



# Parks and Recreation Committee Agenda

Tuesday, April 14, 2026, 12:00 PM  
Harrigan Centennial Hall, 330 Harbor Drive

Members: Chair Candace Rutledge, Vice Chair Steve Black,  
Brandon Marx, Katherine Prussian, Manoj Battar, Ben Hughey  
Assembly Liaison: Kevin Mosher

- I. CALL TO ORDER**
- II. ROLL CALL**
- III. AGENDA CHANGES**
- IV. PERSONS TO BE HEARD** *(For items OFF the agenda – not to exceed 3 minutes)*
- V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
  - A. March 10, 2026
- VI. REPORTS**

Chair:  
Members:  
City Staff:  
Assembly Liaison:  
Other(s):
- VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
- VIII. NEW BUSINESS**
  - B. Approval of Commercial Recreation Land Use Permits – requests not in 2026 Land Use Plan
    - a. Whaler’s Cove Lodge – Baranof Warm Springs
  - C. Discussion on Tobacco and Smoke Free Parks
- IX. PERSONS TO BE HEARD** *(For items ON or OFF the agenda – not to exceed 3 minutes)*
- X. ADJOURNMENT**



# Parks and Recreation Committee Agenda

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Harrigan Centennial Hall, 330 Harbor Drive

Members: Chair - Candace Rutledge, Vice Chair – Steve Black, Ben Hughey  
Brandon Marx, Katherine Prussian, Manoj Battar  
Assembly Liaison: Kevin Mosher

## I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Rutledge called the meeting to order at approximately 12:00 p.m.

## II. ROLL CALL

Present: Ben Hughey (zoom), Brandon Marx, Candace Rutledge, and Manoj Battar (zoom)

Absent: Katherine Prussian (excused), Steve Black

Assembly Liaison:

Staff Present: Deputy Municipal Clerk Holley Bayne, Parks and Recreation Coordinator Kevin Knox

Others: None.

## III. AGENDA CHANGES

None.

## IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. February 10, 2026

**Marx moved to approve the February 10, 2026, meeting minutes. Motion passed 4-0.**

## V. REPORTS

Chair: None.

Members: Battar informed members he would need to leave a little early.

City Staff: Knox summarized current and upcoming Parks and Recreation programs and training opportunities.

Assembly Liaison: None.

Other(s): Sitka Trail Works - Hughey noted that Sitka Trail Works was preparing for the season and has completed hiring positions.

## VI. PERSONS TO BE HEARD *(For items OFF the agenda - not to exceed 3 minutes)*

None.

## VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

B. Approval of Commercial Recreation Land Use Permits – requests not in 2026 Land Use Plan

a. Annahootz Alaskan Adventures – Blue & Green Lake roads and lakes, Sitka Sound Islands

**Hughey moved to recommend approval of the commercial recreational land use permit as requested by Annahootz Alaskan Adventures, and hereby make the required determinations regarding this use as listed in SGC 14.10.030(B)(1-3). Motion passed 4-0 by a roll call vote.**

b. Sitka Rainforest Adventures, LLC – trails, Blue & Green Lake roads, Seawalk & CBD sidewalks

**Hughey moved to recommend approval of the commercial recreational land use permit as requested by Sitka Rainforest Adventures, LLC, and hereby make the required determinations regarding this use as listed in SGC 14.10.030(B)(1-3). Motion passed 4-0 by a roll call vote.**

C. Discussion/Direction of Parks and Recreation Master Plan RFQ

Knox provided an introduction. Sitka Recreation Foundation representatives Barbara Morse and Andrew Friske provided historical background, summarized the scope of work, and encouraged committee member engagement in the process. A community-wide prioritization process was emphasized to first identify projects and priorities and then seek partners and funding.

**IX. PERSONS TO BE HEARD** *(For items ON or OFF the agenda – not to exceed 3 minutes)*

None.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

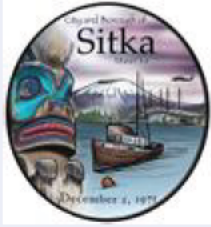
The next meeting would be April 14, at noon in Harrigan Centennial Hall. Hearing no objection, Chair Rutledge called the meeting to adjournment at 12:36 PM.

