

**Turnagain Community Council Ranking Recommendations
for the Municipality of Anchorage's
2012 Capital Projects Needs List —
ANCHORAGE PARKS & RECREATION
To be considered at TCC meeting June 2, 2011**

1. **Lyn Ary Park Property Acquisition (ADDITION TO LIST)** — Funding for acquisition of privately owned property at the northern end of Lyn Ary Park at the north end of ball field and where a portion of the Coastal Trail is located (parcel #9999999999). Parcel is currently owned by the Marston Foundation. This acquisition is identified in the Lyn Ary Park Master Plan, which was approved in 2010.
2. **Coastal Trail Buffer/Greenbelt Acquisition (ADDITION TO LIST)** — Funding for acquisition of undeveloped land and conservation easements on non-municipal properties west of Lyn Ary Park to Earthquake Park for protected Coastal Trail greenbelt designation. Because the city has constructed road access to this land, it is a high priority that the city identify and acquire any available land before it is cleared and developed for housing.
3. **Tony Knowles Coastal Trail Rehabilitation (ADDITION TO LIST)** — Rehabilitate, through bio-engineering improvements, to address erosion/drainage and deterioration along the trail.
4. **Lyn Ary Park (ADDITION TO LIST)** — Leverage 2006 and 2008 State Legislative Grants. Projects that are contained in the Lyn Ary Park Master Plan include: safety upgrades to trails, parking, site furniture (benches, litter bins, picnic tables), playground equipment and installation of dog refuse stations. Additional improvements called for in the Plan include: interpretation signage and park gateways, pathway upgrades, additional playground equipment, and bleacher and bench improvements.
5. **Earthquake Park (ADDITION TO LIST)** — Install low-level parking lot lighting and security cameras. Upgrade landscaping.
6. **Tony Knowles Coastal Trail to Fish Creek Trail Connection (ADDITION TO LIST)** — TCC supports this project, but emphasizes that any design should be sensitive to property owner impacts as well as impacts to creek and adjacent riparian habitat.
7. **Margaret Sullivan Park (Westchester Lagoon) (ADDITION TO LIST)** — Projects include a children's play area, safety upgrades to the Trail Watch Headquarters, trail safety improvements, parking, lighting and winter access improvements. TCC supports these projects, but desires no/minimal vegetation removal to ensure the aesthetic/habitat quality of the park are preserved.
8. **Pt. Woronzof Park (ADDITION TO LIST)** — Park signage along the Coastal Trail and Pt. Woronzof Road identifying park boundaries, so the public knows it is parkland, not airport land. If this can be done through other means than the CIP process, please inform TCC how this can be accomplished.
9. **Lloyd Steel/Balto Seppala Parks (ADDITION TO LIST)** — Design and construction of a multi-use trail that would surround and connect both parks using the board walk that was constructed in 2010, as per the TCC-approved conceptual Master Plan for the parks.

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2012 Capital Projects Needs List —
PROJECT MANAGEMENT & ENGINEERING
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TCC is not ranking the following project that we understand has been funded, but we continue to support its completion as previously ranked in 2009: Borland St./Turnagain Blvd. Area Flooding and Glaciation — TCC supports the use of legislative and other funding to identify and construct drainage improvements Any design should be sensitive to property owner impacts.

The following are our rankings for 2012:

1. **W. Northern Lights Blvd. Drainage Improvements under the Alaska Railroad Overpass** — There has been a long-term drainage problem during spring break up and at times of heavy rain under the railroad overpass on W. Northern Lights Blvd. This problem poses a safety hazard when vehicles spray water that obstructs adjacent passing vehicles' views. TCC requests funding to evaluate the problem, identify solution(s) and implement project.
2. **Turnagain St. Upgrade – W. Northern Lights Blvd. to 35th Ave.** — TCC supports construction funding to upgrade, using Context Sensitive Design. Project should include curbs, drainage, pedestrian facilities on at least one side of road, and landscaping. Any design should be sensitive to property owner impacts.
3. **35th Avenue and McRae St. Upgrade – Wisconsin St. to Spenard Rd.** — TCC supports the project contingent upon final agreements in site design, traffic calming features, landscaping, and property acquisition between the Municipality and the 35th & McRae Neighbors for a Safe Community group.
4. **Turnagain Blvd . Upgrade – 35th Avenue to Spenard Rd.** — TCC supports construction funding once design recommendations using using Context Sensitive Design are complete. Curbs, drainage, pedestrian facilities on east side of road to connect with trail through Fish Creek Park; if room, sidewalk on west side. Any design should be sensitive to property owner impacts.
5. **Turnagain Area Traffic Calming and Safety Improvements (ADDITION TO LIST)** — TCC supports continued implementation of projects identified in the Traffic Calming Study completed in 2006 and any specific designs TCC has approved working with PM&E and consultants.
6. **West Northern Lights Blvd. Pedestrian Connection – Lois Dr. west to Captain Cook Estates Cir.** — TCC supports this project in the form of a walkway, as recommended in the Anchorage Pedestrian Plan. Because of the constraints of the area, TCC continues to work with PM&E staff on design and landscaping plans.
7. **West High and Romig Middle Schools Access and Circulation** — Design and construct access and circulation improvements.
8. **Fish Creek Improvements – Cook Inlet to Lake Otis** — TCC supports water quality and drainage capacity improvement projects for the entire stretch of Fish Creek, including

