



To: Valdez City Council

From: Ken Wilson, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services

Re: Executive Report

Dear Council Members,

I am pleased to present Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department's 2024 mid-year report. This report highlights the significant achievements, initiatives, and developments that have taken place so far this year in our efforts to enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors through our parks, recreational programs, and cultural offerings. The focus in the coming year will be geared toward implementing and improving the overall requirements set forth by the Americans with Disability Act.

Throughout this year, our team has remained committed to creating and maintaining accessible, sustainable, and vibrant spaces that promote health, well-being, and community engagement. We have focused on preserving natural resources, improving recreational facilities, expanding programming to meet the needs of all age groups, and celebrating the rich cultural diversity within our community.

Key takeaways outlined in this report include:

- Recreation – Expanded services through PRCS by leading four major community events and remain committed to enhancing and developing new programs. The City Manager did not approve the request for a new position; however, the division will work to ensure adequate coverage in all areas. Additionally, the Recreation Division will focus on ADA requirements and ensuring all programs offer equity and accessibility for participants.
- Convention & Civic Center – Continue to provide meeting spaces and movie screenings while exploring new advertising strategies to attract additional events. Upcoming improvements include green room and dressing room renovations. Future needs of the Civic Center include an overhaul of its technology, updating systems, and enhancing the overall sound system, along with improvements to the network infrastructure.
- Consortium Library – We added adult programming and are continually exploring new, innovative ways to engage our community through reading initiatives. A lift is needed for the library's second floor to provide access for individuals with mobility challenges, allowing them to explore the second-floor collection and supporting the City of Valdez' ADA Transition Plan.

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- **Park Maintenance** – We are currently participating in the construction of the Meals Hill Project. Continue to remain committed to discovering new ways to engage the community with our parks and trails. Our primary focus is maintaining parks and trails to ensure everyone can enjoy our outdoor spaces to the fullest. Several key initiatives are essential for maintaining a vibrant park system, including the implementation of the Capital Playground Replacement Program. This program will help meet current trends while ensuring compliance with ADA standards

We look forward to building on these successes, with an eye toward further enhancing our parks, expanding programming, and continuing to foster a sense of community through our cultural initiatives.

Thank you for your continued support of our efforts to make Valdez a vibrant, healthy, and inclusive community. Should you have any questions regarding the enclosed report please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you,

Ken Wilson, CPM,CPRP | Director of Parks Recreation and Cultural Services

Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services | City of Valdez

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