Attest:  
Holley Bayne, Deputy Municipal Clerk

## **ITEM B**

Approval of Commercial Recreation Land Use Permits  
– requests not in 2026 Land Use Plan

a. Whaler's Cove Lodge – Baranof Warm Springs



# Commercial Recreational Land Use Permit Application

As required by Sitka General Code 14.10 No person may conduct commercial recreational activities on city and borough of Sitka lands subject to this title except as authorized by a permit issued by the municipal staff as designated by the administrator.

## APPLICANT INFORMATION

**Business Name** Whaler's Cove Lodge

**Primary Contact** David Dayton

**Address** [REDACTED]

**Phone Number** [REDACTED]

**Email** [REDACTED]

## DETAILS OF TOUR OR GUIDED ACTIVITY

**Season Start Date** Monday, June 15, 2026

**Season End Date** Tuesday, September 15, 2026

**Commercial Allocations:** For each area, the commercial carrying capacity is indicated in the far left column next to the area name, denoted as (maximum client group size/maximum groups per week). For each area at which you would like to request commercial recreational use, check the "Area of use" box. Additionally, provide your maximum proposed group size (clients only, not including guides) for each area; may not exceed commercial carrying capacity maximum group size. For groups per week, provide your estimated number of groups per week based on a season average that will use each area. Enter an estimated total client number using each area in the far right column.

	Area of use	Group Size	Groups per week	Total Clients
Cross Trail North (12/26)				
Cross Trail South (8/23)				
Gavan Hill Access (7/19)				
Indian River (7/23)				
Thimbleberry/Heart Lake (14/24)				

	Area of use	Group Size	Groups per week	Total Clients
Herring Cove/Beaver Lake (7/18)				
Herring Cove Beach (6/24)				
Blue Lake Road (12/26)				
Blue Lake (6/20)				
Green Lake Road (8/26)				
Green Lake (6/20)				
Swan Lake (6/16)				
Eagle Beach ("Back Beach") (6/18)				
Sitka Sound Islands (6/18)				
Baranof Warm Springs (6/18)	✓	6	.2	80
Goddard Hot Springs (6/14)				
Other (please list area below)				

**Details of tour or guided activity: Fully describe tour or activity in each area, including guided activity, outfitting resources provided, typical areas of use, etc.**

Whaler’s Cove Lodge (WCL) offers all-inclusive fishing packages to approximately 500 guests annually. In addition to guided saltwater fishing for halibut, salmon, rockfish, cod, and other species, guests may elect to participate in a variety of optional, low-impact shore-based and water-based excursions. These excursions are designed to complement the fishing experience while emphasizing environmental stewardship and responsible recreation.

Examples of these optional “eco-tour” activities include beachcombing with a hosted salmon bake, kayaking, wildlife viewing, whale watching, and visits to Hidden Falls Hatchery (HFH). WCL manages outfitter access and tour scheduling for HFH. Many guests who visit HFH also spend time viewing Kasnyku Falls, and some choose to continue their day on the west side of Chatham Strait, combining sightseeing with intermittent fishing activities. A visit to Baranof Warm Springs would be a natural addition to these existing guest itineraries.

For trips to Baranof Warm Springs, WCL would transport guests by vessel from Killisnoo Harbor, located approximately three miles south of Angoon, to the Baranof Warm Springs public dock. Transit time is approximately 45–60 minutes. During transit, guides provide an orientation covering Leave No Trace principles, travel routes, site-specific information, safety procedures, restroom availability, and emergency and evacuation protocols. Upon arrival, the guide will assess dock availability and site conditions to determine whether the vessel will tie up at the dock or remain loitering in the bay. If guests are dropped off, they will be issued a marine radio and a satellite phone to maintain communication with the vessel throughout their visit.

Authorized tour activities at Baranof Warm Springs would include soaking in the public bathhouses and natural warm springs, hiking to Baranof Lake, swimming, shore-based fishing at Baranof Lake and the lake outflow, and non-motorized paddling on the lake. WCL maintains a small fleet of inflatable kayaks for guest use and understands that self-serve canoes may also be available at the head of Baranof Lake.

At the conclusion of the excursion, guests will rejoin their guide, return to the vessel, and are transported back to Killisnoo Harbor.

**Please include the following information and attachments with your application.**

Certificate of Insurance (City & Borough of Sitka named as additionally insured)

Safety & Operating plan

Additional documentation (as needed/if applicable):  
Copy of permit(s) from other agencies for use of joint-jurisdiction areas. If use of Baranof Warm Springs or Goddard Hot Springs is requested, attach copy of bathing instructions/etiquette provided to clients.