daylighting the creek wherever possible. Site specific projects should be included in next year's MOA CIP list.

9. Milky Way Drive Surface Rehab – Aero Ave. to Wisconsin St. — Rehabilitate existing pavement and repair deteriorating curbs.

10. Turnagain Parkway Surface Rehabilitation – Illiamna Ave. to Northern Lights Blvd. — The existing road condition is fine; this is a low priority for TCC.

TCC is not ranking the following projects:

Lakeshore Dr. Extension/Upgrade – Aero Ave. to Wisconsin — Aero Ave. currently does not extend down to Lakeshore Dr. and the Corps of Engineers denied a wetland permit to extend this road, so TCC feels this project is questionable. Also, the western portion of Lakeshore Dr. has been a parcel identified during the West Anchorage District Plan public process as a potential land acquisition by Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport. TCC requests more information on this proposal and also how this CIP project would integrate with that potential airport acquisition.

Westchester Lagoon/Chester Creek Flooding — we need more information on this proposal, as it was our understanding that the Fish Passage Improvement Project completed in 2009 was going to address flooding issues.

TCC Again Requests that the following ROAD Project be DELETED from the TCC CIP List :

Northern Lights Boulevard Upgrade Phase IV – Postmark Drive to Nathaniel Court

TCC has consistently requested the deletion of this project from the CIP list and we will continue to oppose any design upgrades to this section of W. Northern Lights. Specifically, we oppose: 1) pedestrian amenities along the road, as the public is well served by the existing Earthquake Park Trail and Coastal Trail; 2) widening of existing lanes or shoulders or lane additions; 3) clearing of existing vegetation or filling of wetlands; and 4) upgrades to accommodate airport-generated traffic from Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport North Airpark and West Airpark onto WNL, which negatively impacts the Turnagain residential neighborhood.

**Turnagain Community Council Ranking Recommendations
for the Municipality of Anchorage's
2012 Capital Projects Needs List —
STATE OF ALASKA
To be considered at TCC June 2, 2011**

1. **W. Northern Lights Blvd. Rut Repair — Minnesota Dr. to Wisconsin St.** — Overlay or resurface the existing roadway.

TCC Requests that the following ROAD Project be DELETED from the TCC CIP List:

Minnesota Dr. Northbound Expansion – 16th Ave. to 26th Ave. — TCC continues to oppose this project and submitted comments September 26, 2005, during the Long-Range Transportation Plan comment period. Following is a summary of those comments: Even though this proposed road project is not located within Turnagain Community Council boundaries, Turnagain residents use this road as their major thoroughfare to downtown from our neighborhood — impacts associated with this proposal would far outweigh any benefit.

There is no demonstrated need for this additional lane; traffic flows relatively smoothly along this stretch of Minnesota, even during rush hour, except when road conditions during bad weather deteriorate, then it slows down. It seems that's a good thing; bad road conditions should warrant a slow down, especially in that curved area at Westchester Lagoon.

There is no readily available land to add a third lane from 26th Ave. to 16th Ave., so drastic, costly, and parkland-degrading measures would need to be taken to accommodate any widening of the road — let alone the addition of a sidewalk and pathway, as would likely be included in the project description.

This proposal runs contrary to goals in the Long-Range Transportation Plan: "Develop an attractive and efficient transportation network that takes into account the cost of building, operating, and maintaining a system that considers the equity of all users, and the secondary costs associated with all other community values." And, "Balance the project purpose with landscaping and other aesthetic considerations." There's already important buffering between a busy road and residential areas that would have to be removed to make room for another lane along this stretch of Minnesota Dr., and removal of naturally vegetated parkland and filling of a portion of the lagoon would certainly degrade the aesthetics of the area.