



Parks, Trails, and Recreation

GOAL

Maintain and expand a diversity of recreational opportunities for all residents and visitors to Sitka.

1 Sitka Values Recreation

Sitkans value and work to maintain and improve their parks, trails, and recreation system. Evidence of this is everywhere –

“Quality and easy access to outdoor activities including walking, hiking, kayaking, beaches, parks, playgrounds, camping, hot springs, etc. is a strength.”

“I think that the community has a high value for recreation and quality of life and has provided for these ideals well. These are also Sitka’s key assets.”

“Our outdoor recreation opportunities (trails, fishing, boating) are a secure, long-term asset.”

“We are a Tree City and our beautiful downtown with trees and landscaping, greenspace and parks is important.”

“Recreational use areas in town (and out of town, accessible by boat) are an asset.”

“Quality of life includes access to subsistence resources and local foods, culture and art, and a variety of healthy activities.”

These were some of Sitkans’ words and thoughts while ‘visioning’ during development of the Sitka 2030 Comprehensive Plan.

These are not new values; it is no surprise that surveys as long ago as the 1980s when the Sitka Coastal Management Plan was developed show, “Proximity to scenic and pristine areas where these

forms of recreation [fishing, beachcombing, picnicking, hunting, camping, etc.] can be enjoyed” is one of the principal assets of living in Sitka” (pg. 58 Sitka District Coastal Management Program, May 31, 1989).

The business community recognizes the importance of recreation and its link to a strong local economy. During adoption of the City and Borough of Sitka’s 2012 Sustainable Outdoor Recreation Action Plan, the Greater Sitka Chamber of Commerce noted that the Plan:

“...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 residents and visitors. Recreation and tourism are strong segments of the Sitka economy.... Recreation opportunities improve the 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 its attentiveness on building partnerships and setting priorities.”

Less “wild” but equally valued are organized recreation and sports programming and facilities provided by the City and Borough of Sitka, Sitka School District, Community Schools, Sitka Fine Arts Camp and other non-profit organizations, clubs and leagues. This includes two swimming pools, 11 sports fields, and three gyms, with softball, baseball, soccer, basketball, wrestling, gymnastics, dance, volleyball, swimming, martial arts and other programs for youth and adults as well as numerous fitness classes and access to weights and other fitness equipment. In addition, there are public and private playgrounds for children.



Photo from SitkaNature.org

2 Current Status

2.1 Recreation Standards

As far back as 1914 standards have been in use for the number of recreational facilities per 1,000 people¹. Since the 1950’s recreation managers have been using standards of 10 acres per 1,000

¹ American Planning Association, Information Report 194, 1965;

population of combined active (playgrounds, playfields) and passive (open spaces, hiking, nature viewing) facilities (Figure 1).

Figure 1 - Type of Recreation Area Standards in Acres Per 1,000 Population	
Type	Acres
(Active rec.)	
Playgrounds	1.25
Playfields	1.25
(Total active rec.)	2.50
(Passive rec.)	
Minor parks	2.50
Major parks	5.00
(Total passive rec.)	7.50
All types of municipal recreation	10.00
<i>Sources: American Planning Association, Information Report 194, 1965; Report on Recreation Standards, 1954, Detroit Metropolitan Area Regional Planning Commission.</i>	

However, because every community is different and successful parks and recreation leaders tailor facilities and services to meet the needs of its community, the National Park and Recreation Association (NPRA) no longer promotes or publishes national standards. Instead, it reviews current practices as a place to begin discussion.

In 2016, the NPRA published a review and field report² with data from more than 950 park and recreation agencies across the United States gathered between the years 2013 and 2015. Their top line findings are on Figure 2, and show today the median is 9.5 acres of parks per 1,000 population.

Figure 2 – 2016 Recreation Field Report Benchmarks

Park Facilities	
Residents per Park	There is typically one park for every 2,277 residents.
Acres of Park Land per 1,000 Residents	The typical park and recreation agency has 9.5 acres of park land for every thousand residents in the jurisdiction.
Outdoor Park & Recreation Facilities — Population per Facility	An overwhelming majority of park and recreation agencies have playgrounds (91 percent) and basketball courts (85 percent) in their portfolio of outdoor assets.
Indoor Park & Recreation Facilities — Population per Facility	A majority of agencies offer recreation centers and gyms, while at least two in five agencies offer community centers, senior centers and fitness centers.
Programming	
Programs Offered by Park & Recreation Agencies	Key programming activities include team sports, fitness enhancement classes, and health and wellness education.
Targeted Programs for Children, Seniors and People with Disabilities	Four in five agencies offer summer camp to their residents.

