

Haines 2025 Comprehensive Plan Planning Commission Work Session

Thursday, May 26, 2011

6:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Haines Borough Assembly Chambers (Public Safety Building)

Agenda

Call To Order - Planning Commission Chair

6:00 – 6:30 pm	Discuss June 3 rd Town Meeting and Pizza Party-Plans (see below) Status of Community Opinion Survey Results Review Comp Plan Contents, Schedule Map Update
6:30 – 7:00 pm	Discuss 1 st draft Quality of Life Chapter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any surprises? • Anything missing?
7:00 - 8:10 pm	Discuss 1 st draft Parks, Recreation, Trails and Open Space Chapter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What’s missing on the Inventory of Existing • Comments/addition etc. on “gaps, issues & needs” • Mark up Maps Work session with public/ recreation representatives
8:10 - 8:30 pm	Discussion: Community Goals (by topic) – a June 3 Town Meeting Item too

TO DISCUSS:

June 3rd Town Meeting & Pizza Party
Friday June 3, 5:00 -7:00 pm Harriett Hall
Schedule of Events

4:30 pm	Commissioners there to help get ready, bring salads
5:00	Town Meeting Starts
5:00-5:25	Commissioners welcome folks; Eat, Drink & Be Merry
5:25-5:30	Welcome & Introductions (WHO: Mayor? Planning Commission Chair? Borough Manager?)
5:30-6:10	Presentation: Survey Results, Some Updated Demographics -Sheinberg (people are eating during presentation)
6:10-6:30	Q&A
6:30-7:00	Planning Commissioners/Sheinberg/Morrison/Others? :“Man Your Stations” - Topics/Word/Maps spread around room to get input and ideas on goals, issues
7:00	Town Meeting Over
7:10-7:30	Planning Commissioner/Staff/Consultants “Report out” - What did you hear?
7:30-8:00	Clean Up

HAINES 2025 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

WORKING TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0 Introduction and How to Use this Plan

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Goals, Objectives and Strategies

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4.0 Quality of Life

GOALS

Celebrate Haines's excellent quality of life, which is based in large part on:

- ***The outdoors and natural beauty***
- ***Our small town atmosphere and community***
- ***The presense of family and friends***
- ***Safety and low crime***
- ***Abundant hunting and fishing opportunities.***

Recognize that quality of life is part of what keeps residents living here and draws potential businesses and residents to the area.

Rating Overall Quality of Life

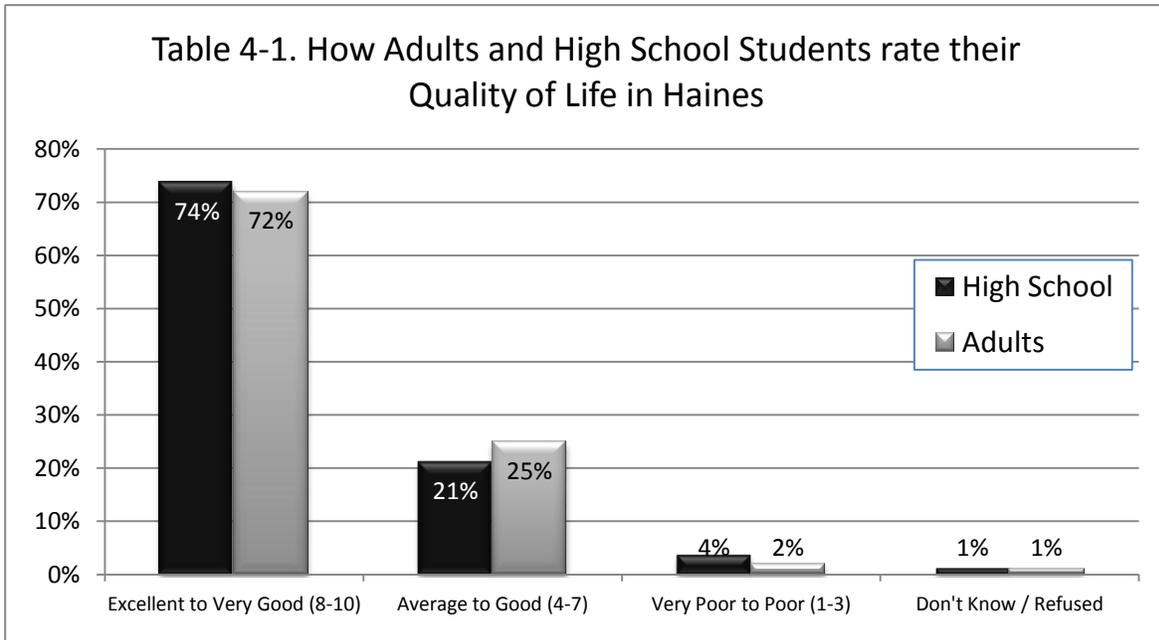
Quality of life is a subjective rating of your personal satisfaction (or dissatisfaction) with the conditions under which you live. Quality of life is a term used to evaluate the general well-being of individuals and societies. It shouldn't be confused with the concept of standard of living, which is based primarily on income. Instead, when asked about their overall quality of life, people blend their general sense of not only wealth and employment, but also the surrounding environment, physical and mental health, education, recreation and leisure time, and social belonging.

