

# Draft Commercial Recreational Land Use Plan for the City and Borough of Sitka

# Table of Contents

Draft Commercial Recreational Land Use Plan for the City and Borough of Sitka .....	1
Introduction.....	3
Background .....	3
Goals and Objectives .....	3
Key Components of the Use Plan.....	4
Determining Carrying Capacity .....	4
Key Considerations for Commercial Recreational Land Use Carrying Capacities .....	4
Methods for Determining Carrying Capacity .....	5
Balancing Multiple Objectives .....	6
Standard Conditions of Approval for All Permits.....	6
List of Assets:.....	7
Cross Trail: Kramer Avenue North to Starrigavan .....	9
Cross Trail: Kramer Avenue South to Indian River Trail .....	11
Gavan Hill Trail Access .....	13
Indian River Trail .....	15
Thimbleberry Trail/Heart Lake .....	17
Herring Cove/Beaver Lake .....	19
Whale Park.....	21
Medvejie Trail and Lake.....	23
Herring Cove Beach .....	25
Swan Lake .....	27
Eagle Beach (Back Beach).....	29
Baranof Warm Springs .....	31
Goddard Hot Springs.....	33
Sitka Sound Islands.....	34
Fee Schedules.....	35

# Cross Trail: Kramer Avenue North to Starrigavan



## CONSIDERATIONS

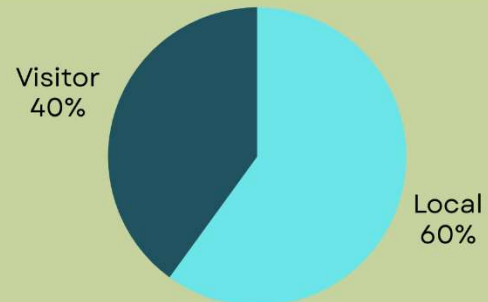
- This page is only concerning the northern Cross Trail from Starrigavan to Kramer Ave.
- Multiple trailheads along trail allow access with varying levels of parking

## DESCRIPTION:

- 2.5 mile section of 8 mile gravel pathway, with many trailheads and connections along the way including Starrigavan, Cruise Dock Connector, Harbor Mountain Road, Kramer Ave. North
- Used for hiking, hunting, fishing, foraging, biking, transportation, connection to other recreational areas
- Bike use is allowed

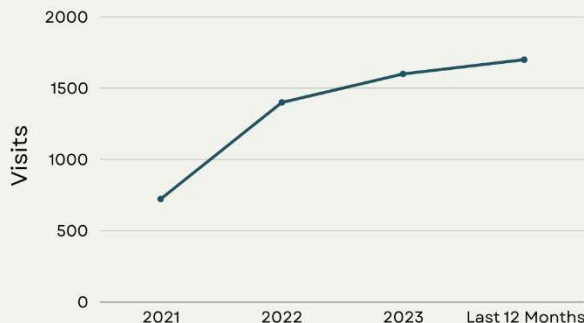
## RECENT USE: Nov. 2021- Nov. 2024

- Busiest day of use on Sunday
- Peak levels of use at 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.
- 1500 users of the trail in 2024
- 23 users on per day on average



Split of local versus visitor trail users.

## HISTORICAL USE:



## COMMERCIAL LEVELS OF USE IN 2024:

- 6 commercial permits issued in 2024
- Maximum group size of 14 visitors
- Maximum Commercial Visitors:  
2023: 3790  
2024 (predicted): 2750

# Cross Trail: Kramer Avenue North to Starrigavan

## Findings

- 1) The Sitka Cross Trail is a highly valued recreational asset that attracts both local residents, commercial users, and visitors.
- 2) The trail is one of the more heavily used in the Sitka Trail system for hiking, running, biking, and other outdoor activities, demonstrating strong public demand.
- 3) Trail condition and its generally wide path footprint do allow for higher allocations of use, however general survey responses seem to focus on keeping it as a low impact path and high value on solitude.
- 4) Most sections of the Northern segments of the Cross Trail favored medium to large group sizes, with the Cruise Dock Connector favoring the larger group size by a slight margin.
- 5) Medium to low frequency of groups were preferred, where again the Cruise Dock Connector had a slight margin of favorability towards allowing more groups per day.
- 6) Allowing bike use, including e-bikes, was generally more acceptable on these portions of the Cross Trail, however e-bike allowances were significantly less particularly as a non-guided permitted use.
- 7) Allowed bike use across all types (e-bike, bike, guided and non-guided) decreased in favorability the closer to the segment was to city center.



## Directives

### Proposed allocations

Trail	Max Group Size	Weekly Permit Allocation
Cross Trail: Northern Segment	9	35

### Proposed conditions

- a. Permitted times of use: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
- b. Only guided commercial bike and e-bike permits.
- c. Weekday preference
- d. Commercial vehicle parking allowed at Kimsham fields back parking lot, SHS parking lot when school is not in session. All other Cross Trail access point parking is for commercial use passenger drop off only.

