



Photo Credit: Lione Clare



THE SPRING 2023 ISSUE

ON THE PAPER TRAIL

News for Sitka Trail Works Members

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CHARTING THE FUTURE OF RECREATION

Thank you for your feedback! Over the winter, hundreds of Sitkans provided input on over two dozen proposals for new day hikes, backpacking routes, in-town shortcuts, and reconstructions. While we were blown away by the number of responses (over 3,000 unique comments from 567 people), it was the outstanding detail and thoughtfulness that really helped refine conceptual plans. The majority of the proposals received highly favorable responses, with strong support for upgrading walking and biking facilities on HPR and Japonski, improving alpine access like Starrigavan Ridge and Verstovia, and enhancing loop opportunities. Harbor Mountain was highest ranked among potential locations for a new cabin.

After eliminating a handful of project ideas based on lower community support or agency feedback, we're now further investigating feasibility constraints and refining project scope of the remaining priorities. Once we've reached consensus among agency partners on priorities and the Trail Plan is finalized, that's when the work begins. The journey from the idea of a trail to on-the-ground construction is a long one and we appreciate your support along the way!

TRAINING TRAIL STEWARDS

Are you interested in understanding the science and techniques behind how trails are designed and maintained? Join us for a two-day Trail Master Workshop hosted in partnership with the US Forest Service. Attendees will get a glimpse into the dynamics of hydrology, soils, and slopes that determine whether a trail will last for years or be washed away in the next rain storm. With this training under your belt, you'll be better prepared to steward our amazing recreational trails!

Register on our website for the free workshop.

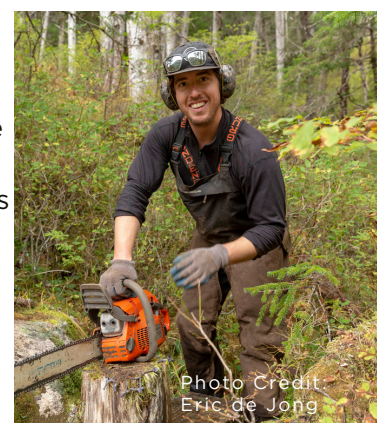


Photo Credit: Eric de Jong



Photo Credit: Caitlin Blaisdell

CELEBRATING SITKA'S CROSS TRAIL

The Sitka Cross Trail has been community vision for over 50 years and we're thrilled for the trail to reach its northern terminus this year.

When Sitka Trail Works incorporated in 1997, locals didn't have a network of trails behind our neighborhoods where people of all ages and abilities could walk, run and roll. The value of a multi-use pathway that connected people with nature and destinations from one end of the road to the other was central to the vision formalized in the 2003 Trail Plan. For the last two decades, the community rallied behind Sitka Trail Works in implementing the plan, providing the support and funding to match large federal grants during each successive phase of the trail construction.

At first, the nonprofit focused on extending the trail north from town to Cascade Creek, rebuilding existing footpaths along the way. Phase 3 brought the multi-modal route to Kramer Avenue by 2012 and served as a vital transportation link for emergency responders to the 2015 landslide. Phase 4 and 5 built connector trails to Baranof Street and Indian River, linking our downtown to the network in 2015.

As we wrap up Phase 6 with the northernmost terminus of the trail and a connector to Halibut Point Road, we want to say thank you to all of you who have been along for the journey! We couldn't have done this work without you.



Photo Credit: Caitlin Blaisdell

CROSS TRAIL GRAND OPENING

Join us to celebrate an accomplishment years in the making - Sitka's Cross Trail has reached its northernmost terminus at Starrigavan!



9AM Saturday, July 1st
Starrigavan Boat Launch



The bridge over Cascade Creek in 2012



An early phase of the Cross Trail opens with Senator Ted Stevens

YOUR SUPPORT MAKES SITKA'S TRAILS WORK

Together, we can build the healthy and thriving community we all want. Your support makes it possible to accomplish major projects like the Cross Trail that keep us active and connected. Renew your membership today to stay in the loop on news, get early access to off-island hike tickets, and be a part of the future of Sitka's trails.

ON THE TRAIL WITH SITKA TRAIL WORKS

WELCOME LILLI GARZA

Lilli (she/her) is a proud Mexican American from Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She moved to Sitka in the spring of 2022 after completing the RAY Fellowship in Chicago, Illinois. While attending Colby College in Waterville, Maine, she took a deep interest in Outdoor Education and Leadership through the school's Outing Club and by leading Outdoor Orientation Trips. Lilli is passionate about community led movements and uplifting communities of color. After interning at Latino Outdoors, she has been focused on increasing access to outdoor spaces for marginalized communities. She is excited to bring these combined experiences to Sitka Trail Works as the Youth Program Director.