Responsibilities of Park and Recreation Agencies	
Key Responsibilities of Park & Recreation Agencies	Top roles include operating parks and facilities, providing recreation programming and services, and operating and maintaining indoor facilities.
Staffing	
Park & Recreation Agency Staffing	The typical park and recreation agency is staffed with 33 full-time equivalents (FTEs).
Park & Recreation FTEs per 10,000 Residents	The typical park and recreation agency has 7.4 FTEs on staff for each 10,000 residents in the jurisdiction served by the agency.
Responsibilities of Park and Recreation Workers	Responsibilities split between maintenance, operations, programming and administration.
Budget	
Annual Operating Expenditures	The typical park agency has annual operating expenditures of \$3,459,846.
Operating Expenditures per Capita	The typical park and recreation agency has annual operating expenses of \$76.44 on a per capita basis.
Acre of Park & Non-Park Sites	The median level operating expenditures is \$6,476 per acre of park and non-park sites managed by the agency.
Operations Expenditures Per FTE	The typical park and recreation agency has \$96,055 in annual operations expenditures for each employee.
Distribution of Operating Expenditures	At the typical park and recreation agency, personnel services represent 55 percent of the operations budget.
Agency Funding	
Sources of Operating Expenditures	Park and recreation agencies derive three-fifths of their operating expenditures from general fund tax support.
Park & Recreation Revenues per Capita	The typical park and recreation agency generates \$18.22 in revenue annually for each resident living in the jurisdiction.
Revenue as a Percentage of Operating Expenditures (Cost Recovery)	The typical agency recovers 29.0 percent of its operating expenditures from non-tax revenues.
5-Year Capital Budget Spending	Park and recreation agencies have a median of \$2.981 million in capital expenditures budgeted over the next five years.
Targets for Capital Expenditures	On average, just over half of the capital budget is designated for renovation while 30 percent is geared toward new development.
<i>Source: 2016 NRPA Field Report: Park and Recreation Agency Performance Benchmarks, National Park and Recreation Association</i>	

2.2 Sitka Inventory

** = a designated recreation area in the 2006 Sitka Coastal Management Plan

Figures 1A-B shows Sitka's extensive park, trail, and recreation facilities that are on the road system; they are listed on the pages that follow by manager.

City and Borough of Sitka

1. Baranof Elementary School field (0.2 acre)
2. City Cemetery – lawn and trees maintenance
3. Crescent Park (2.9 acres) - tennis courts, basketball court, picnic shelters, walkway, benches, restroom, playground, lawn **

4. Cross Trail (4.2 mile portion from Sitka High School to Kramer Drive owned by CBS; remainder of trail has multiple owners and is managed by CBS and Sitka Trail Works)
5. Granite Creek Recreation Area (7 acres) - 150 ft. x 24 ft. landing strip for remote control planes, golf course on city land but maintained by Sitka Golf Association
6. Herring Cove to Beaver Lake Trail (2.9 miles)
7. Japonski Island Ballfield
8. Kaisei-Marui Interpretative Site - signage, shelter, picnic table
9. Keet Gooshi Heen Elementary School ball fields (2.2 acres)
10. Kimsham Recreation Complex and Ballfields (15 acres)
11. Lower Indian River Corridor (borough, state, private ownership) **
12. Medivije Lake (1 mile) - undeveloped
13. Mt. Edgecumbe Field (1 acre)
14. Moller Park and Ballfields (14.86 acres) –turf field, restrooms, parking, playgrounds **
15. Path of Hope (1400 feet)
16. Pioneer Park (3.4 acres) picnic shelters, restroom, trail **
17. Sandy Beach (tidelands are state) **
18. Sitka Seawalk and breakwater spur (3500 ft. with 1,762 ft. addition funded)
19. Swan Lake Park and Area Meriting Special Attention (22 acres with lake), picnic tables, path, fishing dock **
20. Thimbleberry-Heart Lake Trails (1.8 miles), fishing dock
21. Tom Young Cabin (2 acres), pan abode cabin, deck, outhouse, accessible by boat
22. Tony Hrebar Shooting Range (4 acres) – shooting range and shelters, restroom, parking
23. Turnaround Park, Skateboard Park (3 acres) - path, picnic tables, 6800 sf skate park, Rotary Gazebo, fenced dog park
24. Vilandre Ballfields (2 acres)
25. Whale Park (12 acres) – boardwalk trail, gazebos, restroom, parking **
26. Sitka's docks and harbors are used to access water-based recreation, and discussed in the Transportation Chapter.