## File Upload



2026 USFS Operating Plan (1).docx



2026 Sitka Commercial Recreation L... .docx



KILLISNOO HARBOR, LLC DBA WCL S... .pdf



Baranof Warm Springs Instructions.docx



Certificate of Insurance Note for CBS.docx

## APPLICANT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

### Commercial Use Regulations:

- Applications and permits issued under [SGC 14.10](#) COMMERCIAL RECREATIONAL USE OF MUNICIPAL LANDS AND FACILITIES
- Guidance provided by the [2026 Commercial Recreational Land Use Plan](#)
- Permits shall expire on December 31st of each calendar year.
- Permits are valid only for the dates, times, activities, and areas specified.
- Permits are not automatically renewable. Issuance of a permit shall not entitle any priority or preferential consideration for subsequent, new, or additional permits for the same area or for related uses.
- Permit Fees will be invoiced after January 4, 2026 application closure.

Upon acceptance of a permit, all permittees shall execute an instrument under the terms of which the permittee shall agree to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the City and Borough of Sitka from any and all claims for injury or damage to persons or property suffered in connection with the permittee's activities unless such injury or damage is caused by the gross negligence of the City and Borough of Sitka.

I certify that the business/operator(s) are registered with the CBS Sales Tax Office, unless specifically exempt from collecting and remitting sales taxes for sales outside of City and Borough of Sitka jurisdiction, and have no outstanding judgements to the City and Borough of Sitka.

**Terms and Conditions**

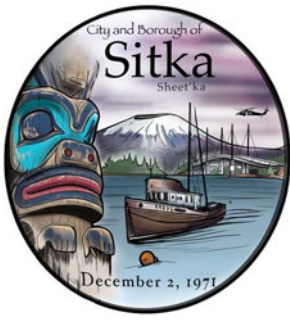
Accepted

**Date**

Friday, March 6, 2026

**Signature**

RN



# CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

A COAST GUARD CITY

## PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE COMMERCIAL RECREATIONAL LAND USE PERMIT PROCEDURE & MOTION SHEET

**Business:** Whaler's Cove Lodge

**Contact:** David Dayton

I. Chair Introduces Item

II. Applicant Comments & Questions from Committee Members

III. Public Comment

IV. Committee Discussion/Deliberation

V. Possible Motions

- A. Conditions of Approval: SGC 14.10.030(C) states, "*A permit may contain conditions reasonably required for the protection and use of the area for which the permit is granted, including limitations as to time, area, equipment, user loading, traffic, parking, discharges, noise, and other factors.*" If the Committee would like to propose conditions of approval, this motion would be made prior to recommending permit approval:

***"I move to propose the following conditions of approval: \_\_\_\_"***

- B. Recommending Permit Approval: SGC 14.10.030(B) states, "*The administrator may issue a permit for commercial recreational activities on city and borough lands that are recommended by the parks and recreation committee after public hearing and notice, subject to such conditions as the administrator may impose and only upon a determination that the use as proposed:*
- 1. Will not pollute or degrade the environment, resources, facilities, or atmosphere of the area; and*
  - 2. Will not endanger the public health, safety, and welfare; and*
  - 3. Will not significantly interfere with the use and enjoyment of the area by other members of the public."*

If the Committee would like to recommend approval of the permit:

***“I move to recommend approval of the commercial recreational land use permit as requested by Whale’s Cove Lodge [subject to the proposed conditions of approval] and hereby make the required determinations regarding this use as listed in SGC 14.10.030(B)(1-3). “***

- C. Recommending Permit Denial: SGC 14.10.030(D) states, *“The administrator may deny a proposed use upon a written determination that the use, alone or in combination with other uses, would cause an unreasonable level of environmental degradation, or other disturbance to the area. In making such determination, the administrator shall consider the nature and extent of the use, the number of users, and the impacts likely to result from the use, including traffic, noise, public access, loading, the availability of parking and other factors.”* If the Committee would like to recommend denial of the permit:

***“ I move to recommend denial of the commercial recreational land use permit as requested by Custom Alaska Cruises because the Committee could not make the following determinations that the use as proposed:***

<b><i>Will not pollute or degrade the environment, resources, facilities, or atmosphere of the area</i></b>	<b><i>because:</i></b>	
<b><i>Will not endanger the public health, safety, and welfare</i></b>	<b><i>because:</i></b>	
<b><i>Will not significantly interfere with the use and enjoyment of the area by other members of the public</i></b>	<b><i>because:</i></b>	

\*Note: A recommendation of denial can be based on not being able to make one or more of the required determinations under SGC 14.10.030(B)(1-3). The motion and basis of recommended denial only needs to include rationale regarding the one or more required determinations that could not be made.