Haines residents are very satisfied with their overall quality of life and generally expect future conditions to be about the same. Two recent surveys provide good data on Haines resident's opinions; a random statistically valid survey of adults in households (McDowell Group, 2011) and a survey of 80 (73% of total) high school students (Sheinberg Associates, 2011).

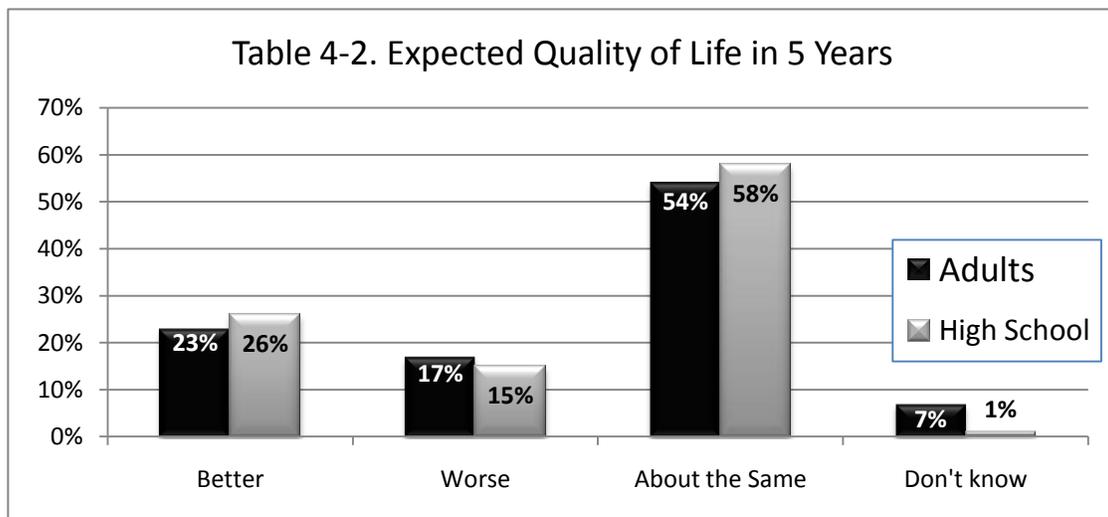
Almost three-quarters of adults and high school students rate their quality of life as very good (Table 4-1). The similarity between adults and student opinions is striking. On a scale of 1 to 10 where 1 is very poor and 10 is very good, the average score that both adults and high school students gave quality of life in Haines is 8.1.

For adults, the age group with the highest level of satisfaction are those 55 and older (mean quality of life score is 8.6) while those in the peak of their working and raising a family years (ages 35-54) have a slightly lower assessment (mean score of 7.6).

Four percent of high schoolers and one percent of adults call quality of life poor to very poor.



Over half of youth and adults expect their quality of life in Haines to be about the same in five years, while 23% of adults and 26% of youth expect it to be better. This is a good indicator about resident’s general expectations for the future. Another 15-17% expect a decline in quality of life.



