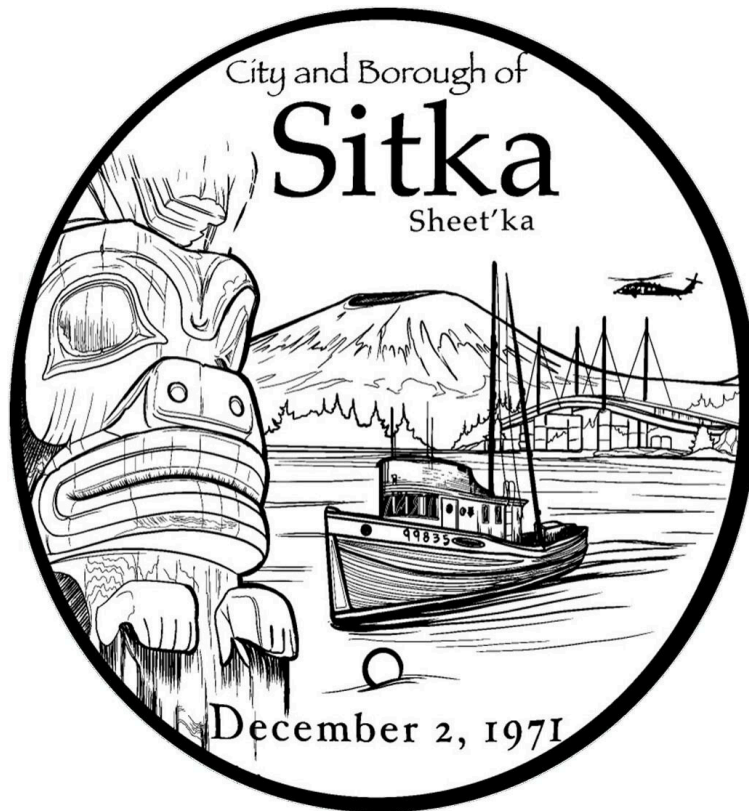


City and Borough of Sitka Recreational Assets



Introduction

The City and Borough of Sitka Parks and Recreation is in the process of creating new guidelines and code changes for the commercial permitting process for use of city owned recreational areas. This packet breaks down the recreation areas owned by the city and provides some data on the current levels of commercial use of the areas.

The provided numbers for current levels of commercial use are from the commercial permit applications that were approved for 2024. The “maximum number of visitors” is the summation of the permits approved for each asset, however the permitting process does not require businesses to estimate visitor numbers for each area, rather just a total for their entire business for the season. For this reason, the number shown is a maximum that is possibly greater than actual numbers, as those predicted visitors may visit any number of the city’s areas. It is also important to note that they are estimates given by the companies before their season, so the actual numbers may vary.

City Owned Trails:

Herring Cove/ Beaver Lake Trail

DESCRIPTION:

- 3.6 mile loop, with two trailheads, one at Blue Lake Road and one at Herring Cove
- Used for hiking, fishing, foraging
- Biking prohibited
- ADA accessible gravel trail to the first waterfall owned by the city, beyond that is owned by the Forest Service
- Small gravel parking lot at Herring Cove



CURRENT COMMERCIAL LEVELS OF USE:

- 5 commercial permits issued in 2024
- 2500 maximum number of visitors under those permits
- Maximum group size of 18 visitors

Thimbleberry/ Heart Lake Trail

DESCRIPTION:

- 1.6 mile trail, with two separate trailheads, on Sawmill Creek Road and on Blue Lake Road
- Used for hiking, fishing, foraging, biking, skating in the winter
- Trail up to first water fall is city owned, beyond that is Forest Service owned, with a group size limit of 15



CURRENT COMMERCIAL LEVELS OF USE:

- 4 commercial permits issued in 2024
- 2500 maximum number of visitors under those permits
- Maximum groups size of 18 visitors

City Owned Trails:

Indian River Trail

DESCRIPTION:

- 4.5 miles one way, 9 miles out and back
- Used for hiking, hunting, fishing, foraging, connection to other recreational areas
- Biking only allowed on the first 1500 ft to the pump house gate
- City owned to gate and beyond is Forest Service owned
- Asphalt parking lot at trailhead



CURRENT COMMERCIAL LEVELS OF USE:

- 3 commercial permits issued in 2024
- 500 maximum number of visitors under those permits
- Maximum groups size of 18 visitors

Cross Trail

DESCRIPTION:

- 8 mile long gravel pathway, with many trailheads and connections along the way
- Used for hiking, hunting, fishing, foraging, biking, transportation, connection to other recreational areas
- Single track mountain bike trails offshoot from the segment between the high school and Baranof Street connections



CURRENT COMMERCIAL LEVELS OF USE:

