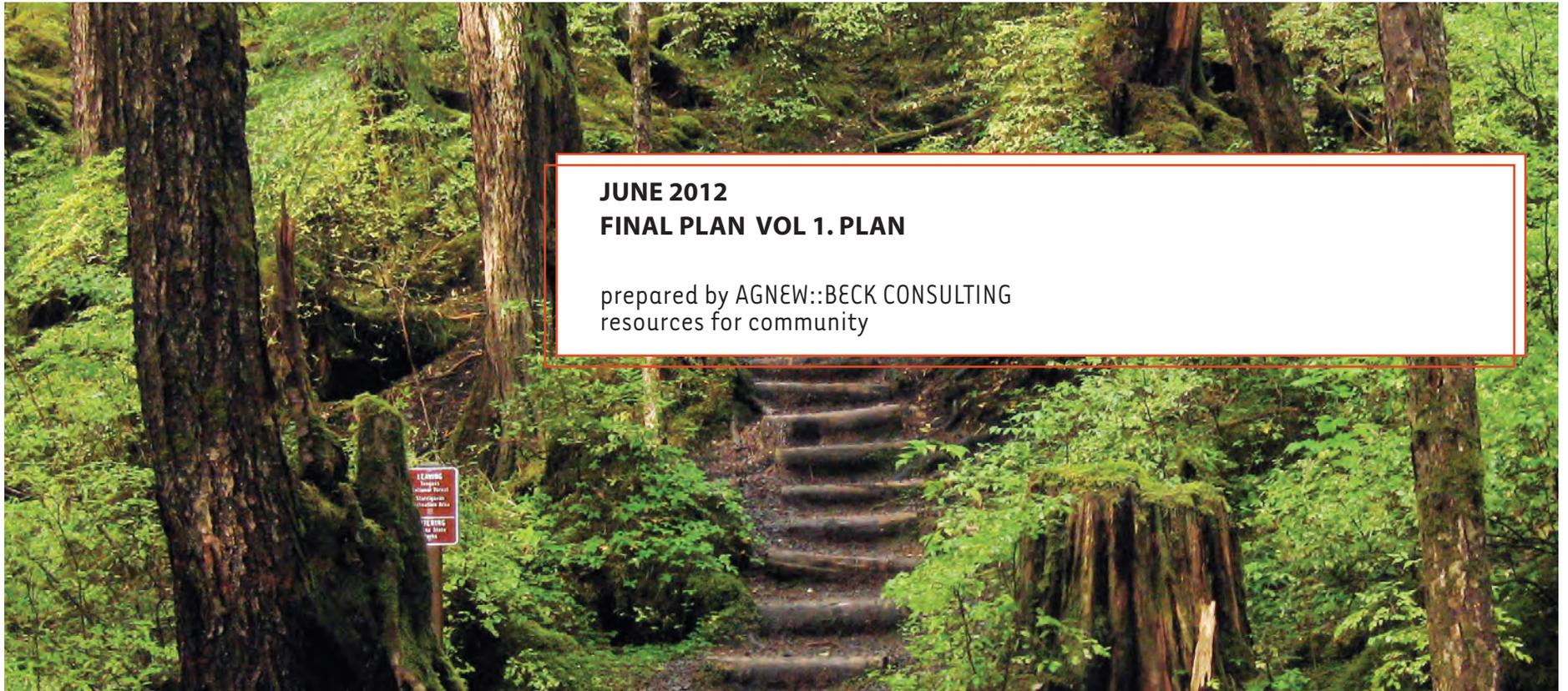


Sitka

sustainable outdoor recreation action plan



JUNE 2012
FINAL PLAN VOL 1. PLAN

prepared by AGNEW::BECK CONSULTING
resources for community

Acknowledgements

Many thanks to all the dedicated individuals who helped make this plan a success.

Particular thanks to the members of the Sitka Outdoor Recreation Action Plan Steering Committee, who put in many long hours to guide the planning process:

- Nicholas True, State Parks and Recreation
- Clarence Wadkins, National Park Service
- Mim McConnell, City of Sitka and Sitka Aassembly
- Alison Dunlap, local business owner
- Nancy Yaw Davis, vintage Sitkans
- Garry White, SEDA Executive Director
- Clint Simic, Raven's Way SEARHC Hospital
- Lynne McGowan, City of Sitka Recreation Department
- Carol Goularte, USFS Tongass National Forest, Sitka District Ranger
- Andrew Thoms, Sitka Conservation Society
- Deborah Lyons, Sitka Trail Works
- Jon Martin, USFS Tongass National Forest, Recreation Staff Officer
- Michelle Putz, USFS Recreation
- Peggy Marcus, USFS Sitka Ranger District Recreation Staff

The Sitka, Sustainable Outdoor Recreation Plan is the product of more than a year of active, community-wide planning. The plan builds from a spectrum of community perspectives, including:

- views expressed in resident and visitor surveys
- focus groups with community leaders, youth and “vintage” residents
- interviews with individuals, businesses and organizations
- Assembly briefings
- a series of well-attended community workshops



Mike Eberhardt, Southeast Alaska Superintendent
Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation
Alaska Department of Natural Resources



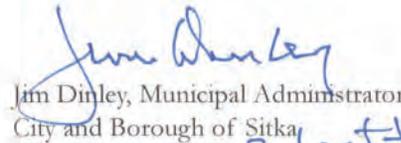
Marcel LaPerriere, President
Sitka Conservation Society



Brian Hanson, President
Sitka Trail Works, Inc.

Charles Clement, CEO
Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium

The plan presents two main products: an ambitious, comprehensive set of outdoor recreation projects, and a subset of this full list identifying first tier priorities. While the process was sponsored by the US Forest Service, the final implementation of the plan rests with the plan partners and the public. Support for this plan does not establish a rigid obligation to carry out these projects, but the signatures do indicate support for the plan and the intent to work in good faith to implement these projects. By agreeing to continue to work together, these parties are expanding the community’s capability to implement projects, and helping Sitka to be a better place to live, visit, work and play.

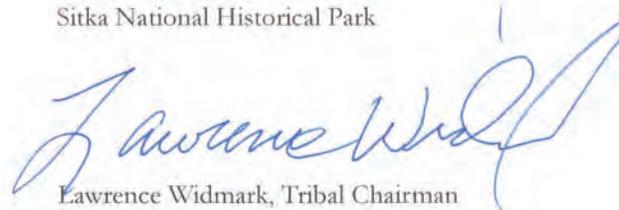


Jim Dinley, Municipal Administrator
City and Borough of Sitka

Subject to Assembly Approval.



Randy Larson, Superintendent
Sitka National Historical Park



Lawrence Widmark, Tribal Chairman
Sitka Tribe of Alaska



Carol Goularte, District Ranger
Sitka Ranger District
Tongass National Forest

City and Borough of Sitka Resolution

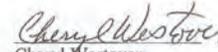
CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-10 S

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA REGARDING THE SITKA SUSTAINABLE OUTDOOR RECREATION ACTION PLAN

- WHEREAS,** the City and Borough of Sitka Assembly considers outdoor recreation as beneficial to Sitka's public health, quality of life and economy; and
- WHEREAS,** the Sitka Sustainable Outdoor Recreation Action Plan is the product of more than a year of active, community-wide planning; and
- WHEREAS,** the plan was a cooperative partnership project between the US Forest Service, National Park Service, Alaska State Parks, City and Borough of Sitka, Sitka Trail Works, Sitka Conservation Society, Sitka Tribe of Alaska, Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium, Chamber of Commerce, SEDA, Sitka Convention and Visitor's Association, Sitka Schools and many individuals; and
- WHEREAS,** the plan builds from a diverse spectrum of community perspectives including resident and visitor surveys; public meetings; individual, organization and business interviews and Assembly briefings; and
- WHEREAS,** the plan presents the Sitka public's view of future outdoor recreation priorities as facilities, programs and information/marketing projects; and
- WHEREAS,** priority is given to projects that achieve economic, community and material sustainability; and
- WHEREAS,** this resolution does not obligate the City and Borough of Sitka to implement specific projects and can be used to support expanding community capacity through partnerships.
- NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska by this resolution appreciates the considerable efforts resulting in the Sitka Sustainable Outdoor Recreation Action Plan.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the City and Borough of Sitka Assembly on the 22nd day of May, 2012.


Cheryl Westover
Mayor

ATTEST:

Serena Wild
Deputy Clerk

Letter of Support: Greater Sitka Chamber of Commerce



May 7, 2012

Sitka Outdoor Recreation Action Plan
Steering Committee
204 Siginaka Way
Sitka, AK 99835

To whom it may concern:

This is a letter of support for the Sitka Sustainable Outdoor Recreation Action Plan. This project addresses two core goals of the Greater Sitka Chamber of Commerce: economic growth in the community and quality of life in Sitka.

The incredible scenery, rich cultural history, abundant wildlife, recreation opportunities, and community of Sitka offer remarkable experiences for visitors and residents. Recreation and tourism are strong segments of the Sitka economy. This plan recognizes that Sitka already has a robust collection of recreation infrastructure and proposes new projects that complement and expand upon Sitka's outstanding outdoor recreation system. A focus on sustainability ensures that priority projects are ones that will contribute to the local economy for years.

Recreation opportunities improve quality of life and contribute to overall positive community character. The plan's emphasis on balance contributes to a strong, durable local economy, a vital community, and a healthy natural environment.

This plan is right for Sitka because of the attentiveness on building partnerships and setting priorities. Since the committee depended on extensive community and visitor input and collaboration of many stakeholders, this is a plan that can be truly sustainable providing balance, partnerships, and community support.

Sincerely,

Gerry Hope

President
Greater Sitka Chamber of Commerce

PO Box 638 • Sitka, AK 99835 • Phone 907.747.8604 • Fax 907.747.7413 • jens@sitkachamber.com • www.sitkachamber.com

Letter of Support: Sitka Convention and Visitors Bureau



P.O. Box 1226
Sitka, Alaska 99835
Ph:(907)747-5940
Fax:(907)747-3739
scvb@sitka.org
www.sitka.org

June 12, 2012

Sitka Outdoor Recreation Action Plan
Steering Committee
204 Siginaka Way
Sitka, AK 99835

To whom it may concern:

The Sitka Convention and Visitors Bureau (SCVB) is writing this letter in support of the Sitka Sustainable Outdoor Recreation Action Plan (SSORAP), a cooperative effort between multiple local organizations and government agencies.

The SCVB recognizes the importance of outdoor recreation as a vital factor in Sitka's public health, quality of life, and economy. Sitka offers a truly wild experience with exceptional hiking trails and scenic roadways that promote exploration among towering trees, alpine meadows, and stunning shorelines. Sitka Sound is well known for world class sea kayaking, ocean rafting, diving, snorkeling, and legendary fishing. More than a year and a half of community-wide planning was invested into the SSORAP, and it presents a variety of possible outdoor recreation enhancements as prioritized by Sitka's public. These enhancements include facilities, programs, and information/marketing projects.

The plan prioritizes several high-value projects that could encourage more independent overnight travelers to visit Sitka and possibly help to offset the decline in cruise ship visitors by opening up new recreation markets. Additionally, several of the priorities identified in the plan would result in unique outdoor experiences and facilities that distinguish Sitka from competing visitor destinations. Identifying Sitka as a unique destination contributes to increased visitation, which in turn results in increased visitor spending, contributes to local tax revenue, provides additional revenue for existing businesses, and could ultimately create new business opportunities.

The SCVB whole-heartedly supports the effort and good work that went into the formation of the Sitka Sustainable Outdoor Recreation Action Plan. Although we are unable to commit to any specific projects or pledge monetary support at this time, we look forward to incorporating agency-appropriate priorities into our marketing efforts as determined by the SCVB Board of Directors.

Sincerely,

Tonia Rioux
Executive Director
Sitka Convention and Visitors Bureau

Sitka Sustainable Outdoor Recreation Action Plan

FINAL PLAN

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Sitka Sustainable Outdoor Recreation Action Plan

SUMMARY: WHY, HOW, WHO, WHAT NEXT?

“You know, we could actually get a lot of this done, but only if we do it together as part of a unified plan.”

— *(Previously skeptical) Sitka Convention and Visitors Bureau Board Member*

This is a plan about building partnerships and setting priorities. The Sustainable Outdoor Recreation Action Plan was developed to improve Sitka’s outdoor recreation system, with a focus on filling key gaps in the community’s existing set of trails, parks, day use facilities, maps and other recreation resources. Because Sitka has seen plenty of previous planning efforts, this plan could build from past work and focus on action: what projects are most important, and how do we make them happen?

The product of this plan is a set of community agreements on specific priorities for action, in the three recreational categories listed below:

- Facilities: e.g., trails, cabins/campgrounds, boat launch sites
- Programs: e.g., outdoor education, activities for youth
- Information: e.g., marketing, maps, signage and interpretation

Several features distinguish this action plan:

Extensive Community Input. Priority projects were identified through a wide-ranging, ten month-long community involvement process. This process included collecting surveys from over 250 individual recreation users, recreation businesses, and visitors; three sets of well attended public workshops; feedback on draft materials circulated for community review; and the work of a partners’ steering committee that met monthly throughout the process.

Diverse Beneficiaries. The plan sets the stage for outdoor recreation improvements serving a wide spectrum of users and uses: residents and visitors, young and old (or

“I liked this process because we all worked together, and everybody got a fair say”

— October 2010 Workshop Participant

“vintage” as older participants chose to be called for this project), day use and overnight, in town and out, rigorous and relaxed, winter and summer, motorized and non-motorized.

Focus on Sustainability. “Sustainability” is the overarching theme of this plan. For this project, the notion of sustainability was tied to several primary objectives:

- *Balance.* Find projects that simultaneously contribute to three goals: 1) a strong, durable local economy, 2) a vital community, and 3) a healthy natural environment. (See Chapter 2 for details under each category.)
- *Partnerships and Community Support.* Recognize that construction and maintenance dollars are always tight. To maximize the odds that priorities will be implemented and sustained, the plan identified projects with strong support by both individual partners and the full community.
- *Existing versus New.* Recognize that Sitka already has a good collection of cabins, campsites, trails, etc. As a result, proposals for new facilities must be balanced against the need to maintain existing facilities. Likewise, high priority should be placed on doing more to get out the word on what already exists (e.g., through maps, websites).

Collaboration. Like many of Sitka’s trails, responsibility for outdoor recreation in the community freely crosses agency and organizational lines. Consequently, this plan was produced through a collaborative partnership of the major recreational entities in the town, including the City and Borough of Sitka, the US Forest Service, the National Park Service, the State of Alaska, the Sitka Tribe, the Sitka Chamber of Commerce, and Sitka Trail Works.

Implementation – A Two Step Process

Step 1: This Plan

This action plan represents a major first step in improving recreation in three primary ways:

1. Reaching agreement on “first tier” priorities based on community and partner input.
2. Increasing the capacity of Sitka to carry out projects by solidifying partnerships between Sitka’s primary recreation players, and by promoting projects that can increase visitor spending, which in turn can expand local revenue (such as sales tax) to support further improvements.
3. Providing an approved plan that documents community support and can be used to leverage resources from outside funders.

Step 2: After this Plan

This plan establishes a list of priorities; carrying out the priority projects requires the additional steps below. It is important to note that individual organizations and agencies maintain responsibility for their own missions and needs. The signatures associated with this plan creates a “good will commitment to work together on projects,” not a rigid obligation.

- The project partners (and any interested parties) will need to continue to work together to discuss:
 - What would be a sustainable recreation program for your land base? Program details should include: a budget (current and future estimates), an infrastructure database, and a maintenance plan.

- Develop a calendar for accomplishing priority projects.
- Develop a calendar for partner/stakeholder meetings.
- Develop a strategy for seeking grants, leveraging funding and developing partnerships.
- Identify lead stakeholders for each project.
- “Sustainability filter” process. As individual projects are considered for implementation, additional analysis will be needed to ensure that the projects are practical, feasible, and sustainable. For example, while this plan identifies a new downtown visitor information center as a worthy project, more investigation will be needed to sort out the specifics of the site, programming, design, management, and funding. Only after this additional evaluation is complete will it be possible to conclude if, in reality, this is a sensible, sustainable project.

USFS Role. The US Forest Service has supported this community-driven effort with other Sitka-based organizations, agencies, businesses and individuals. Since 2008, the Forest Service has been working on a new, national “Framework for Sustainable Recreation.” This framework

places new emphasis on recreation and on a more community-focused, collaborative approach. This Sitka Sustainable Outdoor Recreation Plan is a pilot project for this new national program. While helping to organize and fund this process, and participating actively in the steps along the way, the Forest Service has been just one of the groups at the table as the plan was developed. The USFS looks forward to working with other partners and the community as a whole to carry out the plan projects, and remains open to considering a wide range of public and commercial uses on the land it manages.

Improving information about outdoor recreation options emerged as the “priority among priorities”. A better website, associated hard copy maps, brochures and on-the-ground interpretive information can benefit residents and attract visitors, and do so for a relatively little money. “The focus on better information is a perfect example of the value of this plan, because today no one entity is responsible for carrying out this vital project – it’s just not going to happen unless we work together.”

— Project Steering Group member

Final Notes – Work Not Fully Completed:

On a handful of topics, this planning process did not get as far as would have ideally been the case. Three specific areas are noted below:

- *Cultural/Historical Resources.* In deference to the Sitka Tribe and other Native residents and organizations in the community, this plan has not pushed too hard into the specifics of actions to develop, celebrate and/or protect cultural and historical resources. More work is needed in this area, at a minimum, to ensure that proposed recreation projects do not impact areas important for subsistence, or areas of particular cultural significance. Wherever possible, future recreation projects should reference Native place names and traditions (e.g., names for facilities or trails).
- *Implementation Capacity.* The Sitka community could expand its capacity to develop and maintain recreation resources. Work is needed to investigate new tools and strategies that will allow the community to be more ambitious in providing recreation opportunities. Options discussed (but not refined) during this project include: expanded volunteer programs (i.e., working with high school youth to build or maintain trails), establishing a Park and Recreation Service District (like the Chugiak/Eagle River/Birchwood Park Service area, which is a very successful program that was voted into existence by residents and businesses), the creation of a new non-profit local recreation foundation (like the Anchorage Park Foundation), and expanding partnerships (e.g., bringing a stronger, revitalized Sitka Tourism Commission into the process).
- *Recreation Programs.* Much more work is needed to expand outdoor recreation programs (e.g., after school hiking or camping). One promising option is the creation of a new community-wide coordinator of outdoor recreation programs. The lack of progress on this topic is the biggest unfilled gap in this project.

Thank you for your interest and active participation in creating Sitka Sustainable Outdoor Recreation Action Plan. We couldn't have done it without your help! We hope to see you out on the trail, the water, the slope, or at the park.

Chapter 1: Project Background and Process

“Sitka has good recreation opportunities today. But if we’re smart we can fill key gaps in the system, and Sitka will be both a better, healthier place to live and we’ll attract more visitors to strengthen our economy.”

(Comment at June 2010 Workshop)



USFS Sustainable Recreation Framework:

A New Focus on Recreation, and a New Way of Working

“The challenges and opportunities that the Forest Service and nearby communities face today call for innovation and sustainable solutions. The Forest Service is issuing a call to action for ourselves and our partners to support local economies, promote healthy lifestyles, and reconnect our citizens to their public lands through outdoor recreation. Our new approach, a Framework for Sustainable Recreation, emphasizes a community focus, a collaborative approach and connections across the landscape.”

(Excerpt from USFS brochure describing the Sustainable Recreation Framework – See Appendix for more information)

The US Forest Service is in the midst of an ambitious national transition. While recreation and tourism have always been important uses on our nation’s Forest Service land, the Forest Service is recognizing the need to place new emphasis on these familiar activities, and bring a new approach to the opportunities and challenges tied to these uses. With this new Framework, the Forest Service will aim to provide benefits that respond to societal concerns at the community level and result in economic vitality, social stability and environmental integrity.

Broad principles that guide the Sustainable Recreation Framework include:

- Connecting people with their natural and cultural heritage
- Promoting healthy lifestyles
- Balancing societal, economic and environmental needs
- Cultivating community engagement
- Managing national forests as part of a larger landscape
- Integrating recreation more deeply into the Forest Service mission

The Sustainable Recreation Framework sets out broad national goals and principles; equally important is the USFS’s intent to operate in new ways. Key elements of this new approach include:

- **Collaboration:** an emphasis on partnerships, with communities, businesses and recreation users; this strategy can help ensure the Forest Service understands and responds to public interests. In addition, this approach can help bring in needed new resources, for example, a partnership with a community to build or maintain a trail.
- **Across Landscapes:** the need to work beyond the limits of National Forest boundaries; this approach is particularly relevant for the National Forest system as forests are often “right out the backdoor” of towns both small and large, and the use of USFS resources is key part of local economies and local quality of life.

Sitka Outdoor Recreation Action Plan: A Pilot Project of the Sustainable Recreation Framework

This Sitka project grew out of the intersection of community and Forest Service interests. Sitka already has good outdoor recreation and tourism opportunities, but many people saw the need for improvements, to benefit residents and strengthen the local economy. The Forest Service wanted to support this interest in recreation, and test the Sustainable Recreation Framework approach. The result is this roughly year-long, community-driven Sitka recreation “pilot project.” The project was inspired by this still evolving USFS approach, and consistent with that approach the project was very much a community-driven effort, tied to the specific challenges and opportunities of Sitka and the specific interests of a range of community interests. The Sitka Ranger District played three key roles. The Forest Service helped convene community interests, funded the project consultant, and as a major local landowner, sat at the table with other partners.

Key Steps in the Project Process

This plan is the product of sustained, proactive effort to ask about and then listen to Sitka views on recreation and tourism. This “listening” was consciously designed to happen in an iterative manner. Initial results were documented, shared, refined, and then further refined. The process reached out in a variety of ways, including public meetings, steering committee meetings, individual interviews, a broad set of surveys. Another major theme of the project was its focus on tangible, specific outcomes. Sitka is a community with a robust history of planning and discussion; participants in this process were on one mind about the need to focus on tangible, achievable actions. Together these two strategies helped bring in and sustain the interest of a diverse cross-section of community interests. An overview of key steps follows.

Situation Assessment

Past Work

Sitka is an energetic community, with many active non-profit organizations, business groups, civic-minded individuals and robust local, state and national agencies. As a result this project was able to build on a strong foundation of past and ongoing recreation and tourism actions and plans.

Winter 2010: Getting Started

This project was sparked by a USFS-sponsored Sustainable Recreation Workshop, in Juneau in February 2010. This workshop shared principles of the national program, and invited participants to begin applying these ideas in Alaskan communities. This led to the creation of an informal, local recreation working group, who met multiple times over the course of late winter and spring. This group identified local recreation and tourism issues, outlined the possible need for a plan, and brought in a growing circle of community interests to create a steering committee.

Join Together

June 2010: Public Workshop/Steering Committee Meeting

The project steering committee and the local ranger district set up an initial project public meeting, facilitated by a consultant familiar with Sitka and the Sustainable Recreation Framework. The Sustainable Recreation Framework was introduced at this meeting, and was quickly embraced as a helpful set of guiding goals and principles. This meeting acted as “coming out” event, further widening community interest and solidifying the desire of the community to move forward with a



“Recreation Action Plan.” The general process and goals of the project were sorted out at the meeting, including identifying the need for an inventory of existing recreation resources and a survey.¹

July 2010: Structuring the Project

Based on the enthusiastic response at the June meeting, and the desire to test out the Sustainable Recreation Framework, the USFS found funding for a consultant (Agnew::Beck) to work with the community to prepare the plan. An ambitious schedule was set – aiming to get a draft action plan done by the end of 2010, with an approved plan early in 2011.

This step included coordination between several branches of the USFS: the District Ranger office, the Tongass Forest regional office, and the national USFS “Enterprise Team” (who is helping to guide development of the Sustainable Recreation Framework).

Ongoing: Steering committee meetings

Over the course of the project, the steering committee continued to meet to fine tune the project process and review and provide direction on project products. Meetings occurred approximately once per month.

Community Vision/Benefits

Summer: Background Research and Surveys

The Steering Committee and the consultant worked together to define responsibilities for collecting needed background information. The consultant took the lead on an inventory of existing local outdoor recreation facilities, resources and programs, as well as a compiling the

¹ An important product of this meeting was a clarification of the name and intent of the plan. One conclusion, mentioned above, was to focus on identifying a list of specific tangible projects and programs (hence the term “Action” in the name of the plan). Another important conclusion was resolution of questions about the importance of tourism in the process. The conclusion was to focus on outdoor recreation, recognizing this would cover both interests of residents and visitors, while avoiding potential to get bogged down in issues like the need for a new cruise ship dock. While such issues are clearly important, the group concluded that raising such topics could jeopardize what would otherwise be a project with wide support, and that a narrower scope was still valuable and perhaps would create new relationships that could set the stage for tackling harder issues.

relevant commendations of past plans. Community members on the steering committee took the lead on designing and carrying out a survey. The USFS national Enterprise Team stepped in (thanks Laurie!) and helped with the compilation and analysis of the surveys.

Early October: Focus Groups

Over a concentrated two day period, a series of “focus group” meetings were held, to further discuss outdoor recreation issues. These groups included recreation/tourism users, youth, “vintage”, business leaders, and a community leaders group. In addition, one-on-one interviews were held with key individuals unable to participate in the focus groups, including representatives of cruise lines who bring visitors to Sitka. Topics discussed included views on priority recreation needs, criteria for setting priorities, and options for/barriers to implementation. A key part of these meeting was exploration of the idea of “sustainability”, leading to clarification of the meaning of that broad term as applied to this project.

Mid October: Facts, Issues and Opinions Report

Working together, the steering committee and the consultant produced a compilation of work to date, which was widely circulated prior to holding a set of public workshops. Material from that report is incorporated into this draft plan.

October 27-28: Community Workshops on Back to Back nights

Well attended workshops were held on back to back nights, following the agendas shown below. The meetings built from all the previous steps, and resulted in both an ambitious list of recommended projects and programs, and an initial identification of “first tier” priorities.

Night One – Big Ideas-Big Goals

- Review community survey and background info.
- Confirm goals/project selection criteria.
- Case studies – lessons from other locations.
- Identify a broad list of promising, possible projects.

Night Two – Making it Real

- Implementation strategies: resources, partners.
- Identify priorities among specific projects.

Collective Actions

November and December 2010: “Trolling for Partners”

The workshops above produced a list of recommended projects and programs; this step focused on refining the details of those projects including implementation responsibilities and priorities. Steering committee members shared information about the projects around town, for example, in meetings with business groups, the school district, Native tribe, etc. Higher priorities emerged through a combination of expressions of community support (in workshops, focus groups and the survey) and as entities (e.g. Sitka Trail Works, the Sitka Convention and Visitors Bureau (SCVB)) stepped forward and committed to take responsibility to work for implementation.

One important step in this process has been the emergence of an associated effort – the Sitka Outdoor Recreation Coalition (“Get Out, Sitka!” <http://getoutsitka.wordpress.com/>). This group has been working in parallel with the Outdoor Recreation Action Plan. To maximize the impact of both groups, and avoid duplication of effort, an agreement has been made to have the Outdoor Recreation Coalition focus on outdoor recreation programs, which are covered, but not in great detail, as part of this plan. Appendix B summarizes the Get Out Sitka! contributions.

January and February 2011: Further Refinement, Release of Revised Draft Plan

This step is currently in progress. Revised versions of the full set of projects and programs as well as “first tier” projects are being reviewed. Over the next 6 weeks final agreements will be secured from project partners and this stage of the process will be completed.

Project Approval

Once this draft plan goes through an additional round of review and refinement, the intent is to have it signed by all the major parties represented on the Steering Committee. These signatures do not represent an obligation to act on all the projects in this plan. Instead, these signatures indicate that the affected party supports the plan’s recommendations and will make a good faith commitment to work towards implementing these projects, particularly those where it is indicated as having a role on a particular program or facility.

Program Alignment and Funding Model

Project Implementation: Next Steps and Sustainability

This action plan project is moving towards completion. But it is critical to be clear that the process of meeting Sitka’s outdoor recreation goals will continue. Once this plan is adopted:

- Evaluate the costs and benefits of individual projects in detail (see Chapter 3 for details).
- Add more information, perhaps as a future appendix or chapter of this plan, on outdoor recreation programs, working with “Sitka Outdoor Recreation Council.”
- Continue to evaluate Sitka’s outdoor recreation needs, and update and revised this plan as necessary (see more below).

Multi-Party Monitoring and Plan Revisions

Project Implementation

Monitor progress towards community goals, and continue to update and refine recommendations in this plan, as conditions and community goals inevitably change. As the chart at the beginning of this section taken from the national “Sustainable Recreation Framework” explains, this is a process that continues into the future.

Chapter 2: Goals and Criteria for Identifying Sustainable Outdoor Recreation Priorities

This chapter presents overarching goals for this Sitka Sustainable Outdoor Recreation Action Plan and criteria for evaluating and prioritizing possible recreation projects. These criteria were developed by the community over the course of the project. To a significant degree priorities will be implemented based on available funding.

Overall Goals

Build a stronger, more durable local economy:

- More reasons to visit Sitka; more independent overnight travelers; reverse decline in cruise ship visitors;
- Better marketing of existing, future attractions;
- Open up new markets (e.g., mountain biking, diving, active seniors);
- More revenues to existing businesses; new business opportunities;
- Smart choices on use of finite funding resources;
- More benefit from recreation and tourism-related activities.

Maintain and improve quality of life and the Sitka natural environment:

- Healthy community – e.g., more activities for kids, “vintage;”
- More reasons to move to Sitka, to continue living in Sitka;
- Healthy natural environment;
- Stronger environmental stewardship, through more use and more understanding of the out-of-doors.

Expand community capacity to carry out priority projects (both current and new):

- Partnerships, e.g., between agencies, volunteers, non-profits;
- Increased visitor spending to expand local revenue, e.g., sales tax;
- A plan that can be used to demonstrate community support; this is often needed to bring in resources from outside funders;
- An active role in recreation and tourism decisions for local residents and businesses.

Criteria for Selecting and Evaluating Proposed Projects

Continue to diversify and improve outdoor recreation opportunities in Sitka and the surrounding region.

Focus on projects (facilities, programs, information) that best meet the following criteria:

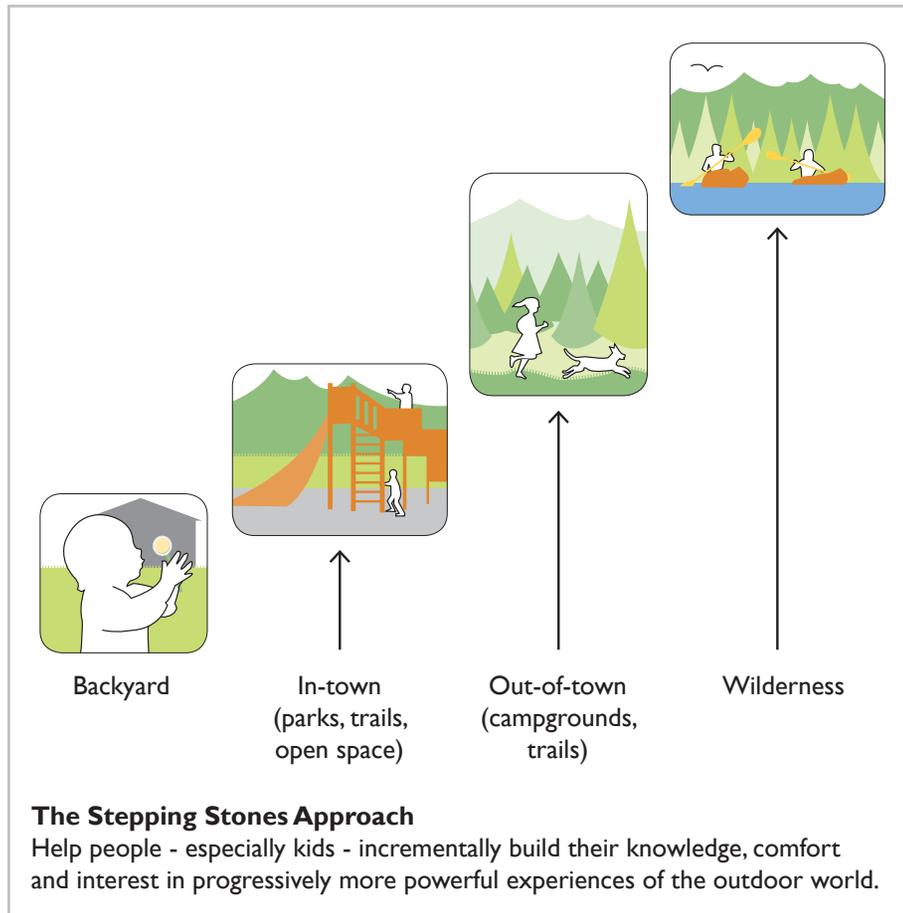
Economic Sustainability:

- Strengthen the local economy by attracting a diverse suite of visitors, particularly high value overnight travelers.
- Strengthen the ability of local businesses to attract and retain employees by showcasing Sitka’s outdoor recreation opportunities and quality of life.
- Help create a stronger “brand” for Sitka, by providing and marketing unique outdoor experiences and facilities that distinguish Sitka from competing visitor destinations.
- Take greater advantage of existing recreation resources (e.g., through providing better information about existing opportunities, or new programs).

- Funding/access to funding mechanisms.
- Aim for mix of smaller “do-able” near term and larger, but still attainable longer term projects.

Environmental Sustainability:

- Strengthen a sense of stewardship for Sitka’s natural and cultural resources; link outdoor recreation with enjoyable ways to learn and deepen individual understanding of Sitka, its natural environment, cultural heritage and current life.



Social Sustainability:

- Improve local quality of life for the enjoyment of residents; make it easier for Sitka residents and visitors to lead an active, healthy life.
- Focus on improvements that benefit both residents and visitors.
- Develop and provide information that so residents can continue to find opportunities for peaceful hikes, picnics or other outdoor activities. Be selective in sharing information about recreation attractions.
- Provide recreation opportunities that serve a wide range of users:
 - Different ages: youth, families with young children; older “vintage” residents and visitors;
 - Diverse interests: from hiking and biking, hunting and fishing to kayaking, boating, ATV’s and scuba diving;
 - Diverse locations: throughout the community, edge of town, and wild places away from town;
 - Activities accessible to people at a wide range of skill and income levels;
 - Facilities that comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act;
 - Diverse seasons: activities throughout the year.
- Provide more than just facilities: include outdoor activity programs, marketing, interpretation and way finding, and cultural-related projects and experiences (e.g., Kiksadi Survival Trail).
- Encourage mainstream activities (e.g., hiking, fishing) and also newer/less typical recreational pursuits; appeal to new and different types of visitors (e.g., diving, mountain biking, disk golf).
- Aim for multiple benefits from the same resources (e.g., health, education, fun).

General Sustainability: The concept of sustainability has been an important one throughout this planning effort. Community members agreed that it will be important to ensure that Sitka’s system of outdoor recreation facilities and programs is sustainable over the long term. Community dialogue included a discussion of what, in addition to the broader economic and community considerations outlined in this chapter, is meant by the term sustainable. For Sitkans, this concept encompasses the following:

- **Durability.** Projects with physical characteristics - materials, grades, locations, etc. - that minimize maintenance costs.
- **Longevity.** Projects that will endure because they are useful, meet community needs and therefore are projects people care about.
- **Community Resources.** Projects that attract local resources for construction and maintenance; e.g., volunteers, donated materials and equipment, local materials.
- **Environmental Impact.** Projects and locations that have minimal environmental impact.
- **Outcome.** Projects with greatest “bang for the buck”, e.g., a short trail connection that adds value to a whole system of trails.
- **Community Support.** Prioritize projects that have strong community support, have been vetted through community boards and commissions and bring community resources to the project.
- **Right Scale.** Be ambitious about the scale and character of the system, but be realistic about resources available to build and maintain trails, cabins, campgrounds, and other facilities.
- **Limits.** Recognize possible need to close or reduce maintenance of some existing facilities in order to shift finite resources to facilities with greatest benefit.

Sustainability will prove to be as much a guiding principle during project implementation as during this plan: a project could become more or less sustainable depending on how the project is implemented. Factors that would affect sustainability during this phase might include: materials used in construction, scale of facility/program, location of facility/program,

the degree of user/visitor education or training (e.g., a trail might be a minimal impact to the natural and social environment if trail users show respect to their surroundings and other users by carrying out whatever trash they generate and disposing of it in town, or by refraining from any activities that would damage the natural environment or facilities, etc.).

This extensive list was distilled into seven key criteria that were used to help prioritize the many project ideas included in this action plan. The seven key criteria include indicators for all three spheres of the sustainability trinity: social (benefits residents, diversification, community support), economic (attracts visitors, bang for the buck, financial sustainability), and environmental (minimal adverse impact). These are explained in the table below and again in Appendix A: All Identified Projects, where they are included in the implementation tables.

Guide to Sustainability Criteria	Criteria represent particular aspects of the three branches of sustainability: Economic (Ec), Environmental (En), Social (So).
Benefits Residents (So)	Improves quality of life: opportunities for healthy enjoyable activity; chances for interaction with friends and neighbors, contributes to overall positive community character.
Attracts Visitors (Ec)	Strengthens reasons for visitors - overnight and day visitors - to spend time and money in Sitka; improves Sitka “brand”; this in turn creates local jobs, business opportunities, & revenue for community services.
Diversification (So)	Expands access in underserved portions of town, expand access to diversity of skill levels, to range of income levels).
Community Support (So)	Based on public input to date, recommendations of previous plans.
“Bang for the Buck” (Ec)	Significant positive impact, modest price.
Financially Sustainable (Ec)	Does the project have a plan for funding? What are the cost/benefits? Are project funds leveraged through partners is there a plan for maintenance? Etc.
Min. Adverse Impact (En)	Impacts are small, actually positive and/or can be readily mitigated; on community character, natural environment, resident recreational activities.

Chapter 3: First Tier Projects

Introduction

The Recreation Action Plan process began by generating an ambitious list of desired projects, including facilities, information resources and programs. This list was then honed down to projects most important to the community. This chapter presents these priority first tier projects, including a brief description of each and a map showing their general location or geographic scope. The full list of all the project ideas generated during the planning process is included in Appendix A.

Process to Select First Tier Projects

Prioritization was not a precise, mechanistic process; instead it involved a synthesis of inputs from multiple sources. One of the goals of this draft is to continue that community discussion - to share results to date and get another round of feedback. Factors that went into project priorities included:

- the priorities identified by community members and community organizations at a series of public workshops and focus groups,
- an analysis of surveys of community members, visitors and visitor industry professionals,
- the priorities previously identified in other approved community plans,
- the degree to which the projects meet criteria for sustainability and the community goals set out by the community (see Chapter 2),
- and finally, the most important criterion for prioritization, was that partners were willing to commit in good faith to make a project go forward.

Preliminary, Conceptual Cost Estimates

Each of the first tier projects includes a rough, preliminary estimate of the order of magnitude of project development costs. These estimates are primarily valuable as a quick way to consider the comparative costs of the first tier projects. Actual cost estimates will require analysis of project specifics at level of detail beyond the reach of this project.

