

# Parks, Trails, and Recreation

## GOAL

Maintain and expand Sitka’s diverse recreational opportunities.

## OBJECTIVES (POLICIES) *It is the policy of the City and Borough of Sitka to...*

1. Maintaining existing parks, trails, fields, and recreation facilities is a higher priority than building new.
2. Design and operate recreation programs and facilities to accommodate the interests of all ages, abilities, and income levels.
3. Take part in coordination and communication among the many City and Borough of Sitka, tribal, state and federal agencies, non-profits, and businesses involved in Sitka recreation.
4. Acknowledge the high value Sitkans place on recreation when determining levels of funding to allow maintenance and management of city-owned recreation facilities and assets, public trees, and landscaping.
5. Support interagency cooperation and funding to provide public access to saltwater and freshwater bodies, shorelines, and beaches for recreational opportunities.
6. Recognize the high use of Sitka Trails both for recreation and as secondary routes.
7. Expand and facilitate community use of certain park, trail, and recreation assets.

**Which 10 actions do you think are most important for Sitka to accomplish?  
Put an “X” in the box of your top 10.**

## 7 OBJECTIVES with 32 ACTIONS

<b>1. Objective: Maintaining existing parks, trails, fields, and recreation facilities is a higher priority than building new.</b>	
A. Consider social, economic, and environmental impacts when determining development of new recreation facilities.	
B. Determine when facilities need to be removed (safety, funding).	
C. Address funding of pools – and prioritize getting new pool open, staffed, and funded to best utilize an expensive community asset	
D. Sites for small neighborhood parks are not shown on the Land Use Plan Map, but the city shall encourage private or public parties to develop small neighborhood or pocket parks.	
<b>2. Objective: Design and operate recreation programs and facilities to accommodate the interests of all ages, abilities, and income levels.</b>	
A. New and upgraded facilities should be developed or modified wherever feasible to provide access to persons of various ages, abilities, and income levels.	
B. Install physical fitness stations at parks.	
C. Maintain open space	
D. Maintain existing and add more dog parks	
E. Maintain pocket parks/green space/trails	
F. Use undeveloped municipal park space for community gardens	

G. Ensure sufficient parking at locations regularly used for unloading and riding snow machines, ATVs, and motorcycles.	
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**3. Objective: Take part in coordination and communication among the many City and Borough of Sitka, tribal, state and federal agencies, non-profits, and businesses involved in Sitka recreation.**

A. Collaborate and seek service efficiencies to keep parks, trails, and recreation sites safe, useable, and well-landscaped. Think creatively <sup>1</sup> .	
B. Advocate for State Parks to resume management of the three state parks and two marine state parks located in the City and Borough of Sitka.	
C. Advocate for protection of remote areas for dispersed and wilderness recreation, subsistence access, and to maintain remote cabins, hiking trails, and mooring buoys.	
D. Promote new recreation opportunities at Katlian Bay.	
E. Advocate and coordinate among Mt. Edgecumbe High School, the Sitka School District, Barracuda Swim Club, the Sitka Trooper Academy, and the US Coast Guard to identify sustainable operation funding for the Mt. Edgecumbe Aquatic Center.	
F. Collaborate with federal, state, and private entities to ensure provision of appropriate types and quantities of camping facilities.	

**4. Objective: Acknowledge the high value Sitkans place on recreation when determining levels of funding to allow maintenance and management of city-owned recreation facilities and assets, public trees, and landscaping.**

A. Review and report recreation funding as a percentage of the total municipal budget as component of the annual Comprehensive Plan report to the Planning Commission.	
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**5. Objective: Support interagency cooperation and funding to provide public access to saltwater and freshwater bodies, shorelines, and beaches for recreational opportunities.**

A. Maintain city boat launches and fishing piers, harbors, and the seaplane base (for it useful life) in order to provide public access to Sitka’s remote recreation areas.	
B. Pursue funding and grant opportunities for development of a new seaplane base.	
C. Support interagency cooperation to maintain, and as funding allows improve, saltwater and freshwater access, including shoreside picnic areas, shelters and parks, especially near harbors and other public facilities; boat launch ramps; and log haul out/cutting sites located away from boat harbors or boat ramps.	
D. CBS will maintain ownership of waterfront land and tidelands.	

**6. Objective: Recognize the high use of Sitka Trails both for recreation and as secondary routes.**

A. Continue to implement the 2003 Sitka Trail Plan and maintain an interagency Memorandum of Understanding.	
B. Support Sitka Trail Works trail expansions.	
C. As subdivision and platting in Sitka occurs, retain rights-of-way or easements to provide future access to the undeveloped alpine and Sitka Cross Trail hiking route. <i>Cross reference with transportation and land</i>	

<sup>1</sup> For example, could the Sitka Tree and Landscape Committee, Sitka Local Foods gardeners at St Peter’s By the Sea church, nearby businesses, NPS staff at the Russian’s Bishop House, Pacific High School students, and city parks and recreation staff team together to help water and maintain Sitka’s downtown’s public trees and landscaping? Could the Sitka Tree and Landscape Committee, Sheldon Jackson Museum, Sitka Sound Science Center, and Sitka parks and recreation and harbors staff collaborate on landscaping and basic tree maintenance? Could businesses that lead hikes on USFS and city trails team together to accomplish a trail maintenance task (in some places visitors pay extra to work in order to both learn and make a sweat equity contribution).

<i>use actions</i>	
D. Require developers to link all adjacent new developments to trails.	
E. Clarify development standards to incentivize open space and trail access in new subdivisions through the planned unit development process.	

<b>7. Objective: Expand and facilitate community use of certain park, trail, and recreation assets.</b>	
A. Encourage more vendors to locate and lease/rent in local parks and on city land (e.g. canoe, paddle boat, and kayak rentals, snow-cone vendors, skate rentals, pop-up food vendors, food trucks, etc).	
B. Collect fees or arrange maintenance requirements for commercial use of parks, trails, and recreational facilities.	
C. Expand economic opportunity at certain park, trail, and recreation facilities.	
D. The City shall support efforts by the Sitka School District to jointly develop school-park sites to meet neighborhood park and school recreation needs.	
E. Develop Use Permits for parks, trails, and recreational assets to encourage, promote, and expand the use of community assets and promote recreation as a builder of healthy communities. Use Permits may include vending, food, music, sport clubs, visual and performing arts, education, and other nonprofit community missions or projects.	