*TOP: Sitka Swimmers. Picture from Baranof Barracudas website
 BOTTOM: Opening Ceremonies Sitka Little League, 2014. Photo from KCAW website*

Sitka School District

1. Baranof Elementary School Playground
2. Keet Gooshi Heen Elementary School Playground
3. Blatchley Middle School Swimming Pool

Alaska State Parks (no longer in Sitka)

1. Castle Hill State Historical Park (currently being maintained by annual contract with NPS)
2. Halibut Point Recreation Area (no current maintenance) **
3. Old Sitka State Historic Site and boat launch (boat launch currently maintained by annual contract with NPS and a private party) **

State of Alaska

1. Fort Rousseau/Ray Causeway – Makhnati Island **
2. John Brown's Beach **
3. Totem Square ** (Sitka Tribe of Alaska is manager)

National Park Service

1. Russian Bishop's House Unit
2. Sitka National Historical Park Visitor Center and Totem Trail **

USDA Forest Service

1. Gavan Hill to Harbor Mountain Trail, Shelter (6.2 miles)
2. Indian River Trail
3. Mt. Verstovia Trail
4. Sandy Beach day use site and tidelands **
5. Sawmill Creek Recreation Area and Campground
6. Starrigavan Recreation Area ** - campground, cabin, interpretative signage, hiking trails and Starrigavan Valley ATV Trails

Other

1. Sitka Fine Arts Camp - Hames Gym & Wellness Center
2. Private - Spruce Glenn Park
3. Private - Sawmill Cove Apartments
4. Mt. Edgecumbe High School Gym
5. Mt. Edgecumbe High School Aquatic Center (construction 2017)



Top: Two Sitka AmeriCorps members join a Southeast Alaska Independent Living's monthly hike. Photo from JVAmeriCorps website. Bottom: One of several access points and maps to the Sitka Cross Trail

Primary Remote Recreation Sites within the City and Borough of Sitka include:

1. USDA Forest Service and State of Alaska's Baranof Warm Springs **
2. City and Borough of Sitka's Goddard Hot Springs (3 acres) - 2 bathhouses & hot tubs, boardwalk trail, outhouse/cistern **
3. USDA Forest Service's Mt. Edgecumbe Trail (7 miles)
4. Sitka Ranger District of the USDA Forest Service manages 24 remote cabins, 9 mooring buoys, several dispersed camping areas, and some remote hiking. See next section and also a list and information here: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/tongass/recreation/camping-cabins/recarea/?recid=78620&actid=101>
5. Magoun Islands/Port Krestof State Marine Park
6. Big Bear/Baby Bear Bays State Marine Park
7. Sea Lion Cove State Marine Park

Bike and Walk Friendly Community

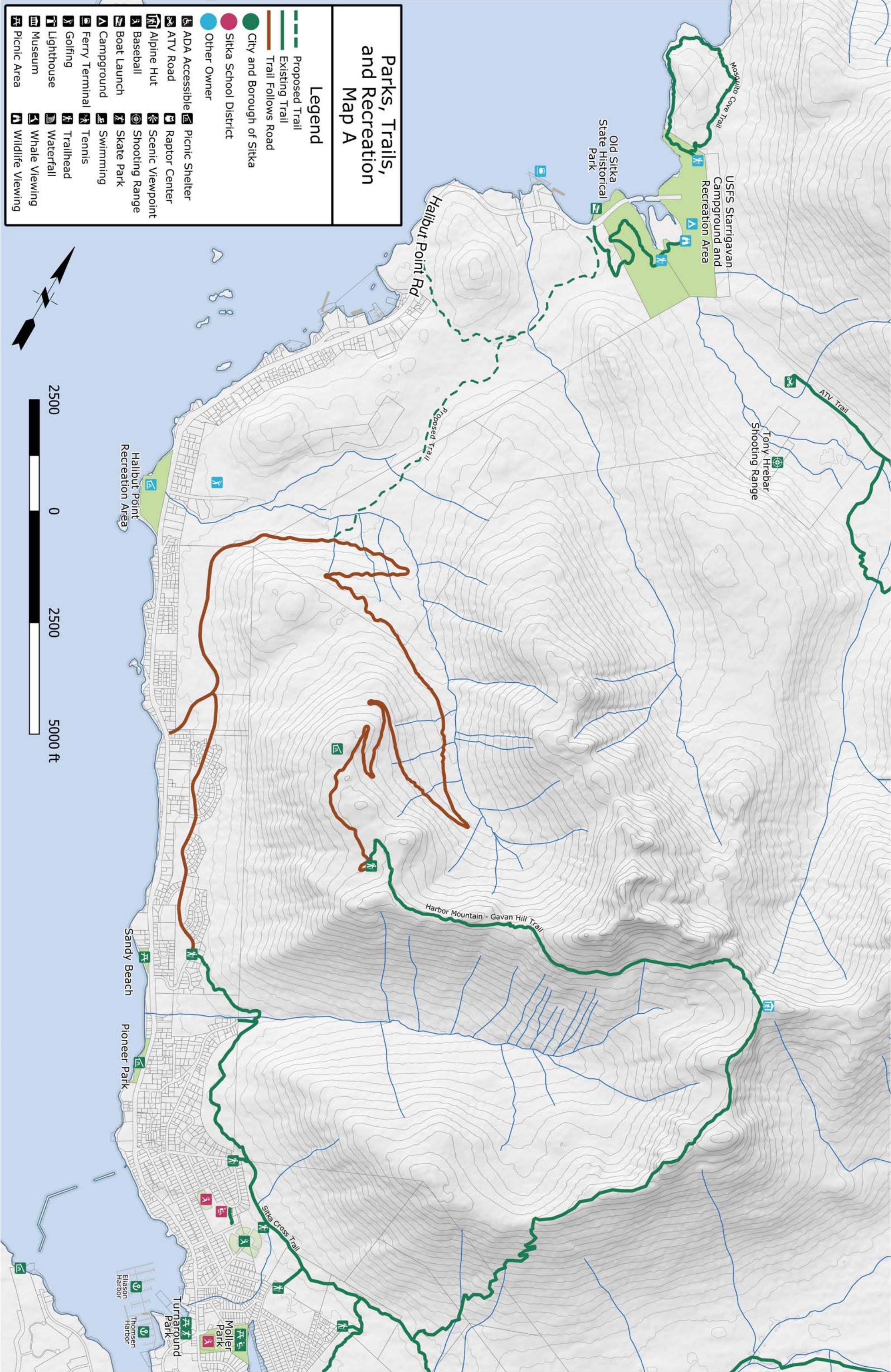
Through the efforts of many citizens and local coalitions, Sitka has achieved status as a national Bike Friendly Community and a Walk Friendly Community.