## **Baranof Warm Springs Guest Instructions & Etiquette**

To protect the natural environment and respect the Baranof Warm Springs community, all guests must follow the instructions below. These guidelines will be reviewed with guests prior to disembarking from the vessel.

### **Pre-Arrival Instructions**

#### **Restroom Use**

Guests should use restroom facilities on the vessel before arriving. Restroom facilities are limited once ashore.

#### **Respect Private Property**

The homes and structures in Baranof Warm Springs are **private property**. Visitors are guests of the community and must remain on the **main boardwalk and designated trails** unless otherwise directed by the guide.

#### **Leave No Trace**

Guests must **pack out everything they bring in**. Please travel light and avoid bringing unnecessary items that could create waste.

### **While Ashore**

#### **Stay Together**

Guests must remain together as a group and follow the guide's instructions. Do not wander away from the group or explore beyond designated areas.

#### **Trail Use and Erosion Prevention**

Once the boardwalk ends, guests must **remain on established trails** to prevent erosion and protect vegetation.

#### **Bathing Attire**

**Appropriate swimwear/clothing is required** while soaking in the warm springs.

#### **Personal Belongings**

Clothing, towels, and bags should be kept **in a single designated area** to maintain a clean and organized space for other visitors.

#### **Shared Use of the Springs**

The warm springs are occasionally used by other visitors.

- If another group is already at the springs, guests may wait or walk to the nearby lake until the springs become available.

- If another group arrives during our visit, we will be respectful and may shorten our visit to allow shared access.

### **Soaking Safety**

The springs can be very hot. To avoid overheating or dehydration, **soaking should be limited to approximately 30 minutes at a time**. Guests should exit the water immediately if they feel dizzy or uncomfortable.

### **General Conduct**

#### **Respect the Environment and Community**

Guests are expected to maintain a quiet, respectful presence and avoid disturbing wildlife, vegetation, or nearby residents.

#### **Follow Guide Instructions**

Guides will accompany guests when dock space allows. When guides are not able to disembark, guests will be provided with a **radio for communication** and must follow all instructions provided before arrival.

Failure to follow these guidelines may result in the visit being ended early to protect the safety of guests, the environment, and the Baranof Warm Springs community.

## **ITEM C**

Discussion on Tobacco and Smoke Free Parks

# WHY TOBACCO-FREE PARKS ARE A GOOD IDEA FOR SITKA

Tobacco use is the **LEADING** cause of preventable death.



Currently, there are **four cities in Alaska** that have tobacco-free park policies. Tobacco-free outdoor environments hold many benefits for families and community members who frequent Sitka city parks. Whether they are there for recreational activities or simply enjoying the beauty the parks have to offer; tobacco-free parks are a good idea for everyone.

## Benefits

of tobacco-free environments



### LOWERS

tobacco use rates among youth and adults

### MODELS

tobacco-free behavior for kids

### PROTECTS

people from being exposed to secondhand smoke

### IMPROVES

the safety and beauty of the park by decreasing the amount of tobacco product littering

### SUPPORTS

people who want to quit or are trying to quit smoking



Cigarette butts are the **MOST** commonly littered item and are **NOT** biodegradable



There is **NO** safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke



9 out of 10 smokers start **BEFORE** age 18

**HOPE COALITION**  
Healthy Organizations, People and Environments

**ALASKA'S TOBACCO QUITLINE**  
**1-800-QUIT-NOW**  
IT'S FREE. IT'S CONFIDENTIAL. AND IT WORKS.  
Text **READY** to 34191  
alaskaquitline.com

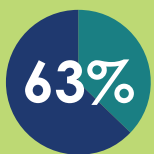
From January 2024 to October 2025, over 16,800 cigarette butts were picked up. That includes 11 different city parks, 3 playgrounds, and the downtown district.

## Quote from Local Sitkan from Survey

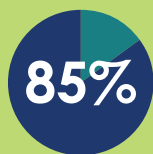
“Yes, I would (support a tobacco-free public parks and playgrounds policy). Our parks and playgrounds would be more enjoyable, our children can have a level of being carefree and safe.”