# Cross Trail: Kramer Avenue South to Indian River Trail



## CONSIDERATIONS

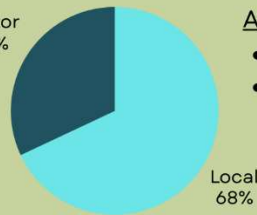
- This page is only concerning the southern Cross Trail from Kramer Ave. to Yaw Drive
- Multiple trailheads along trail allow access with varying levels of parking
- Connects to Forest Service owned land with Gavan Trail where the group size limit is 7 visitors + 1 guide

## DESCRIPTION:

- 6.5 mile long section of 8 mile gravel pathway, with many trailheads and connections along the way including Kramer Ave. Benchlands, Cascade Creek, Charteris Street, Kimsham Ballfields, Sitka High School, Baranof St., Yaw Drive
- Used for hiking, hunting, fishing, foraging, biking, transportation, connection to other recreational areas
- Bike use is allowed

### Kramer Ave to Sitka High School

- Busiest day on Monday
- Peak use at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.
- 1700 users in 2024

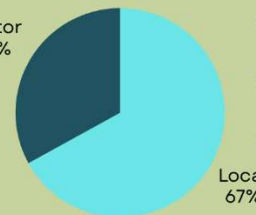


## 2024 USE:

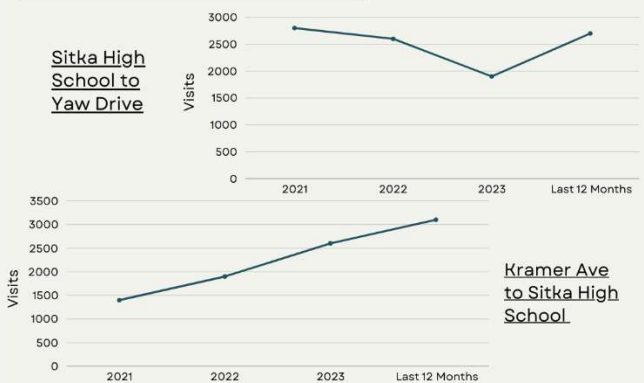
- Average Users Per Day:
- Baranof Connector: 100
  - Yaw Drive: 55

### Sitka High School to Yaw Drive

- Busiest day on Monday
- Peak use from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.
- 1300 users in 2024



## HISTORICAL USE:



## COMMERCIAL LEVELS OF USE IN 2024:

- 6 commercial permits issued in 2024
- Maximum group size of 14 visitors
- Maximum Commercial Visitors:  
2023: 3790  
2024 (predicted): 2750

# Cross Trail: Kramer Avenue South to Indian River Trail

## Findings

- 1) The Sitka Cross Trail is a highly valued recreational asset that attracts both local residents, commercial users and visitors.
- 2) The trail is one of the more heavily used in the Sitka Trail system for hiking, running, biking, and other outdoor activities, demonstrating strong public demand.
- 3) Trail condition and its generally wide path footprint do allow for higher allocations of use, however general survey responses seem to focus on keeping it as a low impact path and high value on solitude.
- 4) Most sections of the Southern segments of the Cross Trail favored medium group sizes.
- 5) Low to medium frequency of groups were preferred, with most areas slightly favoring lower group numbers per day.
- 6) This section of the Cross Trail heavily favored not allowing any commercial bike permits, particularly e-bike use.
- 7) Permitting guided bikes (non e-bikes) showed some interest in allowance
- 8) Commercial vehicle parking at most access points was generally not favored with Walk In/Bike In or Drop-Off favored in some locations.



## Directives

### Proposed allocations

Trail	Max Group Size	Weekly Permit Allocation
Cross Trail: Southern Segment	8	35

### Proposed conditions

- e. Permitted times of use: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
- f. No commercial bike and e-bike permits
- g. Weekday preference
- h. Permit holders shall properly dispose of all litter and waste, practicing proper pack it in, pack it out principles.
- i. Commercial vehicle parking allowed at Kimsham fields back parking lot, SHS parking lot when school is not in session. All other Cross Trail access point parking is for commercial use passenger drop off only.



# Gavan Hill Trail



## CONSIDERATIONS

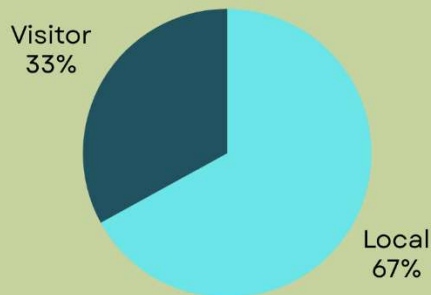
- Connected to Sitka Cross Trail
- Connected to Harbor Mountain Trail Loop
- Connected to Forest Service owned land, where max group size is 7 visitors + 1 guide, 1554 users allotted for the 153 day season May 1- Sept 30, ~10 avg users per day

## DESCRIPTION:

- Trail is 6 miles one way to Harbor Mountain Trailhead
- Gravel trail with wood bridges and wooden boardwalk sections throughout
- Used for hiking, hunting, backpacking, foraging, connection to other recreational areas
- Leads to Forest Service Cabin on Harbor Mountain

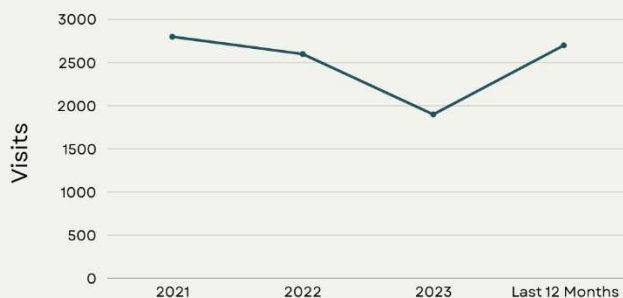
## 2024 USE:

- Busiest day of use on Monday
- Peak levels of use at 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.
- 2200 users of the trail in 2024
- 100 users per day on average



Split of local versus visitor trail users.