\$ = under \$10,000

\$\$ = \$ tens of thousands

\$\$\$ = \$ hundreds of thousands

\$\$\$\$ = \$ millions

Clarifications, Caveats and Notes:

What is meant by “Partner Commitments”?

This chapter and Appendix A both refer to the partners that will work on any given project. By signing this plan, these partners are not stating their obligation to implement these projects. Instead, as noted above, the partners are committing to work together in good faith to try to carry out these projects. **It is recognized that each partner (be it an agency like the City and Borough, the Forest Service or School District, or a local non-profit like Sitka Trail Works or the Science Center) has its own internal mission, needs and capabilities. A signature on this action plan and a listing as a partner in no way reduces the ability of any organization or agency to pursue its own interests, or creates any financial obligations.** The significance and value of this plan is its expression of shared interests and goals, and the intent to work together to reach those ends.

What is the significance of “First Tier” status?

This list of first tier projects represents reconnaissance-level analysis – a thorough pass at identifying priorities that meet community goals. It is recognized that some of these projects, upon further scrutiny, may turn out to not be feasible. For example: a visitor information center downtown is an identified first tier priority, and would clearly be an asset. But before this project could be deemed as feasible and desirable, much more work is required to assess its specific costs and benefits, and to examine how these compare to other community priorities. This would include due diligence analysis to determine in more detail how this project meets the criteria outlined in Chapter 2, including the ability to support its ongoing operations costs.

It is important to note that the same general project could be more or less feasible, depending on how it is implemented. Sticking with a visitor center as an example; a facility in the wrong location, that isn't particularly energy efficient, that uses construction materials shipped from around the world, and does not have a solid business plan may be less sustainable than, for example, renovating or reusing an existing building, a building located in an area of town that is easily accessed on foot, and/or a facility created with a hard, conservative look at how the operations and management of the facility will be funded into the future.

What is the Status of "Other Projects"?

This plan is intended to be a helpful look to the future, but not a straightjacket. Opportunities may arise for a project not currently seen as first tier, or a project not even on the full list of projects in Appendix A. The process of identifying and pursuing community projects is dynamic and will continue to evolve over time. Priorities can shift, even in a relatively short amount of time, due to changes in political and financial support. Consequently this plan needs to be updated and modified as conditions change.

Use of this Plan

One of the values of this plan is it documents community support and thereby helps project partners to respond quickly when funding or other resource opportunities become available. For example, if a health grant is available that could support an afterschool program identified in this plan, it is helpful to be able to point at this document and say, "The community supports this; it's a priority that deserves funding." The availability of a community approved plan can make the difference between getting or not getting resources needed to move forward on a community project.

New versus Existing Projects

This section focuses on needs for new and/or improved facilities, programs and information resources. It is important to note that maintenance of established facilities is also a critical goal. Surveys done as part of this process made clear that the community wants to see new and improved facilities, but understands that resources are finite and as a result, any new projects need to be evaluated considering the need for and availability of resources to maintain what already exists.

Key to Project Partners

Organization or Entity	Abbreviation
Chamber of Commerce	Chamber
City and Borough of Sitka	C&BS
US Forest Service	USFS
National Park Service	NPS
US Coast Guard	USCG
State Troopers	St. Troopers
State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation	AK Parks
State of Alaska, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities	DOT/PF
Sitka Tribe of Alaska	STA
Sitka School District	SSD
Sitka Community Schools	CS
Sitka Sound Science Center	SSSC
Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium	SEARHC
Sitka Trail Works	STW
Sitka Convention and Visitors Bureau	SCVB
Sitka Historic Society	Hist.Soc.
Southeast Alaska Independent Living	SAIL

Center of Town First Tier Projects

Moller and Swan Lake Park Improvements

“Why should we have the worst track in SE Alaska?” (Sitka HS student) This project calls for a set of overdue improvements to Moller Park sports fields and the running track, as well as expanded sports programs.

Lead: SSD. Primary Partners: C&BS, local sports groups.

Also needed are associated improvements in the adjoining Swan Lake area and an improved connection via a Lake Street Boardwalk. Residents, especially youth, are the prime beneficiaries of this project.

Lead: C&BS. Primary Partners: Adjacent neighborhoods, SSD, STW. \$\$\$\$

Recreation Information Website and Map (program)

Visitors and residents would both benefit from a single, comprehensive outdoor recreation website providing: a compelling overview of the area’s remarkable recreation opportunities; an expansion of the “Sitka Brand”; details of in- and out-of-town trails and facilities; an up-to-date description of available programs and current events; links to other sites; and a beautiful, illustrated map of trails, cabins, parks and other outdoor recreation attractions (online and hardcopy).

Lead: short-term working group representing primary partners.

Primary Partners: USFS, AK Parks, STW, NPS, C&BS, Chamber, SCVB, CS, SEARHC, user groups (e.g. mountain bikers). \$\$

“Bucket List” (program)

This inexpensive but valuable item should be added to the website: a simple, fun list of Sitka “must dos” and sample itineraries, to attract, inspire and challenge a range of users (including youth and “vintage”).

Lead: SCVB. \$

Remaining projects on this page were priorities identified through this planning process and were also all “Sitka Passenger Fee Fund Implementation Plan” projects.

Sea Walk Pathway

Construct an eight foot wide, waterfront pedestrian pathway with view points and seating, linking the O’Connell lightering area, Crescent Harbor and ultimately the NPS museum area. This would provide both a functional connection and an enjoyable experience for visitors and residents. Potential future extension to ANB Harbor.

Lead: C&BS. Primary Partners: SSSC, NPS. \$\$\$\$

Downtown Comprehensive “Wayfinding Plan” (program)

Past plans and recent interviews all confirm the need for an integrated, thorough package of signs, information kiosks, hardcopy maps, on-line maps and related materials so visitors (and residents) can easily find attractions and comfortably explore downtown Sitka.

Lead: C&BS. Primary Partners: Tourism Commission, SSSC, NPS, Hist.Soc., SCVB, STA. \$\$

Circulation Improvements/Public Amenities Within Town

Easy, safe walking is critical to the success of downtown, for residents and visitors. Needed sidewalk improvements include widening and removing barriers, and creating new walks where none exist or there are gaps. Priorities include sidewalks along Katlian and Jeff Davis. Provide better information for amenities such as public restrooms; add additional restrooms if needed. Improve downtown parking (amount, location, accessibility, and signage).

Lead: C&BS. Primary Partners: Downtown businesses, Chamber, SCVB, DOT/PF. \$\$-\$\$\$\$

Improved Access through Sitka National Historic Park

Improve the trail from downtown to the Raptor Center, a popular visitor destination, including creating a safe way across Sawmill Creek Road.

Primary Partners: C&BS, NPS, STW, DOT/PF. \$\$\$

Fishing Pier

Develop a new, convenient fishing dock, for residents and visitors. A downtown location at moderate cost (perhaps as part of the proposed seawall project or kayak launch/storage facility) would provide an activity for youth and visitors. The USFS identified a site at Starrigavan for more serious fishing.

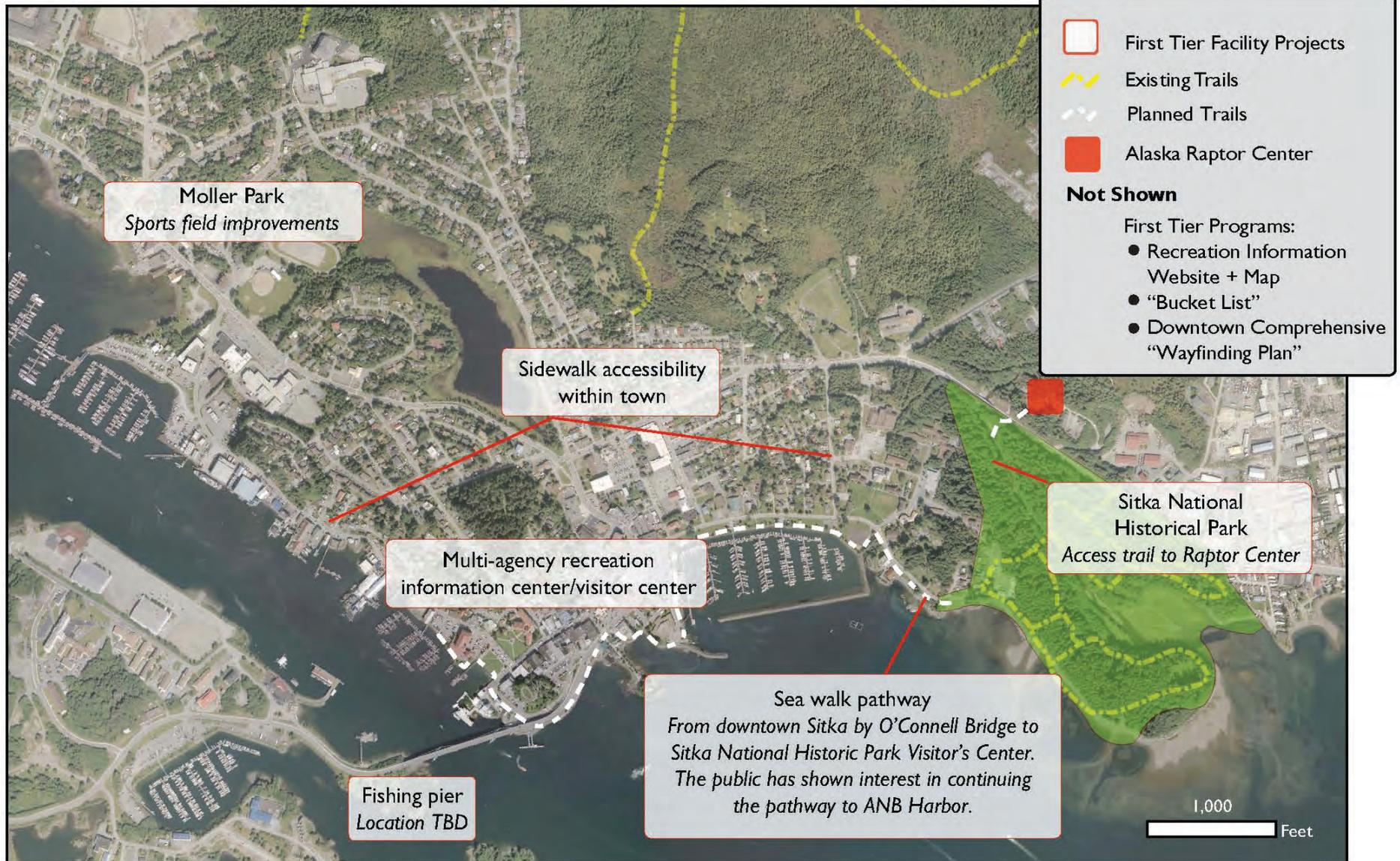
Lead: C&BS. Primary Partners: SSSC, SAIL. \$\$\$

Multi-agency recreation information center/visitor center

Develop a multi-function/multi agency information center, with three key objectives: 1) a central point for information about outdoor recreation opportunities in Sitka and surrounding areas (routes, weather, permits), 2) a central orientation point for visitors, to answer questions about Sitka services and facilities, and 3) a meeting place for programs, such as guided hikes. Specific program and location decisions require much more analysis; the general goal should be a facility that is affordable to construct and operate.

Lead: C&BS, USFS. Primary Partners: SCVB, Chamber, NPS, AK Parks, SSSC. \$\$\$\$

Sitka Outdoor Recreation Plan *Center of Town*



Data courtesy of the USFS, BLM, City + Borough of Sitka and Agnew::Beck. This map was compiled for the USFS and the City + Borough of Sitka with assistance from Agnew::Beck.

Alaska State Plane, Zone 4, NAD 1983
File: Sitka_Downtown.mxd 2/10/11



Road System First Tier Projects

Harbor Mountain Area - Summer Facilities

More should be done to take advantage of this valuable, but underdeveloped, road accessible recreation area, taking care to maintain existing motorized recreation uses. Specific actions include: completing the upgrade of the road (in progress) and upgrading one or more day use/picnic sites. A particular opportunity is to provide an improved scenic overlook, and perhaps ultimately a raised viewing platform, to make it easier for residents and visitors to enjoy the spectacular vista overlooking Sitka Sound. The overlook and day use areas should be ADA accessible. See winter section for specific recommendations regarding winter activities.

Lead: USFS. Primary Partners: C&BS, SCVB. **\$\$-\$\$\$\$**

Hike-in Cabins and Shelters

Provide more rentable, public use cabins located just past the edge of town, in locations that can be reached by hiking from the road system. Hike-in locations help minimize vandalism and provide options to get into the wilderness without the cost and logistics of a plane or boat. Possible locations: Indian River Trail, Beaver Lake Trail, Medvejie, Starrigavan area. Include one larger capacity overnight cabin, to accommodate bigger groups (for example in the Starrigavan area).

Lead: USFS. Primary Partners: AK Parks, local business or user groups (e.g. assisting with maintenance). **\$\$\$**

Mountain Bike Trails

Sitka is ripe for creating new, dedicated mountain bike trails, taking advantage of local (and visitor) interests in riding, and a group of motivated individuals willing to help build and maintain the system. Information is now available about locations where soils ensure well-built trails will last and be low impact. A range of trails is needed, from moderate to very challenging. Harbor Mountain and Granite Creek areas offer two primary locations.

Lead: STW. Primary Partners: C&BS, USFS, Mountain Biker organization, USCG. **\$\$-\$\$\$\$**

Complete the Cross Trail

The Cross Trail is a long standing community priority with four of five phases scheduled for completion in 2012. It joins with the SMC Road separated pathway and will make it possible to walk or bike a continuous 15 mile route from the AMHS Ferry Terminal to the Sawmill Cove Industrial Park.

Lead: C&BS. Partners: STW, USFS, Baranof Island Housing Authority. **\$\$-\$\$\$\$**

Activity programs to build on fitness, skills, health

“Each semester we get 70-80 people signed up for the outdoor recreation class - and we only have 20 slots.” (Sitka high school teacher)

In addition to facilities, there is a strong public interest in a range of new and continuing outdoor recreation programs. Programs are needed to serve adults, seniors and youth; residents and visitors. Proposals include guided walks, wildlife viewing, bear awareness, and a range of exercise and fitness activities, focused on getting youth out-of-doors. The Sitka Outdoor Recreation Coalition (Get Out Sitka!) has a website (<http://getoutsitka.wordpress.com>) intended to expand local knowledge of existing outdoor recreation programs in Sitka. (See Appendix B for more information about programs and Get Out Sitka!.)

Lead: Sitka Outdoor Recreation Coalition (Get Out Sitka!). Partners: C&BS; SCVB, NPS, USFS, School District, user groups. **\$\$-\$\$\$**

Day Use Recreation Areas

Residents and visitors are both seeking more places that support in-town day use recreational activities - for individuals, small and larger groups. Needed are new and improved shelters, fire pit/grills, tables, restrooms, a covered gathering space for large groups, and space for disc golf and a dirt bike track. Promising locations include the waterfront areas at Eagle and Sandy Beaches and at Herring Cove.

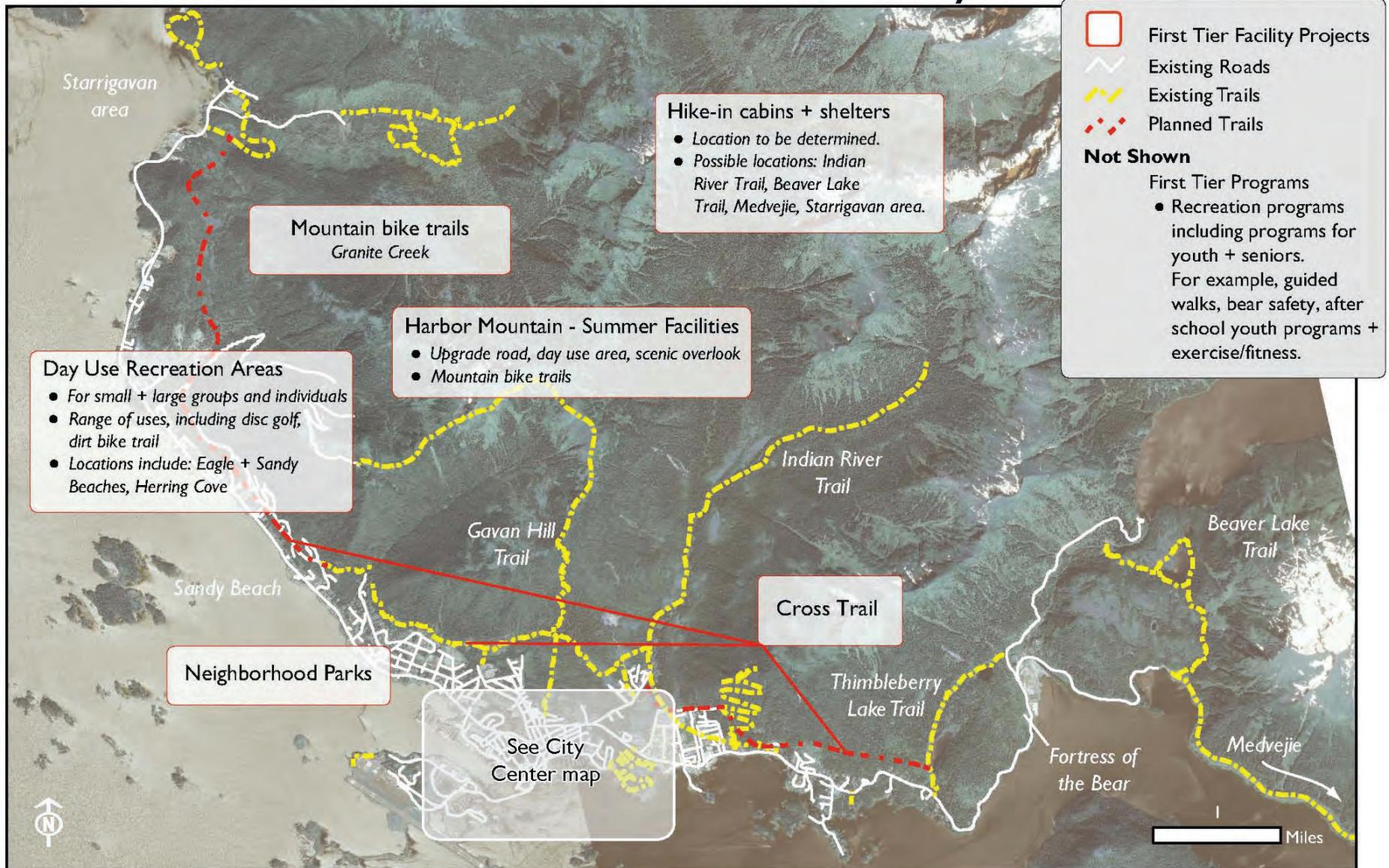
Lead: C&BS, USFS. Primary Partners: DNR, AK Parks. **\$\$-\$\$\$**

Neighborhood-accessible Outdoor Recreation Spaces

There is strong community interest in creating more neighborhood-accessible outdoor recreation spaces in Sitka to make it easier for children and young families to spend more time outside. The City as a whole is seen to be deficient in neighborhood parks, with some very under-served neighborhoods. Desired improvements include additional neighborhood play spaces, more and safer crosswalks, and covered playground equipment. The City and Borough of Sitka's subdivision ordinance strongly encourages tot lots and pocket parks. The main challenges are a lack of land and funding. (See also Youth section).

Lead: C&BS. Primary Partners: Neighborhood Associations, volunteers. **\$\$-\$\$\$\$**

Sitka Outdoor Recreation Plan Road System



Data courtesy of the USFS, BLM, and Agnew::Beck. This map was compiled for the USFS and the City + Borough of Sitka with assistance from Agnew::Beck.

Alaska State Plane, Zone 4, NAD 1983
File: Sitka_Overview.mxd 1/30/11



Out of Town First Tier Projects

Lucky Chance/South Sitka Sound Trail System

A multi-day loop backpacking trail system that provides access to coastal hiking trails is a very high priority for residents and also offer a strong draw for visitors. This project would create the 36 mile world class “alpine-waterfront” Lucky Chance/South Sitka Sound trail system, building from the existing Goddard/Redoubt and Salmon Lake Trails. Elements of the project include huts or shelters (new and restored), a water link across Redoubt Lake, and determining access from Green Lake Road to the Salmon Lake Trail. A complete design study is needed to assess trail issues and to guide development of this major project (see Trails Plan for details).

Lead: USFS, STW. Primary Partners: C&BS. **\$\$-\$\$\$\$**

Upgrade Goddard Hot Springs, Fish Bay Hot Springs

Goddard Hot Springs is associated with but separate from the South Sitka Sound Trail project above. Improvements are needed at both Goddard and Fish Bay Hot Springs, including providing the option for both natural and bathhouse experiences. With even modest improvements these springs could be much more enjoyable, for both boaters and hikers.

Lead (Goddard Hot Springs): C&BS. Lead (Fish Bay Hot Springs): USFS. Primary Partners (Both): Rotary, CBS. **\$\$-\$\$\$**

Search and Rescue

Improve As more people participate in outdoor recreation additional resources will need to be allocated to and consideration given to facilitating and accommodating search and rescue emergency responses.

Lead: Sitka Mountain Rescue (SMR). Primary Partners: USCG, USFS, State Troopers, USCG, community volunteers. **\$\$**

Below are a set of related projects, all tied to the theme of marine and coastal recreation.

Marine Access Points

Improve accessibility, pleasure and safety of marine-based recreation options, by providing an expanded range of facilities. Specific needs include: better mooring buoys; and in-town ramps, storage facilities and haul out for skiffs and kayaks. Specific priority location include Japonski Island.

Lead: USFS, AK Parks, C&BS, Harbor Dept. Primary Partners: C&BS, user groups. **\$\$-\$\$\$**

Improved Marine Recreation Maps and Information

Develop better maps showing public vs. private lands, camping beaches, trip routes. Better information would benefit residents and visitors, including small private yachts and commercial tours.

Lead: AK Parks. Primary Partners: USFS, local businesses. **\$\$-\$\$\$**

Coastal Cabins, Shelters, Campsites

A place to spend the night or get out of the weather is a critical element of improving the safety and enjoyment of the spectacular marine environment surrounding Sitka. A system of places to stay is needed on select coastal routes, for both kayaks and skiffs (whalers). These could range from cabins to shelters, to tent platforms.

Lead: USFS. Primary Partners: AK Parks, community users. **\$\$-\$\$\$**

Improve State Marine Parks

The State of Alaska has what are in effect in-holdings with the broad reach of National Forest Lands in the greater Sitka area. These sites have the potential to provide for improvements such as camping areas or cabins that might not be allowed on USFS lands, particularly in areas designated for wilderness, or wilderness study areas. Improvements are needed to take advantage of this opportunity. One very good suggestion coming from this project was the proposal for Marine Parks “Friends of ” group.

Lead: AK Parks. Primary Partners: Local users/residents, USFS, STW. **\$\$-\$\$\$**

“Sitka Outdoors Club”

This proposal continues in the same direction as the call for more recreation programs cited in the “road system” section. “We need to create a ‘Sitka Outdoors Club’ to help like minded people find partners for hiking, skiing and other outings.”

Primary Partners: C&BS, SSSC, USFS, SSD, NPS, SEARHC, STA. **\$\$-\$\$\$**

Kiksadi Survival March Trail

Further explore options to improve the Kiksadi Survival March Trail, working cooperatively with the Sitka Tribe.

Lead: USFS. Primary Partners: Sitka Tribe, STW. **\$\$**

Sitka Outdoor Recreation Plan *Out of Town*



Data courtesy of the USFS, BLM, and Agnew::Beck.
 This map was compiled for the USFS and the City +
 Borough of Sitka with assistance from Agnew::Beck.

Alaska State Plane, Zone 4, NAD 1983
 File: Sitka_Overview.mxd 2/10/11



Specific Uses First Tier Projects

Starrigavan Motorized Summer Sports

“Improve Starrigavan - people can’t afford more distant, more costly destinations” “Need a fast track for ATVs - not the parking lot.” A new design narrative is needed to improve the Starrigavan multi use trails to manage for impacts and to integrate the trail head area with the Recreational Shooting range. The design would incorporate new routes, and improvements to signing, staging, parking, and training areas. New construction will follow the design phase.

Lead: USFS. Primary Partners: STW, local ATV group. **\$\$-\$\$\$**

Winter Recreation - Non Motorized

Better access to backcountry ski terrain, to snow line for winter sports: e.g. at Bear Mtn, Starrigavan; Extend Harbor Mountain road connection, aim to provide for “ridge to ridge” skiing.

Lead: USFS. Primary Partners: STW. **\$\$-\$\$\$\$**

Sledding spots and a mini- ski/snowboard hill (“we currently poach the golf course; recognize there isn’t always snow, doesn’t have to be fancy, but want an accessible in-town location”).

Lead: CBS. Primary Partners: local users/high school boarders. **\$\$-\$\$\$**

Better XC skiing on Green Lake and Blue Lake road: “institutionalize creative plowing” to allow for Cross Country ski use.

Lead: CBS. **\$\$-\$\$**

Harbor Mountain Winter Use

Harbor Mountain Ski/Mountain Bike trail; winter warming shelter; option for casual use area for snow machines and a strategy to avoid conflicts between snow machines and skiers.

Lead: USFS. **\$\$-\$\$\$**

Diving Opportunities

Magic Island Dive Trail/Dive park.

Lead: AK Parks. Primary Partners: user groups. **\$\$**

Sunken “wrecks” placed for diving.

Lead: Dive group/business. Primary Partners: user groups. **\$\$-\$\$**

Cultural Outdoor Recreation Facilities and Programs

Ft. Rousseau Causeway State Historical Park: Several Years of pre-construction surveys, environmental remediation and planning have recently occurred and this fascinating historic property will soon be ready for constructing a dock, pathways and interpretive signage. Close proximity of the World War II era structures to downtown Sitka will allow residents and summer visitors an interactive glimpse into Alaska’s role defending the US coastline in 1945 and the cultural and natural history of the Causeway Islands.

Lead: AK Parks. Primary Partners: STW, BLM. **\$\$-\$\$\$\$**

Historic Walking Tour of Downtown Sitka: In general provide a range of interpretive walking tours, covering history, art, math/science.

Lead: CBS, Historical Society. Primary Partners: STA, Hist. Soc., Commission. **\$\$-\$\$**

Historical itineraries: Web based/hardcopy information setting out short or multiday activity itineraries, e.g., Native history; WWII history, “Current Life in Sitka”, Russian history - could be included in website.

Lead: Hist.Soc., SSSC. Primary Partners: SCVB, C&BS, NPS, Hist.Soc., STA. **\$**

Mountain Bikes (See “Road System” Section)

Establish new mountain bike trails, ranging from moderate and very challenging where soil conditions permit. Locations currently under investigation include Harbor Mountain and Granite Creek areas.

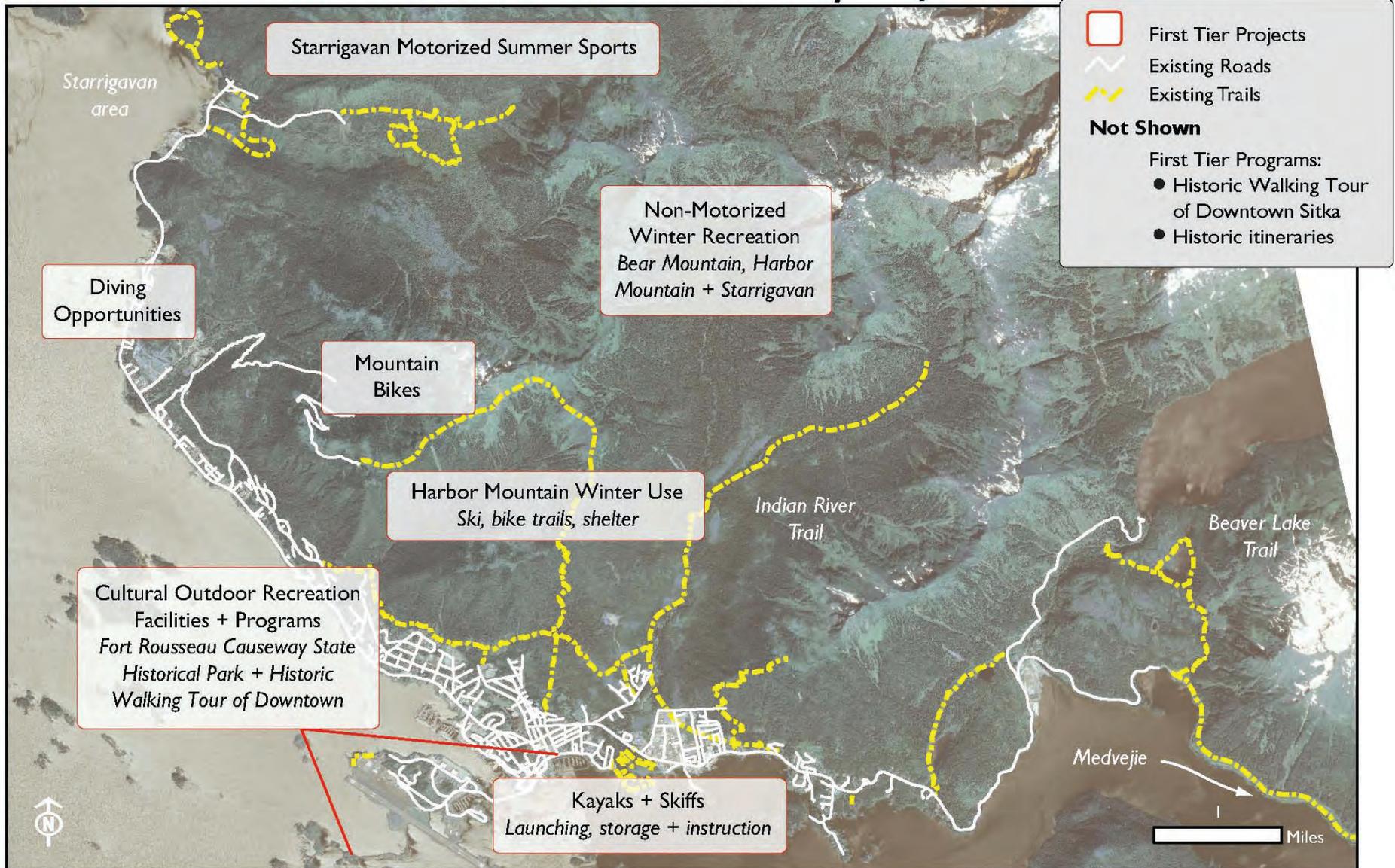
Lead: STW. Primary Partners: local mountain bike volunteers, CBS, USFS. **\$\$-\$\$\$**

Kayak and Skiffs (Launching, Storage)

Develop a convenient, in-town kayak launching point and storage racks, including a place for rentals and instruction programs. The waterfront area on Japonski Island, just past the bridge is a candidate.

Lead: CBS, user group. Primary Partners: local businesses, user groups. **\$\$-\$\$\$**

Sitka Outdoor Recreation Plan *Specific Uses*



Data courtesy of the USFS, BLM, and Agnew::Beck.
 This map was compiled for the USFS and the City +
 Borough of Sitka with assistance from Agnew::Beck.

Alaska State Plane, Zone 4, NAD 1983
 File: Sitka_Overview.mxd 2/10/11



Specific Users First Tier Projects

YOUTH

Outdoor Sports

- Disc Golf (e.g. at/near high school). Lead: C&BS. Primary Partners: Disc golf volunteers. \$
- Beach volleyball court. Lead: C&BS. Primary Partners: volleyball volunteers. \$
- Covered recreation areas: playground, basketball court, skateboard areas (for the skateboard area: add lights, cut the alders to get rid of leaves on surface). Lead: C&BS. Primary Partners: community volunteers. \$\$-\$\$\$
- Better tennis courts (existing court loses net in winter, slick when wet). Lead: C&BS. Primary Partners: SSD. \$\$-\$\$\$
- More pocket/neighborhood playgrounds – not connected to schools. Lead: C&BS. Primary Partners: Neighborhood Associations, volunteers. \$-\$\$\$

Recreation Programs

- Start youth outdoor clubs at all grades to start kids outside; offer outdoor recreation programs; e.g., hiking, rock climbing; after school program combining recreation participation and leadership. Lead: SEARHC, CS. Primary Partners: BGC, SSD, SCS, NPS, SSSC. \$-\$\$
- Kayak storage at water's edge, with convenient launching point (Japonski Boat House?); rentals for residents and for visitors. Lead: CBS, Maritime Heritage. Primary Partners: private business. \$\$
- Youth camping opportunities: expand, overnight for youth groups, help with culture camp. Better publicize existing programs, e.g., SCORE (Summer Camping Outdoor Recreation Education, for kids 8-14). Lead: CS. Primary Partners: NPS, STA, SSD, USFS, SEARHC. \$-\$\$
- Group Hikes and Trail Maintenance/Construction Volunteer Days: STW should continue sponsoring the weekend hikes, trails training in the schools and volunteer work on the trail system. Lead: STW. \$

Covered in other sections:

- *Improve Moller track, better equipment (see center of town)*
- *Better mountain biking: (see road system section)*
- *Access to backcountry ski/snowboard (see special uses, winter section)*
- *Sledding spots; Mini- ski/snowboard hill (see special uses, winter section)*

VINTAGE

Recreation Destinations

- Better access to Sandy Beach (path, parking). Lead: USFS, CBS; Primary Partners: STW. \$-\$\$\$
- Develop “north side” underutilized area of Sitka National Historic Park. Lead: NPS. \$\$
- Scenic overlooks to drive to, for those who may not walk. Lead: CBS. Primary Partners: DOT/PF, USFS. \$\$-\$\$\$

Trails, Trail-Related

Need more benches along trails (e.g. Muskeg trail needs a bench); work with existing donation program for installation of benches. Seek out new partners for ongoing trail maintenance: use non-slip surfaces on new/rehabilitated trails; add restrooms at trail heads.

Lead: USFS, AK Parks, CBS. Primary Partners: STW. \$

Halibut Point Road Pedestrian Walkway. Future opportunities may exist to provide a separated pathway and/or improved pedestrian facilities along Halibut Point Road, similar to that on SMC Road. Development is complicated by existing private property and would occur within the State ROW or on CBS lands.

Lead: CBS. Primary Partners: DOT/PF, STW. \$-\$\$\$

Programs to encourage outdoor activity

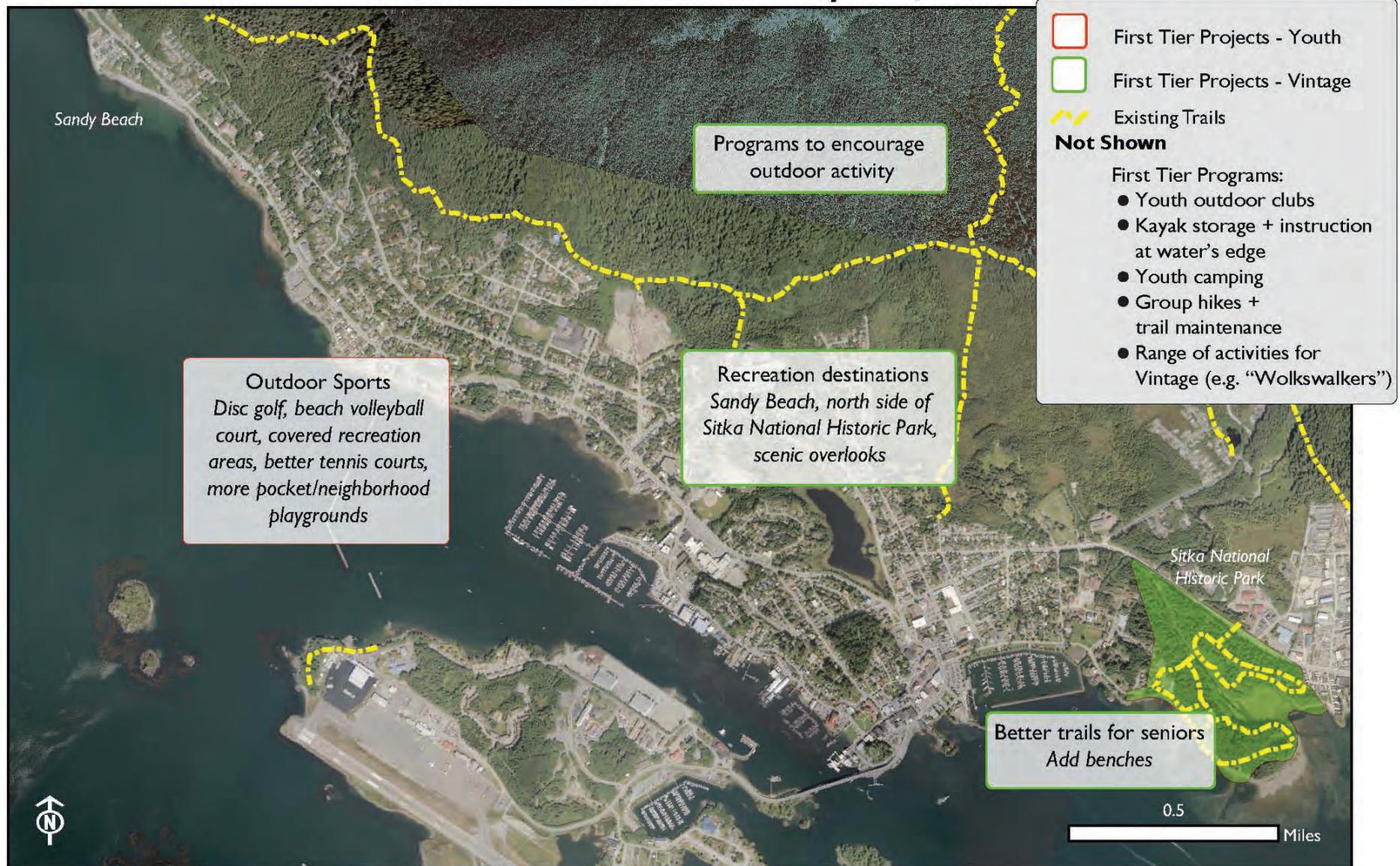
Work with the newly formed Get Out Sitka! group to establish a range of new outdoor programs. Examples include small walking groups (longer, shorter – residents and visitors) and/or walking programs with rewards (e.g., “Volkswalkers” groups who get a pin for completing the walk). An outdoor recreation group for seniors is forming as of the writing of this plan.

Lead: Get Out Sitka, CS. Primary Partners: Sitka Senior Center, STW, SSD, SCS (see also discussion of programs in the Road System section). \$

Covered in other sections:

- *Better information for locals about outdoor recreation (see center of town)*
- *Information on trail bike times (see center of town)*
- *Signage: degree of difficulty, what you'll see, map at trailheads (see center of town)*
- *Better marketing (and info for residents) focused on senior travelers (see center of town)*

Sitka Outdoor Recreation Plan *Specific Users*



Data courtesy of the USFS, BLM, City + Borough of Sitka and Agnew::Beck. This map was compiled for the USFS and the City + Borough of Sitka with assistance from Agnew::Beck.

