



CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

A COAST GUARD CITY

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor Eisenbeisz and Assembly Members

Thru: Candace Rutledge, Parks and Recreation Committee Chair

From: Parks and Recreation Committee

Date: 07/22/2026

Subject: Letter of Support for Funding Request for Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Dear Mayor Eisenbeisz and Assembly Members,

The Parks and Recreation Committee is writing to express our strong support for allocating \$20,000 to assist with the development of an updated Parks and Recreation Master Plan in partnership with the Sitka Recreation Foundation.

Historically, long-range planning for our public parks and recreational facilities has fallen under the purview of the City and this committee. However, due to persistent capacity constraints, updating the master plan is long overdue. The current plan was last completed in 1991—despite being designed as a 20-year framework. While our committee initiated an update in 2019, capacity limitations unfortunately prevented the project from moving forward.

We are grateful to the Sitka Recreation Foundation for stepping forward to lead development of this plan. Their willingness to dedicate their expertise, resources, and time provides the resources needed to finally bring this effort across the finish line.

A new master plan is essential for gathering community input to identify local needs, priorities, and vision for the future. Healthy recreation is vital for the strong foundation of a well functioning community in both body and mind. The Parks and Recreation Department has a proven record for making the most of their resources and putting their all into providing activities that fuel a lifetime of healthy choices for community members.

The pros for outsourcing (with local input and guidance) the final push for creating Sitka's Parks and Recreation Master Plan far outweigh any cons. It is true that this is a

large upfront cost, however the majority of state and federal agencies require an approved, up-to-date master plan to qualify for financial grants and a Master Plan also aids cities in avoiding costly reactive spending.

Working alongside the Foundation, we look forward to establishing a comprehensive roadmap that will guide the development, asset management, infrastructure maintenance, and enhancement of our parks and recreational facilities for years to come.

We respectfully request that the City Assembly approve the \$20,000 funding request to support this project.

Sincerely,

Candace Rutledge and Parks and Recreation Committee Members

Chairperson

Sitka Parks and Recreation Committee