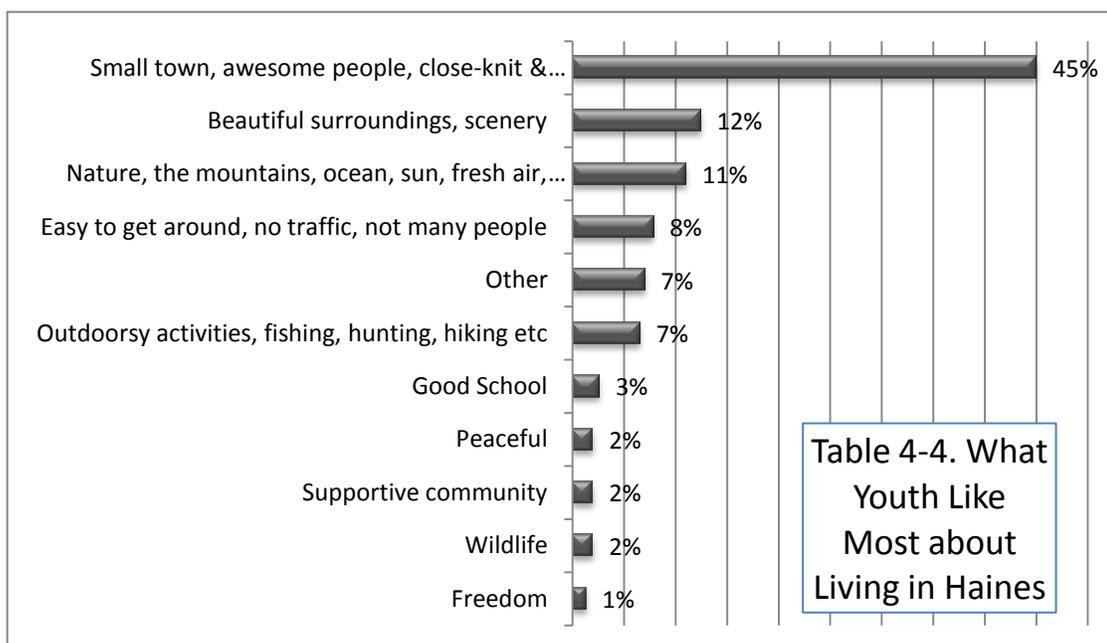
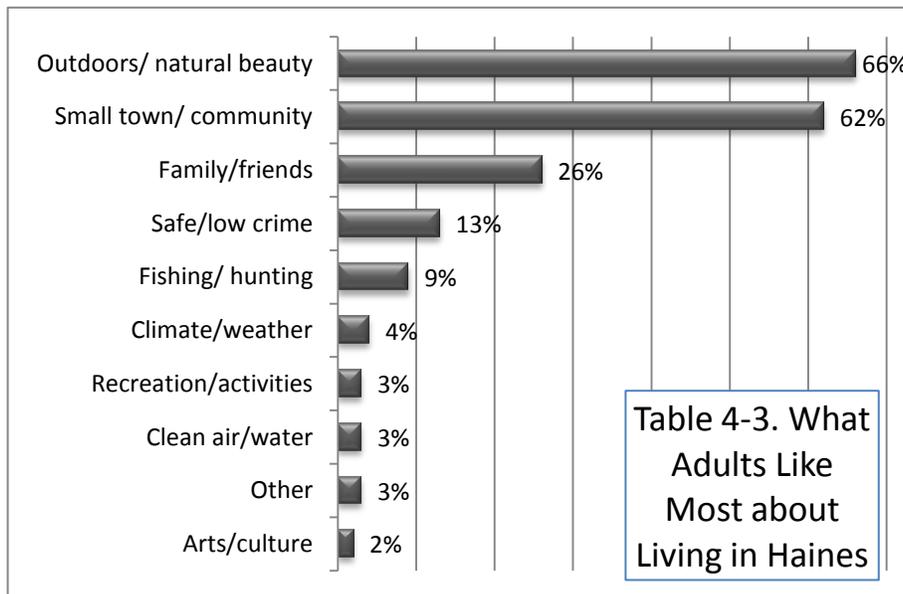
Reasons Why Residents Like Living Here

Regardless of age, length of residency, where in Haines people live, income or employment status, all said that the top two reason they like living here are the outdoors and scenic beauty, and the small town atmosphere and community.