Alaska State Plane, Zone 4, NAD 1983
File: Sitka_Downtown.mxd 2/10/11



Chapter 4: Project Implementation

“The fun part - the easy part - is listing what we want. What we really need is a practical way to get these projects to actually happen.”

(Comment at October 2010 Workshops)

As described in previous chapters, this project has gone through the set of major steps outlined below:

1. Inventory Sitka’s existing system of outdoor recreation facilities and programs
2. Gather background information on proposed improvements (based on previous plans, community surveys and interviews)
3. Prepare an updated, ambitious list of proposed projects (facilities, programs, information resources)
4. Establish priorities - “first tier projects” - from the full list of projects
5. “Trolling for partners” - confirm support for specific projects
6. Develop more specific implementation strategies for individual first tier projects.

As the quote above makes clear, developing a list of outdoor recreation projects is only the first step in improving Sitka’s outdoor recreation system. That process - steps 1-3 above - took place for this project in the summer and fall of 2010. This plan is designed to increase the odds that priority projects will be developed. Key implementation steps and strategies are outlined below:

- **Establish priorities - “first tier projects” - from the full list of projects.** This step (step 4 above) occurred in fall 2010. Chapter 3 outlines the considerations that went into this important step in the implementation process, which narrowed an extensive list to a more manageable, focused set of priorities
- **“Trolling for partners” - Help develop implementation partnerships, e.g., between agencies, volunteers, non-profits.** This step (step 5 above) has been underway for the last several

months. The intent is to secure commitments to work further on specific projects. As noted above, these commitments aren’t obligations, but do indicate the intent of the partners to work in good faith to implement the projects. Lead and supporting partners are listed for first tier projects in Chapter 3; Appendix A gives more details.

Sitka Trails Plan - A Successful Lesson in the Power of a Plan



The Sitka Trails Plan, completed in 2003, was developed over 3 years, working diligently with community residents, businesses and organizations. Deborah Lyons is the Executive Director of Sitka Trail Works and the person who guided the plan to completion. As Deborah says, “the plan provides a flexible blueprint for action. With the plan in hand we’ve been able to secure funding and partners for a wide range of projects. What seemed very ambitious at the time has turned into a series of successful built projects”.

- **Develop more specific implementation strategies for individual first tier projects.** This step (step 6 above) will continue into the future, following the completion of this plan. Actual implementation steps required vary greatly depending on the nature of the project. Some illustrative examples, for center of town projects:
 - Develop the Sea Walk project - this project already has significant funding and is being actively pursued by the City and Borough of Sitka, working with the Sitka Sound Science Center and the NPS. Including this project in the plan has already helped explain the value of the project to community members and may help with securing additional funding.
 - Prepare a “bucket list” of Sitka must-do activities - this can be done at very low cost and then be posted on the City and SCVB website.
 - Visitor Information Center - as noted earlier in this plan, this project will require extensive analysis to determine if this desirable project is also feasible. Key steps will include: form a team of committed partners, define a program of uses and based on the agreed upon program define project size and character; evaluate options for and secure an appropriate site; develop a detailed business plan/feasibility assessment; develop a fund raising strategy; refine intentions regarding project management and ownership. Only at that point would it be possible to move into more detailed building design, site improvements, and ultimately construction
- **Conclude this process with a formal signing ceremony among key partners.** The ceremony formalizes agreement to work together, share expertise, and otherwise strive to move forward on a set of identified priority projects. The signees do not take on any financial obligations as a result of signing.
- **Approve a plan that can be used to demonstrate the community support needed to bring in resources from outside funders.** Many resources are available for outdoor recreation programs and facilities, if a community has reached agreement on priorities, and can

Does this Plan create financial obligations for the City and Borough of Sitka, the USFS or other Partners?

The short answer - and the long answer - is no. This plan is a guide for developing partnerships, combining resources, seeking funding opportunities, and strategically leveraging our resources. It is recognized that each partner - be it an agency like the City and Borough, the Forest Service or School District, or a local non-profit like Sitka Trail Works or the Science Center - has its own internal mission, needs and capabilities. A signature on this action plan and a listing as a partner in no way reduces the ability of any organization or agency to pursue its own interests. The significance and value of this plan is its expression of shared interests and goals, and the intent to work together to reach those ends.

document those agreements in a widely-endorsed plan. This plan, like the Sitka Trails Plan, is intended to provide that document.

- **Expand Community Resources.** Initial progress to improve outdoor recreation projects can set the stage for still more progress. For example, if better marketing and a Lucky Chance/South Sitka Sound Trail system are developed, these could increase the numbers of visitors to Sitka, which could increase visitor spending, which could in turn expand local government revenues such as sales tax, and also increase profits to local businesses. Portions of this new increment of revenue could then be used for additional public and private improvements.

Quotes from the community on expanding community resources are below:

- “I would, and so would a lot people, volunteer time if they knew work was needed, and the process was well managed and fun”

- “We need to link locals with passion to leadership with vision”
 - “We need a shared grantwriter, someone who could write grants for many different groups would more than return the investment of the cost of their services”
 - “Partnerships can accomplish together what people and organizations can’t do on their own - each partner brings a different set of skills and ideas”
 - “Need more emphasis on business side, youth, and vintage
 - “Let businesses know how it can benefit them, sell them on it”
 - “Need to get more partners to bring in every prospective and group; tribal organizations, schools and hospitals”
 - “Unifying projects and not placing them under a single category makes for more partners and support”
 - “We need what this plan is bringing: helps to get the full community to buy in”
 - “The plan helps people to see the big picture, not just the tip of the iceberg; to get projects done you have to let people know the whole process, all the steps”
 - “Create “buy in” with surveys - so people know they’re being heard”
 - “Combine economic development with projects that will also benefit the local community, keeping everyone happy”
- **Identify a champion.** As the list of partners in this action planning process indicates, there is a great deal of organized support for the spectrum of outdoor recreation activities and infrastructure in Sitka. To make the most of existing resources (e.g., human resources,

funding opportunities) and accomplish some of the more ambitious projects identified in this plan, some form of central leadership will be needed. This leadership could be as loose as a coalition of the primary partners that would meet two to four times a year to set and implement priorities, but it will need a clear sense of mission and responsibilities (especially vis a vis other organizations with an interest in outdoor recreation). Building from this coalition, the group could investigate several models for expanding local capacity to raise and leverage funding, such as:

- Park Service District: modeled on the Eagle River Birchwood Park Service Area, which was voted into existence by residents and businesses, and has been successful in amassing funds to implement the community’s recreation priorities.
- Recreation Foundation: modeled on the Anchorage Park Foundation, which supplements public funding for recreation projects in the Municipality of Anchorage.

sitka

sustainable outdoor recreation action plan

Sitka

sustainable outdoor recreation action plan



JUNE 2012
FINAL PLAN VOL 2. APPENDICES

prepared by AGNEW::BECK CONSULTING
resources for community



Appendix A: All Identified Projects

Project Implementation Table

The first part of Appendix A contains implementation tables for all projects, by geographic area and user type. The following table explains the sustainability criteria that were identified during the planning process to help distinguish priorities as partners move forward with carrying out the plan.

Guide to Sustainability Criteria	Criteria represent particular aspects of the three branches of sustainability: Economic (Ec), Environmental (En), Social (So).
Benefits Residents (So)	Improves quality of life: opportunities for healthy enjoyable activity; chances for interaction with friends and neighbors, contributes to overall positive community character.
Attracts Visitors (Ec)	Strengthens reasons for visitors - overnight and day visitors - to spend time and money in Sitka; improves Sitka "brand"; this in turn creates local jobs, business opportunities, & revenue for community services.
Diversification (So)	Expands access in underserved portions of town, expand access to diversity of skill levels, to range of income levels).
Community Support (So)	Based on public input to date, recommendations of previous plans.
"Bang for the Buck" (Ec)	Significant positive impact, modest price.
Financially Sustainable (Ec)	Does the project have a plan for funding? What are the cost/benefits? Are project funds leveraged through partners is there a plan for maintenance? Etc.
Min. Adverse Impact (En)	Impacts are small, actually positive and/or can be readily mitigated; on community character, natural environment, resident recreational activities.

List of projects by type and priority level

The second part of Appendix A lists all projects by type (e.g., policy, information, facility or program) and priority level (e.g., First Tier, Second Tier).

Center of Town Projects	Project Type				Sustainability Criteria Economic (Ec), Environmental (En), Social (So). (Only marked if project "hits one out of the park" on that criterion)						
	General Policy (G)	Facility (F)	Program (P)	Information (I)	Benefits Residents (So)	Attracts Visitors (Ec)	Diversification (So)	Community Support (So)	"Bang for the Buck" (Ec)	Financially Sustainable (Ec)	Min. Adverse Impact (En)
Project											
FIRST TIER											
<i>Moller Park Improvements:</i>											
Sports fields, running track, circuit fitness loop, programs & activities		x	x		x		x	x			
Related projects: Moller to Lake Street Boardwalk, Swan Lake improvements		x									
Website - central outdoor recreation info source for visitors, residents (adults and kids): great map of trails and attractions, listing of programs, activities, events; information on trail difficulty & time required; link to SCVB website with suggestions for trips, for trip planning			x	x	x	x			x		x
Bucket list - a list of local "must see" attractions and/or sample itineraries for visitors			x	x					x		
<i>Identified Passenger Fee Fund Projects</i>											
Sea Walk Pathway		x			x	x					x
Downtown wayfinding plan: signs, information kiosks, hardcopy maps, virtual maps			x	x	x	x		x	x		
Sidewalk accessibility within town: Katlian, Jeff Davis	x	x			x	x					
Trail through SNHP to the Raptor Center including a safe way across Sawmill Ck Rd		x									
Downtown fishing pier (part of seawall project or kayak launch/storage facility?)		x									
Multi-agency recreation information center/visitor center		x	x	x	x	x					

Notes on responsibilities indicated in the following tables:

Asterisk (*) indicates lead partner/agency

Sitka Trail Plan: 2003 Sitka Trail Plan with Memorandum of Understanding

between Sitka Trail Works, Inc. City and Borough of Sitka, USDA Forest Service Region 10 Sitka District, Alaska Dept. of Natural Resources Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, USDI National Park Service, Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program and Sitka National Historical Park

Public Support	Other Plans				Implementation Notes				
	Sitka Trail Plan	CPET Master Plan	Tour Plan	Non-motorized Plan	Affected Landowners	Partners (Lead(s)shown with *)	timeframe (years)	Status, Cost	Option to use Special Funds (e.g. cruise tax)
workshop + survey priority									
Very High					cbs, SSD	SSD*, CBS	3 TO 6	PRELIM. PLNNIN	GO BOND, LEG. GRANT
Very High					CBS				
Med						SCVB, SEARHC, Comm Schools, CS, CON/VIS*, CBS, CHAMBER	IMMED		CPET?
High		x	x	x	cbs, sssc	CBS*,NPS,SSSC	IMMED	P and D	CPET, GRANTS
Med		x	x	x	cbs, DOT	CBS*, STA, HIST.SOC and COMMISS, ETC	IMMED	PLNNING	CPET
High		x		x	CBS*		1 TO 5		CPET
	x	x		x					
Med		x			CBS, SSSC*, USFS*	ACCESSIBILITY GROUPS	3 TO 5		CPET, GRANTS
High		x			USFS/AKDPOR/CBS/NPS	USFS, CBS*, CON/VIS/	5 TO 10		CPET, USFS

CPET Master Plan: MRV Architects, Jones + Jones, and the McDowell Group for the City and Borough of Sitka (April 2010), Sitka Passenger Fee Fund Implementation Plan

Tourism Plan: Agnew::Beck Consulting for the City and Borough of Sitka (May 2007), Sitka Visitor Industry Framework Plan Draft

Non-motorized Plan: Sitka Non-Motorized Transportation Plan Assessment of Deficiencies and/or Needs (Spring 2002)

Center of Town Projects	Project Type				Sustainability Criteria Economic (Ec), Environmental (En), Social (So). (Only marked if project "hits one out of the park" on that criterion)						
	General Policy (G)	Facility (F)	Program (P)	Information (I)	Benefits Residents (So)	Attracts Visitors (Ec)	Diversification (So)	Community Support (So)	"Bang for the Buck" (Ec)	Financially Sustainable (Ec)	Min. Adverse Impact (En)
Project											
Covered in Other Sections											
<i>Mountain Bike trails - see "Road System, Out of Town & Other Users/Uses sections"</i>											
<i>Sandy Beach - see "Other Users/Uses section"</i>											
SECOND TIER											
Establish outdoor recreation foundation/endowment			x								
Start Kiksadi Trail near town: Indian River another route along HPR. If not a new physical trail, at least add improved signage and route markers.		x									
Renew City bicycle friendly status			x								
Downtown Physical Improvements:											
Center of town activity center; camp? hike, kayak launching point, rentals, instruction											
Prepare a comprehensive downtown improvement plan - address urban design, comfort/ convenience, circulation, walkable, open space	x										
Hands-on, interpretive nature art			x								
Flags, fabric covers for lightening facilities		x	x								
Improve and interpret Crescent net shed		x		x							
Place for kids to create art - wall for kids to chalk (draw), for paint, pottery			x								
Community-sponsored bike borrowing											
More bike racks and bike paths	x	x									

Public Support	Other Plans				Implementation Notes				
	Sitka Trail Plan	CPET Master Plan	Tour Plan	Non-motorized Plan	Affected Landowners	Partners (Lead(s) shown with *)	timeframe (years)	Status, Cost	Option to use Special Funds (e.g. cruise tax)
workshop + survey priority									
					CBS				
					CBS*, NPS, BIHA, ARC	STW, CBS	5+		GRANTS
Med						CBS*, SEARHC, BIKE GROUP	IMMED		
Med				x	CBS*, DOE	USCG, AMSEA, SSOA*, UAS, SEARHC	3 TO 5		CPET, GRANTS
Med		x	x	x	AMHTA				
Med									
Med									
Med									
Med				x	CBS	bike groups, SEARHC			

Center of Town Projects	Project Type				Sustainability Criteria Economic (Ec), Environmental (En), Social (So). (Only marked if project "hits one out of the park" on that criterion)						
	General Policy (G)	Facility (F)	Program (P)	Information (I)	Benefits Residents (So)	Attracts Visitors (Ec)	Diversification (So)	Community Support (So)	"Bang for the Buck" (Ec)	Financially Sustainable (Ec)	Min. Adverse Impact (En)
Project											
<i>Sitka National Historic Park:</i>											
Intergrate SNHP, Raptor Center and Indian River Trailhead along river		x									
More nature walks at Sitka National Historic Park			x								
<i>Day Use Recreation Areas</i>											
Gathering spot for kids where activity not limited		x									
Crescent Park basketball/tennis court upgrade		x									
Cover skatepark, remove alders		x									
Dog park at Sheldon Jackson College Commons (Sitka Fine Arts Camp)		x									
Bergman Park by O'Connell Bridge		x									
Expand tai chi behind library or other areas			x								
Water fountains!											
Better utilize library for outdoor rec information				x							
OTHER											
NEW OR EXPANDED EVENTS											
Herring Roe Festival			x		x	x	x				x
Freedom from Fossil Fuel Friday			x								
Winter season event(s) - motorized, non-motorized			x								

Public Support	Other Plans				Implementation Notes				
	Sitka Trail Plan	CPET Master Plan	Tour Plan	Non-motorized Plan	Affected Landowners	Partners (Lead(s) shown with *)	timeframe (years)	Status, Cost	Option to use Special Funds (e.g. cruise tax)
workshop + survey priority									
	x			x	CBS*, NPS, BIHA, ARC	STW, CBS	5+		GRANTS
					CBS*, NPS, BIHA, ARC	STW, CBS	5+		GRANTS
		x			CBS				
Med					SFAC AMHTA	DOG GROUP			
			x			SSSC, CON/VIS*, STACHAMBER, SSSC*, ETC.	1 TO 5		

Center of Town Projects	Project Type				Sustainability Criteria Economic (Ec), Environmental (En), Social (So). (Only marked if project "hits one out of the park" on that criterion)						
	General Policy (G)	Facility (F)	Program (P)	Information (I)	Benefits Residents (So)	Attracts Visitors (Ec)	Diversification (So)	Community Support (So)	"Bang for the Buck" (Ec)	Financially Sustainable (Ec)	Min. Adverse Impact (En)
Project											
VENDOR OPPORTUNITY											
Historical walk, with interpretive signage, hardcopy/smart phone info		x									
Gear for use outdoors: umbrellas, binoculars			x								
PROJECTS SUGGESTED BUT JUDGED IMPRACTICAL											
Camps within neighborhood blocks		x									
Continue outdoor recreation emphasis at Sheldon Jackson College			x								
<i>Sitka National Historic Park (suggested but inconsistent with NPS mgt policy)</i>											
Bicycle cut-through trail		x									
Improve accessibility by paving trails		x									
Cooking shelters		x									

Public Support	Other Plans				Implementation Notes				
	Sitka Trail Plan	CPET Master Plan	Tour Plan	Non-motorized Plan	Affected Landowners	Partners (Lead(s) shown with *)	timeframe (years)	Status, Cost	Option to use Special Funds (e.g. cruise tax)
workshop + survey priority									
Med	x		x			CBS*, STA, HIST.SOC and COMMISS, ETC	1 TO 5	PLNNING	CPET

Road System Projects	Project Type				Sustainability Criteria Economic (Ec), Environmental (En), Social (So). (Only marked if project "hits one out of the park" on that criterion)						
	General Policy (G)	Facility (F)	Program (P)	Information (I)	Benefits Residents (So)	Attracts Visitors (Ec)	Diversification (So)	Community Support (So)	"Bang for the Buck" (Ec)	Financially Sustainable (Ec)	Min. Adverse Impact (En)
Project											
FIRST TIER											
<i>Harbor Mountain Area Projects (see also "other users/uses" for winter projects)</i>											
Harbor Mtn: upgrade road & picnic area; ADA accessible areas, scenic overlook		x			x	x	x				
<i>Hike-in cabins and shelters</i>											
Provide more nearby, but still hike-in cabins & shelters; locations: Indian River Trail, Beaver Lake Trail, Medvejie, Starrigavan area (larger capacity overnight cabin); "provide accessible shelters like the one between Harbor Mountain and Gavan"	x	x			x	x	x				
<i>Mountain bike trails</i>											
Establish a range of mountain bike trails, moderate and very challenging possible locations Harbor Mountain and Granite Creek areas	x	x			x	x	x				
Mountain bike single track in-town, near batting cage, different levels of difficulty		x									
<i>Activity programs to build on fitness, skills, health</i>											
Priorities as selected by Sitka Outdoor Recreation Coalition			x					x	x		x
<i>Day Use Recreation Areas (more/better: helters, fire pit/grills, tables, restrooms)</i>											
Space for specialized recreation, e.g., disk golf											
e.g., dirt bike track (circle with jumps, bumps)		x				x	x	x			x
Better spaces for outdoor gathering spots for families and groups, including a large outdoor community shelter like Petersburg (location to be determined)											

Notes on responsibilities indicated in the following tables:

Asterisk (*) indicates lead partner/agency

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between Sitka Trail Works, Inc. City and Borough of Sitka, USDA Forest Service Region 10 Sitka District, Alaska Dept. of Natural Resources Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, USDI National Park Service, Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program and Sitka National Historical Park

Public Support	Other Plans				Implementation Notes				
	Sitka Trail Plan	CPET Master Plan	Tour Plan	Non-motorized Plan	Affected Landowners	Partners (Lead(s) shown with *)	timeframe (years)	Status, Cost	Option to use Special Funds (e.g. cruise tax)
workshop + survey priority									
					USFS*,	USFS	1 TO 5	PLANNING	USFS
med					USFS*,ADPOR		1 TO 5	PLANNING	
Very high	x				USFS*, CBS*	STW, MTN BIKER	IMMED	PLANNING	GRANTS, FUNDRAISERS
med						USFS*, CBS*	STW, MTN BIKER, USCG	IMMED	PLANNING
very high						SSD,CS*,SEARHC	IMMED	STAFF TIME	GRANTS
Very High					CBS*	CBS, BIKE GROUP, USCG	3 TO 5		GRANTS

CPET Master Plan: MRV Architects, Jones + Jones, and the McDowell Group for the City and Borough of Sitka (April 2010), Sitka Passenger Fee Fund Implementation Plan

Tourism Plan: Agnew::Beck Consulting for the City and Borough of Sitka (May 2007), Sitka Visitor Industry Framework Plan Draft

Non-motorized Plan: Sitka Non-Motorized Transportation Plan Assessment of Deficiencies and/or Needs (Spring 2002)

Road System Projects	Project Type				Sustainability Criteria Economic (Ec), Environmental (En), Social (So). (Only marked if project "hits one out of the park" on that criterion)						
	General Policy (G)	Facility (F)	Program (P)	Information (I)	Benefits Residents (So)	Attracts Visitors (Ec)	Diversification (So)	Community Support (So)	"Bang for the Buck" (Ec)	Financially Sustainable (Ec)	Min. Adverse Impact (En)
Project											
Priority day use locations: Eagle & Sandy beaches, Herring Cove (<i>more below</i>)		x						x			
Complete Cross Trail from Ferry Terminal to Yaw Drive		x									
SECOND TIER											
Comprehensive Trail Sign Plan; links downtown with mile markers on near-town trails; interpretive signs too (environment, culture, history)	x	x		x							
<i>Trails</i>											
Trails on Japonski Island links to John Brown Beach Area		x									
Japonski Fitness Trail		x									
Upper Cross trail - running trail		x									
Sawmill Creek Road separated pathway to SMCIP		x									
<i>Day Use Recreation Areas (more/better shelters, fire pit/grills, tables, restrooms)</i>		x									
Areas to improve: Herring Cove, Industrial Park, SMC Old Dairy Road, SNHP, John Brown's Beach, Turnaround, Kimsham/Cross Trail area, Pioneer Park,											
Improve Pioneer Park shelters											
Improved Verstovia trailhead facilities (link to adjoining waterfront?)											
Improve Halibut Point Recreation Area and Old Sitka State Parks; complete Halibut Pt Rd upgrade, improve parking & pedestrian facilities; add historic interpretation information		x									
Whale Park - add a pavillion close to water (e.g., for dive logistics)		x	x								
Totem Park cooking shelters other side of bridge											
<i>Mountain bike trails (see also "first tier" projects above)</i>		x									
Indian River area mountain bike trail		x									

Public Support	Other Plans				Implementation Notes				
	Sitka Trail Plan	CPET Master Plan	Tour Plan	Non-motorized Plan	Affected Landowners	Partners (Lead(s)shown with *)	timeframe (years)	Status, Cost	Option to use Special Funds (e.g. cruise tax)
workshop + survey priority									
high	x			x	CBS,	USFS, STW	1 TO 5	Planning	
med				x	CBS, USFS, ADOR	STW*	IMMED	PLANNING	CBS, USFS
	x			x	AK State Parks	USFS	1 TO 5	PLANNING	USFS
	x				CBS*	BIKERS, USCG	3 TO 5		GRANTS

Road System Projects	Project Type				Sustainability Criteria Economic (Ec), Environmental (En), Social (So). (Only marked if project "hits one out of the park" on that criterion)						
	General Policy (G)	Facility (F)	Program (P)	Information (I)	Benefits Residents (So)	Attracts Visitors (Ec)	Diversification (So)	Community Support (So)	"Bang for the Buck" (Ec)	Financially Sustainable (Ec)	Min. Adverse Impact (En)
Project											
Combined mountain bike dirt jump park, free-ride area, BMX track, downhill and single track areas; close to town, kid accessible		x									
Multi-day camping/backpacking trails easily accessible from town, for example, Kruzof, Cross-Baranof Cultural Trail (Kiksadi), Rodman Bay	x	x									
<i>Programs</i>											
Youth camping; facilities, programs, tie to culture camp			x								
Keep and expand locals and visitors group hikes; Saturdays, different locations		x									
Add bus and transit to provide link to trails and rec areas											
100 mile walking club (incentives for activity)			x								
<i>Covered in other Sections</i>											
<i>New road system-accessible fishing areas, fishing pier - saltwater, freshwater show on maps; potential examples Starrigavan, Eagle Beach, Sawmill Creek</i>			x								
<i>Day Use Recreation Areas - see road system section</i>											
<i>Diving sites - see "Special Uses/Users" section</i>											
OTHER											
Improved Thimbleberry loop											
Pedestrian path from Whale park to Green Lake											
Kimshaw Cross Trail											
Trails, camping in locations near ferry terminal (in Starrigavan area)					x	x	x				x
Verstovia trail, trailhead upgrade											
Kiksadi trail extended/signed to begin near town: Indian River another route along HPR. If not trail – route markers.	x		x			x	x		x		x

Public Support	Other Plans				Implementation Notes				
	Sitka Trail Plan	CPET Master Plan	Tour Plan	Non-motorized Plan	Affected Landowners	Partners (Lead(s) shown with *)	timeframe (years)	Status, Cost	Option to use Special Funds (e.g. cruise tax)
workshop + survey priority									
med					USFS				
						STW, SCS*, CS, SSD	IMMED		STAFF TIME
	x	x							
med						NPS, STA, SSD, CS*, SEARHC	1 TO 5		GRANTS, STAFF TIME
					USFS, CBS*		IMMED	STAFF TIME	

Out of Town Projects	Project Type				Sustainability Criteria Economic (Ec), Environmental (En), Social (So). (Only marked if project "hits one out of the park" on that criterion)						
	General Policy (G)	Facility (F)	Program (P)	Information (I)	Benefits Residents (So)	Attracts Visitors (Ec)	Diversification (So)	Community Support (So)	"Bang for the Buck" (Ec)	Financially Sustainable (Ec)	Min. Adverse Impact (En)
Project											
FIRST TIER											
<i>Lucky Chance/Goddard area</i>											
Link to road system/ better access (bridge over Votapah)		x			x	x	x	x			
Improve Lucky Chance Mine Historic/South Sitka Sound trail system; provide huts or shelters		x			x	x	x	x			
Improve Salmon Lake to Redoubt to Goddard; fishing/hiking route		x			x	x	x	x			
Upgrade Goddard Hot Springs		x									
<i>Marine Recreation</i>											
Expanded hut to hut (or tent pad) coastal routes for kayaks and skiffs (whalers)		x			x	x	x				
Maps showing public vs. private islands, camping beaches, trip routes				x					x		
Improve accessibility of water based recreation sites, cabins and camping areas, provide better mooring buoys, ramps for skiffs and kayaks, launch and haul out areas, maps, shelters/cabins.	x	x			x	x					
Improve State marine parks facilities, establish a "Friends of Marine Parks"	x	x	x							x	x
Sitka Outdoor Club ("programs to get people outside")			x		x	x	x				

Notes on responsibilities indicated in the following tables:

Asterisk (*) indicates lead partner/agency

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between Sitka Trail Works, Inc. City and Borough of Sitka, USDA Forest Service Region 10 Sitka District, Alaska Dept. of Natural Resources Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, USDI National Park Service, Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program and Sitka National Historical Park

Public Support	Other Plans				Implementation Notes				
	Sitka Trail Plan	CPET Master Plan	Tour Plan	Non-motorized Plan	Affected Landowners	Partners (Lead(s) shown with *)	timeframe (years)	Status, Cost	Option to use Special Funds (e.g. cruise tax)
workshop + survey priority									
very high	x				USFS*, CBS,	stw	3 to 10	PLANNING	GRANTS, USFS
very high	x				USFS*, CBS,	stw	3 to 10	PLANNING	GRANTS, USFS
very high	x				USFS*, CBS,	stw	3 to 10	PLANNING	GRANTS, USFS
high					CBS*	ROTARY, USCG,	IMMED	PandD	
high					ADPOR* MARINE PARKS	USFS	5 TO 10		
					ADPOR*				
	x				ADPOR* MARINE PARKS	USFS	5 TO 10		
med					ADPOR*	ADPOR	5 TO 10		
high						NPS*, CS,SSSC, USFS, SCS*, STA, SEARHC	IMMED		STAFF TIME

CPET Master Plan: MRV Architects, Jones + Jones, and the McDowell Group for the City and Borough of Sitka (April 2010), Sitka Passenger Fee Fund Implementation Plan

Tourism Plan: Agnew::Beck Consulting for the City and Borough of Sitka (May 2007), Sitka Visitor Industry Framework Plan Draft

Non-motorized Plan: Sitka Non-Motorized Transportation Plan Assessment of Deficiencies and/or Needs (Spring 2002)

Out of Town Projects	Project Type				Sustainability Criteria Economic (Ec), Environmental (En), Social (So). (Only marked if project "hits one out of the park" on that criterion)						
	General Policy (G)	Facility (F)	Program (P)	Information (I)	Benefits Residents (So)	Attracts Visitors (Ec)	Diversification (So)	Community Support (So)	"Bang for the Buck" (Ec)	Financially Sustainable (Ec)	Min. Adverse Impact (En)
Project											
SECOND TIER											
<i>Trails</i>											
Long distance coastal hiking trail; tent pad to tent pad hike		x									
Develop Trail to Fish Bay Hot Springs -North Baranof		x									
Maintain/improve Baranof Warm Springs trail and Sadie Lake Trail		x									
Establish cross-Baranof GPS route to Warm Springs		x									
Port Alexander to Cape Decision Light House water trail; support Port Alexander community goals for tourism, fishing	x	x									
Improve maintenance of the Sealion Cove Trail - Kruzof Island		x	x								
Maintain and improve Bear Cove to Camp Lake Trail (Medvejie)		x	x								
Plan and build recreational trail to Hanus Bay (North Baranof Island)		x									
Investigate options for historic Katlian route/trail (work with Native community)	x	x									
Eagle Creek Trail		x									
Kizuchia Creek Mountain Bike trail (on the way to Redoubt, road crosses allotment)		x									
<i>Marine Recreation</i>											
Kayaking classes / instruction + advertisement			x	x							
Camping pads on Causeway		x									
Dispersed, unimproved campsites	x	x									

Public Support	Other Plans				Implementation Notes				
	Sitka Trail Plan	CPET Master Plan	Tour Plan	Non-motorized Plan	Affected Landowners	Partners (Lead(s) shown with *)	timeframe (years)	Status, Cost	Option to use Special Funds (e.g. cruise tax)
workshop + survey priority									
high									
high					USFS*	USFS	5 TO 10		
high	x				USFS*, CBS, DNR	USFS	1 TO 5	PLANNING	
					USFS*				
					State*				
	x				State*				
	x				USFS*				
					USFS*				
					USFS*				
					USFS*				
					USFS*, CBS*	STW, MTN BIKER, USCG	IMMED	PLANNING	GRANTS, FUNDRAISERS

Out of Town Projects	Project Type				Sustainability Criteria Economic (Ec), Environmental (En), Social (So). (Only marked if project "hits one out of the park" on that criterion)						
	General Policy (G)	Facility (F)	Program (P)	Information (I)	Benefits Residents (So)	Attracts Visitors (Ec)	Diversification (So)	Community Support (So)	"Bang for the Buck" (Ec)	Financially Sustainable (Ec)	Min. Adverse Impact (En)
Project											
<i>Programs</i>											
Improve options for commercial use of USFS cabins (e.g., 2-week permits ?)	x		x								
Fire hall check outs: spots + radios			x								
More recognition for stewardship/volunteer work from local fisherman			x								
Conduct programs for bear/hiker safety (one suggestion: "more bear recipes")			x								
<i>See Special Uses/Users section re dive sites</i>											

Public Support	Other Plans				Implementation Notes				
workshop + survey priority	Sitka Trail Plan	CPET Master Plan	Tour Plan	Non-motorized Plan	Affected Landowners	Partners (Lead(s)shown with *)	timeframe (years)	Status, Cost	Option to use Special Funds (e.g. cruise tax)
					USFS*			ongoing	
					CBS*			ongoing	
					CBS*, USFS, State				

Specific Uses Projects	Project Type				Sustainability Criteria Economic (Ec), Environmental (En), Social (So). (Only marked if project "hits one out of the park" on that criterion)						
	General Policy (G)	Facility (F)	Program (P)	Information (I)	Benefits Residents (So)	Attracts Visitors (Ec)	Diversification (So)	Community Support (So)	"Bang for the Buck" (Ec)	Financially Sustainable (Ec)	Min. Adverse Impact (En)
Project											
MOTORIZED SUMMER RECREATION (ATV's)											
<i>Starrigavan Motorized Recreation Area</i>											
Create improved ATV trails ("people can't afford more distant, more costly locations"); designate area/design trails to manage impacts	x	x					x				
"Need a fast track for ATVs - not the Starrigavan parking lot"		x					x				
Better staging, parking area		x					x				
Arrange for training, education programs	x		x	x			x				
Provide improved places for loading 4-wheelers onto skiffs	x	x									
WINTER RECREATION (MOTORIZED AND NON MOTORIZED)											
Better XC skiing on Green Lake and Blue Lake road: collaborate with Public Works department to plow the road in a way that still allows for skiers ("institutionalize creative plowing")	x		x						x		x
Better access to backcountry ski terrain, to snow line for winter sports: Bear Mountain, Starrigavan, Extend Harbor Mountain connection, Ridge to ridge	x	x						x			
Sledding spots; Mini- ski/snowboard hill (currently poach golf course); but accept limited snow (see special uses, winter section)	x	x			x				x		
<i>Motorized Winter Use</i>											
Allow ATV/snowmobile access on Green Lake Road – do some cooperative thinking/management to allow use	x	x							x		

Notes on responsibilities indicated in the following tables:

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between Sitka Trail Works, Inc. City and Borough of Sitka, USDA Forest Service Region 10 Sitka District, Alaska Dept. of Natural Resources Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, USDI National Park Service, Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program and Sitka National Historical Park

Public Support	Other Plans				Implementation Notes				
	Sitka Trail Plan	CPET Master Plan	Tour Plan	Non-motorized Plan	Affected Landowners	Partners (Lead(s) shown with *)	timeframe (years)	Status, Cost	Option to use Special Funds (e.g. cruise tax)
workshop + survey priority									
high					USFS	STW, ATV'ers	1 to 5	Planning	RAC, TRAK (State Parks)
high					USFS	STW, ATV'ers	1 to 5	Planning	RAC, TRAK (State Parks)
high					USFS	STW, ATV'ers	1 to 5	Planning	RAC, TRAK (State Parks)
high	x				USFS	STW, ATV'ers	1 to 5	Planning	RAC, TRAK (State Parks)
					ADPOR*/CBS		5 to 10	new idea	unknown
very high					USFS, CBS*	stw*	IMMED	STAFF TIME	
high					USFS*, CBS*	STW, MTN BIKER, USCG	IMMED	PLANNING	GRANTS, FUNDRAISERS
med					CBS*, USFS	CBS*			
					CBS*				not an option

CPET Master Plan: MRV Architects, Jones + Jones, and the McDowell Group for the City and Borough of Sitka (April 2010), Sitka Passenger Fee Fund Implementation Plan

Tourism Plan: Agnew::Beck Consulting for the City and Borough of Sitka (May 2007), Sitka Visitor Industry Framework Plan Draft

Non-motorized Plan: Sitka Non-Motorized Transportation Plan Assessment of Deficiencies and/or Needs (Spring 2002)

Specific Uses Projects	Project Type				Sustainability Criteria Economic (Ec), Environmental (En), Social (So). (Only marked if project "hits one out of the park" on that criterion)						
	General Policy (G)	Facility (F)	Program (P)	Information (I)	Benefits Residents (So)	Attracts Visitors (Ec)	Diversification (So)	Community Support (So)	"Bang for the Buck" (Ec)	Financially Sustainable (Ec)	Min. Adverse Impact (En)
Project											
Open a trail on Cascade Creek for snowmobile/ATV		x									
Need to separate snow machines from skiers	x	x		x							
<i>Harbor Mountain Winter Use</i>											
Harbor Mountain Ski/Mountain Bike Trail		x			x	x					
Harbor Mountain casual use area for snow machines		x									
Winter warming shelter on Harbor		x									
Lift on Harbor Mountain		x									
Goddard trail (link through Cascade Valley; backside of Gavan Hill)		x									
Winter/summer shelter on Verstovia		x									
CULTURE TRAILS + CULTURAL RECREATION											
Ft. Rousseau State Historical Park (Causeway Trail)		x			x	x	x	x			x
Harbor Mountain: road, trail with historic cultural information		x		x					x		
Walking tours: history, science, art, math/science "			x			x			x		
Historic Walking Tour of Downtown Sitka			x	x	x				x		x
Historical itineraries - web based/hardcopy information setting out short or multiday activity itineraries				x	x				x		x
Lucky Chance/Goddard Trail (one of Alaska's first mining areas)		x			x	x	x	x			

Public Support	Other Plans				Implementation Notes				
	Sitka Trail Plan	CPET Master Plan	Tour Plan	Non-motorized Plan	Affected Landowners	Partners (Lead(s) shown with *)	timeframe (years)	Status, Cost	Option to use Special Funds (e.g. cruise tax)
workshop + survey priority					USFS*				will take into consideration
med					USFS HARBOR MTN. ??	Sitka Riders	1 to 5	new idea	
high	x				USFS*		5 to 10	new idea	
					USFS*				
					USFS*				
					USFS*				
					USFS,* CBS				
					USFS*				
high	x		x		ADPOR*	STW,	IMMED	P and D	ACOE, ATI, ADPOR, LEG. GRANTS
	x		x		USFS*				
						CBS*, STA, HIST.SOC and COMMISS, ETC	1 TO 5	PLNNING	CPET
	x					CBS*, STA, HIST.SOC and COMMISS, ETC	1 TO 5	PLNNING	CPET
			x			CBS*, STA, HIST.SOC and COMMISS, ETC	1 TO 5	PLNNING	CPET
	x				USFS, CBS,	stw*	3 to 10	PLANNING	GRANTS, USFS

Specific Uses Projects	Project Type				Sustainability Criteria Economic (Ec), Environmental (En), Social (So). (Only marked if project "hits one out of the park" on that criterion)						
	General Policy (G)	Facility (F)	Program (P)	Information (I)	Benefits Residents (So)	Attracts Visitors (Ec)	Diversification (So)	Community Support (So)	"Bang for the Buck" (Ec)	Financially Sustainable (Ec)	Min. Adverse Impact (En)
Project											
Recreate the old ice road/trail from Swan Lake to downtown		x									
Re-creations of historical points of interest, e.g., Old Sitka, Tlingit Fort; mining activities at Lucky Chance		x			x		x	x			x
Restore/maintain cemeteries		x	x								
Tell cultural/historic stories? Clan's role? Signs, maps?											
Protect and preserve cultural artifacts											x
DIVING AREAS											
Magic Island Dive Trail/Dive park		x		x							
Sunken "wrecks" placed for diving on		x									
MOUNTAIN BIKES											
Establish a range of mountain bike trails, moderate and very challenging possible locations Harbor Mountain and Granite Creek areas	x	x			x	x	x				
Mountain bike single track in-town, near batting cage, different levels of difficulty		x									
BMX track		x									
Renew City bicycle friendly status (See also Center of Town)			x								
KAYAK + SKIFFS											
Kayak launching point, rentals, instruction downtown (see also Center of Town)					x	x					
See also Out of Town, Marine Recreation											