## Local Survey Data



**63% of Sitkans** surveyed have been exposed to secondhand smoke at a public park or playground in Sitka in the last five years.



**85% of Sitkans** surveyed would support a new tobacco-free public parks and playgrounds policy in Sitka.

*\*Local survey data gathered on Sitka playgrounds in July 2021*

## 10 Reasons Parks and Playgrounds Should be Tobacco-Free

1. Everyone has the right to breathe clean air, especially in public spaces set aside for children and adults to enjoy physical activity and the environment.
2. Secondhand smoke contains thousands of chemicals, many of which are toxic (such as formaldehyde, arsenic and lead), and is a proven cause of cancer and heart disease.
3. Cigarette and cigar butt waste is toxic. Cigarette butts leach organic chemicals and heavy metals into the environment that are toxic to fresh and salt-water fish. They are poisonous when ingested by children and other living organisms. (cigwaste.org)
4. Cigarette and cigar butt waste is not biodegradable. Filters are non-biodegradable, and while ultraviolet rays from the sun will eventually break them into smaller pieces, the toxic material never disappears. (cigwaste.org)
5. Kids should be able to play without being exposed to the toxic chemicals in secondhand smoke.
6. Cigarette and cigar butts are hazardous to children, animals and the environment. Children who ingest discarded cigarette butts are at risk for toxic poisoning, choking or being burned.
7. Cigarette and cigar butt cleanup costs impose an unnecessary burden on taxpayers.
8. Tobacco-free policies help people quit using tobacco.
9. More than 1,266 municipalities in the United States require their parks to be 100% smoke-free.
10. Tobacco-free policies help change social norms and prevent our youth from ever starting to use tobacco.

## City Parks and Recreation Facilities

City and Borough of Sitka Parks and Recreation actively maintains and/or manages **40 parks, grounds areas, ballfields, recreation sites, trails, one remote cabin and other areas. This is a total of area of 109 acres and 10.67 miles of trail.** This includes 7 parks, 3 playgrounds, 2 recreation sites, 11 ballfields, 27 landscape areas and grounds (flower beds, ornamental trees and shrubs around Sitka's public buildings and other public areas), the Kaisei-Marui interpretive memorial site, Tom Young Cabin, the City Cemetery and 10.67 miles of trail. Total turf equals 27.2 acres (1,186,661 sq. ft.).

**Lawns, Medians and Green Areas: 1,186,661 square feet** throughout sites listed. Requires weekly mowing and maintenance for seven months out of the year.

**Twenty-seven Landscape Areas and Grounds** (flower beds, ornamental trees and shrubs, lawns):

Hospital, Centennial Building, Municipal Building, City/State Building, Airport, Waste Water Facility, Transfer Station, City Services Center, Baranof School(2), Sitka High School, Keet Gooshi Heen, Sawmill Cove Administration Building, Pacific High, Library, O'Connell Lightering Facility, Crescent Harbor park (2) , Crescent Lightering, Pacific High, Castle Hill parking lot, O'Connell bridge approaches, Blatchley Middle School(2), Moller Field, Firehall, Swan Lake Park, Sealing Cove, Eliason –Thomsen Harbor .

### **Eleven Ballfields and Associated Facilities:**

Baranof (.2 acres) - Backstops, benches, lights and fencing

Vilandre (2 acres) - Concession stand and restroom, scoreboard, bleachers (one set covered), batting cage, two dugouts, fencing.

Keet Gooshi Heen fields (2.2 acres) - covered bleachers(2), concession stand and restrooms, storage shed, scoreboard, dugouts, parking lots, grass fields

Kimsham Recreational Complex (15 acres) – two large and one small ballfields, one multiuse field, 4 scoreboards, 1 scorebooth, 6 dugouts, fencing,13 bleachers, grass fields, Krueger Field bleach cover, Krueger Field scorebooth, soccer and SHS softball storage sheets.

Mt. Edgecumbe Field (1 Acre) - 2 dugouts, scoring booth, fencing

Moller Ballfields, Playgrounds and Park (14.86 acres) – synthetic turf baseball and football/soccer field, 2 dugouts, 2 bull pens, scoreboard, track, 6 bleachers (2 covered), scoreboard, 1 batting cage, 1 concession stand/restroom, 3 parking areas, 1 covered picnic area, 1 restroom, 4 storage sheds, fencing, 6 field lights, 2 tot lots.