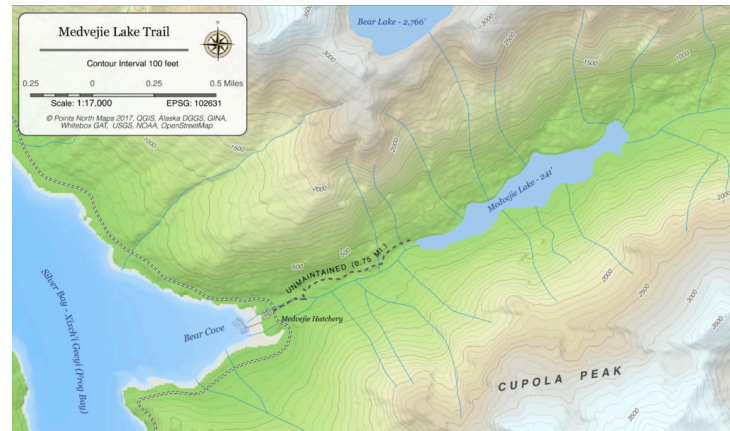
- 6 commercial permits issued in 2024
- 2750 maximum number of visitors under those permits
- Maximum groups size of 18 visitors

City Owned Trails:

Green Lake Road/ Medvejie Trail

DESCRIPTION:

- Green Lake Road is 7 miles of road closed to public motorized vehicles
- Medvejie Trail is 0.75 miles one way of infrequently maintained trail
- Used for hiking, hunting, biking, foraging, back country access



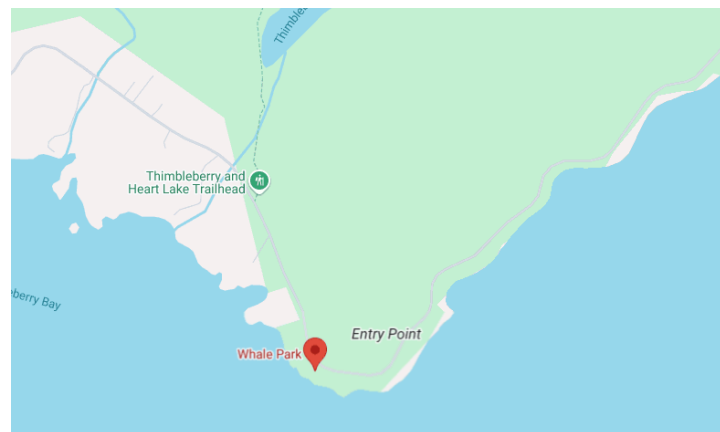
CURRENT COMMERCIAL LEVELS OF USE:

- 1 commercial permits issued in 2024
- 150 maximum number of visitors under those permits
- Maximum groups size of 8 visitors

Whale Park

DESCRIPTION:

- Boardwalk trails, picnic shelters, and asphalt parking lot owned by the city
- Public restrooms open year round
- Offers gathering point, water access, foraging spot, connected to city bus line



CURRENT COMMERCIAL LEVELS OF USE:

- 1 commercial permits issued in 2024
- 150 maximum number of visitors under those permits
- Maximum groups size of 14 visitors

Remote Assets:

Baranof Warm Springs

DESCRIPTION:

- Baranof Warm Springs consists of a short trail, boardwalk, dock, bathhouse, and grotto
- Boardwalk access to private property of small community that live there



CURRENT COMMERCIAL LEVELS OF USE:

- 15 commercial permits issued in 2024
- 780 maximum predicted number of visitors under those permits
- Maximum groups size of 12 visitors

Goddard Hot Springs

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



CURRENT COMMERCIAL LEVELS OF USE:

- 1 commercial permit issued in 2024
- 18 maximum predicted number of visitors under that permit
- Maximum groups size of 6 visitors

Sitka Sound Islands

DESCRIPTION:

- There are many remote islands that are owned by the city
- Crow Island, Calligan Island, Gagarin Island, Middle Island, Little and Big Gavanski Island are the islands that commercial permits have been requested for
- Provide recreational remote camp sites to public
- Minimal to no man made structures or amenities exist



CURRENT COMMERCIAL LEVELS OF USE:

- 1 commercial permit
- 25 maximum predicted number of visitors under that permit
- Maximum groups size of 9 visitors

Water Assets:

Swan Lake and Back/ Eagle Beach

DESCRIPTION:

- Lake access for kayaking, swimming, fishing and watersport recreation
- Swan Lake has no parking lot
- Back beach access to ocean to launch boats, kayaks, jet skis



CURRENT COMMERCIAL LEVELS OF USE:

- 2 commercial permits issued for Swan Lake and Back Beach
- 50 maximum predicted number of visitors under those permits
- Maximum groups size of 10 visitors

Blue Lake and Green Lake

DESCRIPTION:

- Lake access for kayaking and watersport recreation
- Swimming is prohibited
- Popular recreation activities include paddleboarding, kayaking, and fishing



CURRENT COMMERCIAL LEVELS OF USE:

- 1 commercial permits issued in 2024
- 50 maximum predicted number of visitors under those permits
- Maximum groups size of 10 visitors

Crescent Harbor and Sealing Cove Boat Launches

DESCRIPTION:

- City of Sitka operates Crescent Harbor boat launch and Sealing Cove Boat Launch
- Launch site for boats, motorized watercraft, and kayaks



CURRENT COMMERCIAL LEVELS OF USE:

- 2 commercial permits issued in 2024
- 75 maximum predicted number of visitors under those permits
- Maximum groups size of 10 visitors