Public Support	Other Plans				Implementation Notes				
	Sitka Trail Plan	CPET Master Plan	Tour Plan	Non-motorized Plan	Affected Landowners	Partners (Lead(s) shown with *)	timeframe (years)	Status, Cost	Option to use Special Funds (e.g. cruise tax)
workshop + survey priority									
			x		USFS, CBS	STW*	3 to 10	PLANNING	GRANTS, USFS
			x		CBS	STA			
						STA			
						STA, Historical Society, USFS			
	x								
Very high	x				USFS*, CBS*	STW, MTN BIKER	IMMED	PLANNING	GRANTS, FUNDRAISERS
med					CBS*	USFS*, CBS*	STW, MTN BIKER, USCG	IMMED	PLANNING
					CBS*	CBS, BIKE GROUP, USCG	3 TO 5		GRANTS
Med					CBS*	CBS*, SEARHC, BIKE GROUP	IMMED		
Med				x	CBS*, DOE	USCG, AMSEA, SSOA*, UAS, SEARHC	3 TO 5		CPET, GRANTS

Vintage Projects	Project Type				Sustainability Criteria Economic (Ec), Environmental (En), Social (So). (Only marked if project "hits one out of the park" on that criterion)						
	General Policy (G)	Facility (F)	Program (P)	Information (I)	Benefits Residents (So)	Attracts Visitors (Ec)	Diversification (So)	Community Support (So)	"Bang for the Buck" (Ec)	Financially Sustainable (Ec)	Min. Adverse Impact (En)
Project											
FIRST TIER											
Better access to Sandy Beach (path, parking)	x	x			x			x	x		
Develop "north side" underutilized area of Sitka National Historic Park		x			x	x			x		
Scenic overlooks – drive to, for those who may not walk		x			x	x	x				
Need more benches, bathrooms along trails (e.g. Muskeg trail needs a bench)	x	x									
Halibut Point pedestrian walkway											
<i>Programs to encourage outdoor activity:</i>											
Small walking groups (longer, shorter – residents & visitors)			x		x	x	x		x		x
Walking programs with rewards (e.g., Volkswagen/Wolkswalkers groups get a pin for completing the walk)			x		x	x	x		x		x
Covered in other sections											
<i>Better information for locals about outdoor recreation - see center of town</i>											
<i>Information on trail hike times</i>											
<i>Signage-degree of difficulty; what you'll see, map at beginning of trails</i>											
<i>Better marketing - focused on senior travelers (and info for residents)</i>				x							
SECOND TIER											
Hut-to-hut trail system for seniors											

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Public Support	Other Plans				Implementation Notes				
	Sitka Trail Plan	CPET Master Plan	Tour Plan	Non-motorized Plan	Affected Landowners	Partners (Lead(s) shown with *)	timeframe (years)	Status, Cost	Option to use Special Funds (e.g. cruise tax)
workshop + survey priority									
very high					USFS,	CBS, STW			
high					NPS	STW	2 TO 5	PLANNING	
med					DOT	USFS, CBS			
med					USFS, CBS, ADPOR	STW			
	x				DOT	CBS, STW			
med						STW, SCS*, CS, SSD	IMMED		STAFF TIME
med						STW, SCS*, CS, SSD	IMMED		STAFF TIME

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Vintage Projects	Project Type				Sustainability Criteria Economic (Ec), Environmental (En), Social (So). (Only marked if project "hits one out of the park" on that criterion)						
	General Policy (G)	Facility (F)	Program (P)	Information (I)	Benefits Residents (So)	Attracts Visitors (Ec)	Diversification (So)	Community Support (So)	"Bang for the Buck" (Ec)	Financially Sustainable (Ec)	Min. Adverse Impact (En)
Project											
Picnic area (Halibut is always booked)											
wheelchair access to parks + trails + info											
Encourage elder hostel programs											
<i>Improvements to trails</i>											
Design standards for trail accessibility, use by seniors											
More access to trails suited for older walkers (low angle, but interesting, loops)											
More loop trails (e.g. new trail along road back from Heart Lake);											
More trails like Herring; good walking, interesting											
Paved trails for wheelchairs; people with trouble walking; walking (not hiking)											
More crosswalks (e.g. by Alaska Raptor Center)											
Reduce slippery trail surfaces											
Trails that in effect, replicate "mall walk" - hand rails, social aspect, coffee											
<i>Programs</i>											
Programs (open to public) on trails, environment			x								
Programs for people who want to join a group hike (for shorter/easier trails)											
Guided walks for vintage + youth			x								
transportation information - ways to get to trailheads, to activity areas											

Public Support	Other Plans				Implementation Notes				
	Sitka Trail Plan	CPET Master Plan	Tour Plan	Non-motorized Plan	Affected Landowners	Partners (Lead(s) shown with *)	timeframe (years)	Status, Cost	Option to use Special Funds (e.g. cruise tax)
workshop + survey priority									
					USFS, CBS, State				
					USFS, NPS, State				
					USFS, NPS, CBS				
					USFS, NPS, CBS				
					USFS				
					CBS				
					CBS				
					CBS				
					CBS				
					CBS				
						STW, SCS*, CS, SSD	IMMED		STAFF TIME

Vintage Projects	Project Type				Sustainability Criteria Economic (Ec), Environmental (En), Social (So). (Only marked if project "hits one out of the park" on that criterion)						
	General Policy (G)	Facility (F)	Program (P)	Information (I)	Benefits Residents (So)	Attracts Visitors (Ec)	Diversification (So)	Community Support (So)	"Bang for the Buck" (Ec)	Financially Sustainable (Ec)	Min. Adverse Impact (En)
Project											
Covered in other sections											
<i>Fishing areas, fishing pier - saltwater, freshwater - "in around town"</i>	x	x									
<i>Interpretive signs on trails (environment, culture, history)</i>				x							
<i>Improve causeway trail for seniors, access</i>											
<i>Sidewalk accessibility within town - in "center of town"</i>	x	x									

Public Support	Other Plans				Implementation Notes				
	Sitka Trail Plan	CPEI Master Plan	Tour Plan	Non-motorized Plan	Affected Landowners	Partners (Lead(s) shown with *)	timeframe (years)	Status, Cost	Option to use Special Funds (e.g. cruise tax)
workshop + survey priority									
med					CBS, State				
					CBS, USFS, NPS				
					CBS, State				
med					CBS				

Youth Projects	Project Type				Sustainability Criteria Economic (Ec), Environmental (En), Social (So). (Only marked if project "hits one out of the park" on that criterion)						
	General Policy (G)	Facility (F)	Program (P)	Information (I)	Benefits Residents (So)	Attracts Visitors (Ec)	Diversification (So)	Community Support (So)	"Bang for the Buck" (Ec)	Financially Sustainable (Ec)	Min. Adverse Impact (En)
Project											
FIRST TIER											
Disc Golf (e.g. at/near high school)		x			x			x			
Beach volleyball court		x							x		
Better tennis courts (existing court loses net in winter, very slick when wet)		x									x
More pocket/neighborhood playgrounds – not connected to schools	x	x					x				
Covered recreation areas: playground, basketball court, skateboard areas (for the skateboard area: add lights, cut the alders to get rid of leaves on surface)	x	x			x		x		x		
Programs											
Start youth outdoor clubs at all grades to start kids outside; offer outdoor recreation programs e.g., hiking, rock climbing ; after school program combining recreation participation and leadership			x		x			x			x
Kayak storage at water 's edge, with convenient launching point; rentals for residents and for visitors		x				x					x
Youth camping opportunities: expand, overnight for youth groups, help with culture camp		x	x								x

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Public Support	Other Plans				Implementation Notes				
	Sitka Trail Plan	CPET Master Plan	Tour Plan	Non-motorized Plan	Affected Landowners	Partners (Lead(s) shown with *)	timeframe (years)	Status, Cost	Option to use Special Funds (e.g. cruise tax)
workshop + survey priority									
very high					CBS*	DISC GOLF GROUP	IMMED	PLANNING	FUNDRAISERS,
high					CBS	VOLLEYBALL VOLUNTEERS*	1 TO 5	MATERIALS COST, SITE ID'ED	GRANTS
med					CBS*				
high					CBS	neighborhood assoc.*	0 TO 50	Planned in major subdivisions in comp. plan	GRANTS
med					CBS	SSD	IMMED TO 10	PLANNING FOR SKATEPARK	FUNDING MAY NOT BE ADEQUATE
very high						SEARHC*, CS*, BGC SSD, SCS, NPS, SSSC,	IMMED		
med					CBS	SSOA*, JAPONSKI BOATHOUSE	1 TO 5		GRANTS, CPET
med						NPS, STA, SSD, CS*, SEARHC	1 TO 5		GRANTS, STAFF TIME

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Youth Projects	Project Type				Sustainability Criteria Economic (Ec), Environmental (En), Social (So). (Only marked if project "hits one out of the park" on that criterion)						
	General Policy (G)	Facility (F)	Program (P)	Information (I)	Benefits Residents (So)	Attracts Visitors (Ec)	Diversification (So)	Community Support (So)	"Bang for the Buck" (Ec)	Financially Sustainable (Ec)	Min. Adverse Impact (En)
Project											
Covered in other sections											
<i>Improve Moller track, better equipment (see center of town)</i>		x									
<i>Better mountain biking: "we share dirt roads today, it's not safe; Thimbleberry open but conflicts with walkers" (see road system section)</i>		x									
<i>Access to backcountry ski/snowboard (see special uses, winter section)</i>	x	x									
<i>Sledding spots; Mini- ski/snowboard hill (see special uses, winter section)</i>											
SECOND TIER											
Places for kids to have bonfires	x	x									
Rock Quarry, Rock climbing – indoor wall ok, but closing with close of Sheldon Jackson		x									
Trails											
Loop trails (hike, ski, walk)		x									
Road system accessible, longer backcountry trails, huts (affordable)		x									
More interactive trails		x	x								
Safe routes to schools		x									
More trails up to tops of mountains, e.g. up to Sisters (solution to evacuation safety)		x									
More 4-wheeler roads – used to be able to use area by airport, now closed		x									
Outdoor Sports											
Sheldon Jackson Lawn – ultimate Frisbee today, need a field for future		x									
Location for paintball (state park?)											

Public Support	Other Plans				Implementation Notes				
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workshop + survey priority									
very high					CBS				
med					CBS, USFS				
med					USFS*, CBS*	STW, MTN BIKER, USCG	IMMED	PLANNING	GRANTS, FUNDRAISERS
med					CBS*				
					CBS				
					USFS				
					CBS, USFS				
					USFS				
					CBS				
					CBS				
					CBS, USFS				
					State				

Youth Projects	Project Type				Sustainability Criteria Economic (Ec), Environmental (En), Social (So). (Only marked if project "hits one out of the park" on that criterion)						
	General Policy (G)	Facility (F)	Program (P)	Information (I)	Benefits Residents (So)	Attracts Visitors (Ec)	Diversification (So)	Community Support (So)	"Bang for the Buck" (Ec)	Financially Sustainable (Ec)	Min. Adverse Impact (En)
Project											
Kid-designed playground			x								
Losing Sheldon Jackson - need to find replacement activity areas											
Open use, multiuse fields (see Moller - center of town)		x									
Playground in Indian River/BIHA area diverse activities											
Archery area		x	x								
<i>Outdoor Programs:</i>											
Educational geocaching/letterboxing			x								
Fine Arts Camp: outdoor art (arts in the park)			x								
Information sharing: bring together rec providers/stakeholders - Example: Discover Southeast in Juneau, getoutsitka.wordpress.com			x								
Interpretive/education programs by agencies			x								
Partner with Mount Edgecumbe school			x								
More safety training			x								
More social/outdoor unsupervised areas			x								
More teachers/more outdoor recreation classes			x								
Organized survival training – high school. In addition or next step to Community Schools Middle School program			x								

Public Support	Other Plans				Implementation Notes				
	Sitka Trail Plan	CPET Master Plan	Tour Plan	Non-motorized Plan	Affected Landowners	Partners (Lead(s) shown with *)	timeframe (years)	Status, Cost	Option to use Special Funds (e.g. cruise tax)
workshop + survey priority									
					CBS				
					CBS, USFS, NPS				
					USFS, NPS, State				

Youth Projects	Project Type				Sustainability Criteria Economic (Ec), Environmental (En), Social (So). (Only marked if project "hits one out of the park" on that criterion)						
	General Policy (G)	Facility (F)	Program (P)	Information (I)	Benefits Residents (So)	Attracts Visitors (Ec)	Diversification (So)	Community Support (So)	"Bang for the Buck" (Ec)	Financially Sustainable (Ec)	Min. Adverse Impact (En)
Project											
School partnership in kids kayak programs: gear, information, resident rentals, leading center			x								
Guided walks for vintage + youth			x								
Youth employment (Anchorage, SAGA, leading recreation hikes etc. and building and maintaining facilities)			x								
Outdoor media programs: film, photo, video, reporting, youtube, radio, audio			x								
Outdoors in the afternoons?											

Public Support	Other Plans				Implementation Notes				
	Sitka Trail Plan	CPET Master Plan	Tour Plan	Non-motorized Plan	Affected Landowners	Partners (Lead(s) shown with *)	timeframe (years)	Status, Cost	Option to use Special Funds (e.g. cruise tax)
workshop + survey priority									

Projects by Type and Priority *(some projects fall under multiple categories)*

GENERAL POLICIES

First Tier General Policies

Out of Town

- Improve accessibility of water based recreation sites, cabins and camping areas, provide better mooring buoys, ramps for skiffs and kayaks, launch and haul out areas, maps, shelters/cabins.
- Improve State marine parks facilities, establish a “Friends of Marine Parks”

Special Users: Youth

- More pocket/neighborhood playgrounds – not connected to schools
- Covered recreation areas: playground, basketball court, skateboard areas (for the skateboard area: add lights, cut the alders to get rid of leaves on surface)
- Kayak storage at water’s edge, with convenient launching point; rentals for residents and for visitors
- Access to backcountry ski/snowboard (also listed under “Special Uses”)

Second Tier General Policies

Center of Town

- Downtown Physical Improvements: Prepare a comprehensive downtown improvement plan - address urban design, comfort/convenience, circulation, walkable, open space

Out of Town

- Port Alexander to Cape Decision Light House water trail; support Port Alexander community goals for tourism, fishing
- Investigate options for historic Katlian route/trail (work with Native community)
- Improve options for commercial use of USFS cabins (e.g., 2-week permits?)

Special Users: Youth

- Places for kids to have bonfires
- Outdoor Programs: Educational geocaching/letterboxing

Special Users: Vintage

- Design standards for trail accessibility, use by seniors

Other General Policies

Special Uses: Culture Trails + Cultural Recreation

- Protect and preserve cultural artifacts

Special Uses: Motorized Summer Recreation (ATV’s)

- Starrigavan Motorized Recreation Area: Create improved ATV trails (“people can’t afford more distant, more costly locations”); designate area/design trails to manage impacts

Special Uses: Winter Recreation, motorized and non-motorized

- Better XC skiing on Green Lake and Blue Lake road: collaborate with Electric Department to plow the road in a way that still allows for skiers (“institutionalize creative plowing”)
- Better access to backcountry ski terrain, to snow line for winter sports: Bear Mountain, Starrigavan, Extend Harbor Mountain connection, Ridge to ridge
- Allow ATV/snowmobile access on Green Lake Road – do some cooperative thinking/management to allow use
- Need to separate snow machines from skiers

FACILITIES

First Tier Facility Projects

Center of Town

- Moller Park Improvements: Sports fields, running track, circuit fitness loop, programs & activities
- Moller Park Related projects: Moller to Lake Street Boardwalk, Swan Lake

improvements

- Sea Walk Pathway (Identified Passenger Fee Fund Project)
- Downtown wayfinding plan: signs, information kiosks, hardcopy maps, virtual maps (Identified Passenger Fee Fund Project)
- Sidewalk accessibility within town: Katlian, Jeff Davis (Identified Passenger Fee Fund Project)
- Trail through SNHP to the Raptor Center including a safe way across Sawmill Ck Rd (Identified Passenger Fee Fund Project)
- Downtown fishing pier (part of seawall project or kayak launch/storage facility?) (Identified Passenger Fee Fund Project)
- Multi-agency recreation information center/visitor center (Identified Passenger Fee Fund Project)

Road System

- Harbor Mountain: upgrade road & picnic area; ADA accessible areas, scenic overlook (see also "other users/uses" for winter projects)
- Provide more nearby, but still hike-in cabins & shelters; locations: Indian River Trail, Beaver Lake Trail, Medvejie, Starrigavan area (larger capacity overnight cabin; trails + camping near ferry terminal); "provide accessible shelters like the one between Harbor Mountain and Gavan"
- Establish a range of mountain bike trails, moderate and very challenging possible locations Harbor Mountain and Granite Creek areas
- Mountain bike single track in-town, near batting cage, different levels of difficulty
- Day Use Recreation Areas: Space for specialized recreation, e.g., disk golf
- Day Use Recreation Areas: e.g., dirt bike track (circle with jumps, bumps)
- Day Use Recreation Areas: Better spaces for outdoor gathering spots for families and groups, including a large outdoor community shelter like Petersburg (location to be determined)
- Priority day use locations: Eagle & Sandy beaches, Herring Cove
- Complete Cross Trail from Ferry Terminal to Yaw Drive
- Improved Thimbleberry loop (also listed under "Special Users: Youth")
- Out of Town
- Lucky Chance/Goddard area: Link to road system/ better access (bridge over Votapah)
- Lucky Chance/Goddard area: Improve Lucky Chance Mine Historic/South Sitka

Sound trail system; provide huts or shelters

- Lucky Chance/Goddard area: Improve Salmon Lake to Redoubt to Goddard; fishing/hiking route
- Lucky Chance/Goddard area: Upgrade Goddard Hot Springs
- Expanded hut to hut (or tent pad) coastal routes for kayaks and skiffs (whalers)
- Improve accessibility of water based recreation sites, cabins and camping areas, provide better mooring buoys, ramps for skiffs and kayaks, launch and haul out areas, maps, shelters/cabins.
- Improve State marine parks facilities, establish a "Friends of Marine Parks"

Special Users: Youth

- Disc Golf (e.g. at/near high school)
- Beach volleyball court
- Better tennis courts (existing court loses net in winter, very slick when wet)
- More pocket/neighborhood playgrounds – not connected to schools
- Covered recreation areas: playground, basketball court, skateboard areas (for the skateboard area: add lights, cut the alders to get rid of leaves on surface)
- Kayak storage at water's edge, with convenient launching point; rentals for residents and for visitors
- Improve Moller track, better equipment (also listed under "Center of Town")
- Better mountain biking: "we share dirt roads today, it's not safe; Thimbleberry open but conflicts with walkers" (also listed under "Road System")
- Access to backcountry ski/snowboard (also listed under "Special Uses")
- Sledding spots; Mini- ski/snowboard hill (also listed under "Special Uses")

Special Users: Vintage

- Better access to Sandy Beach (path, parking)
- Develop "north side" underutilized area of Sitka National Historic Park
- Scenic overlooks – drive to, for those who may not walk
- Need more benches, bathrooms along trails (e.g. Muskeg trail needs a bench)
- Halibut Point pedestrian walkway

Second Tier Facility Projects

Center of Town

- Start Kiksadi Trail near town: Indian River another route along HPR. If not a new physical trail, at least add improved signage and route markers.
- Downtown Physical Improvements: Hands-on, interpretive nature art
- Downtown Physical Improvements: Flags, fabric covers for lightening facilities
- Downtown Physical Improvements: Improve and interpret Crescent net shed
- Downtown Physical Improvements: Place for kids to create art - wall for kids to chalk (draw), for paint, pottery
- Downtown Physical Improvements: More bike racks and bike paths
- Sitka National Historic Park: Integrate SNHP, Raptor Center and Indian River Trailhead along river
- Day Use Recreation Areas: Gathering spot for kids where activity not limited
- Day Use Recreation Areas: Crescent Park basketball/tennis court upgrade
- Day Use Recreation Areas: Cover skatepark, remove alders
- Day Use Recreation Areas: Dog park at Sheldon Jackson College Commons (Sitka Fine Arts Camp)
- Day Use Recreation Areas: Bergman Park by O'Connell Bridge
- Water fountains!

Road System

- Comprehensive Trail Sign Plan; links downtown with mile markers on near-town trails; interpretive signs too (environment, culture, history)
- Trails on Japonski Island links to John Brown Beach Area
- Japonski Fitness Trail
- Upper Cross trail - running trail
- Sawmill Creek Road separated pathway to SMCIP
- Day Use Recreation Areas: Improve Pioneer Park shelters
- Day Use Recreation Areas: Improved Verstovia trail + trailhead facilities (link to adjoining waterfront?)
- Day Use Recreation Areas: Improve Halibut Point Recreation Area and Old Sitka State Parks; complete Halibut Pt Rd upgrade, improve parking & pedestrian facilities; add historic interpretation information
- Day Use Recreation Areas: Whale Park - add a pavillion close to water (e.g., for

dive logistics)

- Day Use Recreation Areas: Totem Park cooking shelters other side of bridge
- Indian River area mountain bike trail
- Combined mountain bike dirt jump park, free-ride area, BMX track, downhill and single track areas; close to town, kid accessible
- Multi-day camping/backpacking trails easily accessible from town, for example, Kruzof, Cross-Baranof Cultural Trail (Kiksadi), Rodman Bay
- Keep and expand locals and visitors group hikes; Saturdays, different locations
- Add bus and transit to provide link to trails and rec areas
- (Additional Day Use Recreation Areas listed under "Center of Town")
- Diving sites (listed under "Special Uses")

Out of Town

- Long distance coastal hiking trail; tent pad to tent pad hike
- Develop Trail to Fish Bay Hot Springs -North Baranof
- Maintain/improve Baranof Warm Springs trail and Sadie Lake Trail
- Establish cross-Baranof GPS route to Warm Springs
- Port Alexander to Cape Decision Light House water trail; support Port Alexander community goals for tourism, fishing
- Improve maintenance of the Sealion Cove Trail - Kruzof Island
- Maintain and improve Bear Cove to Camp Lake Trail (Medveje)
- Plan and build recreational trail to Hanus Bay (North Baranof Island)
- Investigate options for historic Katlian route/trail (work with Native community)
- Eagle Creek Trail
- Kizuchia Creek Mountain Bike trail (on the way to Redoubt, road crosses allotment)
- Camping pads on Causeway
- Dispersed, unimproved campsites

Special Users: Youth

- Places for kids to have bonfires
- Rock Quarry, Rock climbing – indoor wall ok, but closing with close of Sheldon Jackson
- Loop trails (hike, ski, walk)

- Road system accessible, longer backcountry trails, huts (affordable)
- More interactive trails
- Safe routes to schools
- More trails up to tops of mountains, e.g. up to Sisters (solution to evacuation safety)
- More 4-wheeler roads – used to be able to use area by airport, now closed
- Outdoor Sports: Sheldon Jackson Lawn – ultimate Frisbee today, need a field for future
- Outdoor Sports: Location for paintball (state park?)
- Outdoor Sports: Kid-designed playground
- Outdoor Sports: Losing Sheldon Jackson - need to find replacement activity areas
- Outdoor Sports: Open use, multiuse fields (also listed under “Center of Town,” Moller Park)
- Outdoor Sports: Playground in Indian River/BIHA area diverse activities
- Outdoor Sports: Archery area

Special Users: Vintage

- Hut-to-hut trail system for seniors
- Picnic area (Halibut is always booked)
- wheelchair access to parks + trails + info
- More access to trails suited for older walkers (low angle, but interesting, loops)
- More loop trails (e.g. new trail along road back from Heart Lake)
- More trails like Herring; good walking, interesting
- Paved trails for wheelchairs; people with trouble walking; walking (not hiking)
- More crosswalks (e.g. by Alaska Raptor Center)
- Reduce slippery trail surfaces
- Trails that in effect, replicate “mall walk” - hand rails, social aspect, coffee
- Fishing areas, fishing pier - saltwater, freshwater (also listed under “road system”)
- Improve causeway trail for seniors, access (also listed under “Culture Trails + Cultural Recreation”)
- Sidewalk accessibility within town (also listed under “center of town”)

Other Facility Projects

Special Uses: Culture Trails + Cultural Recreation

- Ft. Rousseau State Historical Park (Causeway Trail)
- Harbor Mountain: road, trail with historic cultural information
- Lucky Chance/Goddard Trail (one of Alaska’s first mining areas)
- Recreate the old ice road/trail from Swan Lake to downtown
- Re-creations of historical points of interest, e.g., Old Sitka, Tlingit Fort; mining activities at Lucky Chance
- Restore/maintain cemeteries

Special Uses: Diving Areas

- Magic Island Dive Trail/Dive park
- Sunken “wrecks” placed for diving on

Special Uses: Motorized Summer Recreation (ATV’s)

- Starrigavan Motorized Recreation Area: Create improved ATV trails (“people can’t afford more distant, more costly locations”); designate area/design trails to manage impacts
- Starrigavan Motorized Recreation Area: “Need a fast track for ATVs - not the Starrigavan parking lot”
- Starrigavan Motorized Recreation Area: Better staging, parking area
- Provide improved places for loading 4-wheelers onto skiffs

Special Uses: Mountain Bikes

- Establish a range of mountain bike trails, moderate and very challenging possible locations Harbor Mountain and Granite Creek areas
- Mountain bike single track in-town, near batting cage, different levels of difficulty
- BMX track

Special Uses: Winter Recreation, motorized and non-motorized

- Better access to backcountry ski terrain, to snow line for winter sports: Bear Mountain, Starrigavan, Extend Harbor Mountain connection, Ridge to ridge
- Sledding spots; Mini- ski/snowboard hill (currently poach golf course); but accept limited snow (see special uses, winter section)
- Allow ATV/snowmobile access on Green Lake Road – do some cooperative thinking/management to allow use

- Open a trail on Cascade Creek for snowmobile/ATV
- Need to separate snow machines from skiers
- Harbor Mountain Ski/Mountain Bike Trail
- Harbor Mountain casual use area for snow machines
- Harbor Mountain: winter warming shelter
- Harbor Mountain ski lift
- Goddard trail (link through Cascade Valley; backside of Gavan Hill)
- Winter/summer shelter on Verstovia

Center of Town

- Historical walk, with interpretive signage, hardcopy/smart phone info (vendor opportunity)
- Camps within neighborhood blocks (suggested but judged impractical)
- Sitka National Historic Park: Bicycle cut-through trail (suggested but inconsistent with NPS management policy)
- Sitka National Historic Park: Improve accessibility by paving trails (suggested but inconsistent with NPS management policy)
- Sitka National Historic Park: Cooking shelters (suggested but inconsistent with NPS management policy)

Road System

- Pedestrian path from Whale park to Green Lake (redundant?)
- Kimshaw Cross Trail (redundant?)
- Kiksadi trail extended/signed to begin near town: Indian River another route along HPR. If not trail – route markers. (redundant?)

PROGRAMS

First Tier Program Projects

Road System

- Priorities for activity programs to build on fitness, skills, health as selected by Sitka Outdoor Recreation Coalition

Out of Town

- Improve State marine parks facilities, establish a “Friends of Marine Parks”
- Sitka Outdoor Club (“programs to get people outside”)

Special Users: Youth

- Start youth outdoor clubs at all grades to start kids outside; offer outdoor recreation programs e.g., hiking, rock climbing ; after school program combining recreation participation and leadership
- Youth camping opportunities: expand, overnight for youth groups, help with culture camp

Special Users: “Vintage”

- Programs to encourage outdoor activity: Small walking groups (longer, shorter – residents & visitors)
- Programs to encourage outdoor activity: Walking programs with rewards (e.g., Volkswagen/Wolkswalkers groups get a pin for completing the walk)

Second Tier Program Projects

Center of Town

- Establish outdoor recreation foundation/endowment
- Renew City bicycle friendly status
- Downtown Physical Improvements: Hands-on, interpretive nature art
- Downtown Physical Improvements: Community-sponsored bike borrowing
- Sitka National Historic Park: More nature walks at Sitka National Historic Park
- Day Use Recreation Areas: Expand tai chi behind library or other areas

Road System

- Youth camping; facilities, programs, tie to culture camp
- 100 mile walking club (incentives for activity)
- New road system-accessible fishing areas, fishing pier - saltwater, freshwater show on maps; potential examples Starrigavan, Eagle Beach, Sawmill Creek (also listed under “Center of Town,” “Out of Town” and “Special Users: Vintage”)

Out of Town

- Kayaking classes / instruction + advertisement
- Fire hall check outs: spots + radios

- More recognition for stewardship/volunteer work from local fisherman
- Conduct programs for bear/hiker safety (one suggestion: “more bear recipes”)

Special Users: Youth

- Outdoor Sports: Kid-designed playground
- Outdoor Programs: Educational geocaching/letterboxing
- Outdoor Programs: Fine Arts Camp: outdoor art (arts in the park)
- Outdoor Programs: Information sharing: bring together rec providers/ stakeholders - Example: Discover Southeast in Juneau, getoutsitka.wordpress.com
- Outdoor Programs: Interpretive/education programs by agencies
- Outdoor Programs: Partner with Mount Edgecumbe school
- Outdoor Programs: More safety training
- Outdoor Programs: More social/outdoor unsupervised areas
- Outdoor Programs: More teachers/more outdoor recreation classes
- Outdoor Programs: Organized survival training – high school. In addition or next step to Community Schools Middle School program
- Outdoor Programs: School partnership in kids kayak programs: gear, information, resident rentals, leading center
- Outdoor Programs: Guided walks for vintage + youth
- Outdoor Programs: Youth employment (Anchorage, SAGA, leading recreation hikes etc. and building and maintaining facilities)
- Outdoor Programs: Outdoor media programs: film, photo, video, reporting, youtube, radio, audio

Special Users: “Vintage”

- Encourage elder hostel programs
- Programs (open to public) on trails, environment
- Programs for people who want to join a group hike (for shorter/easier trails)
- Guided walks for vintage + youth

Other Program Projects

Special Uses: Culture Trails + Cultural Recreation

- Restore/maintain cemeteries

Special Uses: Motorized Summer Recreation (ATV’s)

- Starrigavan Motorized Recreation Area: Arrange for training, education programs

Special Uses: Mountain Bikes

- Renew City bicycle friendly status (See also Center of Town)

Center of Town

- Herring Roe Festival (new/expanded event)
- Freedom from Fossil Fuel Friday (new/expanded event)
- Winter season event(s) - motorized, non-motorized (new/expanded event)
- Gear for use outdoors: umbrellas, binoculars (vendor opportunity)
- Continue outdoor recreation emphasis at Sheldon Jackson College (suggested but judged impractical)

INFORMATION RESOURCES

First Tier Information Resource Projects

Center of Town

- Website: central outdoor recreation info source for visitors, residents (adults and kids): great map of trails and attractions, listing of programs, activities, events; information on trail difficulty & time required; link to SCVB website with suggestions for trips, for trip planning
- Bucket list: a list of local “must see” attractions and/or sample itineraries for visitors
- Downtown wayfinding plan: signs, information kiosks, hardcopy maps, virtual maps (Identified Passenger Fee Fund Project)
- Multi-agency recreation information center/visitor center (Identified Passenger Fee Fund Project)
- Maps showing public vs. private islands, camping beaches, trip routes

Special Users: “Vintage”

- Better information for locals about outdoor recreation (also listed under “Center of Town”)

- Information on trail hike times (also listed under “Center of Town”)
- Signage-degree of difficulty; what you’ll see, map at beginning of trails (also listed under “Road System”)
- Better marketing - focused on senior travelers and info for residents (also listed under “Center of Town”)

Second Tier Information Resource Projects

Center of Town

- Downtown Physical Improvements: Improve and interpret Crescent net shed
- Better utilize library for outdoor rec information

Road System

- Comprehensive Trail Sign Plan; links downtown with mile markers on near-town trails; interpretive signs too (environment, culture, history)

Special Users: Youth

- Safe routes to schools

Special Users: “Vintage”

- transportation information - ways to get to trailheads, to activity areas
- Interpretive signs (environment, culture, history) on trails (also listed under “Road System “ and “Center of Town”)

Other Information Resource Projects

Special Uses: Culture Trails + Cultural Recreation

- Walking tours: history, science, art, math/science “
- Historic Walking Tour of Downtown Sitka
- Historical itineraries - web based/hardcopy information setting out short or multiday activity itineraries
- Tell cultural/historic stories? Clan’s role? Signs, maps?

Special Uses: Diving Areas

- Magic Island Dive Trail/Dive park

Special Uses: Kayak + Skiffs

- Kayak launching point, rentals, instruction downtown (also listed under “Center of Town” and “Out of Town”)

Special Uses: Motorized Summer Recreation (ATV’s)

- Starrigavan Motorized Recreation Area: Arrange for training, education programs

Special Uses: Winter Recreation, motorized and non-motorized

- Need to separate snow machines from skiers

Appendix B: Get Out Sitka! Programs and Projects

The Sitka Outdoor Recreation Coalition (Get Out Sitka!)

The Sitka Outdoor Recreation Coalition (Get Out Sitka!) was created at the 2010 Sitka Health Summit to find ways to encourage and support people (especially children and families) to get outdoors more often for recreation. The Get Out Sitka! website will gather resources from around the community to help people find ways to get outdoors and play. Visit the site at: <http://getoutsitka.wordpress.com/>

New and Existing Outdoor Recreation Programs

The Sitka Outdoor Recreation Coalition worked in parallel to the Sustainable Outdoor Recreation Action Plan, focusing efforts on taking inventory of Sitka’s existing outdoor recreation programs and proposed new programs; these are listed in the following tables. In developing the following inventory, it became clear that Sitka will need a “champion” to provide leadership and coordinate improvements to outdoor recreation programs. There are many needs and many opportunities to improve, expand, and/or consolidate outdoor recreation programs. A recreation program champion can bring together providers, forge partnerships, and provide a central conduit for funding outdoor recreation programs. The following appendix provides a starting point for identifying key partners and programs, but more work is needed. Possible key partners include: Sitka School District, SEARHC, Sitka Community Schools.