## **Parks, Playgrounds and Recreation Sites:**

Crescent Harbor, Moller (2), - play equipment, fencing, surfacing material.

Tony Hrebar Shooting Range (4 acres) - shooting ranges and shelters (3), shooting tables (14), garbage cans, parking area, vaulted restroom

Granite Creek Recreation Area (7 acres) - asphalt 24' x 150' landing strip for remote control planes, golf course is on City land and City funds were used to construct portions of the golf range but it is maintained by Sitka Golf Association.

Goddard Recreation Area (3 acres) - Bath houses (2), hot tubs (2), waterline, outhouse, cistern, boardwalk trail. Access is by boat.

Pioneer Park (3.42 acres)- Main picnic shelter and two small shelters, restroom, trail, benches (5), street lights (2), water spigot, parking lots and barriers, fence and grills (6 various styles), lawn.

Whale Park (12 acres)- boardwalk trail, staircases and railings, gazebos (3), uncovered platform, parking lot, restroom, whale sculpture, viewing binoculars (4), interpretive signs, drinking fountain, lawn.

Swan Lake Park (22 acres with lake)- picnic tables (3), benches (7), pathway, fence, flood lights, signs, lawn, Swan Lake Dock

Turnaround Park (3 acres) - fence, path, picnic tables (2), concrete turnaround ramp, lawn; Filipino community bench; Skate Park (6800 sq ft) – concrete facility with bowl and street features and cover; Rotary Gazebo, Fenced Dog Park.

Crescent Park (2.9 acres) - picnic shelters (4), walkway, breakwater spur, benches (13) picnic tables, landscaping, parking lots, play sculptures, restroom, lawn; Crescent Basketball and Tennis Courts

Moller Park (included under ballfields)



## **Trails (10.67 miles):**

Cross (4.2 miles) - aggregate surfacing material and treated wood edging, bridges, stairs. Multiuse 8' wide pathway from Sitka High School to Kramer Drive.

Thimbleberry- Heart Lake Trails (1.8. miles) - aggregate surface with treated wood edging, bridges, docks.

Path of Hope: (1400 feet)- Landscaping, pathways, benches, inspirational messages, artwork/sculpture.

Medivje Lake (1 mile) - undeveloped trail.

Pioneer Park, Swan Lake Park, Goddard, Moller, Whale Park and Turnaround Park (4,815 feet) - All but Whale Park have urban aggregate paths.

Sitka Seawalk and Breakwater spur: (3500 feet) – yellow cedar boardwalk and 8' concrete sidewalk with paver band.



**Misc. Facilities and Misc. Responsibilities :**

Tom Young Cabin( 2 acres) – 17' x 24' Pan Abode cabin, with deck and outhouse; accessible by boat.

City Cemetary (2.5 acres) - trees and lawn

Kaisei-Marui Interpretive Site at Sealing Cove – interpretive sign and monument, anchor artifact, shelter, picnic table.

Other Areas of CBS Parks Division Responsibility: SMC, Indian River Road, Harbor Mtn. By-pass and other roadway litter sweeps, tree removal when any City tree falls on to private property, repair any damage to private property (lawns, rockwalls or flowerbeds) resulting from work done by City crews, help with school athletic events, volunteer activities and other public events(Fourth of July, Street Fair, holiday decorations, etc).

Sitka Tobacco-Free Parks Survey Outcomes

(100 survey responses collected)

- 1) How often do you visit public parks and playgrounds in Sitka?
  - a. Daily- **13**
  - b. Regularly - 2-3 times a week- **32**
  - c. Occasionally- 2-3 time a month- **32**
  - d. Rarely - 2-3 times a season (3 months)- **27**
- 2) Have you been exposed to secondhand smoke at a public park or playground in Sitka in the last 5 years? **Yes- 58 No- 33 Occasionally- 5 Unknown- 3 Blank- 1**
- 3) Have you encountered cigarette butt litter at a public park or playground in Sitka in the last 5 years? **Yes- 73 No- 23 Occasionally- 3 Unknown- 1**
- 4) How has tobacco use impacted you and your family's experience of Sitka's public parks and playgrounds?

