



ON THE PAPER TRAIL

Volume 18, Issue 1
Spring 2018

NEWS FOR SITKA TRAIL WORKS MEMBERS

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CROSS TRAIL PHASE 6 MATCH FUNDRAISING DRIVE

*With your support, Sitka Trail Works can finish building the Sitka Cross Trail, a 40-year community goal! Help **Make the Match** so the project is built in 2019! We need your donation to construct the last 2.6 miles and **Cross the Finish Line!***

HELP CROSS THE FINISH LINE

Do you use the Cross Trail? Sitka Trail Works (STW), in partnership with the City and Forest Service, has been working on the final segment, Phase 6, with design and permitting nearly complete. We are: Ready, Set, Go for Construction 2019. But STW needs your help to Cross the Finish Line! A \$1,811,000 Federal Lands Access construction grant for final phase 6 is secured BUT we must raise \$20,000 as the local portion of the match before the last 2.6 miles are built; No Match, No Project.

Donate today
at sitkatrailworks.org

Background: The Cross Trail is a long-standing community priority and has been a goal in seven major Sitka plans since 1975. Since 2006, over \$2,485,716 (99% grant, donations or in-kind) has been raised to construct and reconstruct over five miles of first five phases of the Cross Trail. Additionally, over 5.7 miles of multiuse, separated pathways along Indian River Rd. and Sawmill Creek Rd. were added during road upgrade projects since 2004. The separated paths, in combination with the Cross Trail, form a multiuse pathway system that is nearly 11 miles long.

Phase 6 of the Cross Trail, the final section, will extend the trail from Harbor Mountain Road to the Old Sitka boat launch, Sitka Rocks cruise ship dock and facilities and trails at Starrigavan Recreation Area. When Phase 6 is complete, multiuse, separated bike and walking paths will run along the entire length of the Sitka road system. The trail is designed to have negligible maintenance needs, withstand high water flows and is in an area that hasn't been identified as a landslide zone. STW will continue to access grant funds for our on-going maintenance program for local trails.



Current Status: By donating to the Cross Trail, you will build the trail and will support making our community more livable by creating more opportunities for healthy activity for families, kids and people of all fitness needs. Trails are good for business, too, they attract a talented workforce and visitors and help sustain a healthy economy.

Let's work together to finish the Cross Trail after 40 years! We need your contribution to reach the \$20,000 match goal. Any amount you can contribute is an important component in our funding plan since demonstrated, broad-based community support is essential to leverage major foundation grants. Help us Cross the Finish Line! Tax-deductible contributions can be made at www.sitkatrailworks.org.

Thank you!

Lynne Brandon, Executive Director

Sitka Trail Works Board of Directors: Brian Hanson, President, Don & Ros MacKinnon, Dane McFadden, Jeff Arndt, Nicole Duclos, Gio Villanueva, and Mary-Alice Henry

Sitka Trail Works Board looks to the future: *“Added value to the Trails”*

The Board has a goal to promote existing trails by “adding value” to expand the types of uses and people who use trails. Towards this goal, they are spearheading an effort to build a small outdoor amphitheater for use in the arts and for event venues. They are looking for your ideas for a location.

Currently they are seeking suggestions of sites for this along the Cross Trail or other easily accessed trails. Parking nearby is another important attribute. The group is considering the Cross Trail above Cascade Creek bridge and another spot is at the beginning of the Mosquito Cove Trail. Let us know your ideas!



One potential amphitheater site at the beginning of Mosquito Cove Trail

Indian River Trail - Major Maintenance Project Summer 2018

Sitka Trail Works worked with the Forest Service this past winter on efforts to secure funding major maintenance of the Indian River Trail using Title II Secure Rural Schools RAC funds. With RAC funds in hand, the Forest Service is coordinating the work and permitting. Juneau Trail Mix crew has been hired to work for 3 weeks beginning June 18. Their work will be limited to repairs over the first 1.5 miles of trail. Their first priority will be addressing safety hazards.

The Sitka Ranger District trail crew will begin work at the same time and spend 4-5 weeks working on the trail. Their focus will be rerouting the trail at the last Indian River crossing. The reroute is about 1500 feet in length and will require two new log stringer bridges. There is no bridge at the location of the existing crossing and it can be tricky to cross the river unless flows are very low. Prior to June 18, the Forest Service will be using a helicopter to fly in gravel and lumber to several locations along the trail. Total project cost is approximately \$60,000.

The Forest Service has a permit which allows them to remove gravel from alluvial deposits near the last crossing. They will be looking for volunteers to fill bags of this gravel for use on the reroute. They will need volunteers fill 50 bags: “DIG, DUMP, REPEAT!” in May or early June. Stay tuned to the STW Facebook page for information closer to the date.



Section of boardwalk to be replaced during this summer's project

Keep Sitka Trail Works strong.
Please support our trails, become a member today!
All STW memberships are 100% tax deductible

2018 Hike Policy Updates: Please be aware of each trail's difficulty and your physical abilities; we reserve the right to turn around any guest. Minors 17 & under must have a liability waiver signed by their legal guardian and be accompanied by an adult friend or family member. Well-behaved dogs are welcome on road system hikes but must be leashed upon request. Neither dogs nor firearms are permitted on off-island hikes. Thank you!

SITKA TRAIL WORKS 2018 HIKES & EVENTS CALENDAR

ALL HIKES ARE FUN AND LED BY VOLUNTEER BOARD MEMBERS; TRAIL/HIKE DESCRIPTIONS & POLICIES ONLINE AT SITKATRILWORKS.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 5 - SATURDAY	Cross Trail Bike Ride Up to 10 miles Moderate to Strenuous	Indian River / Cross Trail Trailhead (by Indian River Rd. & Yaw Dr.) 9:30 AM	FREE Membership Donations Welcome
May 13 - 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 19 - SATURDAY	Fort Rousseau Kayak Trek 2 hrs paddle, 2.5 hrs hike	Crescent Harbor - Big Blue Bus in parking lot 9:15 AM	\$99 (+ tax) - Purchase Online at kayaksitka.com (Click "Upcoming Availability" & select May 19th "Special Islands...")
May 26 - SATURDAY	Sea Lion Cove 6 miles Difficult due to footing	Depart Crescent Harbor 6:30 AM Depart Kalinin Bay 4:45 PM	\$110 (+ tax) - Purchase Online at sitkatrailworks.org or call 747-7244
June 2 - SATURDAY	National Trails Day Volunteer Trail Maintenance	To Be Announced	Volunteers & board members welcome! Bring your favorite gloves. Pruners and loppers provided.
June 9 - 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
June 16 - SATURDAY	Verstovia 5 miles Strenuous uphill climb	Verstovia Trailhead 9:00 AM	FREE Membership Donations Welcome
June 23 - SATURDAY	Medvejie Solstice Run	Race & registration information on Medvejie Solstice Run's Facebook Page	
June 24 - SUNDAY	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 1 - SUNDAY	Mosquito Cove Trail 1.5 miles Moderate difficulty	Mosquito Cove Trailhead 1:30 PM	FREE Membership Donations Welcome
July 8 - SUNDAY	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 14 - 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
July 21 - SATURDAY	Alpine Adventure Run	Race & registration information Christinemariehoran@gmail.com	
July 28 - 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
August 4 - 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
August 11 - SATURDAY	Thimbleberry-Heart Lakes-SMC Loop - 3.6 miles Moderate difficulty	Thimbleberry Lake Trailhead 9:00 AM	FREE Membership Donations Welcome