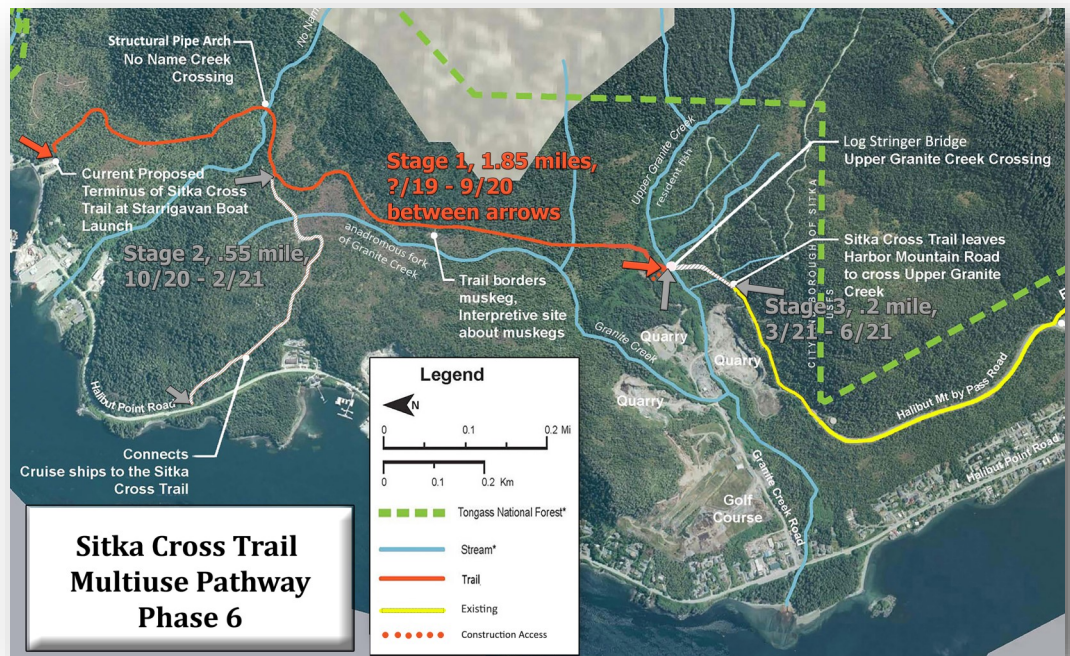




Updates to Cross Trail Phase 6 Construction

The Sitka Cross Trail Phase 6 project is ready and set to begin construction. Thanks to the generous contributions of our wonderful members we successfully raised \$25,000 locally. This amount leveraged a \$117,000 Rasmuson Grant for the match. Combined with CBS's commitment to \$50,000 of in-kind staff time, a full funding package of 2.1 million is complete.



Did you know that there are two forks to Granite Creek? The anadromous fork and its tributaries border the trail as it runs north/south. Upper Granite Creek only has resident fish above the quarry since a waterfall there blocks fish passage. STW with the help of PEAK Engineering has completed the hydraulics for anadromous fish streams for the project's Fish Habitat Permits. Currently, all permitting is complete for the fully-funded trail. The Stormwater Pollution Prevention plan is in place and STW's Executive Director is certified to be a stormwater plan inspector.

Sitka Trail Works scheduled construction work to launch February 15. CBS has recently called for unexpected changes to the trail alignment that will impact our timeline for construction and add additional costs that we do not have funds to cover. The CBS Administration has verbally cleared us to work on the main portion of the alignment, between the red arrows on the map above; however, we are patiently awaiting a written agreement with CBS to begin work. We are eager to dig in as there are limited windows of work to allow for anadromous fish passage and for availability of our rock source. We will continue working closely with CBS to keep moving. Sitka Trail Works is ready and set to "get 'er done" for the 2021 hiking season!

All About the Alaska Trails Initiative's Statewide Trail Promotion

What is the Alaska Trails Initiative?

- Alaska Trails Initiative is a coalition of 13 trails organizations (including Sitka Trail Works) from around the state that are collaborating with leaders in government, business, and the non-profit sector to invest more in the trails we love.