The top reasons residents like living in Haines are the:

1. Outdoors and natural beauty
2. Small town atmosphere and community
3. Presense of family and friends
4. Safety and low crime
5. Abundant hunting and fishing opportunities

Other reasons that Haines is a good place to live mentioned are the climate and weather, recreational opportunity and activities, clear air and water, arts and cultural activities good schools and subsistence. High school students like Haines for many of the same reasons as adults, but the “awesome people,” and friendly close-knit community ranks highest by far.

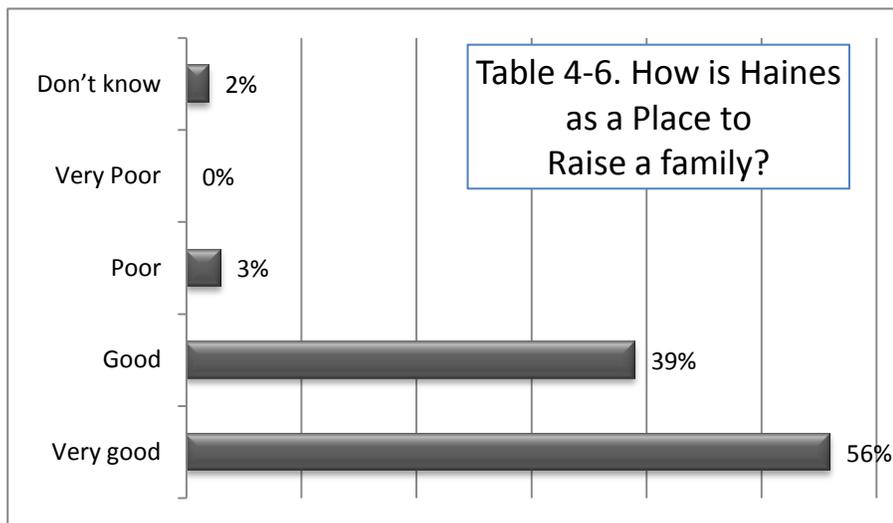


Add para. about youth (may re-aggregate)

Good Place to Raise a Family

Ninety-five percent of survey respondents rate Haines as a good (39%) or very good (56%) place to raise a family; just three percent rate it poor.

Looking at the rankings by age, significantly more younger residents (age 18 to 34) give it a good rating rather than a very good rating (60% good, 37% very good), compared to those in older age groups. Also, those in the lowest income bracket (less than \$25,000) gave fewer very good ratings (43%) compared to those earning more than \$25,000 (61%).



Volunteerism is High

There is a very high level of volunteerism in Haines, a sign of commitment and connection to community, which is intrinsically linked to quality of life. The average number of hours spent volunteering for local organizations per month was 11.2 hours.

Over 70 percent reported spending at least one hour, including 28 percent who spent more than 10 hours per month. Averages by age group ranged from 12.0 hours among those 18 to 34, to 7.8 hours among those 35 to 54, to 14.4 hours among those 55 and older.

Most Important Issue in Next Five Years

In the Community Opinion Survey respondents were also asked about the single most important issue facing Haines Borough over the next five years. There were two fairly common responses: the economy (34 percent) and lack of jobs (14 percent). A diversity of other issues was raised, each with a smaller percent of respondents. Clearly the economy and jobs are on resident's minds, and the success of efforts to increase jobs and economic opportunity in town will impact the future and quality of life in a positive manner.