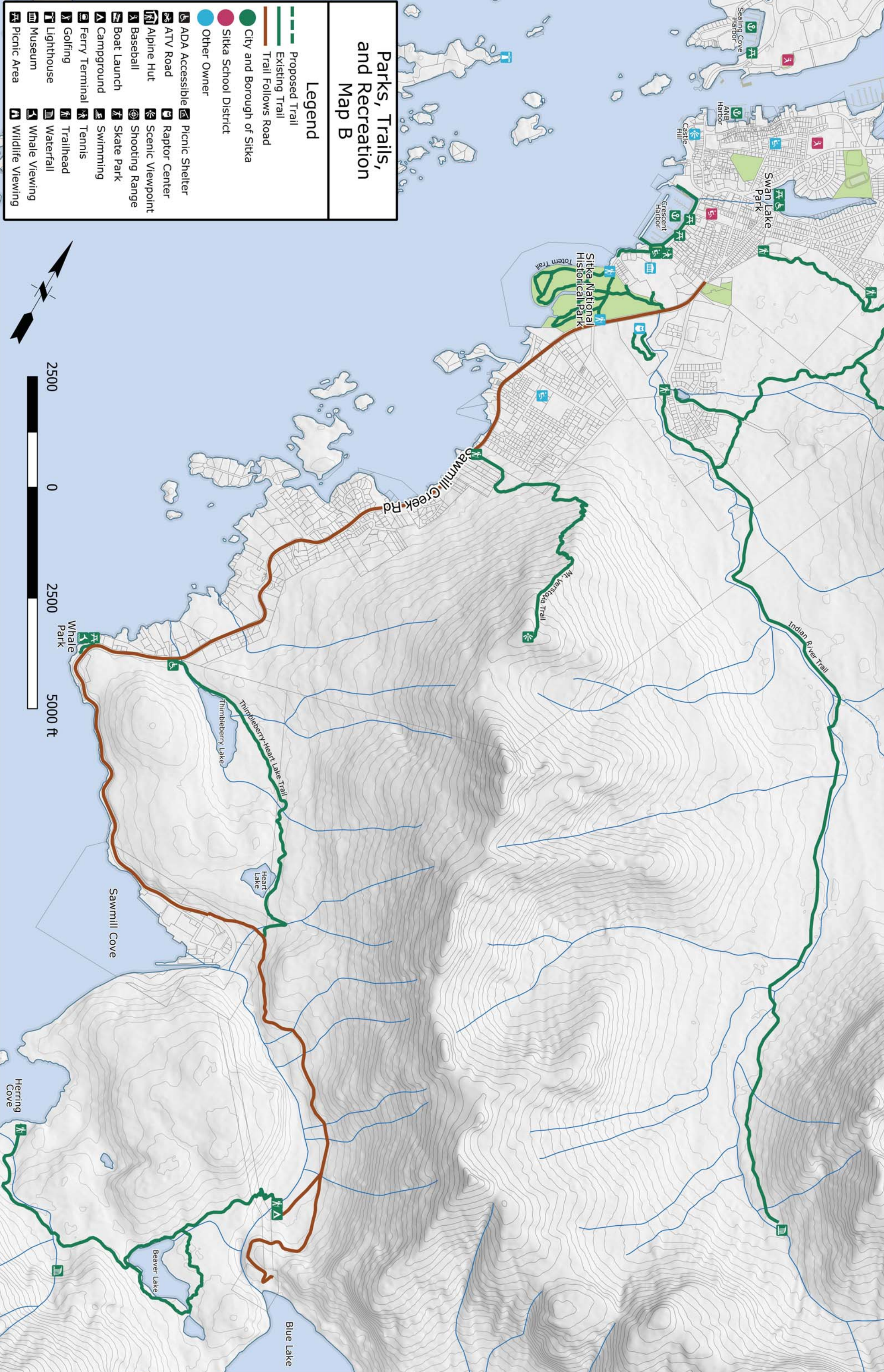
Sitka's sidewalks, bike lanes, and seawalk are used for recreation, access to Sitka's multi-use trail system, and for transportation between destinations. Walking and bicycling can be an important part of a healthy lifestyle. More about Complete Streets policies and Sitka's non-motorized transportation network is found in the Transportation Chapter.



