

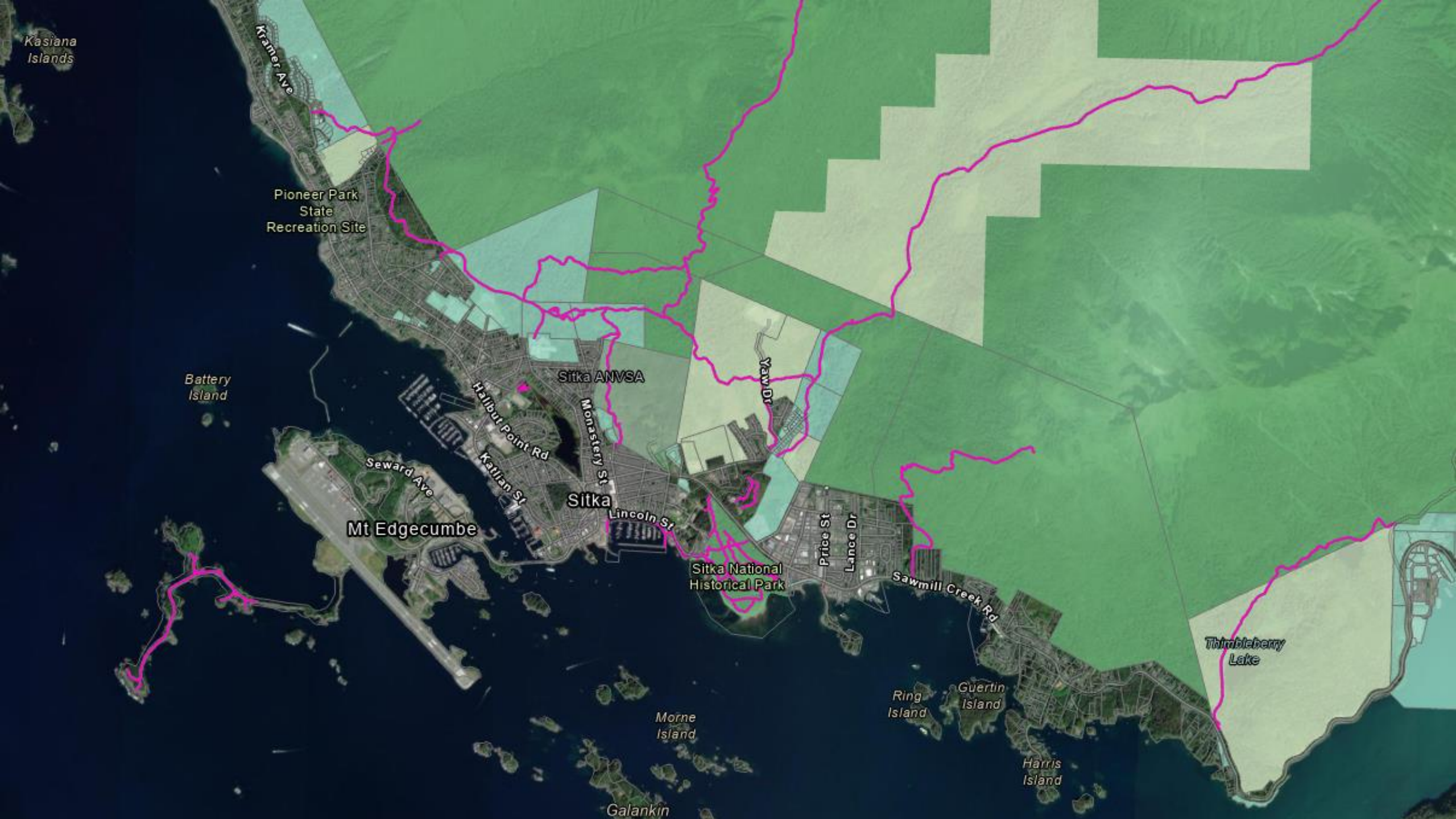


SITKA
TRAIL WORKS

Sitka Trail Plan

Ben Hughey

Executive Director



Kasiana Islands

Kramer Ave

Pioneer Park State Recreation Site

Battery Island

Mt Edgecumbe

Seward Ave

Hallbut Point Rd
Kattian St

Sitka ANVSA

Monastery St

Sitka

Lincoln St

Sitka National Historical Park

Yaw Dr

Price St
Lance Dr

Sawmill Creek Rd

Thimbleberry Lake

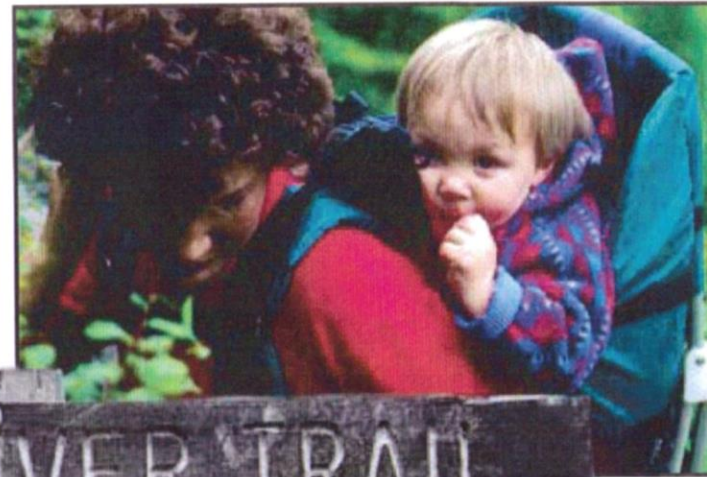
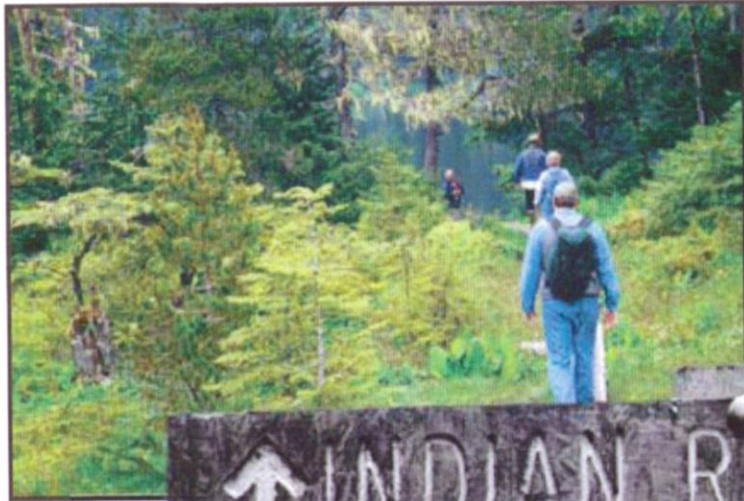
Ring Island

Guertin Island

Harris Island

Morne Island

Galankin



Sitka Trail Plan 2003

Sitka Trail Works, Inc.
City & Borough of Sitka
USDA Forest Service Region 10 Sitka District
Alaska Dept. of Natural Resources Division of
Parks & Outdoor Recreation
Sitka Tribe of Alaska
USDI National Park Service,
Rivers, Trails, & Conservation Assistance
Program
Sitka National Historical Park



U.S. Forest Service District Ranger Carol Goularte signs a Sitka trails memorandum of understanding Wednesday at Centennial Hall as other signers stand by. Pictured are, from left, Sitka Mayor Fred Reeder, Sitka Trail Works Director Deborah Lyons, STW President

Charles Horan, Sitka National Historical Park Superintendent Gary Gauthier, Goularte, State Park Ranger Jim Bunting, Sitka City Administrator Gary Paxton and Tongass National Forest Forest Supervisor Thomas Puchlerz. (Sentinel Photo by James Poulson)

Bringing the Trail Plan to Life

Memorandum of Understanding

FS Agreement No.: 02MU-111005-079

five-year increments unless dissolved by one of the participants. The Sitka Area Trail Plan shall be reviewed by the partners in 2012, progress on plan objectives will be analyzed and community needs assessed. A determination will be made at that time whether to continue, modify, or terminate the plan.

B. Termination, modification, assignment of the parties.

Termination or Suspension: A party to the agreement may terminate their involvement in the agreement by providing the other parties with 30-days advance written notice. In the event that one party provides the other parties with notice of their intent to terminate, the parties will meet promptly to discuss the reasons for the notice and to try to resolve their differences.

Modification: This agreement may only be modified by written modifications, which include mutual consent and signatures of the parties. Request for modifications will be forwarded in writing by one party to the other, enclosing the proposed form of modification, at least fifteen (15) days prior to the proposed date of said modification(s).