Existing Projects from Get Out Sitka!		Project Type			
		General Policy (G)	Facility (F)	Program (P)	Information (I)
Existing Project	Run by				
Sitka Mountain Rescue provides wilderness safety education to kids and adults. We conduct multiple presentations each year in the Sitka School District.	Sitka Mountain Rescue			x	
6 ACR Personal Locator Beacon that we loan out to anyone heading to the backcountry who may wish to have a PLB in case of emergency	Sitka Mountain Rescue			x	
Wilderness travel plans to be filled out and our administrative office provides that service to visitors or locals who wish to leave a trip plan	Sitka Mountain Rescue			x	
3 times a year we provide a 5 day cultural camp at our traditional fish camp site, near Dog Point. It is accessible only by boat. The students camp out, learn traditional Tlingit values and skills, gather, eat and process wild foods,	NATIVE Program, Inc.			x	
Outdoor play in our playground every school day unless the weather is very bad.	3 to 5 Preschool			x	
We are a preschool and we incorporate outdoor activity as a key component of our curriculum. Our outdoor activities include regular play on our playground, and occasional harbor walks, beach trips, or neighborhood walks.	Mt. Edgecumbe Preschool			x	
Naa Kahidi Dancers -Not outdoors	Sitka Tribal Enterprise			x	
We have adult walking and hiking tours	Sitka Tribal Enterprise			x	
Walking programs involving families like Just Move It	SEARHC			x	
In the past (like 10 years ago) Extension in Sitka had a 4-H outdoor activities club that eventually merged with the Community Schools outdoor activities.	UAF Cooperative Extension Service			x	

		Geographic Area / User Group												
		Center of Town	Road System	Out of Town	Youth	Adults	Vintage	Motorized Summer Rec	Winter Recreation	Cultural Recreation	Marine Recreation	Mountain Bikes	Trails	Day Use Recreation Areas
Potential Partners	Needs?													
	Rescue Boat, Equipment, Storage Space, Public Support				x	x								
					x	x			x		x			
				x	x	x								
	Need funding sources, volunteers, materials of all kinds, fresh foods, safety equipment, tools, fuel and propane.			x	x					x				
	We need funding for a partially covered playground at our new school location.				x									
	Volunteers				x									
					x	x								
						x								
					x	x								
					x									

Existing Projects from Get Out Sitka!		Project Type			
		General Policy (G)	Facility (F)	Program (P)	Information (I)
Existing Project	Run by				
We currently do only one on one activities with clients who are generally people with disabilities. These are rarely group activities, but rather one client with one staff person.	Center for Community			x	
Totem Park, Indian River Trail, Herring Cove Trail, daily physical exercise.	Raven's Way/SEARHC			x	
High and low ropes course on site	Raven's Way/SEARHC			x	
Sea kayak trips (single and multi-day),certified sea kayak instruction, kayak rentals, natural history trips (including camping). We have no regular schedule. All activities occur upon request	Latitude Adventures			x	
Girls on the Run is a 12 week, 24 lesson program that serves to educate and prepare girls for a lifetime of self-respect and healthy living.	Sitkans Against Family Violence			x	
One on one mentoring	Big Brothers Big Sisters			x	
We have a summer science camp for two weeks in July. The camp takes kids on field activities such as snorkeling, beach observing, kayaking and collecting samples for the aquarium.	Sitka Sound Science Center			x	
We also host K-8 classrooms here at the hatchery/aquarium facility	Sitka Sound Science Center			x	
Basic Boating Safety	Alaska Marine Safety Organization (AMSEA)			x	
Boating Without the Boys – Basic Boating Safety for Women	Alaska Marine Safety Organization (AMSEA)			x	

		Geographic Area / User Group												
		Center of Town	Road System	Out of Town	Youth	Adults	Vintage	Motorized Summer Rec	Winter Recreation	Cultural Recreation	Marine Recreation	Mountain Bikes	Trails	Day Use Recreation Areas
Potential Partners	Needs?													
SAIL has some outdoor programming for people with disabilities but it is very limited. Ideally, people with disabilities would recreate outdoors with people of similar interests and similiar ages. CFC would be interested in integrated programs that would welcome and support people with disabilities.					x	x								
					x									
					x									
					x	x					x			
					x									
					x									
willing to partner					x									
willing to partner					x						x			
AMSEA is available to provide training for outdoor enthusiasts or for people who want to recreate on land or on the water.					x	x					x			
						x					x			

Existing Projects from Get Out Sitka!		Project Type			
		General Policy (G)	Facility (F)	Program (P)	Information (I)
Existing Project	Run by				
Basic Boating Safety Incorporating Alaska Water Wise	Alaska Marine Safety Organization (AMSEA)			x	
Coastal Navigation	Alaska Marine Safety Organization (AMSEA)			x	
Emergency Procedures for Recreational Boaters (EPRB)	Alaska Marine Safety Organization (AMSEA)			x	
AMSEA also works with school teachers and groups to provide marine and boating safety classes and outdoor survival skills.	Alaska Marine Safety Organization (AMSEA)			x	
Commercially operated sea kayak day-tours and multi-day expeditions. We also conduct sea kayak skills training (with pool sessions) in the spring and fall.	Sitka Sound Ocean Adventures			x	
The Russian American Historic Garden Program is directed at kindergarteners and first graders-- they plant and then harvest the garden in front of the Russian Bishop's House. This program is offered yearly.	Sitka National Historical Park			x	x
Public Lands Day program encourages children to get outside, pick up trash, care for their public spaces, etc.... This is offered every Septemner.	Sitka National Historical Park			x	x
The SCORE (Sitka Camping Outdoor Recreation Experience) Program brings youth to park to do trash cleanup.	Sitka National Historical Park			x	x
Girl Scouts have participated in trash cleanup, exotic weeds removal.	Sitka National Historical Park			x	x
Stream Team (for middle school)	Sitka National Historical Park			x	x
Sea Week (kindergarteners, first graders).	Sitka National Historical Park			x	x
Information / Education	USDA Forest Service				x
Swan Lake Kids Fishing Day – The Sitka Ranger District co-sponsors this event each year along with the Sitka Rotary Club and Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The event was held on June 12 involving hands on fishing mixed with education for the youth of Sitka. Learning stations provided information on fish species, different aspects of healthy fish streams and good sportsmanship.	USDA Forest Service			x	x

		Geographic Area / User Group												
		Center of Town	Road System	Out of Town	Youth	Adults	Vintage	Motorized Summer Rec	Winter Recreation	Cultural Recreation	Marine Recreation	Mountain Bikes	Trails	Day Use Recreation Areas
Potential Partners	Needs?													
					X	X					X			
					X	X					X			
					X	X					X			
					X	X					X			
					X					X				
					X									
					X									
					X									
					X						X			
					X	X								
					X									

Existing Projects from Get Out Sitka!		Project Type			
		General Policy (G)	Facility (F)	Program (P)	Information (I)
Existing Project	Run by				
Earth Day Awareness at Keet Gooshi Heen Elementary School – 3rd graders learned about stream health and its influence on fish. This was a cooperative educational project with Sitka National Historic Park, Alaska Department of Fish and Game and Sitka Conversation Society.	USDA Forest Service			x	x
Classroom Archaeology - implemented a classroom program on Archaeology visiting one Kindergarten classroom, one first grade classroom, and one fourth grade classroom.	USDA Forest Service			x	x
5th Grade Forest Education Day – annual event for local 5th graders sponsored by the Sitka Chapter of the Society of American Foresters to promote an awareness of natural resource management and careers. Learning stations provide youth with information on recreation, fish, wildlife, water, soil and tree management and engage students in a logging simulation. Station instructors were from the Sitka Chapter, Forest Service personnel and U.S. Army Corp of Engineers.	USDA Forest Service			x	x
Starrigavan Classroom – annual project with Blatchley Middle School 7th graders. Students learn about careers, steam ecology and stream restoration work through hands on work. This is a cooperative education project with Sitka National Historic Park, Sitka Conversation Society, Alaska Department of Fish and Game and Sitka Tribe of Alaska.	USDA Forest Service			x	x
High School and Public Career Fair – various district employees staffed an information booth at this fair held in February at the Harrigan Centennial Hall; provided over 500 students and individuals with natural resource career information and application process for applying for Forest Service jobs.	USDA Forest Service			x	x
Informational Talks With University of Alaska Southeast – provided presentations at the University of Alaska discussing the management of the Nakwasina watershed and other projects in the area.	USDA Forest Service				x
Native Youth Olympics, Cross Country, Outdoor rec staff=variety of outdoor activities like kayaking, hiking, camping,...	MEHS			x	
As part of our mission to promote the use of the trail system, STW offers free guided community hikes every Saturday from April through August. Hikes are lead by the all volunteer Board of Directors.	Sitka Trail Works, Inc.			x	
Sitka Trail Works sponsors and facilitates student volunteer trail maintenance days with the former Sheldon Jackson Outdoor Leadership program, currently with Blatchley Middle School Orientation and the SHS Outdoor Recreation class.	Sitka Trail Works, Inc.			x	

		Geographic Area / User Group												
		Center of Town	Road System	Out of Town	Youth	Adults	Vintage	Motorized Summer Rec	Winter Recreation	Cultural Recreation	Marine Recreation	Mountain Bikes	Trails	Day Use Recreation Areas
Potential Partners	Needs?													
					x									
	Hope to increase the classroom visits in 2011.				x									
					x									
					x									
					x									
					x	x								
					x									
willing to partner	Cooperation from local tour leaders				x	x							x	
willing to partner					x									

Existing Projects from Get Out Sitka!		Project Type			
		General Policy (G)	Facility (F)	Program (P)	Information (I)
Existing Project	Run by				
STW has partnerered to control invasive weeds with volunteer weed pulling wit the USFS Invasive plants group.	Sitka Trail Works, Inc.			x	x
STW offers discount off-island hikes to members in partnership with Allen Marine. Three annually.	Sitka Trail Works, Inc.			x	
STW offers winter hikes and special event hikes as detrmined by the Board of Directors on an annual basis.	Sitka Trail Works, Inc.			x	
STW offers assistance in trail planning and trail project development to Sitka Mountain Bike and ATV users, in partnership with the CBS and USFS.	Sitka Trail Works, Inc.			x	
STW sponsors special hikes in conjunction with trail grand opening events.	Sitka Trail Works, Inc.			x	
STW Sponsors slideshows and media events like the Feb 4th Ride the Divide MTB film festival and Annual meeting slideshows on hiking the Sierra Nevada's etc. to promote Outdoor Recreation.	Sitka Trail Works, Inc.			x	
STW works with the Community Service program directing volunteers to outdoor tasks improving area trails and parks.	Sitka Trail Works, Inc.			x	
Will offer mountain bike skills clinics.	Harbor MTB			x	
Will offer an opportunity to give back to the community and participate in trail building events.	Harbor MTB			x	
Ventures is for students ages 5-12. We spend a great deal outdoors, hiking, biking, fishing, golfing and going to the beach. We also spend over an hour a day (Mon-Fri) having physcial fitness and playing on the playground. Our activities are both educational and recreational.	Ventures School-Age Program			x	
Summer Boat Cruises	sitka conservation society			x	
Beach Clean-ups	sitka conservation society			x	
Salmon research projects	sitka conservation society			x	x
Nature club	sitka conservation society			x	x
Occasional youth trail work parties.	Sitka Trail Works			x	

		Geographic Area / User Group												
		Center of Town	Road System	Out of Town	Youth	Adults	Vintage	Motorized Summer Rec	Winter Recreation	Cultural Recreation	Marine Recreation	Mountain Bikes	Trails	Day Use Recreation Areas
Potential Partners	Needs?													
willing to partner					x	x								
willing to partner	Cooperation from local tour leaders				x	x								
willing to partner	Cooperation from local tour leaders				x	x								
willing to partner					x	x		x				x		
willing to partner					x	x								
willing to partner					x									
willing to partner					x	x								
Sitka Trail Works, City of Sitka, USFS	Volunteers				x	x						x		
Sitka Trail Works, City of Sitka, USFS	Volunteers				x	x						x		
					x									
					x	x						x		
					x	x						x		
					x	x								
					x									

Existing Projects from Get Out Sitka!		Project Type			
		General Policy (G)	Facility (F)	Program (P)	Information (I)
Existing Project	Run by				
Currently working with Sitka HS Outdoor Rec Class on Sustainable Trail Design.	Sitka Trail Works			x	x
Numerous hikes for all ages and abilities during winter and summer.	Sitka Trail Works			x	
Local hire of youth for summer trail projects.	Sitka Trail Works			x	
We run a consortium based child care center where we offer educational activities for children 2 months through 11 years. Our center is a year round facility with closure days for holidays. Our program offers a mixture of inside and outside times. We take the children out in any weather except extreme cold or extreme rain. Several years ago our outside playground was remodeled with parent help, fundraising money and a grant written to the Crossett Foundation. The grant was written as a physical activity for young children with an emphasis on our native population increasing incidents of juvenile diabetes and Type II diabetes in Alaska.	SEARHC Child Care Center				
Recurring "Sunny Day Plan" hikes- a spontaneously planned activity when we see there is a window of sunny days ahead. Sporadic camping trips.	Pacific High School				
Outdoor Adventure Courses throughout the year	Pacific High School				
Rock Climbing, camping, subsistence fishing, berry picking, all school hikes, Friday Get Fit class, Yoga, swimming instruction, hackysack	Pacific High School				
I teach an Outdoor Rec class for one 90-minute period of the day. Students are allowed to take it for one semester only because it is a very popular class with a long wait list.	SHS - Outdoor Recreation				
Marine boating for sport fishing and wildlife viewing, from March through September	Sitka's Secrets Boat Charters				
Naturopathic medical services to families, this includes counseling and planning concerning the areas of exercise.	One Healing Integrative Medical Center				

		Geographic Area / User Group												
		Center of Town	Road System	Out of Town	Youth	Adults	Vintage	Motorized Summer Rec	Winter Recreation	Cultural Recreation	Marine Recreation	Mountain Bikes	Trails	Day Use Recreation Areas
Potential Partners	Needs?													
					x									
					x	x								
					x									
	We would like to build a basketball court on campus.													
	Public Programs													
	Need a second van for transporting more than a few students at one time.													
	Used gear and possible volunteers would also allow me open the class(es) to more than just 18 students at a time.													
	need to increase annual revenue to compensate taking out people with limited means										x			

New Projects from Get Out Sitka!		Project Type			
		General Policy (G)	Facility (F)	Program (P)	Information (I)
New Project	Proposed by				
Sitka Mountain Rescue can assist with providing wilderness safety education to groups.	Sitka Mountain Rescue			x	
Expand our VHF radio loaner program.	Sitka Mountain Rescue			x	
A new preschool building and a great outdoor playground beside that building.	3 to 5 Preschool		x		
Culture camp in Sitka	SEARHC			x	
When I was a kid we lived outdoors after school, year around. Perhaps focus on kids, not families. If you want societal change work with the kids, the families will follow.	UAF Cooperative Extension Service	x			
Single adults who would go outdoors more if there was someone else to go with, not groups. Adults want to play with adults and kids want to play with kids. Families want to be with families.	UAF Cooperative Extension Service			x	
Community Schools after school programs for kids to get them outdoors, such as nature club. It has to get the parents involved, although they may not get out, we need to get the kids out.	Raven's Way/SEARHC			x	
USFS educator.They eliminated that position. They should bring it back.	Latitude Adventures	x			x
A program for boys that is similar to Girls on the Run.	Sitkans Against Family Violence			x	
Organized activities	Big Brothers Big Sisters			x	
Outing Club at the grade school, middle school, and high school level. A once a week thing that gets kids hiking, camping, boating etc.	Sitka Sound Science Center			x	
Kayak skills classes conducted specifically for participation by local teens.	Sitka Sound Ocean Adventures				
A dedicated location for local folks and visitors to store and launch kayaks.	Sitka Sound Ocean Adventures		x		
Fishing programs, some kids have never been fishing.	USDA Forest Service			x	
Outdoors clubs/mentoring program.	MEHS				
Outdoor education like survival courses, edible plants, outdoor appreciation clubs	MEHS			x	

		Geographic Area / User Group											
		Road System	Out of Town	Youth	Adults	Vintage	Motorized Summer Rec	Winter Recreation	Cultural Recreation	Marine Recreation	Mountain Bikes	Trails	Day Use Recreation Areas
Partners	Needs?												
				x	x								
				x	x			x		x			
	Funding			x									
we would like to partner with STA									x				
A connection with forest resources (FS), Sitka Science Center, local schools (and home schoolers) or SEARHC.				x									
A connection with forest resources (FS), Sitka Science Center, local schools (and home schoolers) or SEARHC.					x								
				x	x								
	Funding			x	x								
	Planned for 2011/2012			x									
				x	x								
				x									
	Funding (advertising, pool rental, instructor time and materials)												
	Funding, Land	x		x	x					x			x
				x						x			
				x	x								
				x	x								

New Projects from Get Out Sitka!		Project Type			
		General Policy (G)	Facility (F)	Program (P)	Information (I)
New Project	Proposed by				
A good fun place to mountain bike	Harbor MTB		x	x	
Activities on the weekends and for older students	Ventures School-Age Program			x	
Lodge-assisted kayak tours	Sitka Trail Works			x	
Long-distance hiking opportunities at Lucky Chance area.	Sitka Trail Works			x	
Mountain biking demo day.	Sitka Trail Works			x	
Kayak/canoe demos.	Sitka Trail Works			x	
Introduction to Sailing class/ rowing club.	Sitka Trail Works			x	
Increased areas people can get to by car. Keeping in mind about offering more areas for people to hike that are close by our town.	SEARHC Child Care Center		x		
Cover the skateboard park.	Pacific High School		x		
No more ball parks.	Pacific High School		x		
Bike paths and lanes when new roads are built.	Pacific High School		x		
Covered picnic areas.	Pacific High School		x		
Herbal Medicine walks	One Healing Integrative Medical Center			x	

		Geographic Area / User Group											
		Road System	Out of Town	Youth	Adults	Vintage	Motorized Summer Rec	Winter Recreation	Cultural Recreation	Marine Recreation	Mountain Bikes	Trails	Day Use Recreation Areas
Partners	Needs?												
	Funding, Land, Volunteers	x		x	x						x		x
				x									
				x	x					x			
			x	x	x			x		x		x	
		x		x	x						x		x
				x	x					x			
				x	x					x			
		x		x	x								
				x	x								x
		x		x	x								
				x	x								x
				x	x								

APPENDIX C: RECREATION AND VISITOR INDUSTRY TRENDS

This chapter explores recent trends in Sitka’s general recreation activity, as well as the visitor industry and the role of outdoor recreation activities in drawing visitors to Sitka.

Recreation Trends in Sitka

“The beauty of this area is phenomenal! This is everyone’s paradise. It’s ALL here.” – Sitka Outdoor Recreation Survey Respondent.

Sitka has a wealth of recreational activities that draw visitors and enrich the lives of residents. Some examples of these outdoor recreation activities include hiking, biking, camping, wildlife viewing, scuba diving, museums, ATV use, sport fishing and guided versions of each of these activities. Use statistics for general recreation in Sitka are limited, but the observations of local recreation professionals reveal a wide and growing community interest in outdoor recreation, and the demand is likely to keep growing. With the resident age is rising in the region and the number of tourists travelling to southeast Alaska, the demand for recreation activities will likely remain high.¹ This is supported by national trends and trends in the Pacific Northwest, where increases in recreational opportunities and forest-related amenities have been supported by increased tourism as well as non-wage income (e.g. retirement and health benefits), supporting the region’s economy.²

There has been a general increase in recreation over the past ten years, partly due to an emerging emphasis on the health benefits of outdoor recreation.³ In Sitka, this has happened both for those visiting Sitka and those living in Sitka. Over the last decade Sitka and Alaska in general has seen an increase in younger cruise passengers; this trend is accelerating when cruise prices have dropped. These younger cruise ship visitors might account for an increased interest in outdoor recreation activities among visitors.⁴ Visitation to the Sitka National Historical Park has generally increased over the past ten years, with some ups and downs on a year-to-year basis and the highest visitation during summer months.⁵

The remainder of this section focuses on visitor industry trends. While tourism is not the focus of this project (the focus is outdoor recreation for residents and visitors) visitors are one part of the picture of recreation use. The quantity of statistics on tourism (vs. local recreation) in no way signifies that tourism is more important; it merely demonstrates there is a lot more extensive data on tourism than on the level of recreation activity in Sitka.

¹ Source: Outdoor Recreation in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska: Trends in Activity Participation, http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/pubs/pnw_gtr778.pdf

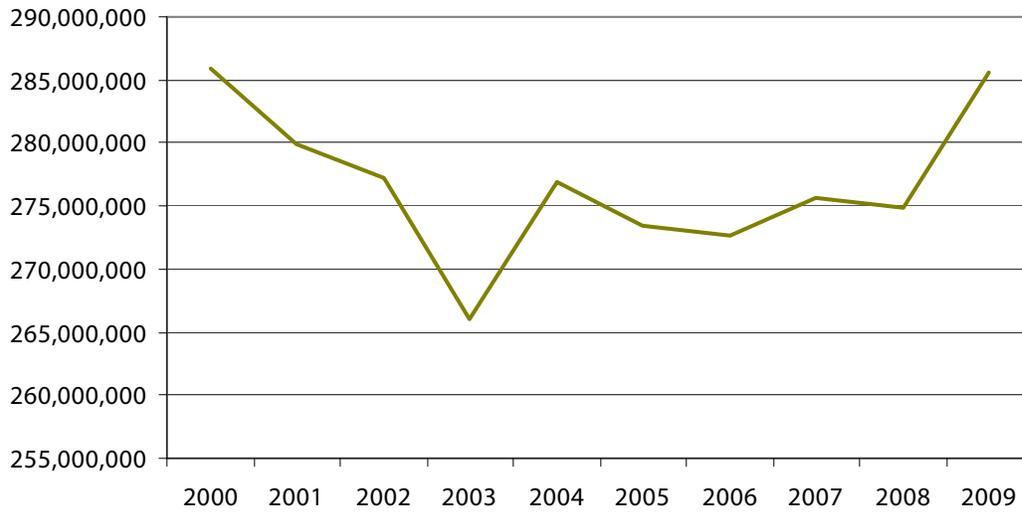
² Source: The Regional Economy of Southeast Alaska, 2005, <http://www.iser.uaa.alaska.edu/publications/Southeast%20Economy%20Overview%20final3.pdf>

³ Personal communication, Lynne McGowan, Sitka Parks and Recreation Department October 2010

⁴ Personal communication, Deb Lyons, Sitka TrailWorks, Inc. October 2010

⁵ National Park Service, Sitka National Historical Park Long-Range Interpretive Plan Team Draft, September 2008

Visitation to Sitka National Historic Park, 2000-2009



Source: National Park Service Public Use Statistics Office.

Participation in Sitka Tours and Activities Alaska Travelers Survey, Air Visitors, Summer 2005

Activity	Percent of Air Visitors
Fishing	73 %
Fishing (guided)	63
Fishing (unguided)	11
Shopping	63 %
Wildlife viewing	34 %
Wildlife/marine life viewing	19
Alaska Raptor Center	15
Bird watching	13
Bear viewing	5
Cultural Activities	30 %
Museums/historical sites	28
Native culture tours/activities	7
Russian Dancers	4
Hiking/nature walk	24 %
Visiting friends/relatives	12 %
Boating	10 %
City tour	10 %

Source: Sitka Visitor Profiles: Alaska Travelers Survey, February 2006

Recreation and the Visitor Industry in Sitka

The visitor industry is an important component of Sitka’s economy, and outdoor recreation is an integral part of the visitor experience. Though Sitka has a diverse, well-balanced economy, the visitor industry is significant, accounting for just over a tenth of Sitka’s economy, according to a 2008 study.⁶ Over 60 percent of visitors to Sitka participated in nature-based tourism activities in Sitka.⁷

Alaska Visitation, 1994-2009



* In 1999, FAA redefined enplanement reporting.

Source: All information prior to 2005 from Sitka Visitor Traffic Indicators and Trends, 2005. Sitka Airport enplaning data from FAA for 2006-2009, Ferry passenger data from AMHS Annual Traffic Volume Report 2009. Cruise passenger information from SEDA, 2005-2009.

Cruise Ship Visitation

When the word “tourist” is mentioned in Alaska, most people think of the cruise ship industry. Indeed, cruise ship visitors have accounted for about 70% of Sitka’s annual visitation for the last 15 years. For a number of reasons, Sitka has experienced a decline in the number of passengers on larger cruise ships in recent years: in 1996, 54 percent of Alaska’s total cruise ship passengers

⁶ State of the Sitka Economy, 2010, City and Borough of Sitka, prepared by the McDowell Group, Inc.

⁷ This figure was calculated using the estimate of the number of visitors participating in nature-based tourism activities from ISER’s *Nature-Based Tourism in Southeast Alaska*, divided into the sum of the ferry, cruise and plane visitors for 2006.

visited Sitka; the percentage dropped to 24 percent by 2005.⁸ This decrease in cruise visitation has resulted in lower sales and bed tax revenues.⁹ For the 2010 season, early estimates show a drop of more than 30 percent from the 220,000 passengers in 2009 to around 135,000.¹⁰

Difficulty with access is one reason often cited for Sitka's declining share of cruise ship visitation. Sitka's ocean-side location increases fuel costs and time required to visit and creates a disincentive for cruise lines to visit. In addition, the most popular cruise itineraries are seven day trips which only allow for three ports of call plus Glacier Bay - with those constraints most cruise lines focus on the larger ports of Ketchikan, Juneau and Sitka. Sitka's much discussed lack of a large cruise ship dock, necessitating lightering, is another constraint.

Sitka's decline in cruise ship passengers is also due to the recent global economic recession, which has caused a general downturn in travel across the country and around the world. International airplane arrivals to the United States are down 5.3 percent (between 2008 and 2009). During the same period, the number of United States residents flying abroad decreased by 3.5 percent. Domestic airline travel is down 5.1 percent, and travelers within the United States are spending 7.4 percent less in 2009 than they were in 2008.¹¹ In 2009, hotel occupancies nationwide dropped to less than 60 percent for the first time since the period immediately following the September 11th 2001 terrorist attack. The current recession has brought the term "stay-cation" into use, as people save money by vacationing in or near their own communities.

While Alaska has generally weathered the recession better than many areas in the Lower 48, the economic downturn has affected the state's tourism industry. According to the Alaska Travel Industry Association (ATIA), 1.6 million visitors traveled to Alaska during the summer of 2009, down from 1.7 million during the summer of 2008 (a 6.1 percent decrease). The decrease was largely due to fewer visitors traveling by air, car, and ferry. Levels of cruise ship passengers remained relatively flat during this period but passenger purchase of land tours was down, impacting in-state destinations.

Independent and In-State Visitation

The Alaska resident makes up an important percentage of recreational travel dollars in Alaska. As recorded in Alaska Business Monthly,¹² approximately 17 percent of all tourism dollars were from Alaska residents in 2004. The trend toward the Alaska resident as an Alaska tourist has lead various tourism entities, business, and trade groups to more actively market their recreational opportunities to Alaska residents.

Independent tourism is strengthening in Sitka (as it is in Alaska generally).¹³ According to an ISER study on nature-based tourism in Southeast Alaska,¹⁴ most independent travelers tend to stay longer and are repeat travelers, making this visitor group a relatively stable market. The study further indicates that independent travelers appear to try to avoid crowds, seek

⁸ Sitka Visitor Traffic Indicators and Trends, 2005

⁹ State of the Sitka Economy, 2010

¹⁰ Source: http://kcaw.org/modules/local_news/index.php?op=centerBlockandID=949

¹¹ Information from Office of Travel and Tourism Industries, U.S. Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration. Hotel occupancy information from Pricewaterhouse Coopers LLP (1958-1986) + Smith Travel Research (1987-2007)

¹² In a 2004 study commissioned by the Alaska Department of Community and Economic Development

¹³ State of Sitka Economy, 2010. Sitka Economic Development Association.

¹⁴ Nature-based Tourism in Southeast Alaska, ISER, 2009

communities with fewer visitors and those that they perceive to be more “authentic.” Relative to other larger SE communities, Sitka offers a community little changed by tourism, and consequently more likely to appeal to this category of traveler. Factors that may limit independent travel to Sitka include costs of access (whether on scheduled jets or on ferries), marketing or the nature and extent of attractions.

Nature-Based Tourism

Alaska’s grand and impressive wilderness has traditionally been the state’s signature tourism attraction. Getting visitors out into nature is an important and growing tourism activity. A 2009 ISER study on nature-based tourism in Southeast Alaska found that both cruise passengers and independent travelers are similarly interested in nature-based tourism services.¹⁵ The ISER study reports that Sitka garnered 33 percent of all nature-based tourism revenues in Southeast Alaska for the summers of 2005-2007 (Sitka’s share of nature-based dollars was second only to Juneau, at 68 percent). The study also reported that revenue per visitor from nature-based tourism in Sitka was \$333, significantly greater than the average of \$203.¹⁶

Among cruise ship clientele, increasing numbers of passengers are interested in more active pursuits; this is attributed partly to a recent shift in marketing to a younger crowd, specifically families who are more interested in adventure activities.¹⁷ Cruise ship shore excursions in Southeast communities routinely offer nature-based activities, including: hikes, mountain biking, glacier viewing, flight-seeing, forest canopy zip lines, glass-bottomed boats and amphibious duck tours.

The report further indicated that there may be unrealized opportunities for developing new and creative tourism products in some Southeast communities, if communities are willing to make the investment. For all Southeast Alaska communities, studies indicate that promoting wildlife watching is an important marketing strategy, since the desire to see wildlife has been attracting a large portion of out-of-state visitors.¹⁸

¹⁵ Nature-based Tourism in Southeast Alaska, ISER, 2009

¹⁶ Nature-based Tourism in Southeast Alaska, ISER, 2009

¹⁷ Nature-based Tourism in Southeast Alaska, ISER, 2009

¹⁸ Nature-based Tourism in Southeast Alaska, ISER, 2009

Estimated annual gross revenues and number of visitors from nature-based tourism activities in Sitka (data from Summers 2005-2007)

Activity	Revenue (\$)	Visitors
Adventure	1,850,000	18,000
City Tours	8,200,000	97,000
Charter Yachts other than to Chichagof	15,449,750	2,945
Lodges	5,649,600	32,000
Sportfishing Day Charters	34,500,000	14,400
Hunting (includes Juneau)	1,500,000	310
Whalewatching	6,200,000	54,000
Wilderness drop off	590,000	3,200
Total	73,939,350	221,855

Source: Nature Based Tourism in Southeast Alaska, ISER.

Sport Fishing

Sitka is a fishing destination and generates the most revenue of the activities discussed in this report. Based on the Alaska Travelers Survey in 2005, fishing was the most popular activity for those visiting by air. The City and Borough of Sitka is also the largest harbor in Alaska, with five small boat harbors and 1,350 stalls.¹⁹

Individuals can choose between two categories of trips. There are four- or six-hour fishing trips and multi-day packages that are offered by lodges or charter operators. A majority of the cruise passengers choose the four- or six-hour salmon fishing trips. Approximately 1,500 people went on half-day trips arranged through brokers, generating over \$270,000 in revenue.²⁰ There are also trips arranged directly with the captains. These trips averaged around 425 clients and \$80,000 per season for each captain. Both brokered and non-brokered trips generated an estimated \$5.7 million in revenue.²¹ The second, multi-day packages, usually involve three or four days of fishing. These trips were estimated to generate over \$34.56 million in revenue with 14,400 clients.

Local Participation

Sitka's residents are active outdoors year round. As the survey data associated with this project (Appendix ___) indicates, outdoor recreation is a big part of the reasons people chose to live in Sitka. As new facilities have been built (e.g., hiking and biking trails, skate park) use has increased.²² As Sitka's trail system has expanded, a greater variety of people are out using the trails: more young families, people walking the trails on their lunch breaks, more vintage Sitkans,

¹⁹ Alaska Community Database, Alaska DCCED.

²⁰ Nature-based Tourism in Southeast Alaska, ISER, 2009. The estimate is only of those who have arranged trips through brokers, who arrange a majority of cruise passengers' fishing trips.

²¹ Nature-based Tourism in Southeast Alaska, ISER, 2009.

²² Personal communication, Lynne McGowan, Sitka Parks and Recreation Department October 2010

etc.²³ One trend that is not increasing is participation in developed sports teams. Developed team sports (e.g., little league, softball) have been declining recently. The underlying causes of this trend are unclear; however, walking and trail use are increasing.²⁴

Sitka high school offers an extremely popular outdoor recreation class. Seventy-eight students signed up for this semester's 18-student class, and the numbers were about the same for the previous semester.²⁵

Summary

Outdoor recreation is also an increasingly important attraction for Sitka's visitor industry. Many cruise ship and independent travelers come to Southeast Alaska for its wealth of nature-based tourism and recreation activities. Cruise ship visitation is down, and might increase again, depending on global economic trends. Though the fluctuations of the global economy are beyond anyone's control, investments in Sitka's visitor facilities could help to bring more visitors to Sitka, especially independent travelers, whose numbers are actually increasing in Sitka.

People looking to relocate to Sitka are also attracted by recreation opportunities. According to the 2009 State of the Sitka Economy report (McDowell Group, Inc.) "... fewer young families are making Sitka their home." Recreation opportunities are integral to the quality of life that has already attracted so many people to Sitka as visitors or long-time residents, and is one way to attract visitors and retain young families.

For residents, investments in Sitka's recreation infrastructure can have benefits as well. There is a benefit for homeowners as property values are likely to increase for those near recreation facilities.²⁶ A 2002 survey of recent homebuyers sponsored by the National Association of Realtors and the National Association of Home Builders, trails ranked as the second most important community amenity out of a list of 18 choices.²⁷ Increased recreational infrastructure can foster new businesses or new ventures for existing businesses as well as ways for businesses to position their product. The 2003 Sitka Trails Plan noted that construction of new trail facilities or repair of existing facilities and other outdoor recreation facilities will stimulate the local economy through construction spending on materials and wages. Local businesses tax revenues for the city can increase because of those increased property values. The Mineral Wells to Weatherford Rail-Trail near Dallas, Texas generates local revenues of \$2 million for approximately 300,000 visitors.²⁸

Benefits also exist for the general population as participation in outdoor recreation improves the physical health of the community. The easier it is for all ages to get out and play, the healthier the community. Many recent studies document a connection between good health and outdoor recreation, citing numerous health benefits from outdoor recreation and increased exposure to natural areas such as lowering stress levels, reducing depression, managing weight, controlling blood pressure, and decreasing the risk of heart disease, diabetes, and cancer.²⁹ The 2003 Sitka

²³ Personal communication, Deb Lyons, Sitka TrailWorks, Inc. October 2010

²⁴ Personal communication, Lynne McGowan, Sitka Parks and Recreation Department October 2010

²⁵ Personal communication, Chloe Copeland, Sitka High School Outdoor Recreation Instructor October 2010

²⁶ The 2003 Sitka Trail Plan noted that property values increase in communities with diverse trail (and other outdoor recreation) choices.

²⁷ Consumer's Survey on Smart Choices for Home Buyers, National Association of Realtors and National Association of Home Builders, April 2002.

²⁸ Source: A Guide to Transportation Enhancements, National Transportation Enhancements Clearinghouse, 1999.

²⁹ Source: The California State Parks Planning Division, Health and Social Benefits of Recreation, 2005

Trail Plan notes that trails [and other outdoor recreation amenities] make Sitka a healthier place to work and live, and there are economic benefits to healthier lifestyles. Healthier residents spend less on health care costs and are more productive in the workplace.

For both visitors and residents, outdoor recreation is one way to broaden and strengthen the Sitka “brand” as a visitor destination. The visitor industry accounts for over 10% of Sitka’s economy, and contributes to over half of Sitka’s tax base (through sales and bed tax).³⁰ These visitors are coming to Sitka for the classic Alaska wilderness experience, for the local culture and to just get out and play; but their numbers may be declining. State of the Sitka Economy 2010 (prepared for SEDA by McDowell Group, Inc.) reports that sales and bed taxes are down, and projected that cruise traffic would decrease 36 percent in 2010. In a survey conducted for the project this past summer, one outfitter guide reported that this year, “our season ended early due to lack of business.” Yet despite the dire predictions of the cruise industry, visitor surveys frequently mentioned having “not enough time” to experience everything they wanted to in Sitka. Sitka has a real opportunity to expand the visitor experience, extend the length of stay and thereby increase the economic benefits of the local visitor industry.

³⁰ Source: State of the Sitka Economy 2010, prepared by McDowell Group, Inc. for SEDA

APPENDIX D: SUMMARY OF PAST PLANS

This section provides a summary of the issues, goals and strategies identified in past planning efforts related to outdoor recreation and the visitor industry in the Sitka area. A full list of the documents reviewed is included after the summary.

Issues

Key issues addressed in these plans include improvements to physical facilities, interpretation and signage, transportation, crowding during peak periods, and policy needs.

Physical Facilities

General facilities

- Non-motorized scale lighting is deficient throughout the community.

Visitor facilities

- Need to coordinate planning of the diverse types and locations of Sitka visitor facilities, such as: orientation, interpretation, gift and book sales, restrooms, food service, emergency services, and transportation.

Transportation facilities

- Need an orchestrated system of access and circulation, including: auto, bus, bicycle, and pedestrian traffic routes and linkages
- Many existing sidewalks are narrow and do not have ADA curb cuts in older sections of town.
- Need more bike racks throughout the community at destination points.
- Parking in bike lanes is a problem.
- Many bike lanes, paved shoulders and separated pathways do not get adequate sweeping in the summer or snow removal in winters. There are additional problems with or lack of bike lanes, paved shoulders and/or separated pathways on/along 39 identified streets/roads.
- The character and proportions of some existing transportation facilities are inconsistent with the environment and scale of Sitka.
- Needed non-motorized water craft facilities include launch, recovery and storage facilities for kayaks, canoes and other non-motorized watercraft at water-based destinations.
- Every intersection is different in how pedestrians and bicyclists are expected to pass through. A uniform treatment is needed. Many ADA improvements are needed.
- Sitka National Historical Park
 - Exhibit and storage improvements are needed.
 - Need to create or improve treatment standards for cultural landscapes and totem poles.

- There exist potential incompatible uses of three small parcels of land abutting the visitor center unit, Building 29 (a privately owned national historic landmark), and areas near the Russian Bishop's House.
- The Park regularly experiences visitor circulation and safety problems.

Interpretation and Signage

- Need improvements in designing and locating signs and other orientation elements or facilities throughout Sitka.
- Signage: A regulatory and directional signing plan should be developed for the community that is consistent with the Manual On Uniform Traffic Control Devices.
- Sitka National Historical Park
 - Improvements to orientation/signage/interpretation are needed.
 - Broader interpretive programs are needed.

Recreation and Education Programs

- Additional educational programs are needed at Sitka National Historical Park
- Drivers don't understand the rights of bicyclists; bicyclists don't obey rules of the road. Education is needed.

Recreation/Tourism Information and Services

- Need improvements in programming the overall Sitka visitor experience, such as sequencing, movement, capacities, and length of stay.
- Visitor distribution is problematic particularly related to overcrowding at certain times of day during the high visitor use season, mid-May to mid-September.
- Congestion + space needs at Sitka National Historical Park

Land Use Policy

- Working with Alaska Natives to convey their cultural connections to the area (Sitka generally), including tourism, subsistence, and cultural center activities.
- During subdivision review, Sitka lacks an ordinance to require easements through subdivisions before they are built.
- Sitka National Historical Park
 - More/stronger partnerships with the community and partners are needed.
 - Need to clarify the areas of mutual benefit between the park and the community of Sitka.

Goals and Strategies

Past plans have recommended a number of goals and strategies for addressing the issues identified above. These are summarized below.

Broad Goals

- Healthy economy: support visitor industry as one component of larger economy
- Quality of life: maintain + improve quality of Sitka as place to live and visit
- Local benefits: ensure Sitkans benefit from visitor industry, support local businesses
- Guided tourism: proactive role, work with full community

Physical Facilities

- Core downtown area improvements (incl. green spaces, public restrooms)
- Transportation improvements
 - Create/improve pedestrian ways, shuttle transportation, congestion mitigation
 - 16 new hiking trail construction projects (62.5 miles) and 14 trail reconstruction projects (40.8 miles).
 - Dive trail, improved kayak facilities, 2 ATV trails and 2 new mountain bike trails.
- Sitka National Historical Park:
 - Improve exhibits, storage capacity + space needs
 - Facility development, land protection + natural resource management
- Tongass National Forest, Sitka Ranger District (plus a few projects not on National Forest lands) construction and improvements
 - Trails (hiking, mountain bike, ATV + cross country)
 - Campgrounds, Cabins + shelters, Picnic + day use facilities
 - Other facilities: lodge, hot/warm springs development, bridge(s), interpretive display(s), ski/snowboard run(s), boat/kayak launch(es), tram, boat moorage
 - Roads + parking areas

Interpretation and Signage

- Information and orientation improvements
- Create visitor gateway zones
- Sitka National Historical Park: orientation/signage/interpretation and cultural resource management

Recreation and Education Programs

- Attractions + Events
- Marketing + promotion of Sitka as a visitor destination (minimal environmental impact, ped/bike friendly transportation, support local businesses)

- Training and business support
- Sitka National Historical Park educational programs

Land Use and Infrastructure Policy

- Congestion management: Downtown Sitka + Sitka National Historical Park
- Work with community to resolve divisive issues + build support
- Incentives + policies to promote minimal environmental impact, ped/bike friendly transportation, support for local businesses
- Sitka National Historical Park
 - Partnerships with community and partners
 - Relations with Alaska Natives
 - Community partnerships
 - Management zoning
 - Facility development and land protection

Past Planning efforts and other documents consulted for background information are listed below.

Sources

Sitka Gateway Planning Assistance: Design Workshop Recommendations and Range of Alternatives, 1996-1997, Sitka Community, with assistance from the National Park Service

Long-Range Interpretive Plan (Draft), September 2008, USDI, Sitka National Park Service
General Management Plan, November 1998, USDI, Sitka National Park Service

Sitka Visitor Industry Plan, February 2007, City and Borough of Sitka

State of the Sitka Economy, 2010, City and Borough of Sitka, prepared by the McDowell Group, Inc.

Sitka Visitor Industry Plan 2.0 (Draft), May 2007, City and Borough of Sitka, prepared by Agnew::Beck Consulting

Report to Sitkans “Up for Discussion: What Makes a Sustainable Community?” (no date), City and Borough of Sitka, submitted to the Island Institute, Gary Holthaus

Appendix B Outdoor Recreation Survey (no date), City and Borough of Sitka

Sitka Non-Motorized Transportation Plan, Spring 2002, Assessment of Deficiencies and/or Needs (Draft), City and Borough of Sitka

Sitka Trail Plan 2003 and Memorandum of Understanding, Sitka Trail Works, Inc. (501(c)3 not-for-profit). Signed by: USDA Forest Service Region 10 Forest Supervisor and Sitka District Ranger. City and Borough of Sitka Administrator, USDI National Park Service

Superintendent, Sitka National Historical Park, USDI Rivers Trails and Conservation Assistance Program Manager, Tribal Chairman, Sitka Tribe of Alaska, AK DNR Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, Southeast Supervisor, Sitka Trail Works President Board of Directors

Juneau Parks and Recreation Planning Survey, October 1995, City of Juneau

Proceedings: National Workshop on Recreation Research and Management, June 2007, USDA Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station

Pathways Across America, Winter 2009-2010, USDA Forest Service, Partnership for the National Trails System

A Strategy for Management and Priority Setting FY2006 – FY2010, USDA Forest Service, Tongass National Forest

Recreation Site Facility Master Planning Process Guidebook, March 2005, USDA Forest Service, Tongass National Forest

Recreation Site Facility Master Planning 5-year Action Plan, September 2005, USDA Forest Service, Tongass National Forest

Recreation Site Facility Master Plan Summary, September 2005, USDA Forest Service, Tongass National Forest

Shoreline Outfitter/Guide Record of Decision and Final Environmental Impact Statement (Volume I, II, III), December 2004, USDA Forest Service, Tongass National Forest

Sitka Trail Survey, Winter 1999, USDA Forest Service, Tongass National Forest, Sitka Ranger District in cooperation with Sitka Trail Works, Inc.