## HISTORICAL USE:



## COMMERCIAL LEVELS OF USE IN 2024:

- 6 commercial permits issued in 2024
- Maximum group size of 14 visitors
- Maximum Commercial Visitors:  
2023: 3790  
2024 (predicted): 2750

# Gavan Hill Trail Access

## Findings

- 1) Use on Gavan Hill Trail Access and the Gavan Hill Trail tend to be highest in June and July with Average Daily Traffic (ADT) over 50 recorded in 2024.
- 2) Annual ADT for connecting trail systems to Gavan Hill are projected to be 100+ with some Daily Averages peaking over 134 per day.
- 3) CBS does not govern permits on Gavan Hill Trail, however with access to Gavan Hill Trail coming through CBS trail systems, allowed permit on those trail systems will need to be aligned with USFS Allocations.
- 4) Daily traffic is fairly spread out through the week, with slightly higher use on the weekends.
- 5) General response to allowed use of trail systems leading to Gavan Hill and associated use:
  - a. Respondents largely preferred medium group sizes with low frequency
  - b. General preference on time: 9am-4pm
  - c. General preference on Day of week: Weekdays 46%

USFS Gavan Hill Allocations:

Trail	Max Group Size	May 1 – Sept 30 Allocation
Gavan Hill	8	1554 (10 per day)



## Directives

Proposed allocations (Used as a guide for approach trail allocations)

Trail	Max Group Size	Weekly Permit Allocation
Gavan Hill	8	28

Proposed conditions

- a. Permitted times of use: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
- b. No commercial bike or e-bike use allowed on or to approach of Gavan Trail
- c. Commercial vehicle parking allowed at Kimsham fields back parking lot, SHS parking lot when school is not in session. All other Cross Trail access point parking is for commercial use passenger drop off only.



# Indian River Trail



## CONSIDERATIONS

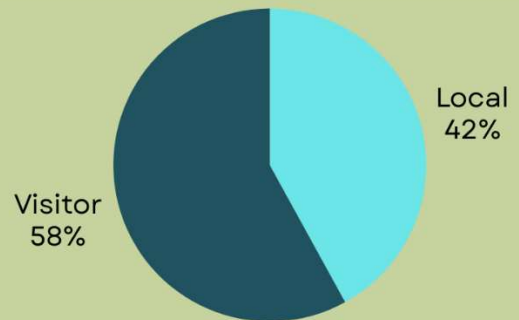
- Connected to Sitka Cross Trail
- Connected to Forest Service owned land, where max group size is 15 visitors + 1 guide, 1554 users allotted for the 153 day season May 1- Sept 30, ~10 avg users per day
- Concrete parking lot at trailhead

## DESCRIPTION:

- Trail is 4.5 miles one way, 9 miles out and back
- Gravel trail with wood bridges and wooden boardwalk sections throughout
- Used for hiking, hunting, fishing, foraging, connection to other recreational areas
- Biking only allowed on first 1500 ft of trail

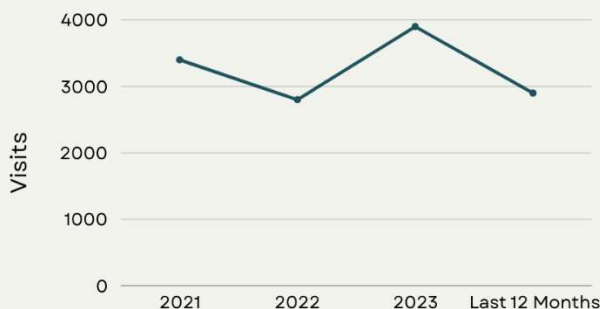
## 2024 USE:

- Busiest day of use on Saturday
- Peak levels of use at 11 a.m. and 12 p.m.
- 1800 users of the trail in 2024
- 81 users per day on average



Split of local versus visitor trail users.

## HISTORICAL USE:



## COMMERCIAL LEVELS OF USE IN 2024:

- 3 commercial permits issued in 2024
- Maximum group size of 14 visitors
- Maximum Commercial Visitors:  
2023: 270  
2024 (predicted): 500

# Indian River Trail

## Findings

- 1) Average Daily Traffic on this trail is 81 users per day and an almost doubling of commercial use levels predicted from 2023 to 2024.
- 2) Trail is permitted for use by both City of Sitka and US Forest Service.
- 3) Visitor use is fairly high likely given relative proximity to downtown access as well as the low level of difficulty of the trail and its rugged feel.
- 4) General response to allowed use of by respondents was medium group sizes with low group frequency.
- 5) Bike use is prohibited on Indian River Trail by USFS.
- 6) Typical daytime (9am-4pm) and no clear preference on weekday vs any day of the week.

## USFS Allocations:

Trail	Max Group Size	May 1 – Sept 30 Allocation
Indian River Trail	15	1554 (10 per day)



## Directives

### Proposed allocations

Trail	Max Group Size	Weekly Permit Allocation
Indian River Trail	7	35

### Proposed conditions

- j. Permitted times of use: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
- k. No bike or e-bike use allowed on Indian River Trail
- l. Permit holders shall properly dispose of all litter and waste, practicing proper pack it in, pack it out principles.
- m. Commercial vehicle parking allowed at Indian River Parking Trailhead only, no parking at the end of Indian River Rd.