Doug Osborne, front, leads cyclists during the Sitka Winter Cycling Celebration in January 2012.

Photo from SitkaCycling.wordpress.com





2.2 Relevant Management Plans

This chapter builds upon three important recreation documents:

The 2003 Sitka Trail Plan sets clear direction for managing, maintaining, and promoting Sitka trails. Three years in the making, this is the local guide for trail maintenance and development and a key resource for Sitka Trail Works, Inc. Demonstrating the importance of systematic planning and follow-through is the fact that multiple trails identified in this 14 year old plan have been built. Refer to the Sitka Trails Works website for a copy of the Plan at www.SitkaTrailWorks.org or click [HERE](#)

The 2006 Sitka Coastal Management Plan has sections that designate recreation and coastal access areas, and “Special Management Areas and Designated Recreational Use Areas” with maps and management narrative for recreation off the road system. The latter section is based on a comprehensive 1993 Public Management Plan that focused on recreation and subsistence access. While the State no longer has a coastal management program, Sitka strongly felt that the plan’s enforceable policies were important for ongoing management of critical coastal areas and adopted the policies by reference into municipal code (SGC 20.05.010). To see the 2006 Coastal Plan, contact the Sitka Planning & Community Development Department or click [HERE](#)

The 2012 Sitka Sustainable Outdoor Recreation Action Plan uses a “Triple Bottom Line” approach 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. This is the City and Borough of Sitka Parks and Recreation Department and the city’s Parks and Recreation Committee’s guiding plan. To review this Plan contact the Sitka Parks and Recreation Department or click [HERE](#)

2.3 Use of Recreational Facilities

Sitka Community Schools rents classrooms, a six-stove kitchen/classroom, the gym, the Multi-Purpose Room and offers recreation classes. Many other businesses and non-profits also offer local recreation programs. Groups involved in recreation, recent numbers of participants, and City and Borough of Sitka facilities they use are shown on Figure 2.

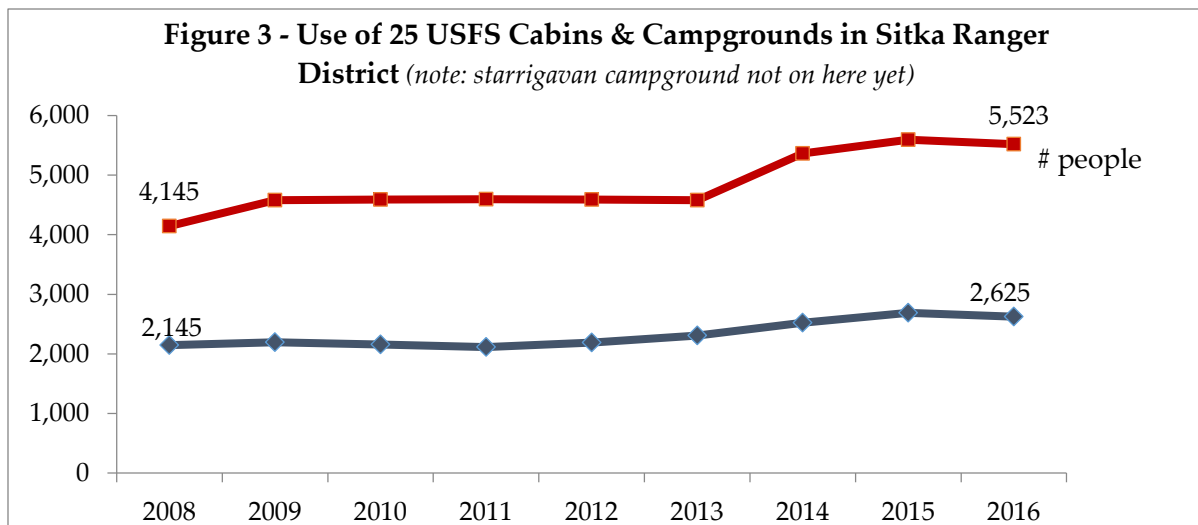
The CBS also keeps track of how many businesses obtain permits to use Sitka trails for tourist purposes. **CHECKING ON THIS**