Sitka Ranger District Future Recreation Projects, 1990-1994, USDA Forest Service, Tongass National Forest, Sitka Ranger District

Sitka Ranger District recreation cabin use records 2007, 2008, 2009, USDA Forest Service, Tongass National Forest, Sitka Ranger District

Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact, Outfitter/Guide Allocation on Sitka Area Roads and Trails, December 2008, USDA Forest Service, Tongass National Forest, Sitka Ranger District

Outdoor Recreation in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska: Trends in Activity Participation, 2009, USDA Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station.

The Regional Economy of Southeast Alaska, 2007, ISER, prepared by Steve Colt, Darcy Dugan and Ginny Fay (EcoSystems).

Sitka National Historical Park Long-Range Interpretive Plan Team Draft, September 2008, National Park Service.

Sitka Visitor Traffic Indicators and Trends, 2005, City and Borough of Sitka, prepared by the McDowell Group, Inc.

Nature-based Tourism in Southeast Alaska, 2009, ISER, prepared by Darcy Dugan, Ginny Fay and Steve Colt.

APPENDIX E: INVENTORY

EXISTING FACILITIES, PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Physical Recreation Facilities

Existing recreational facilities in Sitka include parks, trails, campgrounds, picnic areas and day-use shelters, attractions (e.g., museum), and signage. These facilities are shown on the three Existing Recreation maps on the pages that follow, and listed below:

USFS, Sitka Ranger District

- Road accessible recreation areas
- ATV guidelines
- Sitka area cabins + shelters
- Camping + picnicking areas
- Sitka area trails
- Mooring buoys

National Park Service

- Sitka National Historic Park

Alaska State Parks

- Area historic sites
- Recreation areas

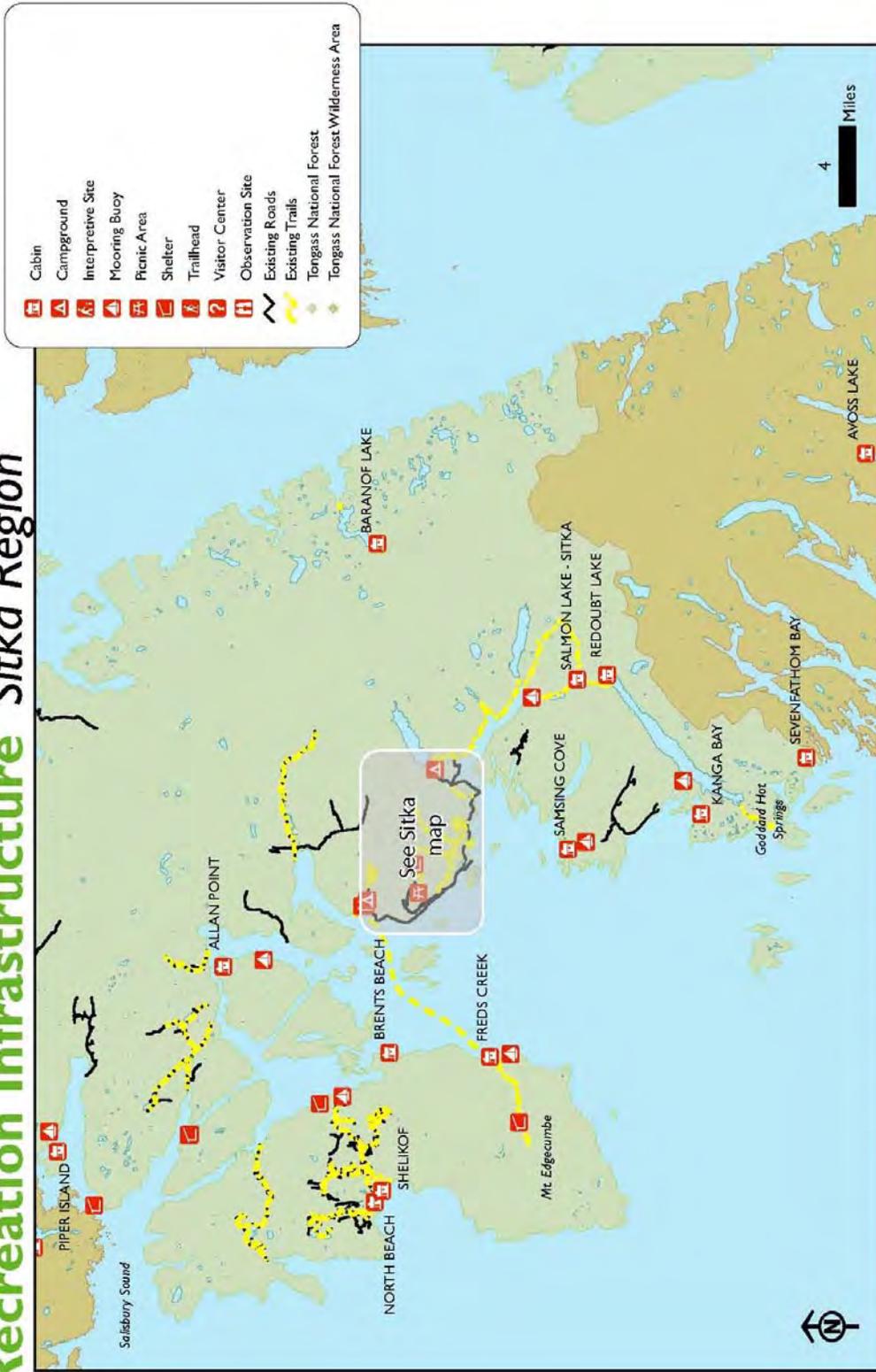
City and Borough of Sitka

- Sitka area trails
- Playgrounds + Athletic facilities
- Boat launches
- Shooting ranges
- Picnic areas

Private

- Golf courses
- Historic sites and memorials

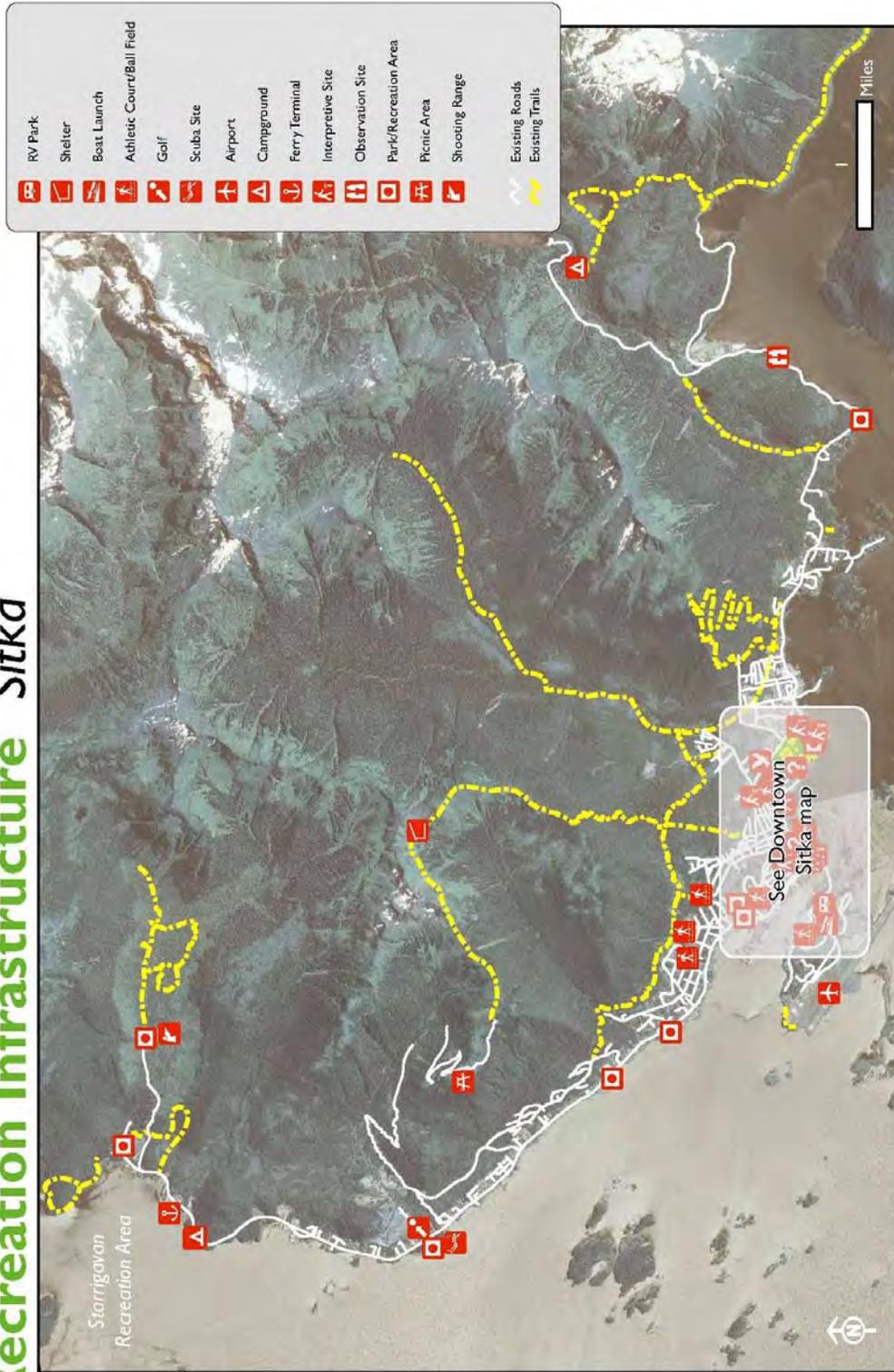
Existing Recreation Infrastructure Sitka Region



Alaska State Plane, Zone 4, NAD 1983
 File: Sitka_Overview.mxd 9/30/10

Data courtesy of the USFS, BLM, and Agnew::Beck.
 This map was compiled for the USFS and the City +
 Borough of Sitka with assistance from Agnew::Beck.

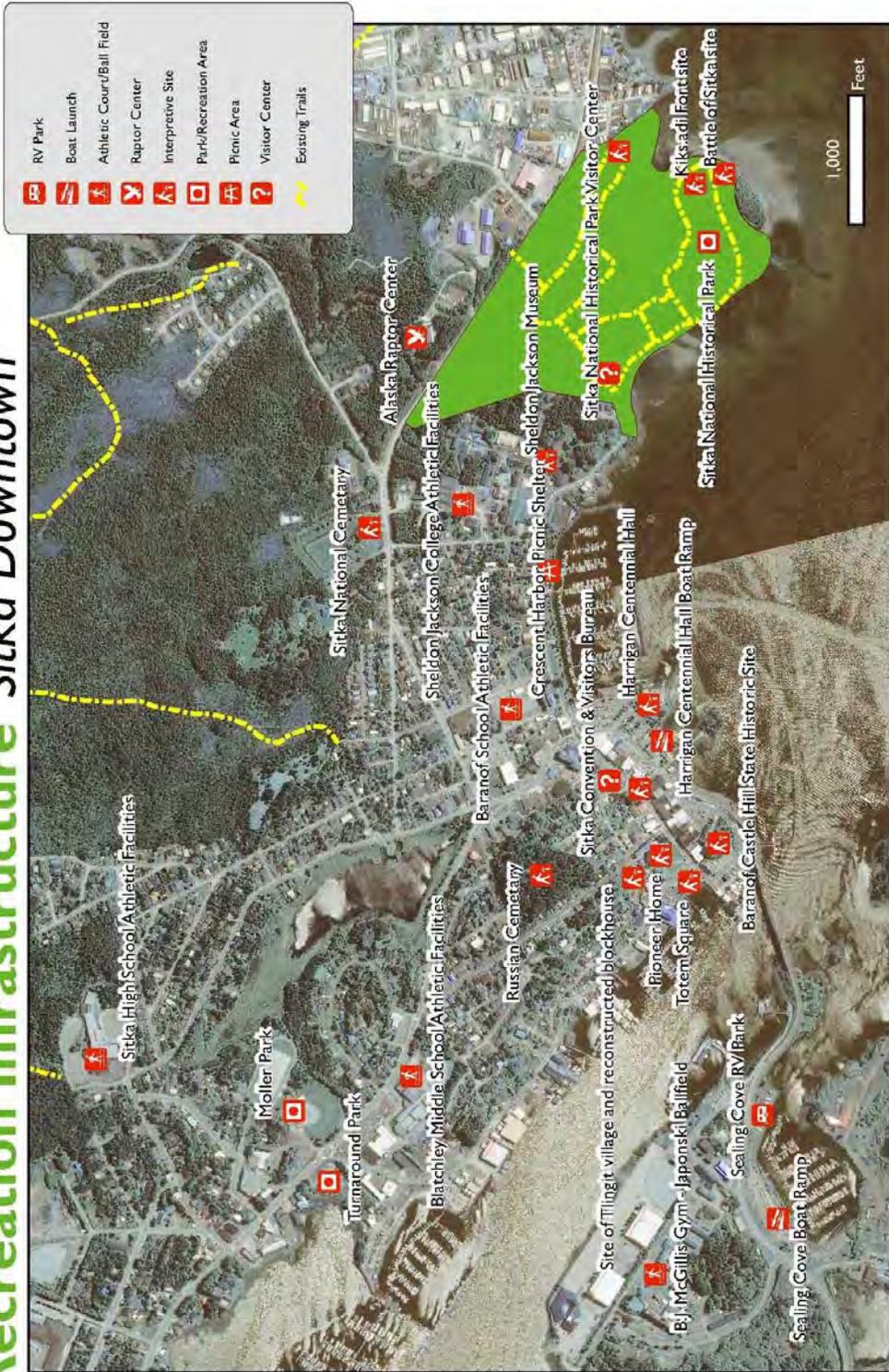
Existing Recreation Infrastructure Sitka



Alaska State Plane, Zone 4, NAD 1983
File: Sitka_Overview.mxd 9/30/10

Data courtesy of the USFS, BLM, and Agnew::Beck.
This map was compiled for the USFS and the City + Borough of Sitka with assistance from Agnew::Beck.

Existing Recreation Infrastructure Sitka Downtown



Alaska State Plane, Zone 4, NAD 1983
 File: Sitka_Overview.mxd 9/30/10

Data courtesy of the USFS, BLM, and Agnew:Beck.
 This map was compiled for the USFS and the City +
 Borough of Sitka with assistance from Agnew:Beck.

Public Recreation and Interpretation Programs

A variety of outdoor education, recreation and interpretive programs are offered in the Sitka area, through schools, the university, healthcare providers, city parks and recreation department, Tongass National Forest, Sitka National Historical Park, and various private and non-profit entities.

City and Borough of Sitka, Parks Department

Offers recreational programs.

Private Companies

A number of companies offer guided adventure-type activities that include snorkeling, kayaking, biking, hiking and ATV riding. In addition guided rainforest hikes and bird walks are offered. Integrative tours are also offered that include Russian dancing, Native dancing and walking tours of Sitka's most historic buildings.

Sitka Trail Works

Organizes community hikes.

Sitka Tribal Enterprises

Historical tours highlighting Sitka's past through the lens of the Tlingit Indians.

- Coach tours
- Hiking tours

Community Schools

Offers educational/recreational programs.

Sitka Sounds Science Center

Offers educational/recreational programs.

National Park Service

Sitka National Historical Park offers tours and educational programs.

USFS, Sitka Ranger District

The Forest Service offers recreation programs and opportunities within Tongass National Park.

Public Information About Recreational Opportunities

Information about recreational opportunities in the Sitka area is available from a variety of sources, including community bulletins and listings, institutional websites for parks and area attractions, promotional brochures and websites for visitors, and word-of-mouth from tour operators and community members.

Alaska Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation

Information on Alaska State Parks near Sitka.

dnr.alaska.gov/parks/aspro/charts/sesitka.htm

- Site-specific information on facilities and features.

City and Borough of Sitka, Parks Department

Provides information on recreational opportunities for residents and visitors.

www.cityofsitka.com/government/departments/parks/ParksandRecreation.html

- Parks and Rec Facilities List and Tour
- Downtown and Outlying Area map
- Tom Young Cabin information

SEATrails

SEATrails is Southeast Alaska's unique trail system that is connected by Alaska's Marine Highway System. SEATrails gives independent travelers the best of what Alaska's Inside Passage has to offer - culture, history, and boundless wilderness.

www.seatrails.org/

- Local Destinations
- Trails
- Sample Itineraries
- Travel Tips

Sitka Convention and Visitors Bureau

Website maintained by the Convention and Visitors Bureau that includes a wide array of information from trips planning to history to activities.

www.sitka.org/

- Maps + Transportation
- Events, Charters, Tours + Activities, Outdoor Recreation
- Camping and Lodges
- Suggested Itineraries

Sitka Through Four Season Online

Produced by Shelter Cove Publishing, the site and associated free printed visitor's guide, gives information on activities, lodging and travel information

www.travelsitka.org/

- Bus Schedule
- Ferry information
- Information on events, lodging, activities

Sitka Trail Works

Work to develop, maintain and promote trail system in Sitka area.

www.sitkatrailworks.org/

- Area Hikes
- Community Hikes Calendar

Sitka Tribal Enterprises

Historical tours highlighting Sitka's past through the lens of the Tlingit Indians. Tour operators are often both an introduction to Sitka's recreational amenities and a source of information, offering suggestions for other activities or attractions beyond the tour itself

www.sitkatours.com/index.html

- Coach tours
- Hiking tours

USFS, Sitka Ranger District

USFS site maintained for the Sitka Ranger District.

www.fs.fed.us/r10/tongass/districts/sitka/

- Road accessible recreation areas
- ATV guidelines
- Sitka area cabins
- Camping + picnicking areas
- Sitka area trails
- Sitka recreation guide map
- Forest Service pre-recorded information line on updates concerning local programs and recreation opportunities

A full list of physical facilities for recreation in Sitka is included below.

NAME	CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP
Sitka Rocky Gutierrez Airport	Airport	Federal
ALLAN POINT	Cabin	USFS
APPLETON COVE	Cabin	USFS
AVOSS LAKE	Cabin	USFS
BARANOF LAKE	Cabin	USFS
BRENDS BEACH	Cabin	USFS
FREDS CREEK	Cabin	USFS
KANGA BAY	Cabin	USFS
LAKE EVA	Cabin	USFS
NORTH BEACH	Cabin	USFS
PIPER ISLAND	Cabin	USFS
REDOUBT LAKE	Cabin	USFS
SALMON LAKE - SITKA	Cabin	USFS
SAMSING COVE	Cabin	USFS
SEVENFATHOM BAY	Cabin	USFS
SHELIKOF	Cabin	USFS
SULOIA LAKE	Cabin	USFS
WEST SITKOH LAKE	Cabin	USFS
RV Camping	Campground	
Sawmill Creek Campground	Campground	City and Borough of Sitka
STARRIGAVAN-C	Campground	USFS
Ferry Terminal	Ferry Terminal	State of Alaska
Baranof Castle Hill State Historic Site	Interpretive Site	State of Alaska
Battle of Sitka site	Interpretive Site	NPS
Harrigan Centennial Hall - Isabel Miller Museum	Interpretive Site	
Kiks.adi Fort site	Interpretive Site	NPS
Pioneer Home	Interpretive Site	
Russian Cemetary	Interpretive Site	Private
Russian Memorial	Interpretive Site	Private
Sheldon Jackson Museum	Interpretive Site	
Site of Tlingit village and reconstructed blockhouse	Interpretive Site	
Sitka National Cemetary	Interpretive Site	
St. Michael's Cathedral	Interpretive Site	Private
Totem Square	Interpretive Site	
FREDS CREEK BUOY	Mooring Buoy	USFS
KANGA BAY MOORING BUOY	Mooring Buoy	USFS
MUD BAY MOORING BUOY	Mooring Buoy	USFS

NAME	CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP
NEVA STRAIGHT MOORING BUOY	Mooring Buoy	USFS
PIPER ISLAND MOORING BUOY	Mooring Buoy	USFS
REDOUBT BAY MOORING BUOY	Mooring Buoy	USFS
SAMSING BUOY	Mooring Buoy	USFS
SILVER BAY MOORING BUOY	Mooring Buoy	USFS
STARRIGAVAN BIRD VIEWING	Observation Site	
Whale Viewing Area	Observation Site	City and Borough of Sitka
Halibut Point State Recreation Area	Park/Recreation Area	DNR
Sandy Beach	Park/Recreation Area	
Stika National Historical Park	Park/Recreation Area	
Whale Park	Park/Recreation Area	City and Borough of Sitka
Goddard Hot Springs	Park/Recreation Area	City and Borough of Sitka
Pioneer Park	Park/Recreation Area	City and Borough of Sitka
Swan Lake Park	Park/Recreation Area	City and Borough of Sitka
Turnaround Park	Park/Recreation Area	City and Borough of Sitka
Crescent Harbor Park	Park/Recreation Area	City and Borough of Sitka
Blockhouse	Park/Recreation Area	City and Borough of Sitka
Tom Young Memorial Cabin	Park/Recreation Area	City and Borough of Sitka
KAISEI MARU SHELTER AND INTERPRETIVE SITE (SEALING COVE)	Park/Recreation Area	City and Borough of Sitka
GRANITE CREEK REMOTE CONTROL AIRPLANE LANDING STRIP	Park/Recreation Area	City and Borough of Sitka
Harbor Mt. Picnic Area	Picnic Area	
STARRIGAVAN-PS	Picnic Area	
Alaska Raptor Center	Raptor Center	Private
Magic Island Underwater Trail	Scuba Site	
GAVAN HILL HUT	Shelter	USFS
KAKUL NARROWS SHELTER	Shelter	USFS
MT EDGE CUMBE MIDWAY SHELTER	Shelter	USFS
MT EDGE CUMBE TRAIL REMOTE SHELTER	Shelter	USFS
MUD BAY SHELTER	Shelter	USFS
NEVA SHELTER	Shelter	USFS
OTSTOIA SHELTER	Shelter	USFS
Sitka Sportsman's Association Shooting Range	Shooting Range	City and Borough of

NAME	CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP
		Sitka
Tony Hrebar Shooting Range	Shooting Range	City and Borough of Sitka
Sitka National Historical Park Visitor Center	Visitor Center	NPS
Keet Gooshi Heen School	Playground	City and Borough of Sitka
Baranof School	Playground	City and Borough of Sitka
Crescent Harbor	Playground	City and Borough of Sitka
Moller (2)	Playground	City and Borough of Sitka
Indian River subdivision	Playground	City and Borough of Sitka
Turnaround Skateboard Park	Sports Facilities	City and Borough of Sitka
Crescent Harbor Basketball and Tennis Courts	Sports Facilities	City and Borough of Sitka
Herring Cove Single Track	Sports Facilities	City and Borough of Sitka
Turnaround Dog Park	Sports Facilities	City and Borough of Sitka
Baranof Ballfield	Sports Facilities	City and Borough of Sitka
Vilandre Ballfield	Sports Facilities	City and Borough of Sitka
Keet Gooshi Heen fields (2)	Sports Facilities	City and Borough of Sitka
Kimsham Recreational Complex – (3 baseball/softball and one multiuse soccer/football)	Sports Facilities	City and Borough of Sitka
Mt. Edgecumbe Field	Sports Facilities	City and Borough of Sitka
Moller – Upper Moller ballfield, Lower Moller football/soccer field	Sports Facilities	City and Borough of Sitka

APPENDIX F: FOCUS GROUP MEETING NOTES

SITKA SUSTAINABLE OUTDOOR RECREATION ACTION PLAN

Highlights of Previous Community discussions distributed to Focus Group attendees as a starting point for discussion. Largely taken from June 2010 Public Meeting.

A. Facilities Trails - What's Needed Out of Town?

- Mountain bike single-track trails – downhill trails (including extreme trails) at Harbor Mountain and Gavan Hill; cross trail replacement (use for bike races and hut-to-hut biking)
- Create a set of East Kruzof Island routes/trails, with associated hardened facilities (and publish a map of potential land routes)
- Cross-island multi-day trail route to Lake Eva cabin with shelters along the way
- Cabin-to-cabin, on-land, multi-night trail routes (e.g., Lucky Chance-Silver Bay, Salmon Lake to Redoubt, S. Sitka Sound-Goddard Hot Spring with a boat route back); to a cool point or location, with features to point out along the way; well-maintained, and including a bridge over Green Lake outlet
- Fred's Creek access/bridge across the river
- ATV safety course (at Starrigavan) – for Mt. Edgecumbe kids, other training opportunities
- Sea Trails/connections

B. Facilities Cabins, Campsites, etc - What's Needed Out of Town?

- Develop more near-by locations for families to boat to and recreate at
- Larger group camping facilities
- Hardened campsites (for excess use) along Kruzof Island roads (located strategically, not everywhere)
- An outhouse at North Beach for non-cabin users
- Make existing facilities better – transform them into what people want, e.g. USFS Starrigavan campground north of town – too busy for Boy Scouts to use

C. Facilities Trails - What's Needed In Town?

- Connect out of town trails into town (e.g. Cross trail); create connections (trails, kayak launch) from heart of town into the wilderness (aim to create an environment something like downtown Talkeetna, where adventurers coming in and out of the Alaska Range cross paths with other travelers, and add interest to the community)
- Provide more interpretive trails; Forest and Muskeg trail is a great self guided interp trail, but is under-utilized, needs promotion
- Sea Trails/connections

D. Facilities Cabins, Campsites, etc - What's Needed In Town?

- Public kayak launches (in multiple places (UAS, City, etc.) that are safe, convenient, not shared with motorboats) and public kayak storage
- Facility/terminal/campground for water route visitors – centrally-located, non-car based information center and camping for kayakers/boaters (somewhere they don't have to drive to)
- More public bike parking
- Disc (frisbee) golf course

- Provide for recreation user logistics (e.g., camping, showers, storage lockers, bear containers) so downtown can be a convenient center for out of town adventure.
- Camping that is convenient for adventurers – kayakers, bikers; a strategic location in town
- Multi-agency (TNF, SSSC, NOAA, NPS) visitor center and hands-on forest/ocean-related education facility for kids/disabled/visitors/all at Sheldon Jackson college
- Zip lines, ropes courses, slacklines, and other extreme sports – exciting opportunities for kids and adults

E. General Strategies Re Facilities?

- Plan with the interests of business in mind
- Remember the need to keep existing facilities maintained (look for partnerships and other opportunities)
- Need to inventory of what we have and what kind of shape it is in

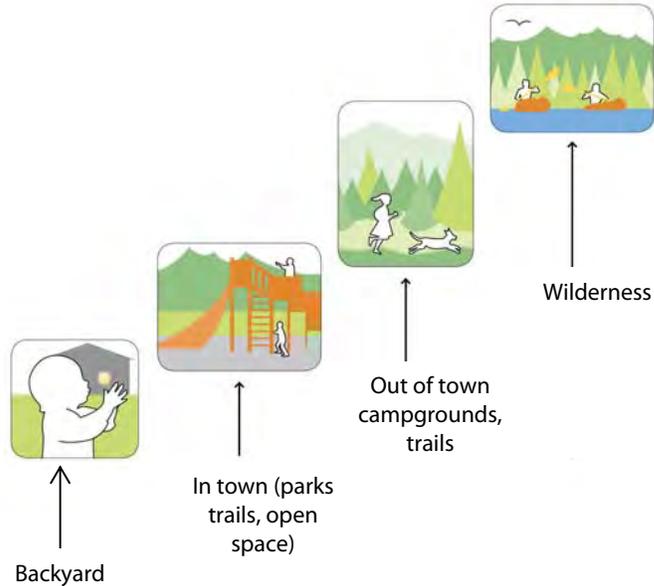
Winter activities

- Year-round opportunities (winter sports) – downhill ski/snowboard runs (i.e., a trail that starts at the top and ends at the bottom of the hill) – cross-country ski trail/s
- 4 season outdoor recreation in Sitka? Not much today, need better access into local hike up snowboard trail; currently requires hiking up twice

F. Programs and Education - What's Needed?

- Teach outdoor recreation activities at the schools – teach about opportunities, teach skills, teach environmental ethics, have clinics and competitions (disc golf was one idea)
- Have Ranger-led campout at Starrigavan (teach people about gear, camping/cooking/eating in bear country, leave no trace fire techniques, reduced garbage methods, what to do, etc.), include a free night of camping
- Education/programs about subsistence harvesting (of berries, mushrooms, etc.) – how to do it sustainably
- You-tube programs on how to interact with wildlife (bears and whales) and plants (rare and weeds) (model-reef teach program for Great Barrier Reef)
- Interactive programs with kids and parents – tidal pools, berry picking, etc. – we need to get the parents out with the kids; need to provide exciting opportunities for kids, get them started young/early
- Community Schools – get F.S. and other education people to come out and do education at field sites with kids
- Wisewoman programs are getting moms (and kids) outdoors and exercising
- Mentoring kids and adults in outdoor recreation experiences; sharing the fun and coolness of doing it
- Partnerships with schools; learn from Fish and Game van, provides a mobile educational platform, helps kids (and visitors) to better understand and enjoy the outdoor world
- Herring Cove Trail – huge draw for kids, families (Wise Woman Program)
- More trails transportation and facilities and info directed at all ages– “a life transforming experience” to walk; make it easier for residents and visitors
- Make sure “vintage” folks are included in all age programs (not just kids) – have folks accompany elders and have rest stops and benches
- Aim to provide (and promote) “a different adventure every day”

- Apply the Chugach Children’s Forest “stepping stones” model:



G. Marketing and Information - What’s Needed?

- More information locally on finding/getting boat rides/drop-offs/outfitting/rentals
- Create a publication of potential land routes on E. Kruzof Island
- Inventory of where do people go to seek information – find out who is giving out info. (info. sharers) and make sure everyone who wants to give out info. knows who the info. sharers are – what’s out there today, what’s needed?
- Survey – find out what current / prospective travelers and residents want? Reach success by building recommendations on identified, strongly held community desires.
- One stop information center that’s central / tangible – needs everyone (USFS, businesses, state, chamber, CVB etc.) to work together; multi-agency recreation and tourism center to develop and promote recreation opportunities
- Better information (e.g. maps and signage), with info on camping, routes for walking / kayaking
- Partnership to gather information on recreation opportunities
- Better connect with/coordinate with Chamber and with CVB

H. Marketing and Information - What’s Needed?

- Marketing success depends on shared/pooled marketing over many years
- Marketing is expensive, particularly to independent travelers because they are so dispersed and in such small groups
- Marketing needs to be somewhere REAL as well as a website
- New Zealand is a good example of good marketing and finding adventure information easily
- Market our trails – maps are outdated
- Surveys - what developments do people want? What programs are we missing? *for independent travelers do surveys at hotels, B and Bs, FS front desk, cruise ship directors

- Sitka needs branding and a Sitka logo and needs to do combined marketing (combining of \$ and groups and effort) based on some of its unique characteristics like recreation, history, sustainability
- Grow Sitka as an adventure destination by vigorously promoting Sitka as an adventure destination
- Note: some discussion took place regarding the degree to which current marketing materials promote outdoor recreation. See the site below for a review of the 2010 vacation planner
<http://www.sitka.org/documents/SVP2010ForWeb.pdf>

Sitka Focus Group Notes 10/7-8, 2010

Focus Groups Agenda

Highlighted topics were emphasis of discussions

1. Project Overview
 - a. Who, what, why, schedule
 - b. Outcomes
 - c. USFS “sustainable recreation”
2. Background Information
 - a. Community views
 - b. Previous plans
 - c. Inventory
3. Recommended Projects
 - a. **Criteria for ranking importance of different projects**
 - b. Markets
 - c. **Needed Projects**
 - i. Facilities
 1. Trails Campground, cabins, etc.Out of Town
 2. In Town
 - ii. Programs
 - iii. Info
 1. Marketing
 2. Interp
 3. Info
4. **Words to Action, 10 year action plan**
 - a. Partnerships
 - b. Funding
 - c. Land Use Plans
 - d. Ongoing Leadership

Project Ranking Criteria

(this is a cumulative listing of criteria identified by different focus groups)

- Different for different partners
- Accessibility (ease of use) nearby
- Benefits to residents
- Economic benefits. attracts visitors
- System that makes recreation easy, safe for visitors
- Contribution to diverse system meeting needs of diverse users “palette” (walk, ski, ATV, boat, kayak, etc.); easy for range of ages to enjoy (youth, families, elders)
- Creates image/brand for Sitka
- Community Support
- Accessible in multiple areas
- Affordability
- Sustainability
 - materials, design
 - Partnerships to share costs
 - Lots of ways to contribute (gravel, backhoes, etc.)(kids help with trail, rainbow cir?) / grants matching grants
 - Balance – Not all facilities need maintenance / development
 - Recognize possible need to close facilities
- “Do-ability” – opportunities and flexible
- Accessible to people with handicaps e.g. wheelchairs
- Consider long range/long term impacts, e.g. conflicts between trail/users.
- Access water connections, e.g., Docks, Ramps, Log Rafts
- Year round
- Don’t discourage residents, charge visitors (e.g. charge a fee, provide a local’s pass)
- Better information, e.g., signage along Crescent Harbor (Interpretive/Refishing)
- Easy → Difficult
- Contribution of users to construct and maintain
- “Cell phone service”
- Affordability for user; e.g., tent platforms. skiff access. 3-Sided shelters
- Safety – Bears (Brent’s beach bear)

- In setting criteria, respect diversity of users, don't lose key groups through generalizing about criteria, accept more than one #1
- Recognize need to (later) sort out issues of management

Recreation /Trails Users Focus Group

Facility and Program Needs: Out of Town

- Lucky chance / Goddard trail and link to road system
- Upgrade Goddard Hot Springs
- Water accessible trails (USFS)
 - Motorized, non motorized (both on Kruzoff Island – requires a boat)
- Port Alexander / Cape Decision Light House (facilities in and out of town, for visitors and residents, for fishing community)
- Baranof Warm Springs (Need to consider deferred maintenance costs)
- Coastal Trails (south Baranof area, Kruzof (note some places don't need to be developed to be enjoyed.)
- Like continuation of partnership between city and USFS - Tom Young Cabin (built by community, but USFS has been asked to maintain)
- Sea Lion Love Cabin: Demand but risk of vandalism
- Cabin at camper Lake? (or leave natural)
 - Be realistic about maintenance costs
 - Check popularity of different USFS cabins
- Starrigavan Ridge
- Take more advantage of marine parks – promote, harden campsites, provide buoys...
- Consider shelters vs. cabins
- Provide multiday Kayak/ whaler routes with infrastructure

Facility and Program Needs: In-town

- Archery
- Verstovia trailhead facilities (link to waterfront?)
- Disc Golf (High school crowd)
- Paintball (state park)
- Mountain Biking
- Rock Quarry, rock climbing (and Golfcourse?)
- Dive park - magic island (Sitka has incredible diving...”best place I’ve ever dove”)

- Fast track for ATVs (Not Starrigavan parking lot)
- Causeway – visitors and residents; year round attraction, nearby; water can be tricky, need a dock to get people to the area; need a way around airport
- Cross Trail Completion; southern End of Crosstrail
- Outdoor gathering spots for families - “existing state park facilities totally booked”
- Halibut Point Rec Area - need more parking
- Pioneer Park Shelters - lost due to weather, city hasn’t been able to replace
- Day use recreation areas (restrooms, picnic tables) - e.g., by industrial park; Herring Cove, Eagle Beach
- Swan Lake dredging, day use facilities (kids fishing derby), skate
- Nearby - hike in cabins (in maintainable locations); bigger, e.g. 16 people)
- Trails, camping in locations near ferry terminal (in starrigavan area)
- Places for kids to have bonfires
- Mountain Bike Trails
- Indian River – new use for existing trails
- Winter Sports
 - Shelter on Verstovia
 - Harbor Mountain casual use area for snow machines
 - Need to separate snow machines from skiers
 - Accessible backcountry ski terrain (need to get details; idea: goddard trail redo; link thru cascade valley; backside of Gavan hill)
- In-town fishing, Blue and Green lake roads; downtown fishing Pier
- New ways to invite kids/families, to get outdoors – hands on (A place to build fires, “salmon thumping”)

Implementation Barriers and Successes

- Tom Young Cabin: Example of success: But who maintains?
 - “Labor of Love” community buy-in, memorial cabin, city lent money
- Sitka Trail Works -
 - Blue collar; grew out of collapse of local timber industry
 - Focus on Economic Development
 - success through partnerships, being apolitical
 - Perseverance – different priorities for different groups
 - Hire a staff person to keep it going – commitment by people who really care

- “We have no authority and we don’t care”
- Narrow Priorities – user driven
- Trail works – manages to bring together agencies, others with \$
- Someone or some organization needs to take ownership (e.g. community schools CVB, individuals)
- Someone/some org. that can follow the (at times difficult) path that leads to money
- Patience, endurance - “the money is there”
- Having the list of priorities in everyone’s view
- Who is going to implement this plan?
 - ATV users
 - Whalers
 - Tourism (Do the tourism vendors want to go out and get resources?)
 - City, State, USFS - but can’t do it alone
- Debate in Sitka re difference between “needs and wants” ; some put recreation in “wants” category
- Need to find balance between fiscal conservatives and those more willing to spend
- Need education about economic value of recreation
 - The Appalachian Trail vs charter fishing - both are economic engines
 - Demonstrate how the right type of facilities benefit residents, creates jobs, and has minimal adverse impacts
- Specific implementation mechanisms
 - Keep steering committee going; 1/4ly meetings of steering committee
 - Staff to the steering committee
 - Have projects ready to go
 - Provide opportunities for “friends of (the trail, the campground)” to come into existence
 - Be realistic about ability to maintain what we already have

Vintage Focus Group

Facility Needs: Out of Town

- Boat accessible beaches
- Options to rent boat; access to charter boats (need better information about options)
- Access to rowboat (e.g., at Crescent)

Facility Needs: In Town

- Programs for people who want to join a group hike (for shorter/easier trails) - USFS?
No funding for guided hikes
- More trails like Herring; Good walking, interesting (“no more boardwalks” too slippery)
– now using stone
- More Loop trails (e.g. new trail along road back from Heart Lake); shorter loop trails
(e.g. Muskeg trail needs a bench)
- Need more benches along trails
 - Trailworks arranging for sponsors
 - Vintage group could organize (get kids to help; get donors)”leave a legacy”
 - Identify sites
- Garbage cans at trail heads along trails, someone to clean trail signs (get after nick to
work on state trail”)
- Advertise rowing opportunities (account inbook)
- Seawalk – a through walk w/out lots of street crossings
- “Fix the signage” – e.g., from crescent harbor route to raptor center

Implementation – Who is Responsible? Successes, Failures?