**Responses:**

**Didn't bother me- 2**

**(It) Hasn't- 6**

**Nothing negative**

**Disrespectful thing, especially around playground**

**Not at all- 4**

**No- 5**

**Makes me think they should pick it up. Makes it look dirty**

**Not enjoyable but haven't had issues**

**Disgusting- 2**

**Negatively- 2**

**Hurts Nose, watery eyes**

**Secondhand smoke annoying. (Cigarette) butts easy to pick up**

**Wasn't enough to remember**

**Makes me sad that people are going through it mentally. They don't smoke because its fun.**

**They smoke because they are stressed.**

**Secondhand smoke, bad smell**

**Minimally- 6**

**Discouraging, risk for kids**

**Never really impacted me or my family**

**Just the smell**

**N/A- 5**

**It's tough to deal with the smell of cigarettes**

**Don't like secondhand smoke**

**It is always upsetting to see/smell cigarette smoking at public parks, especially when children are present, it makes that space feel unsafe, unhealthy, and unfriendly.**

**Not really**

**Frustrated me- 2**

**The smoke gives me a headache**

**I don't like the litter**

**Negative. Picked up buds (butts?)**

**Annoy(ing)- 2**

**Don't notice**

**Gross, minimally**

**Dog would get them. Children get into them**

**None- 2**

**Disheartening**

**Negatively, allergic reactions**

**Grossed out**

**Annoying while running**

**Don't like shooing dogs away from buds (butts?)**

**Doesn't bother you**

**I find it gross**

**Barely**

**Haven't really gone with family but the smell is gross**

**I don't think so**

**Not a lot of impact but seems like most people have common courtesy not to smoke around kids.**

**It hasn't impacted me at all**

**Makes me angry**

**No impact whatsoever**

**It hasn't negatively impacted my experience at parks or playgrounds**

**It makes it difficult to enjoy the time with my family or friends when someone is smoking**

**Minimal, gross, nuisance**

**Leaves park**

**Annoying. Dogs try to eat them. Highly allergic**

**Awkward- see them everywhere**

**Swan Lake has lots. Kids know not to touch, steer clear**

**Very different from back in the day- just have to deal with it everywhere**

**Annoying, can smell and say “who’s smoking”**

**We see it and have to smell like it for others’ freedoms outside, just stand upwind**

**Mother died of emphysema, don’t like the smoke**

**Smell**

**Distasteful**

**It hasn’t really**

**Yes, it’s gross**

**Haven’t seen people smoke in parks or playgrounds while I was there**

**It is discouraging to see cigarette butt litter in this town, even if it isn’t playground/parks. But more so when it is, as you are then explaining to your children to stay away and why.**

**It makes our community look bad**

**The littering and secondhand smoke**

**I have enjoyed the time I have spent smoking in Sitka’s public parks!**

**Does not look clean or appealing**

**Not negatively**

**Just the littering is what has impacted my family**

**Not really tbh**

**Wouldn’t say that it has personally affected me. Seeing cigarette butts around places with kids is never a good thing though.**

**Hate the smell**

- 5) Would you support a new tobacco-free public parks and playgrounds policy in Sitka? Why or why not? **Yes- 85 No- 8 Unsure- 4** **Playgrounds, yes/Parks, either no or unsure- 3**

**Responses:**

Probably would vote for that, but I don't see it as that much of an issue.

Sure, I think it's good to exhibit healthy habits.

Yea, cigarettes should not be around these areas. Or we should have cigarette butt trash dispensers in these areas so it's more accessible to throw away.

Yea, it's disrespectful to do around kid playgrounds.

Playground, yes, but parks I have a problem with. Picnic areas, no. I am a quitter. But kid playgrounds, yes.

Sure, generally good policy. Bad if people are smoking right next to park/playground.

Yes, come here for fun and fresh air.

Yes. Cleaner air is healthier. We come here for fresh air.

Yea, sure because of children, so they are not exposed.

Yea, it makes the area look not clean.

Yes, of course. Not enjoyable to see.

Yes, dangerous to children, inherently more unhealthy

Yes, trying to enjoy outside.

Yes. 1: isn't good for people 2: seeing litter around is bad

At work this needs to be a policy too. Yes.

Yea, (cigarette) butts easy to pick up, so discouraging to see everywhere.

Absolutely, people on the sea walk smoke and I can smell, meaning kids can smell.

Yes, I don't think that police will enforce this though. The best thing we can do is make it a policy and put mitigation factors in place. For example, cigarette butt trash cans for specifically cigarette butts. We need these everywhere.