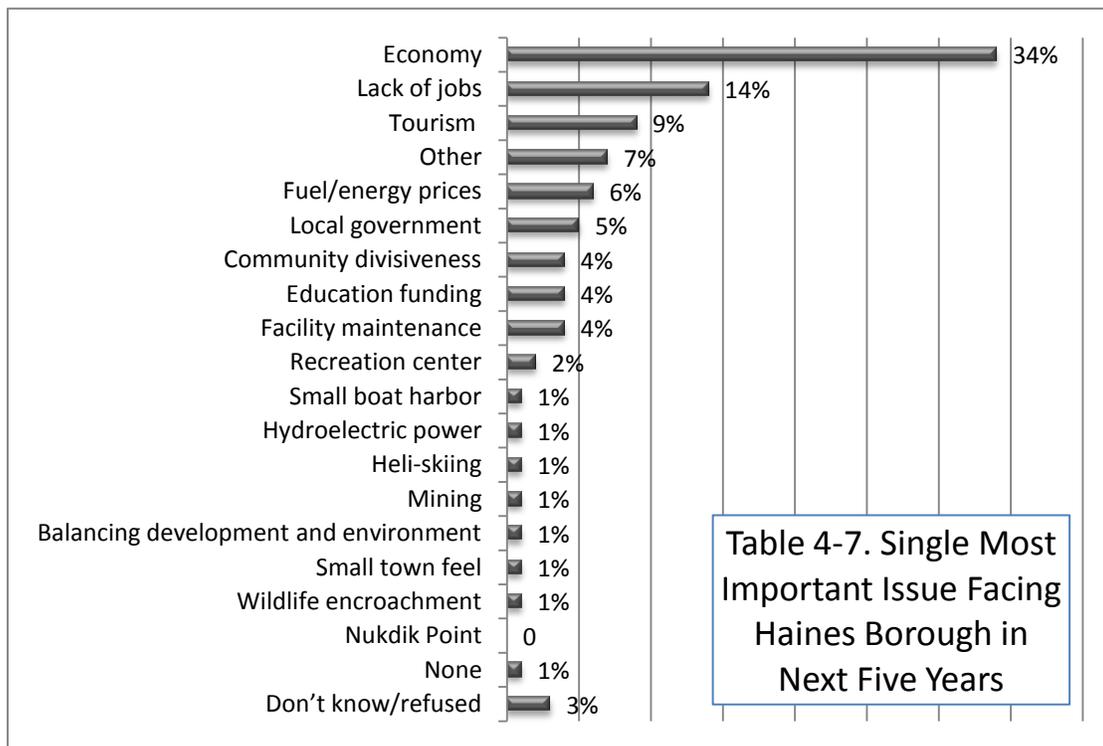


Table 4-7. Single Most Important Issue Facing Haines Borough in Next Five Years

Objectives and Strategies

Objective: Maintain the friendly and close-knit community that makes Haines a great place to live and a safe, affordable place to raise a family.

Objective: Achieve a healthy year-round economy that makes it possible for individuals and families in the Haines Borough to live securely and comfortably.

Objective: Encourage growth and development in the Haines Borough in a manner that:

- Protects and enhances the health, safety and well-being of residents;
- Both protects and takes advantage of the area’s natural beauty and scenery;
- Maintains the easy access to and wealth of fish, wildlife and recreation resources;
- Celebrates our rich and diverse history and culture;
- Fosters civic dialogue, respect for and appreciation of differences
- Supports and expands the diversity of health services that are locally available.

Strategy: Implementing the objectives and strategies in the Haines Borough Comprehensive Plan will help accomplish the Quality of Life goals and objectives.

8.0 Parks, Recreation, Trails and Open Space

Goals

- 1. Provide a diversity of parks, recreation facilities, trails and open spaces to meet the needs of Haines residents now and in the future.*
 - 2. Capitalize on the community's unique setting and natural beauty to develop recreation opportunities for the enjoyment of residents and visitors.*
-

Overview

The community of Haines offers an extraordinary setting for people to hike, walk, boat, bicycle, hunt, camp, and fish and residents love their community in part because of these outdoor recreation opportunities. Haines has a diversity of recreation facilities that appeal to both residents and visitors. Parks, trails, natural areas, open spaces, developed facilities, and recreation programs are essential elements of any community and are vital to quality of life, public health, and economic development.

In Haines, recreation opportunities include:

- Developed recreational facilities such as playgrounds, sports fields and board-walked, gravel, or paved trails in more urban places.
- More dispersed recreation that often depends on some type of developed access such as walking, hiking, on the road and off-road biking, camping, boating, kayaking.
- Mostly or completely undeveloped land for hunting, fishing or simply enjoying the view.
- Areas set aside for wetlands mitigation and to protect community drinking water sources.

Both the Haines Borough and the Alaska State Parks own and maintain recreation facilities in the Borough. There are also several areas set aside for remote recreation on US Forest Service land. Haines is lucky to have several community groups (Haines Bikes, Well & Fit, Haines Ski Club, etc.) whose volunteers commit time and money to maintaining existing and developing new facilities.

According to the community opinion survey, over 50% of respondents participate in hiking and fishing. Other activities enjoyed by more than 20% of respondents are walking, boating, biking, hunting, snow machining and cross-country skiing.

In the last year, what types of recreational activities did you participate in, in the Haines area?