Assignment: This agreement may not be assigned in whole or in part from one party to another party without the prior written approval of all parties.

Article 4 – Definitions

“Sitka Area” includes all areas within the boundary of the City and Borough of Sitka or the Sitka Ranger District, whichever is larger.

Article 5 – Standard Clauses

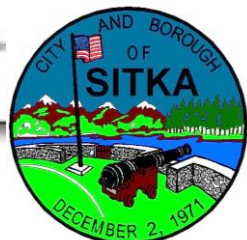
- A. **Civil Rights:** During the performance of this agreement, the participants agree to abide by the terms of USDI Civil Rights Assurance Certification, non-discrimination and will not discriminate against any person because of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. The participants will take affirmative action to ensure that applicants are employed without regard to their race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.
- C. **Officials Not to Benefit:** No member or delegate to Congress, or resident Commissioner, shall be admitted to any share or part of this agreement, or to any benefit that may arise therefrom, but this provision shall not be construed to extend to this agreement if made with a corporation for its general benefit.
- D. **Public Information Release:** The parties must obtain prior Government approval from the appropriate NPS representative for any public information releases which refer to the Department of the Interior, any bureau, park unit, or employee (by name or title), or this agreement. The specific text, layout, photographs, etc., of the proposed release must be submitted with the request for approval.

FS Agreement No.: 02MU-111005-079

E. **Consistency with Public Laws:** Nothing herein contained shall be deemed to be inconsistent with or contrary to the purpose of or intent of any Act of Congress establishing, affecting, or relating to the Agreement.

Article 5 – Authorizing signatories

	<u>03/12/03</u>
City and Borough of Sitka Administrator, Gary Paxton	Date
	<u>4/25/03</u>
Sitka Tribe of Alaska, Tribal Chairman, "Woody" Widmark	Date
	<u>3-12-03</u>
USDA FS, Tongass National Forest Forest Supervisor Thomas Puchler	Date
	<u>3/12/03</u>
State of Alaska, Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation Superintendent, Mike Eberhardt	Date
	<u>MARCH 12, 2003</u>
Sitka Trail Works, Inc., President, Charles Horn	Date
	<u>March 12, 2003</u>
USDI, National Park Service, Superintendent, Sitka National Historical Park Gary Gauthier	Date



21 TRAIL PROJECTS COMPLETED IN 24 YEARS

Indian River Trailhead, Trail; Separated Bike Path; Upgrades to trail 2018 -2020
Starrigavan Estuary Trail
Baranof Lake Trail & Boardwalk
Mosquito Cove Trail and Upgrades
Path of Hope
Verstovia Trail
Cross Trail - Kramer Dr. to Yaw Drive with six trailheads
Cross Trail neighborhood connectors: Charteris, Baranof St., Yaw Dr, Pherson Dr., Cascade Ck.

Cross Trail Phase 6 – Kramer to Old Sitka, Sitka Dock connector
Sea Lion Cove Trail
Beaver Lake Loop Trail
Fort Rousseau State Historical Park trail
Lake Eva Trail
Harbor Mountain Trail Reconstruction
Sawmill Creek Rd Pathway Jeff Davis St. to Gary Paxton Industrial Park
Thimbleberry—Heart Lake Loop Trail
Thimbleberry Lake Trail
Herring Cove Loop Trail

DAILY SITKA SENTINEL

www.sitkasentinel.com • A home-owned newspaper serving Sitka since 1940 • sitkasentinel WEEKEND EDITION

75 Cents Volume 83 No. 68 Sitka, Alaska Friday, April 8, 2022 8 Pages

Trail Works Seeks Your Ideas for Projects

By GARLAND KENNEDY
Sentinel Staff Writer

As the Cross Trail extension that will link Sitka's downtown trail system to Starrigavan nears completion, Sitka Trail Works is seeking ideas on future trail projects.

With ample possibilities for new trails in the coming years, Trails Works executive director Ben Hughey is encouraging public involvement in the planning process.

"We want to make sure we give everybody the opportunity to take the survey... I just really want to make sure that our plans are grounded in Sitkans' ideas and priorities," Hughey said. "And so we're just really hoping that we can get a lot of input from folks who live here and care about this trail system."

The survey is designed to find out what the public would like to see built and maintained.

"A key question is, what are the types of trails you're interested in seeing?" Hughey said. "Is it loop trails? Is it short things you can do with the family? Or is it more challenging multi-day backpacking trips?"