Yes, kids shouldn't inhale.

I don't know, it hasn't affected me.

Yea, kids shouldn't smell.

Yes, I would support because the kids and other people around us has to be safe and not breathe in the smoke by other smokers.

Yes, but I want to see as their life choice if they want to quit or not.

Yes. \*Please look into smoking on sidewalk and ashtray outside of P-Bar.

No- 2

Yes, smoking doesn't need to happen in public places.

Yes, it should be that way already. Secondhand smoke is no joke.

Yes, why not.

Yes- 8

Absolutely! Children and nonsmokers should not be made subject to smoke when they have made the decision not to smoke/are not old enough.

Yes, nice to not have to smell it or see (cigarette) butts.

Yes, keep our playgrounds a healthy option for our youth.

Yeah- 3

Yes. I want the litter to be reduced.

Yes, it doesn't affect me but I'm sure it does for others.

Sure- 2

Absolutely.

No, hard to regulate. Signs would help maybe.

Yea, kids shouldn't be exposed. Prettier. Pregnant.

Possibly.

Yea, I would.

Sure, I'd back anyone who does this.

No, enough rules about it.

I think so, people have other places to smoke.

Yes, because smoking (is) gross. Kids there. 5 yr olds don't need smoke.

Yes, because I don't like pulling it out of my dog's mouth.

Yes, people and especially children should be able to enjoy a tobacco-free public parks and playgrounds. Parents shouldn't have to worry about their kids picking up cigarette buds (butts?) or having them exposed to secondhand smoke. If someone is smoking near the area, I would not take my kids in that area, making the space unusable.

Yes, kids do not need to be around smoke in public area.

I think it would be important for tobacco-free parks in town because so many people smoke around Sitka, like the secondhand smoke doesn't affect others around, especially children at parks! It's important to keep the kids healthy and way from secondhand smoke.

Yeah, good for the environment.

Sure, but there's no good way to enforce it.

Yes, so we can separate them from the kids.

I would support it in playgrounds but not public parks. Children should not be around secondhand smoke but if you are walking through the park and you don't litter, I don't mind if you smoke or not.

Sure, but I don't see a big problem with it. I rarely see smokers in the parks/playgrounds.

Playgrounds, yes. I don't know about parks.

No. It isn't SEARHC's Public Health Dept. that gets to decide whether or not citizens can smoke in our public parks.

Yes. I would support tobacco-free parks and playgrounds for the health of non-smokers, especially children.

Yes, please make this happen. I have sensitivities to smoke, and I would appreciate if there would be a tobacco-free policy in place.

I don't know. Hard to regulate.

Yes, all should be protected.

Yes! Highly allergic.

Yes, kids deserve clean air.

Yes, but don't fully live here.

Yes, sure annoying to see.

I don't know. It doesn't bother me much.

Yes, litter is bad.

Yes, don't have to smell.

Yes, the smell is gross- 2

Yes, better for people.

Yes, absolutely. Very prevalent.

Yes, I honestly already thought it was a thing.

Yes, bad for smoker and the people inhaling it who didn't ask for it.

Yes, because there are kids playing in playgrounds and shouldn't be around the smell or presence of tobacco.

Yes, I would. Our parks/playgrounds would be more enjoyable, our children can have a level of being carefree and safe.

Yes, it would make our community look amazing.

Yes of course, kids don't need to be exposed.

Yeah, to make a change in my life.

Sure, because why not?

**Yes, because healthy air is important to recreational areas.**

**No, smokers have rights.**

**Yes, because children don't need to be exposed to secondhand smoke.**

**Yeah, because children shouldn't be exposed to that.**

**Yes, there is no benefit to tobacco in public areas where younger kids are the main inhabitants. Only harm could be caused.**

**Yes, I would support it because it's important to keep those places as clean as possible.**

**Not necessary.**

**Not seen as necessary.**

**Yes, tobacco is not good for you or me.**

**Absolutely!! 😊**

Thank you so much for taking the time to participate in our survey!

# Breathe Easy

## IN TOBACCO-FREE PARKS

### BENEFITS OF TOBACCO-FREE PARKS:

- Promotes clean, fresh air
- Family-friendly
- Encourages a tobacco-free lifestyle
- Role-modeling healthy behaviors for our kids
- Helps reduce youth initiation of tobacco
- Reduces harmful exposure to secondhand smoke
- Protects the environment