The USFS keeps track of how many commercial operators obtain permits each year to use recreation and trail assets in the Sitka Ranger District for commercial (tourism) purposes. Figure X lists historical and current data on commercial use. Reviewing this information shows that _____. Other issues to consider over the next 10-15 years will be _____. **WAITING FOR USFS DATA**

The USFS also tracks how many non-commercial (recreational) users enjoy hiking on the _____ and _____ trails in Sitka, as well as rent the 25 cabins and campgrounds. Figure 3 shows

historical and current data. Reviewing this shows that use has been climbing over the last nine years. The most popular sites, with over 300 people using each of them in 2016 are: Starrigavan Creek Cabin and Campground, Allan Point Cabin, Samsing Cove Cabin, Brents Beach Cabin, Piper Island Cabin, and Freds Creek Cabin. _____. Other issues to consider over the next 10-15 years will be _____.

Figure 2 - Use of Sitka Recreation Facilities		
Group	No. of Participants in 2016	City and Borough of Sitka Facilities Used
35+ Basketball		Working to acquire this information for this table
Baranof Barracuda Swimclub	103	
City League Volleyball		
Family Roller Skating		
Get Out Sitka		
Girls on the Run		
Introduction to Sailing		
Saturday Youth Basketball		
Sitka Adventure Racing		
Sitka Cirque		
Sitka Cub Scouts		
Sitka Gymnastics		
Sitka Little League Baseball and Softball		
Sitka Outdoor Kids		
Sitka Softball Association		
Sitka Tsunami Wrestlers		
Southeast Alaska Independent Living Inc. Hiking and other clubs/activities		
UAF 4-H Cooperative Extension Service		
Woodworking		
Youth Outdoor Soccer		
Youth Roller Derby		
List others that use CBS Managed facilities....		



3 Opportunities & Challenges

3.1 Better Link the High Value of Recreation to Funding Support

Section 1 of this chapter highlights the high value Sitka residents place on Sitka's diverse recreational facilities and opportunities and the economic importance of recreation to local tourism and the economy. Despite this recreation is often underfunded. The state recently closed its parks and recreation office in Sitka, the City and Borough of Sitka has reduced parks and recreation staff and funding over the last few years, and federal funding is challenged. Yet, recreation is intrinsically linked to why people want to live and visit Sitka.

Another solution is increased focus on public-private partnerships, particularly those that profit from commercial recreation (tourism). One suggestion is for the borough to hire a fulltime grant writer to enable it to better capture grant funding. In the current era of declining government funding, the local importance of Sitka's diverse recreation opportunities must be considered.

3.2 Maintaining Existing Facilities is Top Priority

Surveys completed during the development of the 2012 Sitka Sustainable Outdoor Recreation Action Plan (SSORAP) made clear that the community wants to see new and improved facilities; however, they also understand that resources are finite and any new projects need to be evaluated for the true need and the availability of resources to maintain facilities. Borough parks and recreation staff comments that its top priority is maintaining existing facilities and preparing a comprehensive list to identify future annual needs. **Known, critical needs over the next 10 years are (to be inserted)....** Sitka Trail Works, Inc. also comments that maintaining existing trails is its top priority at this time.

3.3 Upgrade Playgrounds to Newer Safety Standards

Related to "maintaining what we've got" are the playgrounds at Moller Field that are now closed because they do not meet current safety standards. Playgrounds are important for all ages of users, and provide free recreation for those without the means to access more expensive off-the-road-system trips.