He said the preferences stated will shape this planning process.

"We hope to take that input and go out and find places where we can provide those desired facilities and then develop a more robust plan with specific trail locations and come back to the community in the fall with those options," he said.

Sitka Trail Works is conducting an online survey into peoples' trail usage and their aspirations for new and exist-



Sitka Trail Works crew members carried buckets of gravel to make a new trail near Keet Gooshi Heen Elementary School in 2020. (Sentinel Photo by James Poulson)

While the survey asks people's thoughts on upkeep and improvements on existing trails, Hughey is open to more ambitious ideas as well.

"We're attempting to stay open to big ideas," he said. "We will be assessing feasibility, and what the constraints are in this next stage as we filter and analyze the different ideas that come in, but right now, I want your big ideas."

One possible project, he said, could be a formalization of the trail by the Indian River flume, an idea originally envisioned in the 2003 trail plan.

"Downstream of the Indian River trailhead, there is a water intake pipe for the Sheldon Jackson campus... There is basically a walking path along the prettiest stretch of Kaasda Heen that exists," he said.

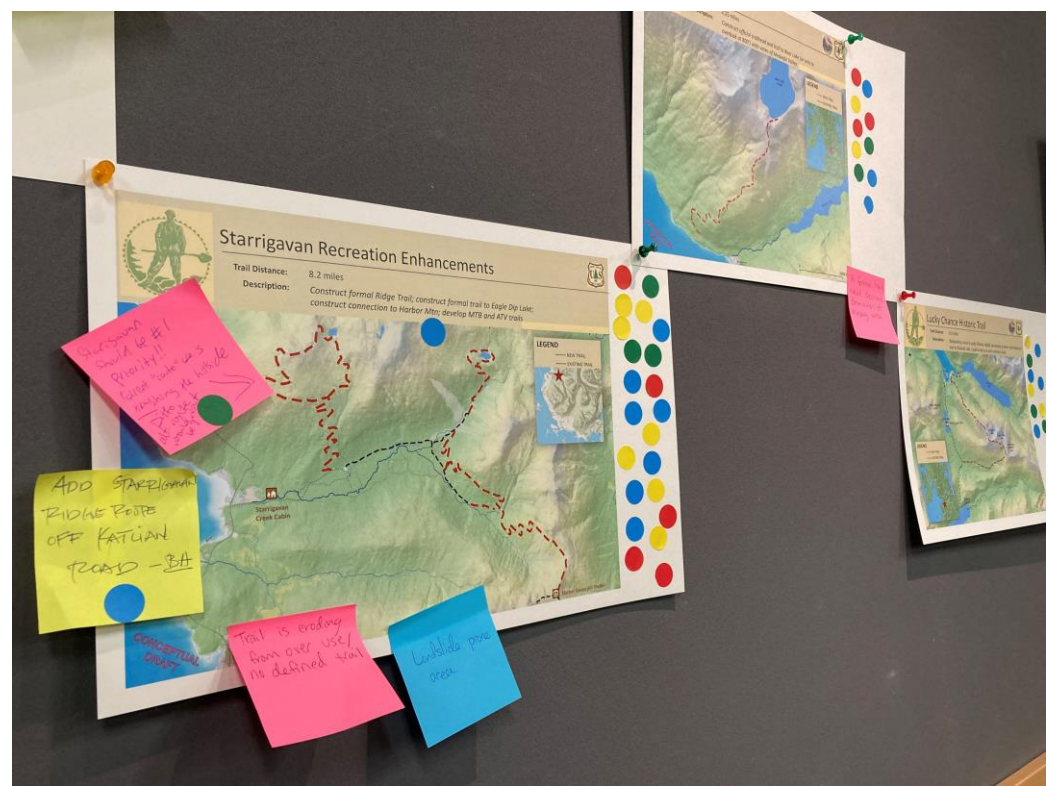
Trail Works and the Sitka Conser-

vation Society have also looked at a possible trail network centered around Goddard Hot Springs and Redoubt Bay, Hughey said.

Other trail-building areas might be in the Katlian River valley once Sitka's road network extends that far, he said.