- Seawall - not a success. Process stalled; concerned parties didn’t find out about project
and ended up opposing something they might actually support
- On USFS land – if project is on USFS land, USFS will try to find \$
- Herring Trail - a success
 - Thimbleberry Trail on city land, but USFS was able to get \$25M
 - Proves value of having “a project on the shelf”
- Signage – Need \$, city has cruise \$, business could help?
- Need to sort out community views, fundamental debate about what infrastructure is
critical

General Discussion / Misc Remarks

- Need to keep in mind accessibility of all proposed projects for “vintage” users
- Problems with existing accessible trails
 - ATV block also blocks a powered wheel chair (cascade ck.)
 - Existing wheelchair accessible trails – boardwalk by ferry (bird viewing); Starrigavan
trail; historic park, Indian River road Trail (portion up to water treatment plant)
Mosquito Cove (portion)
- Allen Marine can take people in wheel chairs

- How to attract more travelers, especially independents
- Sitka could market specifically to vintage crowd

Community Leaders

Needed Projects (In and Out of town)

- Starrigavan
 - ATV Trails, (people can't afford more distant, more costly locations)
 - Coupled with training
 - Designate area/design trails to manage impacts
 - Send ATVs to preferred destination (better than harbor for winter use)
- Fishing piers / Floats (e.g. off of crescent, starrigavan – in planning stages, for handicapped)
- Trails on Japonski Island (historic trails consumed by new roads; benefit coast guard employees, also hospital);
 - Need culvert to cross ditch on one key trail
 - Current admiral is very supportive; working w/ high School and SEARCH
 - John Brown Beach Area
 - John B. Beach gate often stays locked
- Kayak launch/storage areas in town - one good option - Marine heritage boathouse site on J. Island
- Overnight walking loops near town – suitable for younger kids/families (add cabin)
- Cross Baranof Trail
- Fix up old night club site, put in interp center, parking (at base of Verstovia trail, kayak launch on beach site)
- Historic Katlian Route (north from downtown Sitka; but need to work with Native community)
- Local/ Native healthy food interpretive trail - link to health

Implementation strategies

- Trails Plan
 - All land owners cooperating
 - Right scale (not too ambitious)
 - Accessible / doable
 - Higher ups buy in

- Good leadership, use of volunteers
- Reality of Funding
- Limited (Yes)
- But: lots of \$\$ for health related grants, usually requires match. Examples Center for Disease Control, Indian Health Service
- Need a plan the community has agreed to
- Need grant writer or community group willing to work on and administer grants

How to bring along community

- Leaders, e.g. Assembly
- Focus/clarity of need
- Bottom up, ground swell of community support
- Evidence of sustainable support (e.g. operating funds)
- Service district (local P.T.)
- Tenacious, leader, good communicator, apolitical
- Multiple faces on it; not – all business, not all environ
- Formal statement of support by borough, tribe, other community groups, eg. Philippine community

Business Group

Criteria for selling priorities

- Marketability of improvements; ways to get out the word about value of outdoors, fun of outdoors
- Longevity
- What do people most want
- Benefits local business
- Opportunities for biz involvement/sponsorship

Needed Projects (In and Out of town)

- Programs – SCS Charters Boat, heavily discounted tickets, trips every 2 weeks, educational trips.
- Might be another local business that could offer comparable educational and environmental trips (e.g., beach clean-ups)
- List of contacts and venues for events; process for getting needed permissions and permits

- Ways to attract cruise visitors – provide more time to experience the town
- Programs / information?
 - Sitka doesn't today have a clear "brand"
 - Some think "feed your cooler", most marketing directed at Russian history, native history, sportfishing
 - Need to develop a stronger way to communicate diversity of outdoor recreation options, "huge diversity of ways to have fun"
- Integration of information sources (recognizing that CVB represents membership; plus city bed tax funds?)
- Link to broader southeast Alaska activities (e.g. kayaking through SE, link to events in other communities). Set up "Adventure Itineraries" – 10 or 20 days, provide help putting together / packaging trips (package option available in hard copy)
- Permit restrictions – Redoubt Bay restriction goes beyond area of concern
- Could business like all marine – do a "Boat Bus", affordable drop off at cabins, half per week (tough on business with scheduled trip but variable use/revenues)
- Skiff launches - need new? already 3 in town, hard to justify a fourth
- Sorting out concerns re bears:
 - Education
 - Facts/Statistics (not to worry)
 - More sensible behavior
 - More bear meat recipes
- Kayak rack/storage –
 - need better information, Starrigavan – good kayaking
 - map would help (get help from Coast Guard)
 - commercial kayak operators can't use USFS cabins (maybe allow under certain conditions, certain times of work when conflict with local use is minimal)
- Mixing different types of recreation - commercial and resident, motor and non-motorized
 - Locate some coastal shelters at spots not likely to be used by skiffs
 - 1 week a month commercial operators can schedule use of cabins for kayakers (bid?)
- Provide more cabins/huts; kayak and hike

Strategies for Implementation

- Go to CVB/Chamber meetings
- Presentation at Chamber of Commerce lunch, Rotary
- Education

- For business community: share case studies – how does outdoor rec help business?
- For residents skeptical about tourism – facts on tourism, benefits (including repeat visits by previous cruise ships)
- Provide more activities, options for non-sportfishing partners (spouses, kids, etc.)

APPENDIX G: SURVEY RESULTS

A summary of common themes that emerged from the survey results collected over the summer of 2010 are listed below. Original comments from the surveys and a preliminary analysis is included in Appendix C of this report.

Common Themes

Common themes from the surveys include:

- People love Sitka: visitors and residents both remarked on Sitka’s unparalleled beauty, great people, and local character/lack of commercialization.
- Sitka is not a one-day destination; people want to come and take their time exploring over multiple days.
- There is the desire to limit crowding and environmental impacts of tourism, but also an acknowledgement that tourism often results in improvements that residents enjoy. Residents would like to have the same access to recreation amenities (facilities, programs, guides, etc.) year-round. Comments reflected the need to share and to manage visitation to minimize negative impacts.
- Respondents have many ideas about how to build on Sitka’s existing recreation amenities, programming and information sources.
- New facilities would improve upon what exists today, but people want to be assured that existing facilities will be maintained.
- Programming is key, particularly for the safety of inexperienced recreationalists and visitors. Bear safety was mentioned repeatedly.
- The most popular way to promote Sitka as a visitor destination and its recreation opportunities to both residents and visitors is via the internet.
- Visitors are confused about where to go – survey comments suggested the need for more signage, more explanation at arrival points (airport, lightering dock) about where to go and where not to go. Residents do not want to feel like a tourist exhibit, and visitors likewise do not want to feel like they are intruding.
- Visitors come for nature: to be out in the wilderness, to see wildlife, to participate in some outdoor activities (range of activities).
- Visitors and residents are asking for hut to hut systems in Sitka: so they can hike to cabins in alpine areas and/or take kayak/water taxi out to cabins with water access.
- More pedestrian routes downtown, and a diversity of trails throughout Sitka and surrounding land:
 - smoother, flatter, wider trails (for seniors, wheelchairs, etc.)
 - more narrow dirt or gravel trails/tracks
 - ATV/snow-machine trails
 - mountain bike trails
 - exercise circuit trail
 - looped trails

Comments from Surveys

Cruise Ship Surveys

What activities did you participate in while in Sitka, and where were they located?

- Walked at Thimble park, Church, Raptor
- Hike trails, walk in parks, fish Salmon River, Totem Park
- Sitka Nat'l Historic Park - hiked trails, visited exhibits and gift shop, Raptor Center - walked trail, saw exhibits/gift shop
- Totem Park, bears, Raptors, St. Michaels and the Bishop's House
- Hiking
- Hike trails, walk in parks, Raptor Center
- Totem Park - loved it
- City walk, Sitka Park
- Hike
- Hiking
- Hike, walk in parks, Sitka National Park
- Hikes
- Hike trails, walk in parks, Totem Park
- Sea otter exploration
- Walk in parks, Totem Park
- Salmon fishing
- Kayak
- Museum, Shopped, Cathedral
- Walk in Park
- Hike Trails by elementary school
- Boating
- Park trails, totem Park
- Hike trails, walk in parks - Sitka National Historical Park, Totem Park, Historic sites in town, Salmon spawning
- Walk In parks - Russian Block House
- Kayak
- Walking, music, shopping
- Walking around the city, shopping, explore
- Hike trails, walk in parks - Sitka Cross, Gavan Hill, Thimbleberry Lake, Indian River, Mt. Vestrovia Trails
- Glacier walkway, hiking, volcano
- Hike and photo - Estuary, Totem park
- Otter and whale watching boat trip
- We just hiked in a trail of Sitka National Park
- Kayak

- Rented bikes from Island ferry and rode to the Bear Fortress - Awesome
- Fishing - angling Unlimited, Ocean fishing
- Bike and Hike
- Sea otter and wildlife, Castle Inn
- Hike trails - Historical Park
- Rode Bikes, Walked in National Park, Went to fish farm
- Hike and Bike - Thimbleberry Lake
- Sea otter and wildlife
- Hike trail - national park/aquarium
- Hike Sitka Nat'l Park 1 mile totem loop - awesome
- Dry suit snorkel, Raptor center, Totem Park
- Walked to and in Nat'l Park with Totem poles
- Hike, Sitka Nat'l Park, Otter Quest, Raptor Center
- Totem park, Raptor Center, Walk thru downtown
- Colonial tour
- Walking in the forest - loved it
- Walked in park
- Running, dry suit snorkeling
- Sitka bike and hike
- Walk in parks
- Shopping
- Really loved the quaintness of the town - so refreshing. Walked in park, watched jumping salmon. So much to do - could have stayed an extra day.
- Semi-sub tour
- Walked to the beach, watched the salmon
- Wildlife and sea otter over by catamaran, Historic tour of the Uty
- Hike trails, Tongass Nature Hike
- Hike - last year did a 2 1/2 hr whale/puffin/sea otter boat trip
- Sea otter and wildlife excursion
- Hike trails, walk in parks -National Park, Raptor center, Swan Lake
- Russian Culture Tour
- We did like city bus - free
- Walked in park
- Allen Family Ocean tour, Grizzly bears, library
- Walk in parks - Sitka National Park
- Captains chase
- Hiking around town only
- Jet cat wildlife adventure
- Allen Marine Tours
- Wildlife exploration, beach trek
- Kayaking, wildlife, sightseeing (otters, whales)

- Jet cat to Nat'l History Park
- Jet cat tour (saw whales, seals, otters, then walked in woods)
- Catamaran sea life tour
- Jet Cat - excellent tour and staff
- Captain's quest/beach tour - 5 star

What activities would you like to have participated in? Why didn't you do that activity?

- Time
- One of us wanted to kayak – Only one wanted to participate in other activity
- Kayak – Time
- Kayak – Lack of time
- More hiking/kayaking – Time
- Little time
- Money
- Whale watching, volcano hikes – Time
- Age
- All looked inviting but wanted a day just to walk and enjoy sites – Participated in Juneau, Haines, and Ketchikan
- Fish – Time
- Fishing – Time
- Considered kayaking but excursion price was spendy and weather was iffy – My husband wishes he'd take a fishing trip! Next time
- Hike trail and kayak – Not enough time
- Hiking, biking, kayaking – Money expenses too much, limited time
- Kayaking, biking – Expenses
- Wildlife Tour – Money
- None – Working in port
- Sea bears – Wrong tours
- See Raptor park – Too far to walk, ran out of time
- Fishing – Some little open stores where we can rent some fishing poles and bait right in front of the harbor
- Fish – Time
- Fishing and 4 wheel adventure – Time
- Glass bottom boat tour – Family trying to give up on something and money
- Tour otter and shop – ran out of time
- Spend more time on trails – Time
- Time
- Kayak, tour bus – Wanted to explore on our own/time
- Cemetery, Kayaking – Time restriction, already a lot of walking
- Most – Walking
- Bike – Time in port

- None – Not enough time
- Mt. Biking – Not enough time
- Surf – No board, no waves
- Kayak – Not enough time
- Kayaking – No time
- Golf – Time
- Mine – Went boating and sightseeing
- Sea lion watching – Did not see such a tour
- Walking/hiking – Time
- I would have enjoyed viewing wild bears (I am quite disappointed about the fortress of the Bears) – I think there weren't any options to do that
- Water activities – Money
- Longer hike time - cruises need to advertise the "nature" side of cruises – Too little time off cruise ship
- Lighthouse tour – Time and unaware of opportunity (if even avail)
- Biking was full – Too many people signed up
- Raptor center needs own bus – We are late - no rush people. It would be nice to not have to rush
- ATV riding, more hiking – Time and did not know where to ask
- Sea otter adventure quest, 4x4 wilderness trek – Events full
- Wildlife tour, photography tour – Cost vs. product
- Tongass Hiking - not enough time in town fishing
- Time restraint
- Volcano tour, bear watching – Insufficient time on cruise
- Limited time in port

What guided tours would you like to see available?

- Hiking
- Don't know all the options - bird walk, kayak tour
- All were accessible
- Hiking
- More hiking
- Guided hikes
- Guided hikes, fishing
- Fishing poles
- Local reasonable bike rentals for cruise passenger. In Astoria, OR a high school class refurbishes old bikes and rents them to cruise passengers and other events
- Hiking and fishing
- Hiking and exploring out doors wilderness
- Kayaking, hiking, biking
- City walk

- They were offered
- Raptor center and Nat'l Park
- Fishing, hiking
- Bears
- Anything that could be done locally in town
- None
- We were pleased, no suggestions
- Nature walk
- Salmon Bake, Crab boil, crab fishing
- Kayaking
- I think this was good
- Bus tours
- Fishing
- Surfing
- Biking
- To see the eagles
- More nature related day trips
- Bike riding of Sitka Area
- Hiking trails, kayaking
- All were accessible
- Hiking and exploring the surroundings
- Backcountry hike

What suggestions do you have to improve your visit?

- Viral Inc, YouTube
- All good
- Sitka c of c flyer - more info from crew
- More info available around town
- Have an info booth at the airport with people to answer questions
- Cruise ship excursion partnership
- Nothing. Everyone has been great
- Have cruise ship advertise prior to port arrival
- Pamphlets more readily available around town
- Easy to find on web
- Camper rentals
- It's good already
- Modernize
- Modernize
- More info on ferry boats
- Better tour explanation onboard ship
- More bears

- Perhaps have maps available from this doc to said facilities
- Try to put more photos and tours in internet. Alaska is far away. We can get information through the internet better than from anything else.
- Receive the info on the ship prior to getting off
- It would have been easier for us if we had known for sure where to be at 8am this morning
- Perhaps have more knowledgeable personal around Sitka on the Streets
- Improve facilities at fortress of the Bear, run shuttle buses there
- None - it was a great day
- None
- None
- More info booths at docks
- Newsletter
- More right when you get off the ship
- N/A
- None
- Maps available when entering shore
- Maybe maps around the entry or more signs
- Better access for disabled
- It was fine, we loved this port
- Opportunities at disembarkation pier
- Birding with naturalist
- None - visitor info shack was helpful
- Had a great time
- Very well advertised
- More people available in afternoon for late people
- Have more availability
- I think the ship provided adequate descriptions
- More local small free lancers
- Keep things local, glad it's not commercialized, website that lists all guides/trips available
- More recreation for kids
- Marketing outside of cruises
- Provide the hunting
- Possibly magazine ads - the beauty of this area is phenomenal

Independent Surveys

What outdoor recreation activities did you participate in while in Sitka, and where were they located?

Bike, hike

- Bike, hike in Thimbleberry Lake area
- Bike, hike in Manana Slug tour
- Bike, hike
- Hiking, biking, running, boating, fishing, diving in Bear, heron cove cross trail; town and crosstrail, Biorka, Lisank; St. Lazari
- Camping at Brent's Beach cabin w/ 4-person family at Brent's Beach Cabin
- Hiking, biking, in Sitka
- Hike trails, Mt. Verstovid, kayak
- Sorry; customers all gone by the time I got to these. Our season ended early due to lack of business
- 8-day sea kayaking trip through Barb and George Givonsith of the Kayak Academy in Issaquah, WA
- Kayak
- Kayak Fishing
- kayaking, fishing, hiking

What activities would you have liked to have participated in? Why didn't you do that activity?

- Kayak – time too short
- Snorkeling, scuba diving, whale watching – Time
- Surf – Awaiting swells
- Hiking from Brent's beach – No trails available
- Hike to cabins in the alpine areas - a series of cabins connected by trails (alpine or seashore)
- Visit Hot Springs, explore outlying islands and trails – Cost of transportation
- Did What I wanted
- Would like to go fishing – No time
- Lack of planning – Mostly clean sports like canoe, kayak, fish
- more hiking – Lack of time

What guided tours would you like to see available?

- Bike, hike, kayak packages
- Rock climbing
- Nothing
- It's ALL here; guided history tours

- hiking or backpacking
- No opinion

Where did you get information for your visit?

- cruise site, internet, friends who had visited here
- was wonderful, great guides and info
- Holland America Cruise Tour
- family
- NFS website was great
- Forest service, Sitka CVB; sitka.com
- Flyers off of Alaska state Ferry
- Through organized course
- So far it's great, but I haven't actually started my venture yet
- Using internet and by word of mouth

What suggestions do you have to improve your visit?

- better website info
- Better internet based info would be welcome

Outfitter Guide Surveys

What services do you provide?

- Charter fishing on the Ocean, lodging, and fish processing; Day trips stream fishing in Tongass Nat. Forest
- Kayak instructions, training, mail order, online store and rentals - Seattle area, kayak instruction and training out of Sitka
- We do 7 day charters aboard a 90 foot motor/yacht between Sitka and Juneau
- Freshwater fishing guide service, fly-fishing, and spin casting
- Biking, hiking, snorkeling, diving, photography, birding, and kayaking tours; set tours for cruise passengers to custom tours for independents
- Guided big game hunts and summer sightseeing
- Hiking, guided, narrated walks
- Wilderness adventure lodge and camp. Small group low impact fishing and wilderness experience for the whole family
- Vacation Rental - 7 people there right now. Most do some outdoor recreation while here.

What are some new opportunities you would like to see provided?

- Low to middle economic families and/or youth introduced to environment through muscle powered activities

- Foreign countries - we have had trouble breaking into markets of Europe and Asia
- Guiding clients in very remote wilderness experiences where it is more about the surroundings than it is about the fishing; being able to rent the FS cabins and take clients on multi-day trips
- Nope
- Winter sports activities
- Independent visitors who need the support, escorts/guides, and facilities to use NF, state lands, and CandB lands
- The sport fishing and eco tour industry has been stamped on by the commercial fishing, interest of Sitka new light needs to be shed on the economic value of the sport fishing industry in Sitka
- We are set up to serve handicapped people; we are ADA accessible. We can take them fishing. Boat needs modifications for wheelchair.

What marketing tools do you use?

- Internet, sports trade shows, brochure, DVD
- Internet, newsprint, social networking, free or reduced fee skills programs
- 80% of our clients are repeat or referred by past clients. We have been in business for over 20 years. We get some work from our website at www.alaskanstory.com and www.alaskansong.com.
- Local print advertising, regional print advertising, the internet, fly-fishing and sportsman shows in the lower 48
- Contracts with cruise lines, website, local advertising, Rack cards
- Trade shows. Magazine advertising
- Fully fund the SCUB with the entire amount of Bed Tax and supplemental funds. Encourage SCVB to increase efforts to make US citizens and targeted groups in the other countries aware of the opportunities in and around Sitka
- Sitka chamber of commerce, Sitka visitor bureau
- Think SCUB is doing a good job through the website, most almost all come from word of mouth. Sprucecart has a website that brings contracts.

What are some suggestions to improve marketing?

- Write articles for publications, newsletter issued once a month, Sitka have reciprocal links with outdoor recreation sites, as well as facebook
- See 3 (survey 1)
- Sitka is very close to Seattle. It is really easy to get to Sitka via commercial airline. We could really be targeting a market base that wants to come to Alaska to experience the wildlands, but doesn't want to travel all the way to north to southwest Alaska and further locations north. Anywhere in the lower 48 you can make it to Sitka in one day by plane. However, it is more difficult to make it to remote destinations outside of Anchorage, Fairbanks, Dillingham, etc. If you are coming from the east coast in one day.
- Sitka conventions and consistent message that Sitka is not just a fishing town

- , as far as I know no government entity from Sitka attends sportsmen's trade shows to market this area - other states and communities do attend these shows.
- Have the City of Sitka increase the budget for the convention of visitor bureau as our Bed Tax is ear marked for, not general Fund. Discontinue the Fish Box Tax, market Sitka as a world class sport fishing destination
- A brochure of things to do around Sitka and how to gather Golden-White Sulphur

What are some suggestions for economic improvements to Sitka businesses?

- No more box tax on one fish, more liberal limits on fish, more open use of forest lands
- Links with Sitka recreation/network sites
- A website for the city and the state which refers interested parties to our sites.
- More clients willing to come to the Sitka area to fish freshwater; being granted permission to fish certain rivers and lakes near Sitka and further from Sitka that I am currently not allowed to guide on. It is my understanding that the permitting is granted based on human pressure in an area whether it is hunting, fishing, commercial, non-commercial, hiking, scientific research. However, I feel there is a difference between 50 people using a trail next to a river to hike and 3 people fishing on the river. I would like to discuss this more in person; Monitor and regulate the number of people allowed to commercially utilize the forest (I say this, but I do know you already are doing this).
- Raising cruise line passenger back to original levels; better marketing to independent travelers; better marketing to dive communities and out door adventure travelers.
- Improvements to national economy, strict limits on commercial use - we sell wilderness as part of what we do...too much commercial use destroys wilderness value
- More visitors who do not arrive on large cruise ships; improved ferry service; less red-tape related to permits to use NF lands
- Increased budget for the SCUB; market Sitka as a world class sport fishing destination; decrease the anti-charter boat sentiment in Sitka; how about some pro-charter boat bumperstickers
- If people had a better idea of what they were surrounded by - Warm Spring Bay. Not just Russian Sitka - Things in Sitka, where you can get to from here.

What new facilities are needed?

- Deep water dock
- Not sure at this time
- Our clients come primarily for the wildlife...somewhat less important is the fishing. They love the Raptor center, the "Fortress of the Bears" and the Totem Park...more of the same
- Permanent mooring buoys at the mouths of rivers, more cabins at remote locations where they don't exist.
- More trails!
- We do not need "facilities". Facilities conflict with the wilderness activities that we provide.

- Maintain drainage/bridges on old logging roads, keep running surfaces brushed so they can serve as walking and/or ATV trails; do not favor Sitka residents over visitors for allocation of commercial permits to particular areas; Any NS citizen has the same right to use NF lands. They have paid taxes like those of us in Alaska. Do not impose a user fee for US citizens who may use their NF with the assistance of guide/outfitter; Federal, State, and local government entities/agencies should have process requirements that help, rather than restrict businesses that serve our visitors
- Install some better hoses at boat loading zones more support for the SCUB and the information stand they operate during the summer for the incoming tourist
- We have on man who stays at Seaview BandB most all summer. Boating and fishing most every day. He's been coming here and staying with us for over 20 years. We have only one unit. We are both seniors, so what we do is about all we can handle. Good luck with your survey.
- Picnics - nifty places to go. On the map a small business? HPR is cold and windy, Nice box lunch service, not funny experience but decent fun. Where should we go for lunch? We need clear instructions about bears, table cards for guides, on trip - stay in groups, don't go out at night to investigate noises, interprets Katlian Sheet better, Improve orientation of visitor to town, what trails are good for slow people. If you go slow you have time.

Outdoor Recreation Surveys

How can we make information about local outdoor recreation activities and programs more useful and accessible?

- Put info at the Homes Center and online
- High Schools should have an outdoor recreation program, middle school too
- Good website, downloadable trail maps, more info on FS cabins
- Flyers/Bulletins
- Bold programs, around unoriginated populations; youth, women, people of color, etc.
- The maps are fine
- Continue putting info in the newspaper or the radio
- Post on your website, post trail maps
- Give businesses in town information so anyone can ask anywhere downtown.
- In paper as weekly basis, handout annual guide, Specific website
- Put on the web. I wish there was a website that had when the children's sport seasons were and the dates and times
- Pretty accessible already
- Web
- Brochures about available act and places with horses and dogs open
- Newspaper PSA's are best
- Have a local user's guide that can be purchased through different outlets or free but funded by businesses - not a throw away pamphlet or booklet. Internet - website listing trails and activities

- Just good advertisement on radio and in newspaper
- Not sure what you do now. Sitka trail works has done a great job advertising upcoming hikes and providing a variety of programs.
- Include access point for existing trails in Sitka CandB visitor handout
- Intergenerational events, potlucks and bonfires, community market info
- Radio, paper
- Park ads on boat bulletin boards so live aboards can see.
- It would be nice to see a couple trail markers and an online map for trails that are undeveloped. For example, bear mountain, cross mountain.
- Newspapers, brochure
- Brochures/maps, around town and publicize where to get them
- Develop a website with links to information. Provide examples of trails to help people understand timeframes, etc.
- You are doing great
- Posting info at library bulletin boards
- PSA in newspapers, education programs in schools
- Continue good notices in paper, radio, stronger C. School programs
- Brochures, inserts in the Sentinel
- Probably notices in local paper
- Make and distribute a detailed "Sitka trail guide"
- Update Sitka Outdoor recreation map
- Newspaper ads, email, sign in local shops
- Radio ads, newspaper
- Probably not, but clubs or groups of people of like interest would be great
- You're doing a great job
- Radio - both AM and FM, Paper, Ads up at grocery stores, bulk emails. You're doing a good job!
- I think between STW, SCS, and vas, this community has really good education and access options
- Publish a small handout like SITKA recreation guide to be distributed around town
- Weekly newspaper, column, linked to websites

Would you or your family participate in outdoor skills classes? Which ones?

- Mt. Climbing, rock climbing, surfing, skateboarding, sailing, snowboarding, skiing, and gear shops
- I'd like to learn how to figure skate. I'd like support teaching ultimate frisbee
- My goodness, no. I am old
- Maybe depending on the activity. It's just me (no family other than my two cats)
- Yes. Climbing/hiking
- Yes - rock climbing, other
- Yes
- Yes

- No
- Maybe
- Ice skating
- Yes - especially kayaking, mountaineering
- Yes - especially for the youth
- Fly fishing for women
- Yes
- Yes, possibly
- Probably not
- Not currently, but in the near future, yes
- Maybe indoor climbing, skating
- Yes
- No
- Yes - boating, row boats, hiking; How about a tour of the docks? Miles and miles of docks
- Maybe
- Yes - mountaineering, kayaking, mushrooming, fishing
- Yes - avalanche courses are very important and local knowledge is severely lacking among many winter enthusiasts.
- Maybe - kayaking
- Probably not so much now at my age - I've done all the above over the years. But younger, less experienced people would. My teen and young adult kids might.
- Kayaking safety class
- NO
- Yes - kayaking
- Bear classes
- No
- Maybe
- Hiking
- Yes
- Yes
- Some family members would
- Yes
- Possibly
- Yes
- Maybe
- Yes
- Maybe
- Yes - ice skating, kayaking
- Possibly
- No

- Would like to, but age limits challenging activities
- Yes - ice skating, mountaineering, rock climbing
- I've taken part in several skills classes including two avalanche awareness classes that helped organize and will continue to partake when ever possible.
- Probably not
- Probably not

Would you or your family participate in outdoor skills safety classes? Which ones?

- No, but info appreciated
- Yes
- 2 grandchildren are part of Sitka SandR
- Probably not
- Yes, Marine safety, avalanche courses
- Depends on the class
- Maybe
- No
- Maybe
- Marine safety, bear behavior
- Yes - all of above
- VHF -FM radio use
- Gun safety
- Probably not
- Yes
- Maybe
- Not currently, but in the near future, yes
- Yes - marine safety and/or bear behavior
- Yes
- No
- Yes - especially bear behavior and human responsibilities; how to kayak
- Yes - most likely
- Yes
- Maybe
- Yes - launch safety, marine safety, bear behavior, shooting or gun safety
- Yes - avalanche safety courses.
- Probably - avalanche safety
- Possibly, yes
- Avalanche safety class
- NO
- Yes - bear behavior
- Bear behavior
- Yes

- No
- No
- Feely tables at aquarium, safe building beach
- Maybe
- Probably
- Absolutely, especially search and rescue, self resolving bear behavior
- Yes
- Probably not
- Maybe
- Yes
- Maybe
- Yes - bear behavior, marine safety, avalanche safety
- Probably
- Would like to, but age limits challenging activities
- Yes - Avalanche safety, GPS classes with ones that can be checked out at the library
- Have and would
- Would
- Probably not

What additional outdoor recreation opportunities could be provided for elderly or physically challenged individuals?

- Don't know
- More accessible trails with central/regular signage and circular routes
- Is there a way for Sitka community Hospital Long term care residents to get into that patch of trees by the hospital? To path of Hope? ; Improve city sidewalks for wheelchairs for access to parks. Esp. Katlian Street.
- More clear signs of information
- Trails for slow amblers with bear defenses
- I'm a volunteer with the Sitka Local Foods Network, and we always need volunteers to help with our St. Peter's Fellowship Farm garden, no matter what their age or ability
- Regular outings, guided trips
- Don't know
- Continue to expand trails
- More benches, space out rocks @ SHS Trailhead for wheelchairs to fit through
- Shorter easy walk trails - not a lot of uneven surface and places to sit and rest
- An indoor pool is a must for all to use. Please help to keep our pool
- Smoother trails and easy access to them, snow off trails and sidewalks in winter, handicapped transportation (senior van is too busy)
- Better pool access - more areas for ADA access (Stroller and wheelchair accessible)
- Walking groups, first in town around parks and fields, then venturing further out on trails

- W/C fishing piers
- It seems with Stargavin Estuary, Totem Park, and the new cross trails there are a few options already.
- ADA accessible trails
- More in-town footpaths, more short "loops," such as modes access paths to cross trail - prefer dirt or gravel to paving - keep walkers healthy - less concrete! I don't want to have to drive to a place where I can walk off road.
- I'd like to see more group short hikes - I have a knee problem
- Easy access to Fort Rousseau
- More urban, flat trails
- More cabins on road system
- Thimbleberry Lake and trails, including biking and berry picking, and swimming, harvesting vegetables, feeding chickens and gathering eggs, beach combing at Kasey March Beach.
- Not sure
- As an older person who walks trails daily, there is no problem now
- Nice outdoor walking area that is flat so not any stumbling and no bears and other people around for socializing. A nice track at Moller field!
- Re-establish wells, Fargo trail in Nat'l Park or elsewhere, more trails without steps
- Wide trails such as Thimbleberry. Good for baby strollers, too.
- Believe you have this covered sufficiently
- More accessible trails, group activities to go camping, boating. It's hard to think of any at the moment.
- An outdoor museum/examples of all our flora that is handicap accessible
- Another handicap trail close to town or in town

What outdoor recreation activities do you enjoy most and why?

- All
- Camping and ATV's because they are relaxing
- Kayak, hike, snowboard, boating - because I like to use the wilderness
- Hike, kayak - off trails really enjoy being away from sign of people. Also, gathering subsistence and fish
- Hiking (Stargavin, Mosquito Cove, Hart Lake, Thimbleberry, Cross Trail) with Dog; Biking (pavement, benchland road)
- Disc Golf, baseball, basketball, soccer, volleyball, paintball, laser gun tag, football, camping, hiking, picnicking, boating, hunting, fishing, tennis, badminton
- I love ice skating, ultimate frisbee, and packing around tide parks. I like kayaking and hiking off maintained trails.
- Cruising in our boat, seeking wildflowers, picnics, I used to love camping with our skiff
- Hiking (daily activity with dogs), x-c skiing (passion), hunting (for the hiking and subsistence), biking/mountain biking (fun), camping and good times, fun fishing, exploring

- Walking, hiking. I'd like to try kayaking. I like walking because it's nice to be outdoors, it's not too hard to do; I just need the incentive to get out more often.
- Hiking, because I meditate while I hike
- Hiking - I do not own a boat, bicycle, airplane, etc.
- Disc golf, mountain biking, rock climbing, backpacking - they are exciting, fun, and active
- Hiking, skiing, camping, good trails, good family activities
- Gardening/hiking - being outdoors
- Walking dogs, short hikes, bird watching
- Hiking, running
- Walking, hiking, camping
- Kayaking, hiking, berry picking
- Walk through totem park short distance, flat have arthritis, can't go far. Stargavin bird Est. Walks
- Hiking trails, biking, they don't need a lot of others to do. No real planning time needed.
- Boating and hiking. The opportunity to explore and get away
- Hiking - beauty that surrounds us. Weight control - Exercise
- Hiking, running, biking
- Hiking, kayaking, fishing, hunting, beach combing, mushroom picking, bon fires, camping, critter/bird watching, any that gets us outdoors and away from people.
- Hiking, running, biking, golf, dog-walking, shrimping and crabbing
- Hunting - physically and mentally rewarding and provides excellent food, boating/hiking/fishing/camping - enjoying the outdoors
- Hiking, beach combing, youth soccer and basketball because they are family activities
- Hiking, boating, camping in cabins, biking, sports
- Trails - physical exercise
- Walking - Accessible and still possible, feels good and a bit venturesome to keep mobile.
- Boating, Hunting, Fishing, ATV and snowmobiling. They all involve outdoors, adventure, and socializing with family and friends.
- Hiking, biking, fishing
- Kayaking, biking, exploring new places
- Hiking - the beauty, fishing - fun
- Snowboarding, trail running, kayaking, hiking, and camping
- Trails and cabins
- Hiking, kayaking, x-country skiing, snowshoeing, bicycling, ice skating - great exercise, fresh air, solitude, de-stress
- Hiking, biking, snowshoeing, touch football
- Hiking, backpacking, island camping, cabin camping, multi-day kayak trips
- Walking - around town, getting off SMC and HPR, avoiding traffic areas. Trails at lower elevations - loops. Rarely - kayaking near town.
- Walking, cruises, trails
- Getting Spring water, walking in Totem Park, beach combing sometimes

- Hiking - like the exercise on trails and parks (Crescent Park)
- Hiking trails, fishing, hunting
- Walking
- Beach combining hiking, finished trails, boating and hunting for WWII sites
- Walking to town and around town, bike path near Swan Lake, Muskag at end of Basanot Street, view of library, watching out mountains, view from bridge
- Hiking, boating, camping, beachcombing
- Walking the trails daily - usually 2x
- Hiking, camping, boating - seeing the Tongass from eye level
- Boating, hiking trails, camping - I love to be in outdoors
- Soccer, running, biking, hiking
- Walking, boating, berry picking, it's enjoyable to me
- Hiking - being outside and good exercise, Biking, kayaking, swimming
- Hiking, biking, kayaking
- Hiking - no additional equipment necessary
- Hiking on trails - we don't have a boat. I enjoy the woods
- Trails and bikes
- Picnics, nearby hikes, mountaineering, some fun activities with friends, some for challenge
- Occasional hiking, enjoy hiking and viewing scenery and wildlife
- Hiking, hunting, fishing, 4-wheeling - where we live
- Mountain biking, hiking, hunting, fishing, boating
- Hunting, skiing, Diving, small boating, and camping trails
- Hiking - exercise and scenery, cross country skiing - exercise and scenery, boating and subsistence fishing
- Hiking, being in the wild

How can we best balance a thriving small business climate while meeting the needs of resident recreation users?

- Doing OK
- I feel that the balance is good and in many cases tourism improves the resource
- Expand system and advertise when commercial uses are most prevalent
- Private use first-commercial only very limited, try to keep the big groups in certain areas that already have lost their wilderness-y qualities
- Have clear boundaries when possible. Don't use locals as an exhibit, unless they consent.
- Local reservation system, well assure use, easier refund policy for later cancellations
- How about a trail to the east side of the island enabling hikers and hikers to reward their efforts by a visit to the hot springs?
- Put the tourism emphasis on active outdoor sport. Like Moab, VT, Bend, OR, Telluride, CO, etc.
- Certain # of user days designated for business vs. personal use

- I visit rentals for cabins for locals. Visitors should be able to use outdoor activity resources. Also, it's there for all of us.
- Seems to work fine for now
- No conflict experienced
- None of the outdoor recreation opportunities are currently too crowded. We can all use those things together.
- This is everyone's paradise. Build more cabins accessible by boats
- Provide access to cabins in remote areas via water taxis to these areas. One needs a boat to access many of the cabins
- Continue to manage use to local access to give a quality experience to all users. Everyone wins
- Limit how much each business can use the cabins and areas/beach/etc. Keep some (most) areas free of commercial use. We live there to be away from it all.
- Limit the commercial use to certain trails or times
- It is difficult for things like cabins because of limited availability, but tourism many times leads to improved opportunity and facilities in off season
- Equal access for all
- Information and courtesy, seasonally flexible schedules, we locals might like to hire guides for family adventures. Need to meet them - network on supermarket
- I think there is a good balance so far and appreciate the ATV tours helping to improve Kruzof roads.
- Keep tourist groups small
- As long as all easily accessible trails! Kayaking areas, etc. are available for guides and outfitters. There is space for all local and visitor, if for instance there is limited space for an activity - snowplay (IE) then priority should go to local use. Preference for guides should be to local businesses.
- Keep emphasis on residents
- We need to share, that's the bottom line. I would like some of the trails to remain rough and small. We don't need to existing trails expanded so that 3 people can walk side by side.
- Seems like a good balance right now
- Just keep expanding trail systems so that none become crowded. (Both groomed trails and rough trails 0 and marked routes)
- No helicopters - too noisy, control numbers and dates (outfitter to use cabin 2-3 days/wk only)
- Limit use of local tourism outfitters and guides
- I think you do a great job
- I don't have any conflicts with other users because I use trails after work when cruise passengers are gone.
- Use the public process, collaborating and partnerships
- 14 y/o male: surfing at Sea Lion Cove - carrying surf board over the trail, biking with friends, surfing at sandy beach, beach combing/swimming/climbing at Sandy Beach and HCR Recreation Area, Roasting Hot Dogs and Marshmallows, Capture the flag, Moller

Park, Totem Park Biking on Cross Trail, kayaking, soccer, badminton, trampoline, beaver lake trails, hearing cove is a beautiful spot to whale watch

- Offer a discount to local residents (cabin fees)
- Resident recreation users should have priority - outdoor experience for all users is degraded by too large numbers. Renting a cabin should include hopefully privacy.
- Limit guides - provide more public access using road system
- Locals first
- It's being balanced just fine right now
- Make public (via website perhaps) scheduled outfitter trips so local users can avoid trails on those days
- 1. Communicate the economic benefits to the greater community, 2. Cluster commercial uses to where possible to minimize conflicts
- We have enough trails to share
- I don't see a conflict under current use patterns
- Establish a priority of users
- Have a schedule when and how many people will up at Harbor Heart Lake, etc. Allocated permits for larger groups and fees should be incurred for upkeep of trails. Sitkans have nowhere to go on the road system anymore to get away from tourists.
- I think the shared DAD program is working well and that for the most part the short stays of tourists is an adequate damper on their activities
- Set aside some trails for lay use and others for distance use
- Not a problem

Do you have any additional comments?