# Thimbleberry/ Heart Lake Trail



## CONSIDERATIONS

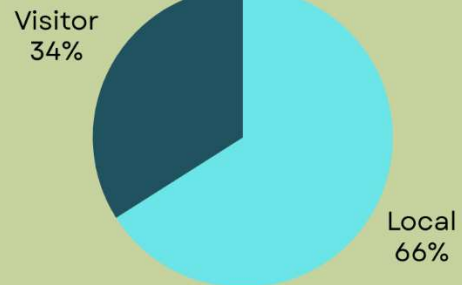
- Trail up to first water fall is city owned, beyond that is Forest Service owned, with a group size limit of 14 visitors + 1 guide, allotted 4144 users for the 153 day season (May 1- Sept 30), ~27 avg users per day
- Two trailheads split traffic

## DESCRIPTION:

- 1.6 mile trail, with two separate trailheads, on Sawmill Creek Road and on Blue Lake Road
- Concrete parking lot off of Sawmill Creek Road and a few parking spaces on the side of Blue Lake Road
- Gravel trail with wood bridges throughout
- Used for hiking, fishing, foraging, ice skating in the winter
- Docks on each lake

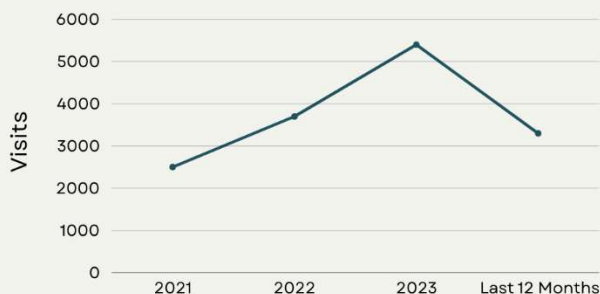
## 2024 USE:

- Busiest day of use on Monday
- Peak levels of use at 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.
- 2200 users of the trail in 2024
- 100 users per day on average



Split of local versus visitor trail users.

## HISTORICAL USE:



## COMMERCIAL LEVELS OF USE IN 2024:

- 4 commercial permits issued in 2024
- Maximum group size of 14 visitors
- Maximum Commercial Visitors:  
 2023: 3790  
 2024 (predicted): 2500

# Thimbleberry Trail/Heart Lake

## Findings

- 1) Thimbleberry Trail and Heart Lake is one of the more used trails in the Sitka system outside of the downtown areas.
- 2) As a heavily used trail it also provides a higher percentage of visits by locals than visitors than other similar trails.
- 3) Management desires focus mainly on keeping group sizes medium to low and frequency of groups low as well.
- 4) Strong desire to not allow permitted commercial bike use.

USFS Allocations:

Trail	Max Group Size	May 1 – Sept 30 Allocation
Thimbleberry/Heart Lake Trail	15	4144 (27 per day)



## Directives

Proposed allocations

Trail	Max Group Size	Weekly Permit Allocation
Thimbleberry/Heart Lake Trail	7	35

Proposed conditions

- a. Permitted times of use: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
- b. No guided or unguided bike or e-bike permits to be issued
- c. Permit holders shall properly dispose of all litter and waste, practicing proper pack it in, pack it out principles.



# Herring Cove/ Beaver Lake Trail



## CONSIDERATIONS

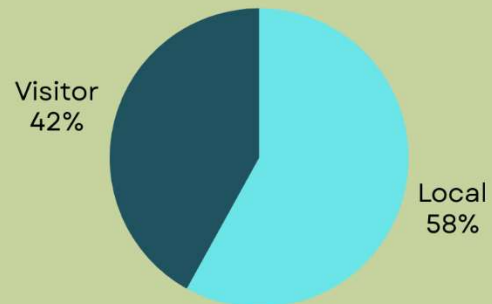
- Two starting points, Blue Lake Trailhead and Herring Cove Trailhead
- Connected to Forest Service owned land, where max group size is 7 visitors + 1 guide, 3356 users allotted for the 153 day season (May 1- Sept 30), ~21 avg users per day

## DESCRIPTION:

- Trail is a 3.6 mile gravel loop with wood bridges and wooden boardwalks
- Used for hiking, hunting, fishing, foraging, connection to other recreational areas
- Biking is prohibited on the trail
- Small gravel parking lot at Herring Cove Trailhead and campground parking lot off of Blue Lake Road
- ADA accessible trail to the first waterfall starting at Herring Cove owned by the city

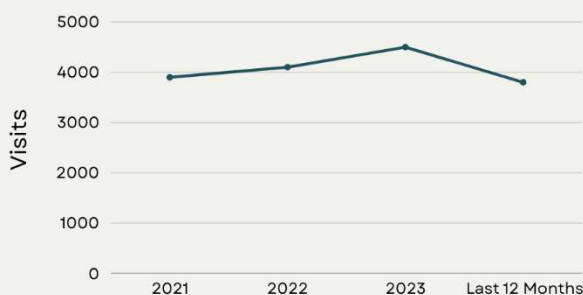
## 2024 USE:

- Busiest day of use on Saturday
- Peak levels of use at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.
- 2200 users of the trail in 2024
- 106 users per day on average



Split of local versus visitor trail users.

## HISTORICAL USE:



## COMMERCIAL LEVELS OF USE IN 2024:

- 5 commercial permits issued in 2024
- Maximum group size of 14 visitors
- Maximum Commercial Visitors:  
2023: 3790  
2024 (predicted): 2500



# Herring Cove/Beaver Lake

## Findings

- 1) Herring Cove to Beaver Lake is similarly popular for use as Thimbleberry, though has a higher percentage of visits by visitors than Thimbleberry.
- 2) High predicted commercial levels is largely due to one operator indicating a desired use for tours.
- 3) Management desires focus mainly on keeping group sizes medium to low and frequency of groups low as well.
- 4) Later afternoon peak use is different from other trail systems, however community survey results indicate a desire to allow permitted use between 9:00 am – 4:00 pm.
- 5) Similar to other trails there is a preference towards permitted commercial use during the weekday and less on the weekends.