The group is advocating for more investment in to trails and outdoor recreation and seeks to:

- Bolster public support for trails and the outdoor recreation economy
- Secure funding for trail maintenance and development
- Raise awareness of public health benefits
- Expand access to outdoor recreation across the state



Visit ATI on the web to learn more:

www.alaska-trails.org/alaska-trails-initiative.html

“ONE MORE DAY” - What if visitors stayed for just one more day?

- The average length of stay for out-of-state visitors to Alaska is 9.2 days. In New Zealand, another destination outdoor recreation location, that average is 19 days.
- In 2017, visitors spent approximately \$2.8 billion in Alaska, which comes to around \$275 million per day. If just half of visitors added “one more day” to their itineraries, their actions could contribute an extra \$137 million in spending to Alaska’s economy.

ECONOMIC VALUE - What exactly is the economic potential of outdoor recreation?

- In 2016, outdoor recreation accounted for 2.2% of value added in the U.S. – an amount roughly equal to \$378.2 billion and greater than that of the mining industry. Outdoor recreation also grew 1.7% more quickly than the overall economy.

The Trail Initiative coalition will produce a plan for better trails and better opportunities that includes:

- PROJECT INVENTORY - An inventory of promising trail projects around the state, both new and improved
- FEATURED TRAILS - A subset of “featured trail projects” – projects with momentum, clear champions, and strong benefits. Sitka's Lucky Chance historic mine trail and hut system is a featured trail project.
- CASE STUDIES - Case studies for the economic benefits of trails, demonstrating how prospective and past investments generate real returns
- PARTNER COMMITMENTS - Statements of good faith commitment from diverse partners to support trails projects across the state

Support Sitka Trail Works

Join or renew your membership today!
All STW memberships are 100% tax deductible

Planning for Summer: What's in Store?

National Trails Day

On National Trails Day – June 1 – you can roll up your sleeves and help us brush the [Thimbleberry Lake to Heart Lake Trail](#). We love having volunteers to help keep this trail free of bushes & alder trees.

Lake Eva Hike

In June we are offering a hike to [Lake Eva](#)! Our last visit to this trail was in 2012, so returning to this scenic locale is a special treat. The trail begins from Hanus Bay in Peril Strait. Hikers will follow the path adjacent to the outlet stream until reaching Lake Eva.

Indian River Trail

The US Forest Service will be continuing work on [Indian River Trail](#) during the first three weeks of June. Crews will be improving the first 1.5 miles of trail and there will be some helicopter drops of gravel for the project. We are excited for the trail upgrades and will offer a free hike to the waterfall in July. Please stay tuned & plan your hikes accordingly to allow the USFS crew to work efficiently.

Stay in Touch

To keep up-to-date on any event changes or to see more opportunities for volunteering, check our website www.sitkatrailworks.org or follow the [Facebook page](#). During summer, we are typically staffed from 8.am. to noon Monday through Thursday and 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Fridays. Feel free to stop by.



A word on Petiquette

Many of us enjoy sharing our love of natural spaces with our pets. Sitka Trail Works even offers a pet member option to acknowledge our four-legged supporters. However, bringing your dog on trails comes with the added responsibility of ensuring that other trail users enjoy their time outside.



Please remember that some popular walking paths like [Sitka National Historical Park](#) always require dogs to be leashed. For your dog to be off-leash on eligible trails you must follow rules set forth in Sitka General Code ([Chapter 8.04](#)) & by any other land owners. In general, your dog must always be within your sight and under competent voice control. Should your dog fail to respond to commands or disobey you *even occasionally*, it belongs on a leash. Please be honest about your pet's skills. Be sure to keep your well-behaved dog close, carry a leash, and please use scoop-it bags.

Sitka Trail Works Board of Directors

Brian Hanson - President
 Don MacKinnon - Vice President
 Gio Villanueva - Secretary
 Roslyn MacKinnon - Treasurer
 Dawn Johnson - Member
 Jeff Arndt - Member
 Jill Johnson - Member
 Lee House - Member
 Nicole Duclos - Member

Year - Round Staff

Lynne Brandon - Executive Director
 Laurinda Marcello - Admin. Assist.