Crescent Playground would close too but for the community effort now underway to raise funds to improve it. Demonstrating the continuing importance of partnerships, non-profit Southeast Alaska Independent Living (SAIL) is coordinating a community-wide effort to raise \$750,000 for safe and accessible upgrades to Sitka's centrally located waterfront playground. Local citizens and businesses have committed to raise \$75,000, and CBS has contributed \$40,000.

3.4 Sitka's Urban Forestry Program

This is also an issue related to "maintaining what we've got." Part of what makes Sitka's downtown so welcoming to residents and visitors alike is the beauty of its landscaping, flowers, and trees. Landscapes with trees, parks and open space, provide a wealth of benefits for CBS. According to the CBS Urban Forest Management Plan (2013), trees boost property values, sustain fisheries, support retail activity, enhance tourism and visitor experiences, improve municipal health, protect water quality, reduce storm water runoff, counter climate change, and ensure roadway safety. The trees, landscapes, and open spaces now enjoyed were preserved or planted by individuals, CBS staff, garden clubs, the city's Tree and Landscape Committee members, and youth groups who worked to enhance the livability of Sitka.

Sitka is one of eight cities in Alaska that have the Tree City USA designation. Sitka has maintained this designation since 2003 by demonstrating commitment to managing urban tree resources. Tree maintenance has always been the responsibility of the municipal Parks and Recreation Division and is funded by the CBS general fund; however, there is no dedicated budget for urban forestry and limited arboriculture equipment. The scope and complexity of arboriculture responsibilities currently exceeds the capacity of resources and staff. Community Forestry Consultants who prepared the 2013 CBS Urban Forest Management Plan noted that Sitka “is critically understaffed with only 3 positions to manage 54 developed sites and 109 acres of developed parks, grounds, and ball fields. Often urban forestry activities must take lower priority in context of all the maintenance demands. This reality illustrates a major limitation to CBS’s overall ability to protect and expand urban tree resources.” (Note: there are now only 2.5 full-time municipal parks and recreation staff.)

3.5 Criteria to Evaluate New Projects and Investments

As Sitka diversifies and improves outdoor recreation opportunities in town and the surrounding region over time, follow the Sitka Sustainable Outdoor Recreation Action Plan’s (SSORAP) direction to focus on projects (facilities, programs, information) that are economically sustainable. The SSORAP gives direction for choosing which new recreation projects to pursue, an important consideration in this era of decline in traditional government funding. It identifies 7 criteria that use a “Triple Bottom Line” approach and are based on community input during the project (Fig 3).

Sitka Trail Works, Inc. current top priorities are trail maintenance, extending the Sitka Cross Trail from Indian River to connect to the Mt. Verstovia Trail then to the Thimbleberry Lake trail, and, to build the Sitka Cross Trail link from Harbor Mountain Trail to Starrigavan.

Figure 3 - 7 Criteria to Evaluate New Recreation Investments

Guide to Sustainability Criteria	Criteria are aspects of the 3 branches of sustainability: Economic, Environmental, Social.
Benefits Residents	Improves quality of life: opportunities for healthy enjoyable activity; chances for interaction with friends and neighbors, contributes to overall positive community character.
Attracts Visitors	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	Expands access in underserved portions of town, expand access to diversity of skill levels, to range of income levels).
Community Support)	Based on public input to date, recommendations of previous plans.
“Bang for the Buck”	Significant positive impact, modest price.
Financially Sustainable	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.
Minimizes Adverse Impact	Impacts are small, actually positive and/or can be readily mitigated; on community character, natural environment, resident recreational activities.

3.6 Providing Recreation Opportunities for Sitka's Growing Senior Population

As discussed in Chapter X section on demographics, the number of Sitkans age 65 and older, and especially those age 80+, is projected to grow rapidly over the next 25 years. In July 2015 there were 1,248 residents age 65 or older in Sitka, which was 14% of the total population. The Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development projects that by 2030 there will be over 2,000 older Sitkans in town, a 60% increase³. Those who are age 65 and older will then be 23% of the total population.

Providing opportunities to maintain a healthy senior lifestyle enables Sitkans to stay in their community and with their families. The fitness level of older residents varies; some are able to enjoy trails, while others prefer pool-based exercise like aqua-stretch and aqua-aerobics. As playgrounds and fields in Sitka are updated, consider installing courts for pickleball, cornhole, petanque and bocce and similar games that are easy to learn, growing in popularity and are physically feasible for people of all ages.

3.7 Re-Open Sitka State Parks Office

Budget shortfalls caused Alaska DNR Division of Parks and Outdoors recreation to close its Sitka office and lay off employees in 2015. Yet, Sitka is home to three state parks and three marine state parks. One is not maintained and the others are on annual contracts to other entities for maintenance. State Parks should re-open an office to provide management of these local assets.