USFS Allocations:

Trail	Max Group Size	May 1 – Sept 30 Allocation
Thimbleberry/Heart Lake Trail	8	3356 (21 per day)



## Directives

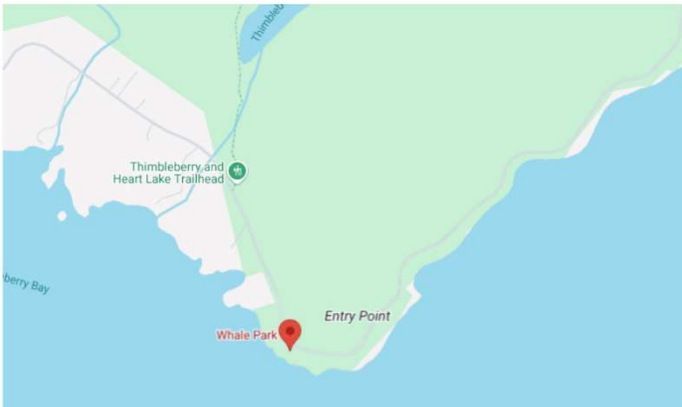
Proposed allocations

Trail	Max Group Size	Weekly Permit Allocation
Herring Cove/Beaver Lake Trail	8	28

Proposed conditions

- a. Permitted times of use: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
- b. Permit holders shall properly dispose of all litter and waste, practicing proper pack it in, pack it out principles.

# Whale Park



## CONSIDERATIONS

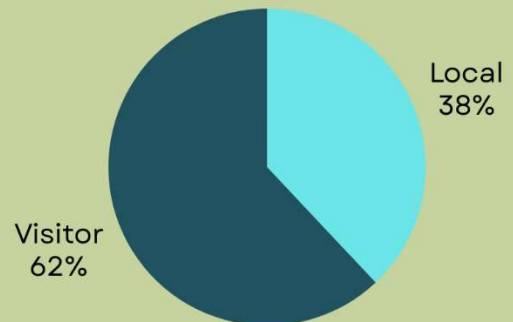
- Connects to city bus line
- Used as a parking spot for people walking, running, and biking Silver Bay
- Only public restrooms south of town

## DESCRIPTION:

- Boardwalk trails, picnic shelters, lookout spots, and asphalt parking lot owned by the city
- Public restrooms open year round
- Offers gathering point, water access, wildlife viewing, and foraging spot

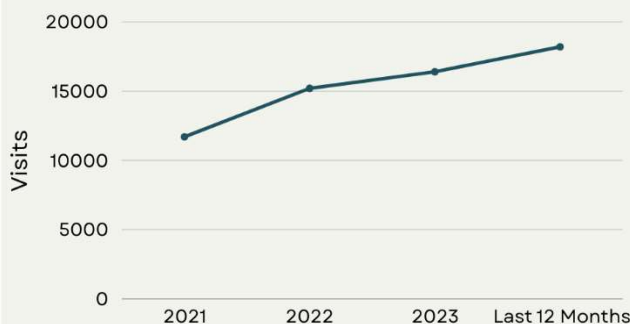
## 2024 USE:

- Busiest day of use on Friday
- Peak levels of use at 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.
- 9900 users in 2024



Split of local versus visitor trail users.

## HISTORICAL USE:



## COMMERCIAL LEVELS OF USE IN 2024:

- 1 commercial permit issued in 2024
- Maximum group size of 14 visitors
- Maximum Commercial Visitors:  
2023: 0  
2024 (predicted): 150

# Whale Park

## Findings

- 1) Whale Park is a very heavily used park and starting/ending point for walking and biking along the Saw Mill Creek multi use path.
- 2) Historical numbers indicate a remarkable increase in use over the past 3 years, with a majority of visitors to the park residing outside of Sitka.
- 3) Management desires were not surveyed in the last community survey, however a commercial use permit was granted in 2024 with a predicted 150 clients.



## Directives

Proposed allocations (Used as a guide for approach trail allocations)

Trail	Max Group Size	Weekly Permit Allocation
Whale Park		

Proposed conditions

- a. Permitted times of use: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
- b. Permit holders shall properly dispose of all litter and waste.
- c. Parking of commercial vehicles is prohibited and drop off/pick up services are preferred.

# Medvejie Lake Trail



## CONSIDERATIONS

- Medvejie Lake Trail is not an established trail and therefore is not regularly maintained
- Users must traverse through stream as the old bridge washed out

## DESCRIPTION:

- Medvejie trail is 0.75 miles one way of infrequently maintained trail
- Used for hiking, hunting, foraging, and back country access
- Users must make their way through NSRAA hatchery land to get to trail
- Users get to trail by using Green Lake Road

## 2024 USE:

Current levels of use calculated by the same methods as the other assets in this list are not available for this one due to its remote nature. We have information about the current commercial use in this area and are looking into other ways to quantify this.

## HISTORICAL USE:

Historical data for this asset is not currently available.