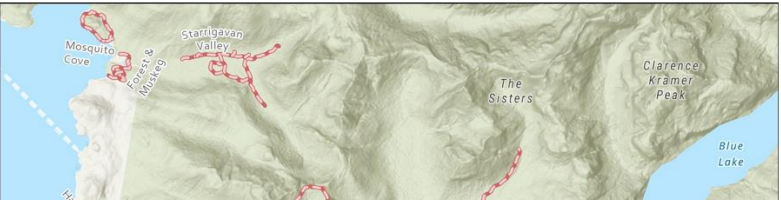
The survey form also has a place for people to make their own suggestions for new trails.

Continued on the Back Page



2022 Sitka Trail Plan Survey

Share your thoughts about the future of Sitka's public walking, biking, and ATV trails! In partnership with city, state, and federal agencies, local nonprofit Sitka Trail Works has invested in the maintenance and development of our trail system over the past two decades. It's time to plan for the future and we need your input. We're evaluating how people get outdoors throughout the greater Sitka area, including destinations reachable by boat.



9. With limited resources, how would you split the focus between maintenance of existing trails and development of new trails?

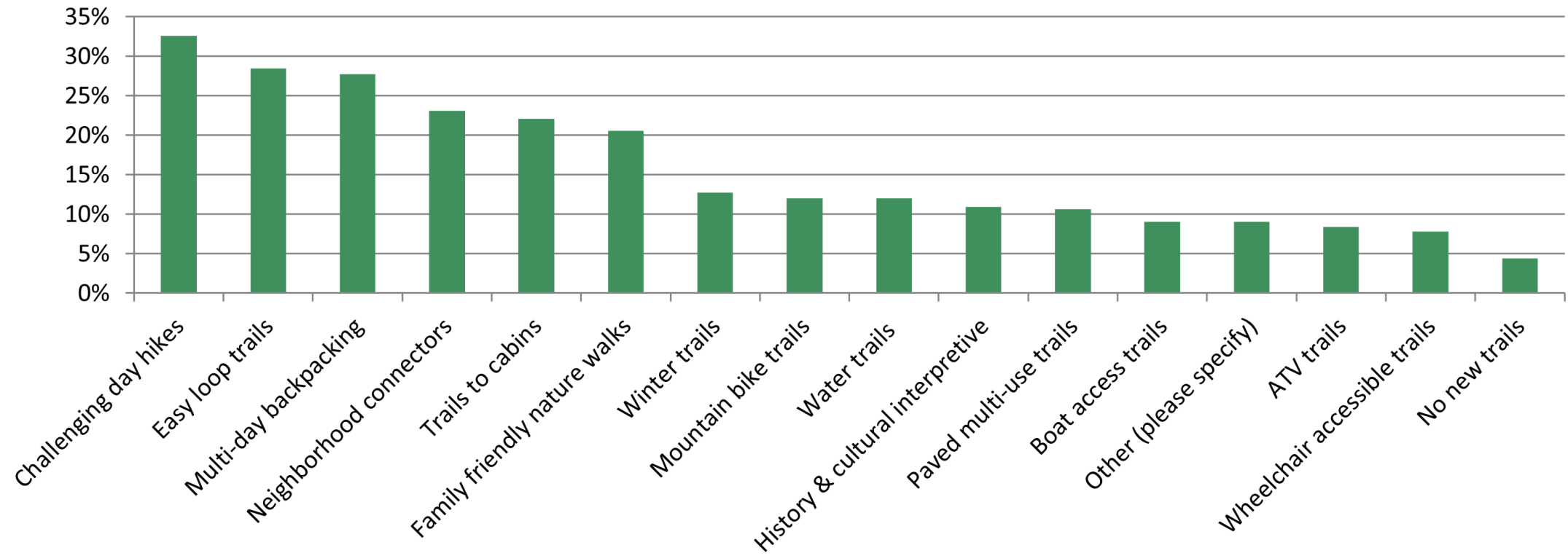
Only maintenance of existing trails 50/50 Only development of new trails

* 10. What type of trails would you like to see more of in Sitka? Select top 3.

- Pathways between neighborhoods and to downtown
- Paved multi-use trails
- Family friendly nature walks
- Easy loop trails
- Challenging day hikes
- Multi-day backpacking trails



What type of trails would you like to see more of in Sitka?