- Doggy poop-poop at every trailhead. Enforce leash laws, keep dogs off playing fields
- Thank You!
- You folks are the best
- Don't plow blue lake rd in winter - great ski area. The city has 4 wheelers to use to access pump station
- I'm not much of a hiker, so I have problems going up the stairs on the trails, and forget steep uphill! I also bought a bike last summer, but have poor balance and am afraid of riding on the street. A paved or flat trail to ride my bike (not mountain biking) would be nice.
- Thank you for all that you do! I already donated
- Sitka trail works does a great job. I would like to see them diversify to include Mt. bike trails. Disc golf could also be assisted by STW.
- Thanks for the chance to comment
- Am thrilled with the trails so far and appreciate my dogs being able to roam free! Yeah
- You already do a fantastic job! Keep up the good work
- Skiff rentals. Thanks for the beautiful hiking trails.
- How about a trail run fundraiser for STW from Herring Cove to Brower Lake to Head Lake to Thornberry back to Herring cove (or road) I'll help put it on. You have the FS. Permit?

- Thank you for a good job
- Bringing tourists/visitors to tour favorite get-always ruins it so we have to find new, and usually farther away, places to go. It costs us more and makes Sitka less desirable. We don't want chain stores and certain "conveniences" for the same reasons. Keep population stable.
- We really like the new cross trail
- Fishing, hiking, hunting, rifle range, trap shooting, archery, motor home campsites = already good; ice skating, plant identification, skiff camping, subsistence gathering, snowboarding = need more; public gardening, neighborhood parks, dog parks, group areas, walking and biking to work, birding, inline skating = good but could be improved.
- Would like to see year round camps for youth, not just a summer program. Community schools did a fantastic job this past summer. We did swim lessons, basketball camp, fishing camp, and soccer camps and soccer league (US). All extremely high caliber programming. Always impressed by the overall cleanliness of city parks and green spaces.
- This is a fine survey instrument. Just filling it out got me thinking about how little I know about geography on trails or facilities. Thanks
- The trails are outstanding - so glad no motor things allowed and hope that continues. Haven't been here long enough to answer much of survey.
- It would be nice to have new trails, and possibly just making obvious markers for game trails, such as bear mountain or cross mountain.
- Love the trails, love the hiking
- Wherever possible, create or leave footpaths in and around town that cut between streets or around playing fields, buildings to and from cross trail, etc. To get walkers off busy roads and concrete and allow more short walks, either for recreation or walking to work, shop, etc. Look for pedestrian routes.
- I'm glad you are doing what you're doing. I'm on oxygen. Would like trips - short duration 4 hrs. Easy access to shore for beachcombing, shore walks. Get us out of town. Very slow hikes with guide. No stairs.
- I use Hames Center more than outdoor rec. resources
- Need more benches in town and along totem square and crescent harbor green space
- I would use the trail system a lot more if there weren't so many bears present. We need to work at discouraging garbage-eating bears. Bear proof garbage cans are a must
- Spend time and money on a facility we already have that is great for all ages.
- Trail through the sisters along Katlian Valley Ridge connecting to Gavan trail
- Herring Cove trail to Beaver Lake is a world class example. Thank you for excellent local trails
- I love the new Beaver Lake Trail. It is my new favorite trail in Sitka. And thanks for maintaining the Heart Lake Trail, too.
- You have been doing great trail work
- Ice rink, please!
- We have the opportunity to make world class mountain bike trails throughout Sitka and currently offer little to nothing. Surely this is an untapped recreational resource
- Thank you all
- You are doing a great job

What new outdoor recreation project would you most like to see completed?

- More trails
- Trail to Goddard
- Hike-in cabin
- Larger dog park
- Disc golf park / rock climbing wall
- Disc golf and/or downhill mountain bike trail
- Grass on lower Moller Field
- Walking path from Shargovian to Silver Bay off road
- A train to the east side of the island
- Disc Golf Course, single track Mtn. Biking out of Sitka, Cover 1/2 of the skate park and part of the park for concert venue and farmers market, Rock climbing @ quarry/Herring Cove
- Mountain bike trails, continuation of cross trail
- Nice turf field for football, baseball, soccer; fix up the tennis courts
- Nothing
- Trail across Cascade Creek
- Pedestrian access to Salmon Lake and Lucky chance trails
- ATV trails
- Cross country ski trails
- Find ways to make it easy for multiple users to share bike/walking paths and sidewalks - signage, etc. (Keep right and don't block path, etc.)
- Finish the cross trail with a bridge across cascade creek that connects to benchlands area.
- New playground equipment (ages 2-10)
- Fishing dock off mosquito cove trail
- Dog park
- Verstovia trail
- Cross trail
- Proposed trails
- Green Lake dam opened with a foot/bike trail across into silver bay and lucky chance areas.
- More trails/extension of the x-trail, or Rubberized track at Mollar, or Upgrade public shelter at Baranof Warm Springs
- Cross trail from Thimbleberry to Starrigavan. And how about spur trails up into the mountains? And continue past Starrigavan - connect with Mosquito Cove trail? Continue Mosquito Cove trail around Katlian Bay?
- Cross trail out HPR area and easier access to Causeway. Footpath around Japanski Island, off-road where possible
- Trails and guided hikes are wonderful. Thanks. Causeway - I'm excited about.
- Improved tennis courts
- OHV play area for kids and a new OHV parking lot off Nelson logging road
- Continue as you are doing

- WWII Causeway by airport
- Covered play area for kids - either playground, basketball, skate park, etc.
- Cross trail
- Additional cabins on Sitka road system
- Somewhere to ride ATV's, do something with Swan Lake
- New turf soccer field, trail from Medivije Lake to Indigo Lake
- Moller field - a safe place to walk and run during bear season
- Shelikof, North Beach, South Beach
- Outdoor swimming pool
- Urban campground at west end of bridge
- Cross country ski trail, mtn. bike trail loop
- Can't think of any?
- Ice Rink! Or new playground equipment at crescent or Moller field
- Walkway from Crescent Harbor to Sitka National Historical Park. Mountain bike trails.
- A FOLF course and new Zealand style camping facilities along H.MT/Gaven Loop and Lucky Chance with or without bridge
- What you have planned is perfect - 720 additions
- X-country ski trails
- More trails
- More biking trails
- Forest service cabin accessible from trail on Sitka Road system

What new outdoor recreation facilities or activities could be provided for Sitka youth (ages 2-18)? Where would these facilities be located?

- More indoor gym space - On sj campus or by Keet Gooshi Heen
- Hockey rink - Millerville/edgecurrence, or benchlands
- Improve SJ playground - add Beach access path
- Playground, picnic volley ball area - End of saw mill creek
- Ultimate Frisbee - Use new soccer field, remove part of the fence on the two baseball fields north of Kent Ganshi Heen To create additional grass field in their outfields, maybe annex the golf course.
- HPR Recreation for disc golf, Mt. Bike trail down Harbor Mt.
- Make the artesian well more accessible- expanded rooms in off season - More kayak ramps
- Disc Golf Course, single track Mtn. Biking out of Sitka, Cover 1/2 of the skate park and part of the park for concert venue and farmers market, Rock climbing @ quarry/Herring Cove Disc Golf @ Sitka high (behind), skate park
- Frisbee golf, interactive playground, educational garden
- Ice skating rink
- Soccer with teams that play games
- A place to hang out - a teen center - Downtown
- Ice rink (indoor building) - Japonski Island

- Climbing wall at Hames P.E. Center
- Ice rink, roller rink - Mt. Edgecome High
- Upgrade tennis courts - maybe add a wall so a single player can practice alone - Some place the present courts are
- Indoor hockey, skating rink - Old mill site
- Skating park with big playground like Juneau's/Haines, community pool/gym if games goes under - Patch the tennis courts and update the playground, how about vacant lot across from Spenards'
- I consider playgrounds to be a 1st priority
- Ice skating rink (flood Moller, like before), New track - or repair/improve ours, a frisbee/golf course, rock climbing wall - Granite Creek
- A grass football field, including a complete makeover of the track complex; cover the skate park - Lower Moller, or else- wherever it makes sense
- A covered playground would be nice. Current playground areas are goo locations
- Updated playground equipment at crescent Harbor park or skate park - Crescent Harbor park or Skateboard park
- Really like the skate park and dog park - good job - also the new ball fields – great - Lights at skate park for fall and winter months, more benches there to sit and watch
- Play parks - Swan lake area
- Park trail and signs identifying features on Lott II, SJ campus, history, botany, geology, and archeology - Corner of Jeff Davis and SMC Rd
- An artificial turf field for soccer and football. With a standard track for school sports.
Out at the mill site? Japonski or Alice Island? Someplace where there is a suitable base.
- A covered area for the skate park at the turnaround
- Safe bicycling paths completely separated from traffic - A shoreline circuit of Japonski Isl. Or Alice charcoal Isl.
- Low cost or free are limited - sign of the times, I guess.
- More soccer - without football ruining the field
- Soccer Fields Island
- Community Garden Space
- Covered playground Near skate park or at roller park
- Safe bike trail - Seems adequate now
- Alpine ski/board area Verstovia, Gawan Hill, Starrigavan Valley
- Covered bleachers for spectators - Moller field (football, track, soccer)
- Turf soccer field - Possible somewhere on the S.T. Campus
- Moller Field - it's a disgrace to have visiting teams here - track, football, etc. - Moller Field
- Does STW have an Opinion at Hames?
- I'd say we're well covered in this area
- Winter outdoor ice rink (Reno, NV has one that the city runs and it's a hit! - Moller (needs updating the most)

- FOLF course In the woods between ball fields and past the high school, town side oat cross trail
- Soccer field Parental involvement
- Maybe updated playgrounds, updated equipment
- We need a playground for young kids - like Juneau has at Twin Lake - maybe by dog park.
- Rebuild tracks - Mollar Park

What programs successfully connect youth with outdoor activities?

- Baseball
- Camping programs
- High school outdoor recreation (middle school too?), Marine biology classes
- Both of the above ideas are good for kids as well as older youth
- Water access
- Active/Extreme sports
- Love the skate park, love the new fields near KGH
- Outside school so everyone can enjoy. No more school funded bis.
- High school outdoor rec. classes (SHS - MEHS)
- Ones that are recreational as well as competitive
- Mt. Biking
- Soccer, baseball, track, ultimate frisbee, hiking, Raven's way program.
- "Teach a kid Golf" program, Chloe Copeland's "Outdoor Recreation" class at SHS
- More organized "youth camps" would be beneficial
- Soccer camps/league, t-ball, etc.; last town we lived in had many more youth outdoor programs year round. SuperHero's Class was very popular - kids got to dress-up as Super Heros and ran, jumped, crawled, etc. through various obstacles. Also geocaching, bike safety, indoor climbing.
- Boy and Girl scouts, camp from trails, etc
- Peer groups
- Community schools, outdoor clubs, school clubs, scouts, 4-H
- The skate park - it would be nice to see an organized backcountry ski snowboard program.
- Boy scouts, cross country teams
- A community schools or STW outdoor club could do that. Make it year-round, encompassing activities for each season
- Camps, sports events, educational events - seems like there are lots. Boys and Girls club
- Sports, family hikes
- Community Schools
- Programs that are inexpensive or free
- Good trails with signs, safe bike routes to facilities, better community school outdoor classes
- Fishing, hiking, bike trails, football, soccer

- Outdoor recreation programs at the high school's facilitated by community persons
- Driven sports and developed trails
- Fish camps, tree climbing, snorkeling and water sports, Intros wild crafting classes
- skateboard park/baseball fields/soccer fields/BB facilities
- I enjoy the green belt by Crescent Harbor. Make trails for dogs off leash

What new sports fields or areas are needed for adults?

- Repair Homes Center
- Ice rink
- Soccer field, paintball
- Grass soccer sited or 120yd X 40yd ultimate frisbee fields; ice skating rink
- Sealion cove, clagg Bay, Ushik Bay area on Verstovia - for winter use
- Ice skating rink
- KGH needs better play equip, areas of grass would be awesome
- Indoor - ice skating, roller, soccer
- The Hames P.E. Center should be reliable open, and the quad lawn maintained for frisbee
- Curling
- Upgrade tennis courts
- Improve Moller Field
- Bike lanes - multiple use trails - biking/running that are connected
- The Hames PE Center fills many adult and youth activities needs - swimming, racquetball, volleyball, etc. Don't think we need anything more
- A 2nd 9 holes at the golf course
- None - for a town of ~9000 people there is a glut of sports fields - frisbee golf would be a good field, though
- More benches on present trails
- A turf field would serve adults that play soccer, disk golf, touch football, croquet, etc. Track for walking, running
- Single track biking trails - or opening/clearing some existing areas. Logging and fishing roads.
- More trails/extension of the x-trail, or Rubberized track at Mollar, or Upgrade public shelter at Baranof Warm Springs
- Kimsham is nice. Could a safe sledding hill for kids be incorporated up there/ There are plenty of hills in and around the fields (sledding at Cascade creek is dangerous and Mollar field gets too crowded). Outdoor volleyball court would be great. Adults could use it any time, not have to wait for Blatchley open gym season.
- For spectators and residents. Wherever sports fields are, allow for a simple footpath all the way around perimeter - also playgrounds
- We have enough
- Pool, walking
- Ice rink/skating

- Seems already adequate - not sure about soccer
- Better fields (Soccer), year round hiking clubs
- Maybe a nice trail near town for walking dogs
- Indoor court for pickleball, great for school kids also
- Moms need to be able to walk at Moller field while kids play - it's a mud hole
- Gavan system into Starrigavan Valley Trail - cascade creek to Starrigavan
- Dog park where walking can occur
- Swimming pool
- Maintain SH lawn for multiple use including Ultimate frisbee and frisbee golf course
- Believe we are OK in this bracket
- Running track around new Kinshan ball fields
- One of the many ball fields needs to be handed over to the farming wanna be's for food education and training
- Area for outdoor volley ball

Are there new parks, campgrounds, and greenspace needs? What are they and where would they be located?

- More city cabins in popular places like Goddard
- Access to veterans park (by bridge), connect to boathouse
- Campground at end of Sawmill creek
- Please keep the soccer space in front of the library free of concrete/asphalt additions
- Maintain trails for hiking only - the gravel is noisy, hurts dogs feet, hard to go jogging on - keep more trails dirt where possible
- Am happy with what we have
- Park with playground
- How about a park and/or campground on Sawmill Creek road - at end of Green lake road area would be nice.
- Create a back-pack in cabin that is accessible without a boat or plane
- Not really needed in this community
- No, we need to take care of those we have
- Green space/park at old city shops site
- Lot II on SJ - within walking distance of every school and en route to national cemetery, Indian River, Raptor center
- I liked the plan for the green space in front of Crescent Harbor from Cruise ship funds
- A tenting campground in town for people who do not have transportation to get to Starrigavan or Sawmill Creek, Indian River?
- The vacant area on the south side of the bridge on Japonski island would make a great park for BBQ etc.
- I think the MEHS/UAS parking lot could be greenscaped and a formal trail made along Japonski side of Sitka channel, also the planned sea walk from Totem Park to O'Connell lightning facility
- Keep what downtown green space we do have

- Greenspace everywhere - avoid excessive paving
- Make that old telephone thing on cathedral way useful. Exercise station? Veg. Garden. Hanging garden.
- Yes. Land base is an issue. Need kayak campground in town. Expand the trails at the Nat. Hist. park along Indian River
- Cabins
- Playgrounds for children in all neighborhoods (with shelter)
- More community garden space
- Yes, more would be nice, just not sure where
- Shore side C Sandy beach or eagle beach
- Need more campgrounds, need more roads into National Park, need better access to different parts of Island
- No. Moller field - we have an available area in disrepair
- Trails needed
- Urban campground at west end of bridge
- Maintain what is there to make it appealing
- Facilities in my opinion are adequate
- Yes! Upgrade Moller please. Maybe one out at the Ferry tunnel. The beach behind NSRAA
- We need a food park, a bona fide farm space to teach the youth and citizens about food empowerment and nutrition
- Just maintain what we have. Would love to see SJ Campus as a commons
- Water (maybe more a bit closer to town - 5-1- min boat ride)

How can existing facilities be improved or provide new or improved opportunities for outdoor recreation?

- Newer track surface
- Reserve soccer field for soccer only
- Add Small play area for kids at existing campgrounds and or horseshoe/volleyball nets
- Ice rink at the old pulp mill
- Hut to hut hiking trails on Kruzof or Silver Bay - lucky chance area, Verstrovica to Arrowhead
- Sitka trail works is doing a nice job at this time
- More outhouses along trails (may encourage more bear problems)
- Bus stop @ campground
- Elevator that works at Hames and is easy access
- How about making those cabins accessible to all of us via a water taxi to then float house rentals would also be good.
- Maintain them well - like Moller track should be like the Juneau track (surface), not gravel, and longer.
- Provide firewood at FS campgrounds (or have for sale)

- More recreation cabins and shelters in easier accessed locations. Not so many fly in cabins
- Garbage cans bear proof
- Crescent Harbor Park extension -bridge at south end to sage and beyond
- It would be an easy and popular improvement to add some frisbee golf nets in some existing park areas
- Pioneer park and Sandy beach need some help, but I don't have ideas for how to improve.
- Hookups at Starrigavan Campground
- Sand beach fire pits, benches, picnic tables, toilets open all year; Whale park bathrooms open all year
- Keep restrooms unlocked for local residents to use year-round
- Pioneer park needs a more open feeling - almost dark and sinister now - not used as is
- Increased access to bluelake rd/Sawmill lake CG in the winter
- Covered shelters - fix concession stands at Moller
- More freedom at the Starrigavan Cabin
- Fix moller field up - turf, proper lighting, dog friendly area
- Campgrounds with showers, drive-up cabins
- Maintenance and care
- Stairs at Sandy Beach. Play ground at roundabout
- Convert a ball field to a food park and botanical garden
- Partner with working groups to secure SJ commons for the community
- Bear proofing camping areas
- Instead of pushing new facilities, improve existing reservation areas - example - picnic facilities near Hart Lake.

What cabins do you use?

- All
- I use Shelikof and Salmon Lake.
- Brent's beach, Fred's creek
- Sam Sing, Brent's beach, French Creek Shelter - water access
- Home, but if I did I would prefer water access
- Water access. This is very important. There are already many float plane only cabins in S. Baronet. It would be nice to have ocean-access cabins so that multiple day-kayaking trips could more easily take place. Float places are expensive and an additional hassle to coordinate before going on an outing.
- Brent's beach, Allan Point
- Shelter @ 1/2 way pt to Goddard, camping shelter @ Goddard also
- Whatever we can - no boat so expensive to get to Starrigaivin on bus.
- None
- Water
- Both are working fine. We use all

- Shelikof Beach, Brent's Beach, Fred's Creek, Fatham Bay, Lake Suloia
- Don't use cabins much
- Piper and Salmon lakes, Allen pt
- Water
- Mosher Island, Seven Fathom, Piper Island, Salmon Lake
- Kanga Bay, Salmon lake, Moser Island
- Tom Young Cabin, Allen Point Cabin, Sam Sing Cabin
- Fred's creek, Brent's Beach, Shelikoff
- None
- Tom Young Cabin, Allen Point Cabin, Sam Sing Cabin
- We pick a different cabin every year
- Haven't yet
- Fred's Creek, Tom Young, Shelikof, and Sam Sing.
- Fred's Creek, Goddard, Allen Pt, Harbor Mountain, Gavin Hill
- Rarely use cabins.
- Fred's creek, Shelikoff, Sam Sing, Salmon Lake
- All water accessible cabins within 20 miles
- Fred's Creek
- Sam Sing Cove
- Forest service cabins and Tom Young cabin
- Fred's Creek Cabin - would like additional cabins in areas reached from road system
- Want more road access cabins
- Kruzof, need more cabins on our surrounding islands
- Samsing, Allen Point, Tom Youngs, Starrigavan
- I need to drive to the cabin
- Shelikoff, Freds Creek, Keya Bay, etc.
- Those within easy access used by family members
- Fred's Creek, Brent's Beach
- All the cabins are great and both forms of access are important, but I would like some more cabins/shelters/tent sites along trail routes
- We mostly use Fred's creek and Brent's beach
- All existing cabins
- Fred's Creek, Tom Young

Do you prefer water or float plane access?

- Both
- I can't afford float plane access.
- Water Access
- Water Access
- Water Access
- Water Access

- Clagg Bay area for sockeye
- By falls on Indian River
- Water Access
- Water
- Water
- Yes - on land, since I don't own a boat most or almost all cabins are only accessible by boat. Not fair to the rest of us.
- Water
- Water Access
- Water
- Water
- Water
- Both
- Water/hiking
- Water
- Water Access
- Water Access
- Water Access
- Water Access
- Water
- Starrigaran Cabin, Brent's Beach Cabin, Fred Creek's Cabin
- Water
- Water
- Either
- Water
- Both
- Neither
- Water/hike access, but fly when funding allows
- Water
- Both
- Both
- Water access

Would you like to see additional cabins or shelters? Where would they be located?

- Yes, Baranof Warm Springs
- No, just maintain the existing ones
- Goddard
- Yes - in Sitka Sound (West of Skoya?), Nakwasino, Krestol, back end of bear lake, Medveje Verstrovia off Green Lake Road
- South Baramet outside coast, ocean accessible. Also a hike-in cabin from Sitka would be neat

- Baby Bear Bay, behind Kakul Narrows
- I think we need cabins that people with out money for boats or planes could walk to. Indian River, Mediviche Lake, Stargavin Ridge, etc. Beaver Lake
- x-c ski trails on Harbor Mt.
- Any single track mtn. biking accessible from town (not on an island)
- Yes, easy access ones
- 1st and 2nd narrows, Yamani cove
- Mt. Bike trails would be awesome
- No, because that limits the access/use of the area for those not renting it. Not off the road system. Ok to build more at the Starrigavin campground
- Back-pack in Cabin ~ maybe Starrigavin ridge
- Yes. South of Sitka and North of Sitka, hunter accessible - hike in cabins would be nice too
- Blue lake campground, but only if all other cabins can be properly kept.
- Another cabin at Stargavin
- Access to cross trail, bridge over Cascade CK
- Yes - Mosquito Cove shelter. (Maybe there is one now?)
- I would love a cabin at Camp Lake - past medivic lake
- Camp lake
- Hike in opportunities from town.
- Some accessible by hiking
- I think the cabins are adequate but would like to see more ridge line shelters like Gavin/Edgecombe. Possibly back on the Verstovia/sisters ridge
- Maybe one shelter somewhere in the alpine. Nothing fancy, just a shelter
- No
- Yes - nearby with water access, blue lake, green lake
- Yes - not sure where, but would like to see some accessible by trail
- No
- Shelters with new trail over Baranof Island. Shelter at Kelp Bay. More cabins for OHV at Kuok.
- The Ric
- Work with USFS on this
- Yes! Harbor Mt., Blue Lake, Crow Pass, Mud Bay, Aleutians
- Mosquito cove, Sawmill Creek or Beaver Lake, Herring Cove
- Sawmill Ck CG, Harbor Mountain
- I think we have an adequate amount. Not too hard to get
- Somewhere I can drive to Sawmill Creek campground
- Yes, Camp lake
- No, be careful that we don't overload dreds
- In town - road access, to blue lake.
- Yes, like above, I think there should be more simple tent sites in alpine. And possibly more 3 sided shelters along waterways providing some food storage.

- Not sure, but more remote ones that have to be hiked into would be great
- Yes, closer to town, cheaper access
- Yes - Mosquito Cove, Harbor Mt. Trail, Sawmill area campground

Are there new trails, bike, mountain bike, or pedestrian paths that you would like to see developed? Where would they be located?

- I would like to see the cross trail extended.
- From Green Lake to Goddard and Starragavan and Katlian and beyond
- Halibut Point Road needs bike path and really needs cross walks; so does SMC. Trail on crescent Harlo break water
- Access to the causeway. Make the new bike trail flat, so that it is rideable.
- ATV trails open the forest to paraplegic folks, so far it has not worked. Sitka could tap the spinal cord injury market
- Trails, pedestrian paths
- More trails in the valley b/w Govian Hill and Indian River going across and up the hill especially to Govian hill
- Connect cross trail to Vencotovia and then to Thimbleberry River, Vircovia and improve to arrow head
- Green Lake Road to Salmon Lake
- Short trails for handicapped that walk but don't walk far enough and markers for how far you are on the trail
- A mountain bike course would be great
- What happened to the green lake road to Salmon lake connection?
- More trails, Starrigavin ridge, bear mountain, bear lake
- With the airport expansion, a trail could be run around an end of it to access the causeway - at least for locals
- Shoreline trail for mountain bikes, trails that are in the sun on sunny days
- The proposed inter tie to the benchlands
- Would like to see a seawalk completed from bridge to totem park. Would also like a bike path on HPR
- Benchlands
- More developed access points
- Where can I rent a row boat?
- Upper cross trail - just made safer - particularly the bridges
- I think it is important to ensure that we can maintain what we already have.
- So far, so good
- Any new trails would be nice, especially for mountain biking. It does bother me when existing trails are expanded to the point of gravel sidewalks - i.e.: the cross trails behind the high school
- SMC bike path to the mill, x-trail to Starrigaven and Thimbleberry, multi-day backpacking trail with cabins (big-tourism potential)

- Some people don't want to use forest trails during "bear season". Would be nice to have off leash trails on Japonski or Alice Islands. Backpacking trail from Silver Bay to Goddard. Mark route across Baranof Island so we don't have to guess if fog comes in we won't get lost.
- Starrigavan Lake, Bear Lake, Gavan Ridge trail down to cascade creek
- Develop a trail system around luck chance. Develop - Indian river falls to Harbor Mtn. Develop multi day backpacking trails with cabins or shelters
- Connection between Gavan Hill Trail (near to Baranof St. entry) and Geodetic Way or Nat. Cemetery - footpath from Merrill Str. TO Geodetic and to SMC. Footpath from Moller to Lake St. at end of Swan Lake
- Whale park needs some attention.
- I like trails that connect with downtown
- Cross country trail over Baranof Island.
- The Island
- We have a pretty good trail system already
- Extension of Indian River Trail up to the saddle Staragavin trail to lakes above
- Into mountains
- Yes, a new bike trail would be nice, or make the current trails allow bikes
- Moller field - during bear season
- Mark the trail to Bear Lake, More trail extensions from Beaver Lake, Trail to Camp Lake
- Path across Green Lake raceway to provide passable access to Salmon Lake/Redoubt/etc.
- The trail to Heart Lake from Blue Lake Road needs a bridge over the stream
- Causeway trail around airport
- Mountain Bike convert logging roads and Indian river trail
- You've done a great job with trail development
- HPR bike path, sidewalks on Price Street, Burkart St, more roads, pike pens out the end of HPR
- Mountain bike trails - Harbor Mountains, Verstovia, anywhere
- Overnight backpacking trails, complete the g. lake lucky chance Goddard connection
- Would like to see more back country tracks emanating from Sitka
- No - plenty for now
- Complete cross trail Starrigavan to Town

How can access to the Tongass National Forest and other lands surrounding Sitka be improved for recreational users?

- Open roads USFS for ATV Riding
- Expand trail system similar to Milford trail, New Zealand
- Perhaps develop (with outhouse at least), heavily-used campsites (Strawberry beach, 3 entrance) or even a cabin
- Maintained trails, historical resources, and information
- Publicize the trail heads, publicize handicapped accessible trails, charter fish boats

- I enjoy the SES boat trips, although I didn't get around to doing any this summer
- More hiking trails - the more the better
- You're doing great with trail development
- Periodically scheduled boat trips for folks who don't have boats or the money to charter a boat
- Green Lake Road to Salmon Lake
- Maps of available trails and comments on type and skill and steepness of trail
- More cabins
- Don't let it fall into private hands/corporate hands - so it is available for all citizens to subsist off of and to enjoy. Please don't support Sealaska getting any of it.
- More non-boat or non-plane access; more dog off-leash areas
- More ATV access would be great and stop the damn forest service from blowing up all the bridges unnecessarily.
- No opinion
- Offer a tour by water to over 65 group to select few locations - and let us help assess how best to get on and off beaches
- Love to see a more complete trail to Goddard from Salmon Lake or lower route
- Make it easier to pay for cabin use. After they are used, the kayakers can't always get to a cabin at a certain date.
- Keep trails for walking only (or bike) on those that are. Would be nice if dogs on leash.
- I would like to see a shelter system on some of the ridges to allow extended trips, especially in the winter.
- In winter, I often find it impossible to park my small car at recreation points (Benchlands, Thimbleberry, Herring Cove, Kimsham, etc.) because of deep snow or snowplow berms.
- more water taxi options
- Develop a land trail around Kruzof Island
- Public kayak launch as close as possible (GG gazebo - v. Brown beach area?) to the causeway trail - need to shorten the paddle for easier access.
- Seems like there weren't as many educational programs this year with FS
- Trails
- Trails that loop off the cross trail for Mt. Bikes - single track challenging trails.
- Discourage bears from coming near town by providing bear proof garbage cans to all
- Adequate now
- More access to existing roads - blue lake and harbor Mountain, Adding roads to increase access
- Yes, more roads
- Keep up the trails
- Trail to Luck Chance, Hut to Hut across island
- I like the idea of overnight backpacking loop trails with cabins that start somewhere I can drive to
- Less restrictions

- My pet project would be a road connecting Rodman B
- More road access in winter time to use ATV's and snow machines and get water at the well.
- More access for mountain bikers
- Access will always be tricky. Issues here but providing good trails with great attractions and potential overnight stays help a lot. As well as promotion and organization of events like those sponsored by S.T.W and S.C.S.
- More hiking trails
- X-country ski trails on and off road system
- Closer in cabins
- Restore former logging roads for public use - do not close them - Fish Bay, John Baptist Bay, Appleta Cove, Krugof Island, Cornish Bay, etc.

What kinds of facilities and information would you like to see provided for kayaking and skiff routes?

- More informal survival cabins would be nice
- Kayak launch and storage float at boat house
- Remind people in power boats to actively be looking where they are going so as to not kill/run into kayakers
- Mooring buoy like at Brent's Beach, Allan Point
- Maps of campsite locations would be great for newcomers
- Mooring buoys
- Nothing - charts are available and these areas should be kept wild.
- Mooring buoys with pulley systems to shore
- A launch closer to Silver Bay would be nice (Herring Cove?)
- What are the options? Where?
- Yes - mooring buoys, launch and haul out areas, maps, shelters/cabins
- Kayaking is fairly self sufficient. It would be nice to have a couple more mooring buoys at popular access (Krazof Beaches, Shoals Point anchorage)
- Maybe a little skiff/kayak loading dock on causeway, work with Marine Heritage Society effort to make public kayak storage and marine ways
- Maps showing public vs. private islands and showing suitable camping beaches. Would not want to see cabins pop up everywhere - would lose the "pristine" feeling. Natural looking tent pads would be ok.
- Good launch area at end of road (beyond Pulp Mill)
- Kayaking classes / instruction - more opportunity would be good. More advertisement.
- No interest
- safety boating
- Seems adequate
- Mooring buoys located more often, SEATrail maps and helpful navigation into the FS cabins for kayakers
- Shelters, cabins

- More cleaning docks, Chair lift on Harbor
- We need to STOP letting private businesses run their kayak business off Crescent Harbor ramp, where they sit, take up time doing instruction
- Mooring buoys are great and high use areas like Fred's creek could use more than one. And more three sided shelters with food storage.
- Mooring buoys for salt water cabins, boat haul out southeast of town

What new facilities are needed to support hunting, fishing and gathering?

- Cleaning stations removed from town
- Brush the power lined corridor to enhance blueberries
- A pier strictly for fishing with no boats allowed (or at least motor boats)
- Pie recipes
- Is there some way to restrain folks who gather way too much and waste
- Nothing
- Boat launch at Herring cove
- Fish carcass bins at the harbors since fish must be brought into shore 1st.
- Please do nothing or there won't be anything to hunt, fish, or gather
- More shelters would be great
- Indoor Ice rink
- Info center on SJ campus. Buy a building or two and coordinate space with other local organizations
- A ski lift? Harbor Mt. Starrigavin/no name ridge?
- new shelters and mooring buoys would suffice
- A deck so walkers and wheelchair can fish – maybe to HP recreation or put out skates.
- No interest
- Shelter at Kelp Bay.
- A place to centrally clean fish
- Facilities could detract from the experience
- Facilities in place are adequate
- Specified boundary for subsistence - herring, halibut, and salmon fishing for Sitka residents only where non-resident and community use cannot
- The first two are perfect. Don't touch. But I do believe there are large areas along blue lake road that could be thinned and managed for superior salmon and blue berry harvest. Also wildcrafting education.
- Public access on former FS roads. DO NOT CLOSE - use roads for pedestrian/bike/ATV use

What new winter outdoor recreation activities/facilities could be developed and where would they be located?

- Cabin on Verstovia
- A good sledding

- Hot chocolate stand at swan lake for ice skaters, fund raising opportunities?
- Cross country skiing, maybe publicize when trails are ready for such
- Snowshoeing, x-country skiing to cabins
- More ski/snowboard access (especially back toward town, if hiking)
- Ice skating rink
- Ice skating rink
- A skating shack on swan lake
- Rink -Edgecombe, University
- ATV trails
- Develop Harbor Mountain for alpine skiing
- Cross-country ski areas - Starrigavin Ridge
- A rope tow or improved access to Harbor for skiing would be great.
- Ice skating on Huckleberry, shelter with fireplace and table.
- Possibly a better shelter up Harbor Mt. for winter ATV and snowmobiling.
- A small cabin on Verstovia where old ski cabin was located. Love to have a simple rope tow somewhere.
- A simple foot trail/shelter along the verstovia - arrowhead ridge. Possible behind verstovia, towards the sisters.
- Well, any time a trail is made ADA friendly, that also makes a great c/country ski trail
- X-c skiing. Starrigavan Valley, or open up the cross trail a bit more so that more snow lands on the trail. (some spots stay quite bare).
- Organized trip for Christmas trees/greens in forest.
- Cross country skiing
- Flood tennis or basketball courts for skating - this was done ~25 years ago.
- Adequate now
- Alpine ski (board facility) Verstovia, Gorvam Hill. This would really help! Ice rink for hockey
- Cross country skiing
- Moller field - there's already sledding, how about cross country skiing?
- Convince city to plow only half of Blue Lake / Green Lake Road so skiing/sledding can occur
- Cross country ski trail, Starrigavan ridge
- Skiing - dreds need to be assessed.
- Ice skating rink out at old pulp mill in existing building with special bus service for kids with no rides. Or over on Japonski or something?
- I have counted 25 people in the Verstovia Bowl during good snow/weather days. It's time we got a good safety shelter up there and began educating citizens about snow storms and safety.
- Make route to blue lake that is not plowed in winter
- x-country ski - Harbor Mountain
- Cabin on Harbor Mountain

Tourism Surveys

(note: the following surveys were submitted separately from the preceding surveys and were therefore not included in the preliminary analysis included as Appendix C of this report.)

What Outdoor Recreation Activities do you enjoy most and why?

- Hunting ,Fishing, Camping ,Photography I enjoy connecting with all aspects of the outdoors.
- fishing, hunting, hiking -these activities allow me to immerse myself in wild places
- hiking, camping, kayaking
- Hiking. It gets me out to see the world from a different perspective. I like being surrounded by mountains. I like feeling small.
- Hiking, fishing, fresh air and scenic beauty, something for the table (subsistence)
- Hunting, fishing, hiking because of the close access
- Fishing - food, kayaking - relaxing and thrilling, hiking-exercise, skating, cross-country skiing, sledding-fun
- Hiking and Fishing - I love being in nature, I love the freedoms we as Sitkans have to literally step out our backdoor and begin hiking up any given mountain. Our water activities are unlimited with our unlimited ocean!
- running, hiking, geocaching, tennis, basketball...exercise and family time
- Backpacking in remote Baranof Island. Nearly the entire Island should be of national park designation. Only place I have been and experienced a true wilderness.
- kayaking, hiking, biking, wildlife viewing, camping, boating - basically anything outdoors!
- hiking
- Walking, just love it in general and when the weather is nice it is great. Jogging, no matter the weather it is just nice to get out and go. Kids' soccer - my daughter is in it. Hiking - it is a great family thing to do.
- bird watching because I like birds; weeding because I don't like weeds
- hiking, see nature up close, the quiet biking, exercise kayaking, see nature up close, the quiet
- Fishing, hiking, camping - food, exercise, family!
- hiking, camping, climbing, boating, bike riding- exercise benefits, enjoy the beauty, do things with friends
- sailing, hiking
- I most enjoy walking my dog because it benefits us both, is low impact and can be done almost any time of year without a great deal of coordination.
- 4 wheeling, hiking, boating, fishing, bike riding
- Fishing and Berry picking--catching/preserving my own food is important to me. Hiking, camping, beach combing.

- kayaking - the quiet intimacy, scenery, low cost mountain biking - scenery, exercise biking around town - scenery, exercise, low cost and low impact transp. camping in FS cabins - scenery, quiet
- berry picking, fishing, walking, camping
- Sea kayaking and alpine hiking, both because Sitka offers some of the best of both I have ever had the chance to experience.
- hiking and boating because like to explore the environment.
- kayaking camping birding hiking climbing
- Fishing, berry picking, mushroom hunting. Fresh air, exercise, surprises, natural beauty, finding goodies to eat.

Do you have any other comments or ideas or feedback that you would like to include?

- do more of what we already know works. maintain and improve what we have already.
- I didn't respond to every question, but I really would like to see more trails in the local area.
- Just like to reiterate we don't need much more, we need to MAINTAIN and use what we have. In this town I see us ignoring what we have because it's rundown...we need to fix it up and use it, not build something else.
- More questions about programs should be on this survey - programs get more new people out than new facilities - if you are inexperienced, you need mentoring
- I would like to see a limit of the number of tourists allowed on the board walk and trails around Baranof Warm Springs to 8-10 people at a time. It is hard on the environment when larger groups land. Improvements to the dock are needed for these landing parties and a public restroom. Also continued upgrades and maintenance of the trails to the lake and the grotto. The grotto trail really needs some help. If we want to protect the natural beauty of the area we have to provide a safe and contained way for people to visit our special lands. Sometimes I think we need a cage so that tourists can only go to certain places. I know this is not the way but you get the idea. They need a way to enjoy the beauty of Baranof Warm Spring and NOT harm the environment that are enjoying.
- There is a lot of potential on Baranof Island for boat only access to very scenic areas that could be minimally developed with a small dock and a trail map to spectacular waterfalls and valleys.
- would like to see a "trail" for exercise. don't know what you call it but where there would be running, jumping etc over a given measured distance
- Sitka has an awesome recreation program for the feds, State and City. No need for more - maintain the quality facilities we have now!
- Help people realize that hiking trails are important but so are off road trails for ATVs and Dirt Bikes. There is plenty of space in and around Sitka to make new trails for people who enjoy off road motorized activities and there should be more opportunity for it.
- Thanks for the opportunity to provide input. HOW is this information going to be used? HOW are you getting it out there? I got it from Carol Goularte (FS) at work - how is the public getting to this? Has it been in the newspaper and I've just read past it? Do you have this around town in hard copy so people can pick one up and fill it out?

- Thanks for doing this. New Zealand has a lot of outdoor recreation activities and draws adventure tourists. Could look at New Zealand as a model. The more activities available in a small area, the more independent travelers Sitka might attract.

Preliminary Survey Analysis

(The full preliminary survey analysis is included on the following pages.)

sitka

sustainable outdoor recreation action plan