## COMMERCIAL LEVELS OF USE IN 2024:

- 1 commercial permit issued in 2024
- Maximum group size of 8 visitors
- Maximum Commercial Visitors:
  - 2023: 50
  - 2024 (predicted): 150

# Medvejie Trail and Lake

## Findings

- 1) As a more remote trail we weren't able to collect use data that had enough confidence to publish or provide guidance.
- 2) Medvejie had the highest percentage of respondents selecting "No Allowed Use", though still a majority of respondents selected medium group sizes and low frequency of use.
- 3) Use of this area is also complex as the trail access has potential conflict with NSRAA Hatchery operations and caretaker housing nearby.



## Directives

Proposed allocations (Used as a guide for approach trail allocations)

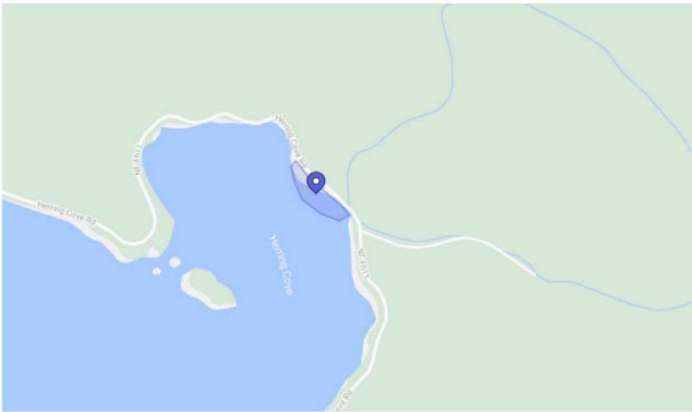
Trail	Max Group Size	Weekly Permit Allocation
Medvejie Trail and Lake	6	28

Proposed conditions

- a. Permitted times of use: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
- b. Permit holders shall properly dispose of all litter and waste.
- c. Guided and nonguided bike and e-bike use allowed on approach to Medvejie trail.
- d. Permit does not authorize any use or approach through the Medvejie Hatchery property and such permission must be obtained through NSRAA.
- e. No public toilet facilities are available, dig a hole 6 inches deep at least 200 feet from any open water. Pack out used toilet paper and feminine products.



# Herring Cove Beach



## CONSIDERATIONS

- No separate parking lot from Beaver Lake trailhead for traffic
- Popular recreation spot for locals

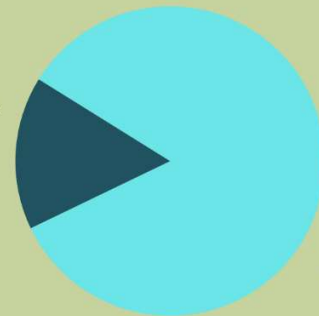
## DESCRIPTION:

- Herring Cove is an entry point for water access
- Launch site for boats, motorized watercraft, and kayaks
- Site is outside of town so experiences less traffic than in town launches

## 2024 USE:

- Busiest day of use on Saturday
- Peak levels of use at 8 p.m.
- 2200 users in 2024

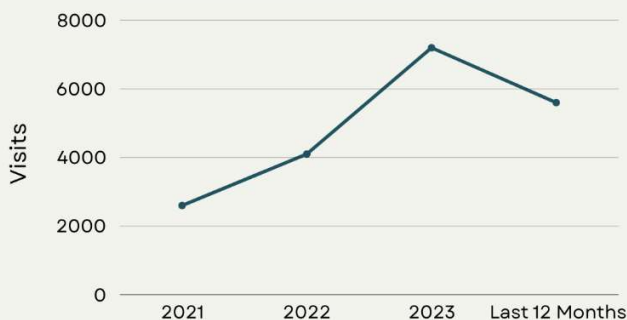
Visitor: 16%



Local: 84%

Split of local versus visitor trail users.

## HISTORICAL USE:



## COMMERCIAL LEVELS OF USE IN 2024:

- 2 commercial permits issued in 2024
- Maximum group size of 10 visitors
- Maximum Commercial Visitors:  
2023: 50  
2024 (predicted): 75

# Herring Cove Beach

## Findings

- 1) Herring Cove Beach is a popular bonfire location and occasionally used as a launch point for small watercraft.
- 2) Peak levels of use are mostly late evening and the vast majority are local residents.
- 3) Desired levels of use mirror most other water access assets, medium groups and medium frequency.



## Directives

Proposed allocations (Used as a guide for approach trail allocations)

Asset	Max Group Size	Weekly Permit Allocation
Herring Cove	5	35

Proposed conditions

- a. Permitted times of use: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
- b. Permit holders shall properly dispose of all litter and waste.
- c. No public toilet facilities are available, dig a hole 6 inches deep at least 200 feet from any open water. Pack out used toilet paper and feminine products.

# Swan Lake



## CONSIDERATIONS

- Only street parking available
- Swan Lake is in a residential area
- Popular recreation spot for locals in town

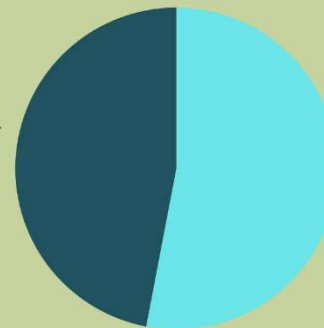
## DESCRIPTION:

- Swan Lake consists of dock and small park with benches
- Lake access for kayaking, swimming, fishing, watersport recreation, and ice skating in the winter
- Swan lake has no parking lot

## 2024 USE:

- Busiest day of use on Wednesday
- Peak levels of use at 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- 1200 users in 2024

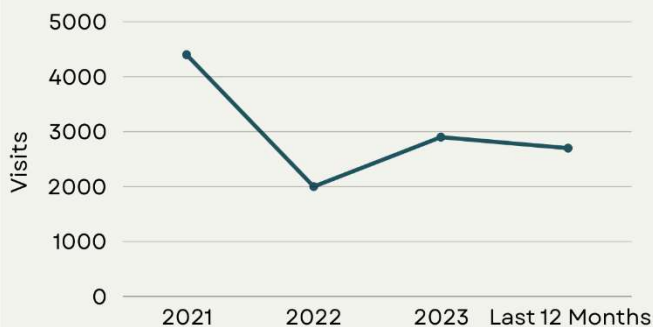
Visitor  
47%



Local  
53%

Split of local versus visitor trail users.

