

John Boyle
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Department of
Natural Resources

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STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

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Fairbanks Baseball Field Listed in National Register of Historic Places

(Fairbanks, AK) – Growden Memorial Ballpark has just been recognized for its local, statewide and national significance to America's Pastime of baseball. The 3,500-seat stadium was listed by the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places on June 16, 2025.

"Growden Memorial Ballpark is a remarkable place where The American Pastime meets The Last Frontier," **said Alaska State Historian Dr. Katherine Ringsmuth.** "Now the storied Fairbanks stadium will be eligible for Historic Preservation Fund grants, tax credits and other funding to restore the field to its 1960s-era minor league glory and modernize its facilities for today's fanbase."

"Growden Memorial Field has hosted more than 300 future Major League Baseball players like Aaron Judge, Tom Seaver, Dave Winfield, Alvin Davis, Harold Reynolds, Luis Gonzalez, Jason Giambi, Aaron Boone, Bret Boone, Mark McGwire and even Hall of Fame pitcher Randy Johnson," **said longtime Alaska Goldpanners of Fairbanks general manager John Lohrke.** "For more than 60 years, these summer collegiate baseball players and dedicated Alaskan fans have enjoyed our hometown stadium and being a living part of America's baseball history."

An announcement of the historic designation was made to the cheers to a sold-out crowd at the 120th anniversary of the famed Midnight Sun Game on June 20, 2025. The summer solstice matchup between the Goldpanners and Anchorage Glacier Pilots ended just before 1:00am with the visiting Glacier Pilots pulling off the 7-2 victory.

Built between 1961 and 1962, [Growden Memorial Field](#) is one of the state's most historically significant sports venues. Named for a family lost during the Great Alaska Earthquake in 1964, it has been home to the Alaska Goldpanners (one of the winningest teams in semi-pro/Summer Collegiate baseball history) and the Midnight Sun game as the epicenter of Alaska baseball for 65 years. The park also features picnic sites, volleyball nets, open areas and a playground.

The State Historic Preservation Office within DNR's Office of History & Archaeology prepared the successful nomination package with the Alaska Goldpanners. Early this year, the Fairbanks North Star Borough Joint Commission on Historic Preservation agreed with the nomination before the Alaska Historical Commission approved Growden Memorial Ballpark's state historical significance at its meeting on April 3, 2025.

“The amazing story of this ballpark and the people associated with it has earned this important recognition on the local, state and national level,” **said State Architectural Historian Amy Hellmich.** “Listing on the National Register of Historic Places documents and promotes this Alaskan story by making the information available within a searchable database.”

America250-Alaska

The effort to list Growden Memorial Ballpark on the National Register of Historic Places served as an early milestone in Alaska’s participation in the national America250 initiative. Also announced in Fairbanks late last week was the [America250-Alaska partnership](#) to commemorate the United States’ 250th birthday next year. Alaska’s marquee event, a “Week of Dreams,” will use the state’s unique baseball history to engage Alaskans in celebrating the U.S. Semiquincentennial leading up to the 250-year anniversary of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 2026. Learn more: [america250.alaska.gov](#)

The Department of Natural Resources' mission is to develop, conserve, and maximize the use of Alaska's natural resources consistent with the public interest.

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The Growden Memorial Field turf features the distinctive Alaska Goldpanners 49 star logo. Photo credit: Katherine Ringsmuth