THANK YOU DOUG OSBORNE

We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to Doug Osborne for his time spent serving on the Sitka Trail Works volunteer Board of Directors. Over his three years of service Doug facilitated Trail Works collaborations through his many efforts as Health Educator at SEARHC and President of the Sitka Cycling Club. In the Summer of 2022 he led the popular Walk Bike Win program. Doug has moved into a new chapter professionally and we are so excited to see the work he does, as he continues to serve the community of Sitka. Give a wave when you see him around town on his bike!



WELCOME YEIDIKOOK'AA BRADY-HOWARD

Please join us in welcoming our new board member, Yeidikook'áa Brady-Howard! Raised in Sitka, Yeidikook'áa (Dionne) has worked at Mt. Edgecumbe High School since 2000 as a social studies teacher. She will be retiring from Mt. Edgecumbe in May to work full-time at Outer Coast in the fall, where she has been teaching part-time for three years as the Indigenous Studies Lead. When not serving on various boards or leading a Tlingit dance group, she spends time on the Cross Trail, where she found solace and stress relief when the pandemic hit in 2020. Welcome Yeidikook'áa!



Photo Credit: Caitlin Blaisdell

TRAIL WORKS NEW LOOK



Our new logo features the hard to miss shape of the diamond trail marker. Combined with the iconic mountain skyline above our island town and you have a quintessential image of how trails connect our community!



SITKA CROSS TRAIL CITY & BOROUGH OF SITKA Yaw Drive Junction

Harbor Mt./Gavan Hill Trail	7 mi.
Baranof St./Downtown Connector	98 mi.
High School/Lake St	144 mi.
Kimsham St. Ballfields	1.5 mi.
Cascade Creek Rd	2.6 mi.
Kramer Ave/Benchlands	3.2 mi.
Indian Rvr Trailhead Via Yaw Multiuse Path	38 mi.

DONATE TODAY
SITKATRILWORKS.ORG



SITKA TRAIL WORKS 2023 SUMMER HIKES CALENDAR

ALL HIKES ARE LED BY VOLUNTEER BOARD MEMBERS; TRAIL/HIKE DESCRIPTIONS & POLICIES ONLINE AT SITKATRILWORKS.ORG

Participants should bring a backpack, food and water. VHF radio & first aid kit provided by STW Hike Leaders

Date	Description	Meeting Spot	Donation / Ticket
June 3-4 Saturday - Sunday	Trail Master Workshop Two Day Course	Keet Gooshi Heen MPR 9:00 AM	FREE Register online at sitkatrailworks.org/hikes
June 10 - Saturday	<u>K</u> aasda Héen (Indian River) Waterfall 9 Miles - Moderate	Indian River Trailhead 9:00 AM	FREE Donations welcome
June 10 - Saturday	Thimbleberry - Heart Lakes LGBTQ2+ Hike	Thimbleberry Trailhead at 10:00 AM. Check out the Sitka Pride Facebook or email sitkapride.ak@gmail.com page for more info	
June 24 - Saturday	Medvejie Solstice Run	Race & Registration info at Medvejie Solstice Run's Facebook Page	
June 24 - Saturday	Causeway Kayak 3 Miles - Moderate	UAS Campus 10:00 AM	\$75 Tickets Purchase online at sitkatrailworks.org/hikes
July 1 - Saturday	Cross Trail Grand Opening Optional 8 Miles - Moderate	Starrigavan Boat Launch Parking 9:00 AM	FREE Donations welcome
July 2 - Sunday	Thimbleberry-Heart Lakes SMC Geology Hike 3.6 Miles - Moderate	Thimbleberry Lake Trailhead 9:00 AM	FREE Donations welcome
July 8 - Saturday	Herring Cove - Beaver Lake 3.6 Miles - Moderate w/steep 1/4 mile	Herring Cove Trailhead 9:00 AM	FREE Donations welcome
July 15 - Saturday	Alpine Adventure Run	Race & Registration info at Alpine Adventure Run's Facebook Page	
July 23 - Sunday	Sea Lion Cove Hike 5 Miles - Moderate	Depart Crescent Harbor at 7:00 AM Depart Kalinin Bay 3:30 PM	\$165 Tickets Purchase online at sitkatrailworks.org/hikes or call 907-747-7244
July 29 - Saturday	Latino Community Hike and Hangout Mosquito Cove Trail Loop 1.6 Miles - Easy	Mosquito Cove Trailhead at 11:00 AM. Email Lilli Garza at youth@sitkatrailworks.org for more information	
August 5 - Saturday	Salmon Lake Volunteer Trail Maintenance	FREE Volunteer Event Register at sitkatrailworks.org or email ben@sitkatrailworks.org	
August 13 - Sunday	Mt. Edgecumbe Hike 14 Miles - Strenuous last mile	Depart Crescent Harbor at 9:00 AM Depart Fred's Creek 8:00 PM	\$120 Tickets Purchase online at sitkatrailworks.org/hikes or call 907-747-7244
August 19 - Saturday	Gavan Trail to Harbor Mountain 6 Miles - Strenuous uphill climb	Sitka High Cross Trail Trailhead at 9:00AM	FREE Donations welcome

Photo Credit: Caitlin Blaisdell

