RJSP Features

- Nine Hole Golf Course
- Dog Park
- Sledding Hill
- Lighted Cross Country Trail
- Two Soccer Fields
- Eight Softball Diamonds
- Public Municipal Greenhouse
- Playground Equipment
- Covered Shelter
- Four Tennis Courts
- Ski Chalet

Lidia Selkregg Ski Chalet
1600 Lidia Selkregg Lane
Anchorage, AK 99504
907-343-4355

Information

ANCHORAGE PARKS & RECREATION
907-343-4355
muni.org/Departments/parks

COOK INLET HISTORICAL SOCIETY
cookinlethistory.org
facebook.com/CookInletHistory
alaskahistory.org

This brochure is one in a series from the Cook Inlet Historical Society honoring and preserving our local history.

For more early Anchorage history, see the Anchorage Legends and Legacies series at alaskahistory.org.

RUSSIAN JACK

AN ANCHORAGE COMMUNITY HISTORY

Cook Inlet Historical Society Community History Series #1
The Russian Jack community began as the slightly older Mountain View neighborhood began expanding south in response to booming housing demand in the late 1940s and early 1950s. To this day many residents refer to the community as South Mountain View. Anchorage annexed most of the neighborhood, excluding the northeast and southeast corners, in 1954. With the 1975 merger of the Anchorage city and borough, the entirety of modern Russian Jack was finally combined under one local authority.

**Russian Jack**

Many streets in Russian Jack are named after early residents:
- Bliss St--contractor Harry Bliss
- Klevin St--Norwegian born homesteader Nels Kleven (street was misspelled)
- Bragaw St--photographer and legislator Robert Bragaw
- Hoyt St--car dealer Harry Hoyt
- Lane St--hotelier Harry Lane
- Boniface Pkwy--developer and WWII veteran Paul Boniface (rhymes with face not fuss)

In early Anchorage, today's Russian Jack Springs Park (RJSP) was the separate homesteads of Peter Toloff and Nicholas Darlopausus. They failed to improve the land, and it was seized by the U.S. military in 1943. The land was sold as surplus to the city of Anchorage in 1948 for $16,000.

Development into the modern greenspace began in the early 1960s. Previously, the land had been used for a prison farm and a Girl Scout day camp. The land was officially annexed within city borders in 1958.