, Hkaditali, “drift lumber.” This name refers to the debris that accumulated along the tidal flats (tiq’a) and was used for construction, firewood, and fish processing.

The Hkaditali sign features artwork by Athabascan & Paiute artist Melissa Shaginoff. Her metal sculpture encircling the post is inspired by the dentalium bead pattern and the Dena’ina fire bag. Fire bags were used by the Dena’ina to store and transport fire-making materials like tinder and embers; the bag represents living with the land. Learn more about the Indigenous Place Names Project [here](#).

The State of Alaska and Anchorage Assembly have officially designated the second Monday in October as Indigenous Peoples Day, using this day to celebrate the contributions of our nation’s First People. Financial and staff support for this sign was provided by Atwood Foundation, CIRI, The CIRI Foundation, Anchorage Museum and Anchorage Park Foundation.

What: **Indigenous Peoples Day Hkatidali Ceremony**
When: **Monday, October 10, 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm**
Where: **Potter Marsh, Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge, 2880 East 154th Avenue**

Limited seating will be available for Elders and people with special needs. Pop-up tents provided for shelter rain or shine. Dress appropriately for the weather. Hot beverages provided by Kaladi Brothers. Bring your binoculars – Fall is a good time for migratory birds in the wildlife refuge.

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The Anchorage Park Foundation mobilizes public support and financial resources for Anchorage parks, trails, and recreation opportunities.