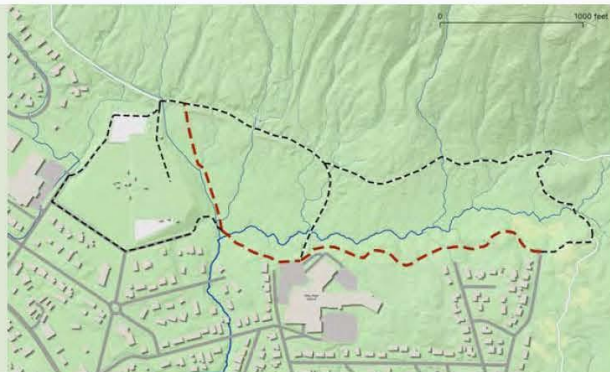


WE ARE SHAPING THE FUTURE OF SITKA'S TRAILS

The following proposals are a few among many concepts under consideration for the in-progress Trail Plan. A full list of potential trail projects will be widely distributed for public review later this month. Visit SitkaTrailWorks.org for more information.

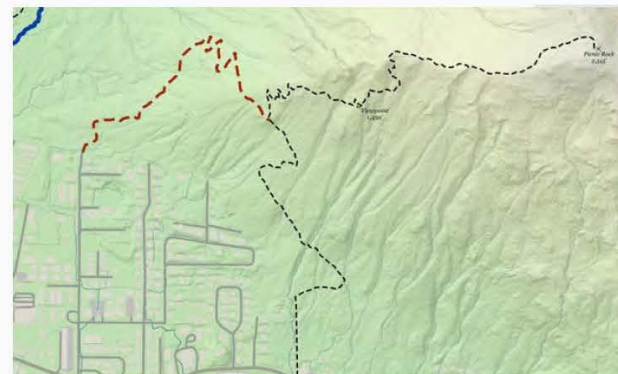
SITKA HIGH LOOP

The Trail Plan Survey revealed that loop trails are in high demand. A few connections between existing segments of the Cross Trail could create multiple walking loop options and provide a 5K training course for SHS Cross Country, avoiding conflict with the lengthening tourist season at Sitka National Historical Park and improving walking and biking access to Sitka High School.



LAKE SULOIA

This trail that starts just north of Salisbury Sound is in very rough shape and subsequently has very little use, despite arriving at a beautiful lake in the West Chichagof-Yakobi Wilderness. A reconstruction could allow more Sitkans to hike up and paddle to the seldom used Suloia Lake Cabin on the far shore, creating more opportunities for hike-in cabins as requested in the Trail Plan Survey.



VERSTOVIA REROUTE

You know how limited and dangerous the trailhead parking is, but did you know that the beginning of the trail is actually on private land? Rerouting the Verstovia trail has long been a Forest Service priority, but the details are up for consideration. Would you prefer a short, steep ascent from Price Street or a longer, south facing climb from Thimbleberry Lake?

SOUTH SOUND COASTAL TRAIL

This idea was originally proposed in the 2003 Trail Plan as a way to improve access to an epic coastline, linking existing cabins and providing a multi-day backpacking opportunity between Kanga Bay, Big Bay, Redoubt Lake and Goddard. Sitkans requested more backpacking opportunities in the Survey, and this would be a world class destination.



FLUME TRAIL

In the center of Sitka is a beautiful stretch of river that most Sitkans have never seen. A pipeline carrying water to the Science Center etches a gravel pathway through the forest, from Flume Circle off Indian River Road down to Sawmill Creek Road. If an underpass could be designed for the highway bridge, people could walk from Indian River Road down into Sitka National Historical Park without the hassle and danger of negotiating traffic on Sawmill Creek Road.



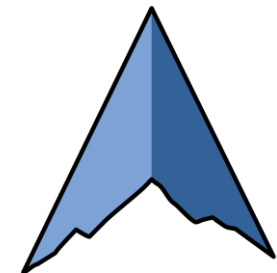
MARINE TRAILS

The majority of respondents to the Trail Survey thought that Sitka would benefit from marine trails, designated routes linking safe landings, water sources, and overnight sites for paddlers. Future planning efforts could identify single and multi-day itineraries for kayakers and boaters to more easily explore our incredible marine landscape.



Sitka Trail Plan & Tongass Sustainable Trails Strategy Collaboration

- Sitka Ranger District internal inertia for planning
 - USFS manages majority of land and trails in vicinity
 - Condition assessments
 - Internal conversations about priorities
- Tongass National Forest elevated importance of recreation
 - Forest leadership buy-in
- Alaska Trails collaboration
 - Early planning facilitation, shared goals, thought partner
 - Support during process, including GIS cartography
 - USFS and State advocacy



**ALASKA
TRAILS**