## HISTORICAL USE:



## COMMERCIAL LEVELS OF USE IN 2024:

- 2 commercial permits issued in 2024
- Maximum group size of 10 visitors
- Maximum Commercial Visitors:  
2023: 50  
2024 (predicted): 50

# Swan Lake

## **Findings**

- 1) Preferred use of medium to small groups, and low frequency use allowed, with no clear preference for days of the week when commercial use should be permitted.
- 2) General desire to allow guided kayak groups, with moderate approvals of unguided kayak use.
- 3) Historical use data indicates a vast majority of year-round use is by local residents with large increases in nonresident use during the summer months.
- 4) Survey data indicates some approval of kayak use, with higher approval of guided use allowed.



## **Directives**

### Proposed allocations

Asset	Max Group Size	Weekly Permit Allocation
Swan Lake	5	21

### Proposed conditions

- a. Preferred times of use: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
- b. Permit holders shall properly dispose of all litter and waste.
- c. Parking of commercial vehicles is prohibited and drop off/pick up services are preferred.

# Back Beach/ Eagle Beach



## CONSIDERATIONS

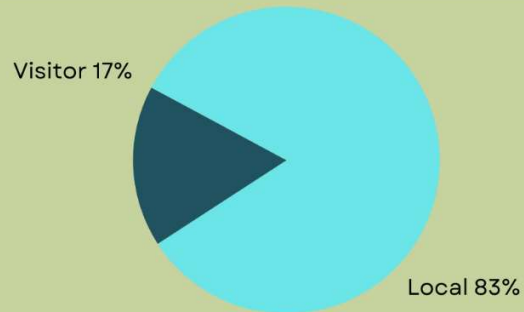
- Popular water access for locals
- Permits have been issued but not used to their potential
- Very close to residential property
- Limited parking in area

## DESCRIPTION:

- Water access for kayaks, jet skis, motorized watercraft
- Parking lot has limited space and street parking can be crowded
- Beach is used as a gathering spot by locals

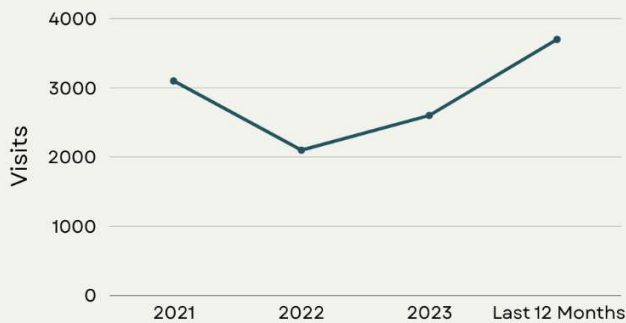
## 2024 USE:

- Busiest day of use on Thursday
- Peak levels of use at 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.
- 1800 users in 2024



Split of local versus visitor trail users.

## HISTORICAL USE:



## COMMERCIAL LEVELS OF USE IN 2024:

- 2 commercial permits issued in 2024
- Maximum group size of 10 visitors
- Maximum Commercial Visitors:  
2023: 50  
2024 (predicted): 50



# Eagle Beach (Back Beach)

## Findings

- 1) Eagle Beach is most often used by locals and has seen an increase in use over the past 2 years.
- 2) Permit requests have also increased over the past two years with one kayak outfitter and one guided jet ski tour permit granted for 2024.
- 3) To date neither operator has submitted year end reports for actual use.
- 4) Medium to small groups sizes were preferred, with medium to low frequency of use as well.
- 5) Public comments generally do not favor jet ski operations using Eagle Beach or other public areas, preferring limiting to leaving from harbors only.



## Directives

### Proposed allocations

Asset	Max Group Size	Weekly Permit Allocation
Eagle Beach (Back Beach)	5	28

### Proposed conditions

- a. Preferred times of use: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
- b. Permit holders shall properly dispose of all litter and waste.

# Baranof Warm Springs



## CONSIDERATIONS

- Remote nature of this site makes management difficult
- Maintenance done by residents
- City owned area surrounded by private property

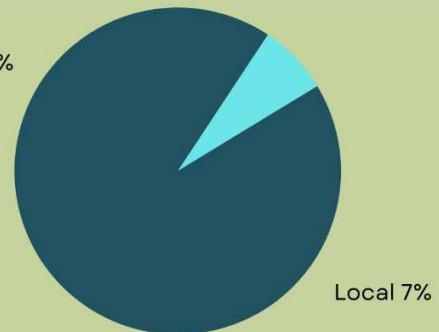
## DESCRIPTION:

- Baranof Warm Springs is a remote recreation site on the east side of Baranof Island
- It consists of a short trail, boardwalk, dock, three tubs, and a picnic shelter
- Home to a small seasonal community

## 2024 USE:

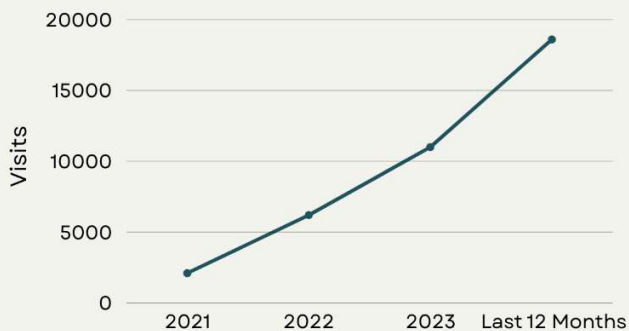
- Busiest day of use on Wednesday
- Peak levels of use at 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.
- 9600 users in 2024
- 259 average users per day

Visitor 93%



Split of local versus visitor trail users.