3.8 Access to Future Uplands and Alpine for Recreation

As uplands are developed in Sitka it is important for the city and borough to retain, or as needed acquired, rights-of-way or easements to provide future access to the undeveloped alpine and Sitka Cross Trail hiking route.

3.9 Remote Area Recreation and Land/Waters

Many of the outdoor recreational opportunities in the borough, especially off the road system, are under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Forest Service and are managed under the guidelines of the Tongass Land Management Plan. Therefore, cooperation among governmental agencies is critical to protect areas for dispersed and wilderness recreation, and to develop facilities such as cabins, mooring buoys, and marine parks. In addition, access to off-the-road sites is most often via boat and kayak launches or floatplanes, most of which are City and Borough of Sitka facilities, that require ongoing maintenance.

Under its Coastal Management Program, Sitka designated dozens of Public Use Special Management Areas off the road system on Kruzof, Baranof, and Chichagof Islands. Within these areas, uplands, tideland, and marine uses are to be compatible with the recreational nature of the areas. "Where practicable, all land- and water-based uses that conflict with the recreational use of the Special Management Areas are not allowed within the boundaries of all Special Management Areas as shown in the figures in Chapter V, except for the maintenance or enhancement of the recreation and/or subsistence resources. This policy does not preclude the development of fish

³ *Alaska Population Projections 2015 to 2045, April 2016*. ADOLWD, Division of Research & Analysis

enhancement projects, including remote fish release sites, when a need is shown and proper evaluation, including a formal public process, has been completed.”

3.10 Katlian Bay Road Extension

Construction of a state 9-mile, one-lane gravel road with multiple turnouts from the north end of the Halibut Point Road past Starrigavan will begin in late 2017 or early 2018. The purpose of the road extension is to increase recreational access and uses. This \$17 million state project will likely take two years to complete and will provide access to both Shee Atika Corporation and US Forest Service (USFS) and adjacent to Katlian Bay and then up the Katlian River. Most of the former logging roads and bridges in this area have washed out. Future planning and work among the USFS, Shee Atika Corporation, the City and Borough of Sitka, and other interested parties will be needed to address trail and recreation improvements, parking, solid waste management, and required mitigation.

3.11 Operating Funding for Mt Edgecumbe Aquatic Center

The Mt. Edgecumbe Aquatic Center is being constructed now at Mt. Edgecumbe High School. It will be an approximately 25,000 sf facility with a 25 yard pool and an area for pool therapy. Partner users are planned to include the Sitka Swim Team, medical community, training opportunities for Sitka’s Trooper Academy, and the US Coast Guard station. The issue is that despite obtaining Capital Funding, no source of operating funds has been identified at this time. This points to the importance of using Sustainability Criteria when planning recreation improvements.

4 Recreation Goals, Objectives, and Actions

GOAL

Maintain and expand a diversity of recreational opportunities for all residents and visitors to Sitka.

OBJECTIVES

1 Maintenance is Top Priority, Followed by Sustainable Investment in New Opportunities

Maintenance of existing parks, trails, fields, and recreation facilities and programming is Sitka's top priority. Use triple bottom line (sustainability) criteria (page 9) to guide new investment.

2 Coordinate

Improve coordination among municipal, school district, tribal, state, and federal agencies, Sitka Fine Arts Camp, Community Schools, and other non-profit organization's efforts to maintain existing recreation facilities, both indoor and outdoor, and to conduct recreation planning. Maintenance objectives are to keep the sites safe, useable, and well-landscaped.

3 CBS Commitment to Parks, Trails, Recreation and Landscaping

Maintain adequate City and Borough of Sitka Parks and Recreation staff to maintain and manage CBS owned recreation facilities; oversee and be an advocate for recreation matters; and manage, maintain, and preserve public trees and landscaping at public facilities.

4 Access for all Ages, Abilities and Incomes

Recreation programs and facilities should be designed to accommodate the interests of all ages, abilities, and income levels.

5 Public Access to the Water

Support interagency cooperation and provision of funding for maintenance to provide the public with saltwater and freshwater access.

6 Sitka Trail Plan - Hiking

Continue implementing the 2003 Sitka Trail Plan and Memorandum of Understanding. The signing partners – City and Borough of Sitka, Sitka Trail Works Inc., USDA Forest Service, National Park Service, Sitka Tribe of Alaska, and the Alaska Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation must continue cooperating for efficient and effective maintenance and trail development.

7 Commercial Use of Parks, Trails and Recreation Assets

Collect fees for commercial use of the parks, trails, and recreational facilities and dedicate these fees to maintenance costs.

ACTIONS

Tbd – see handout with Parks and Recreation actions from 2007 Comprehensive Plan