SITKA TRAIL WORKS 2019 HIKES & EVENTS CALENDARALL HIKES ARE FUN AND LED BY VOLUNTEER BOARD MEMBERS; [TRAIL/HIKE DESCRIPTIONS & POLICIES ONLINE AT SITKATRILWORKS.ORG](http://TRAIL/HIKE%20DESCRIPTIONS%20&%20POLICIES%20ONLINE%20AT%20SITKATRILWORKS.ORG)

Participants should bring a daypack with snacks and water. VHF radio & first aid kit carried by STW Hike Leaders.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Hike Info (round trip distance)</i>	<i>Meeting Spot</i>	<i>Donations / Ticket</i>
May 4 - SATURDAY	Cross Trail Bike Ride SHS to Indian River & Back 3.5 miles Moderate difficulty	Sitka High Cross Trail Trailhead (by Performing Arts Center) 10:30 AM	FREE Membership Donations Welcome
May 12 - SUNDAY	Ben Grussendorf Forest & Muskeg + Starrigavan Estuary Trail Loop 1.6 miles Easy w/some moderate	Starrigavan - Boat Launch Gravel Lot (parking area across road from the launch) 1:30 PM	FREE Membership Donations Welcome
May 18 - SATURDAY	Fort Rousseau Kayak Trek 2 hrs paddle, 2.5 hrs hike	Crescent Harbor - Big Blue Bus in parking lot Check-in 9:00 AM Depart 9:30AM	\$99 (+ tax) - Purchase Online at kayaksitka.com (Click "Upcoming Availability" & select May 18 "Special Islands...")
May 25 - SATURDAY	Herring Cove/Beaver Lake 3.6 miles Moderate w/steep 1/4 mile	Herring Cove Trailhead (out Sawmill Creek Rd.) 9:00 AM	FREE Membership Donations Welcome
June 1 - SATURDAY	National Trails Day Volunteer Trail Maintenance	Thimbleberry Lake Trailhead 9:00 AM	Volunteers & board members welcome! Bring your favorite gloves. Pruners and loppers provided.
June 8 - SATURDAY	Lake Eva 3.5 miles Moderate difficulty	Depart Crescent Harbor 10:00 AM Depart Hanus Bay 5:00 PM	\$110 (+ tax) - Purchase Online at sitkatrailworks.org or call 747-7244
June 15 - SATURDAY	Verstovia 5 miles Strenuous uphill climb	Verstovia Trailhead 9:00 AM	FREE Membership Donations Welcome
June 22 - SATURDAY	Medvejie Solstice Run	Race & registration information on Medvejie Solstice Run's Facebook Page	
June 23 - SUNDAY	Mosquito Cove Trail 1.5 miles Moderate difficulty	Mosquito Cove Trailhead 1:30 PM	FREE Membership Donations Welcome
June 29 - SATURDAY	Mt. Edgecumbe Hike 14 miles Strenuous last mile to summit	Depart Crescent Harbor 7:00 AM Depart Fred's Creek 5:45 PM	\$110 (+ tax) - Purchase Online at sitkatrailworks.org or call 747-7244
July 6 - SATURDAY	Gavan Trail to Harbor Mtn. 6 miles Strenuous uphill climb	Sitka High Cross Trail Trailhead (by Performing Arts Center) 9:00 AM	FREE Membership Donations Welcome
July 13 - SATURDAY	Indian River Waterfall 9 miles Moderate difficulty	Indian River / Cross Trail Trailhead (by Indian River Rd. & Yaw Dr.) 9:00 AM	FREE Membership Donations Welcome
July 20 - SATURDAY	Alpine Adventure Run	Race & registration information Christinemariehoran@gmail.com	
July 27 - SATURDAY	Cross Trail "How to GeoCache" 2 miles Easy	Sitka High Cross Trail Trailhead (by Performing Arts Center) 8:30 AM	FREE Membership Donations Welcome
August 3 - SATURDAY	Thimbleberry-Heart Lakes- SMC Loop - 3.6 miles Moderate difficulty	Thimbleberry Lake Trailhead 9:00 AM	FREE Membership Donations Welcome
August 10 - SATURDAY	Mt. Edgecumbe Hike 14 miles Strenuous last mile to summit	Depart Crescent Harbor 7:00 AM Depart Fred's Creek 5:45 PM	\$110 (+ tax) - Purchase Online at sitkatrailworks.org or call 747-7244