## HISTORICAL USE:



## COMMERCIAL LEVELS OF USE IN 2024:

- 15 commercial permits issued in 2024
- Maximum group size of 12 visitors
- Maximum Commercial Visitors:  
2023: 361  
2024 (predicted): 780

# Baranof Warm Springs

## Findings

- 1) Management priorities are focused on group sizes and number of groups per day.
- 2) Medium to small group sizes are preferred and low numbers of groups per day was most favored.
- 3) Managing health, safety and outdoor etiquette has a high 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> priority ranking.
- 4) Baranof Warm Springs area has seen a remarkable increase in summer use, as well as permit applications. Most of the increase in permit applications over the past year is due to awareness efforts around permitting requirements.
- 5) USFS, Alaska State Department of Natural Resources and CBS all require commercial use permits for this area.

USFS Allocations:

Asset	Max Group Size	May 1 – Sept 30 Allocation
Baranof Warm Springs	20	----



## Directives

Proposed allocations

Asset	Max Group Size	Weekly Permit Allocation
Baranof Warm Springs	6	28

Proposed conditions

- a. Preferred times of use: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
- b. Permit holders shall properly dispose of all litter and waste, practicing proper pack it in, pack it out principles.
- c. Toilet facilities - ? Public toilet facilities are limited, dig a hole 6 inches deep at least 200 feet from any open water. Pack out used toilet paper and feminine products.
- d. Provide education to clients of etiquette (clothing, food and drink, soaking times, where to wait when tubs are full, etc.)

# Goddard Hot Springs



## CONSIDERATIONS

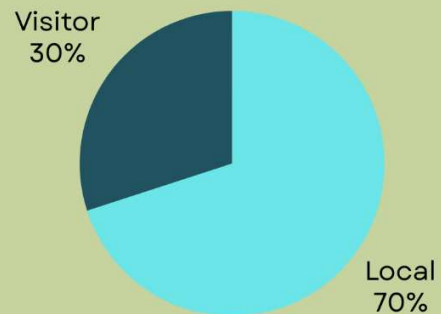
- Remote nature of this site makes management difficult
- Limited tubs means overcrowding can happen quickly

## DESCRIPTION:

- Recreation site approximately 15 miles south of town
- Goddard Hot Springs consists of a boardwalk, walking trail, and two bath houses
- Popular recreation spot for locals

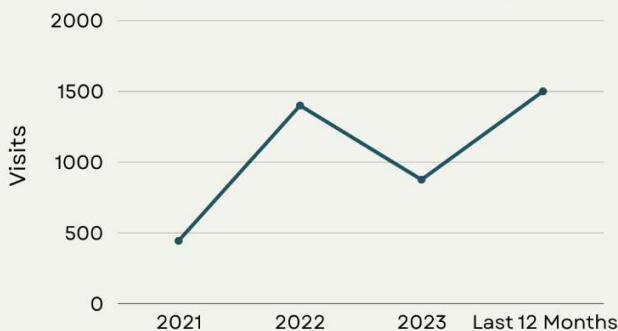
## RECENT USE: Jan. 2017- Nov. 2024

- Busiest day of use on Saturday
- Peak levels of use at 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.
- 518 users in this time frame



Split of local versus visitor trail users.

## HISTORICAL USE:



## COMMERCIAL LEVELS OF USE IN 2024:

- 1 commercial permit issued in 2024
- Maximum group size of 6 visitors
- Maximum Commercial Visitors:  
2023: 0  
2024 (predicted): 50

# Goddard Hot Springs

## Findings

- 1) Current Use data is not available.
- 2) Majority response in survey and public comment preferred no allowed commercial use for Goddard. However, half of respondents selected at least small group allowances.
- 3) Management priorities are focused on group sizes and number of groups per day.



## Directives

Proposed allocations

Asset	Max Group Size	Weekly Permit Allocation
Goddard Hot Springs	4	21

Proposed conditions

- a. Preferred times of use: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
- b. Permit holders shall properly dispose of all litter and waste, practicing proper pack it in, pack it out principles.
- c. Provide education to clients of etiquette (clothing, food and drink, soaking times, where to wait when tubs are full, etc.)



# Sitka Sound Islands

## **Findings**

- 1) CBS has little data available to inform use of most of the island groups near Sitka (Crow Island, Gagarin, Middle and Big Gavanski, Calligan Islands).
- 2) Historical permit applicant has not submitted reconciliation reports for 2023 or 2024.
- 3)



## **Directives**

Proposed allocations

Assets	Max Group Size	Weekly Permit Allocation
Sitka Sound Islands	6	28

Proposed conditions

- a. Permit holders shall properly dispose of all litter and waste, practicing proper pack it in, pack it out principles.