Base=210	% of Total
Hiking	52%
Fishing	52
Walking	29
Boating	27
Biking	26
Hunting	22
Snow-machining	22
Cross-country skiing	21
Kayaking/canoeing	13
Swimming	10
Snow-shoeing	10
Downhill skiing/snowboarding	6
4-wheeling	6
Running/jogging	6
Ice skating	4
Heli-skiing	3
Gardening	3
Basketball	2
Berry-picking	2
Camping	2
Softball	1
Baseball	1
Tennis	1
Other	15
None	4
Don't know/refused	<1

Multiple responses accepted. A list of "other" responses is included in the appendix.

The rates of participation in recreation activities varied somewhat with age and gender (see table below). The top three activities most participated in for the entire community are hiking, fishing and walking. For women the most popular activity is hiking, for men it is fishing. For those over 55 walking is tied with fishing for top spot.

Participation in recreational activities is varies across age groups. For residents over 55, the top three activities are fishing, walking, and hiking. For respondents age 18 to 34 the top three activities are hiking, fishing and biking and for respondents age 35 to 55 the top activities are hiking and fishing (tied) and biking and snow-machining.

	Hiking	Fishing	Walking	Boating	Biking	Hunting	Snow-Machining	Cross-country Skiing
Overall	52%	52%	29%	27%	26%	22%	22%	21%
Age 18-34	70%	60%	23%	37%	47%	33%	33%	40%
Age 35 – 54	63%	63%	21%	27%	31%	23%	31%	19%
Age 55+	34%	38%	38%	24%	13%	17%	8%	15%
Female	57%	42%	40%	25%	32%	12%	20%	26%
Male	44%	68%	12%	30%	17%	39%	24%	12%

Inventory of Existing Recreation Assets

The community’s existing recreation destinations, including indoor facilities, trails, playgrounds and sports fields, and remote areas are shown on Map I.

A. Indoor Recreation Facilities

Haines has a well-used **SWIMMING POOL** which is 35 x 75 feet with six swimming lanes. In 2010, an average of 1,350 patrons used the pool every month. Swimming lessons, open swims, lanes swims, water aerobics, senior’s fitness classes, and water safety classes for children and for fishermen are offered. The pool is also used for kayaking classes and by the Alaska Mountain Guides for water rescue training. There is a full time pool manager, an instructor who works 25 hours a week, and six part time lifeguards.

The Borough owned **CHILKAT CENTER** has a space that is used for a range of dance, exercise, and martial arts classes. The **HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM** is available for use by the community after school hours and there are currently basketball leagues for a range of ages.

B. Playgrounds and Sports Fields

The **TLINGIT PARK PLAYGROUND** located between Front Street, 2nd Avenue and the Haines Highway. The playground has a large play structure, swings, a picnic shelter, water, historic cemetery, band stand and restrooms. This park was improved in 2003 and many local residents and businesses donated labor, tools and materials.

On the **SCHOOL GROUNDS** there are two basketball courts, one covered and one uncovered, a softball diamond, tennis courts, a running track and a playing field. The turf on the playing field is not in good condition.

MAY 20 DRAFT

Map I. Existing Parks, Recreation and Trails

OSLUND PARK, located at the corner of Sawmill Creek Road and the Haines Highway, and has two baseball diamonds, a play area with new playground equipment, restrooms and a quonset hut and concrete pad used as a skate park.

The **STATE FAIRGROUNDS** is home to many recreational facilities including a horse arena used for competitions, sand volley ball court, little league diamond, disc golf course and is where residents make an ice rink when weather permits.

EMERSON FIELD, at the corner of the Haines Highway and the Mosquito Lake Road, was recently acquired by the Borough from a private land owner. There is a baseball diamond and some play equipment.

C. Developed Parks and Outdoor Recreation

LOOKOUT PARK, located between the Boat Harbor and Tlingit Park on Beach Road, consists of a covered gazebo structure with benches, a memorial to those lost at sea and a parking area. The **FORT SEWARD PARADE FIELD** is a large grassy area located in the center of the historic Fort William H. Seward. There are restrooms, parking, a salmon bake facility and a native tribal house on the grounds.

At **TANANI BAY**, a new pull-out and disabled access area has been developed to provide access to Tank Farm Beach. There is a parking area, picnic tables, restrooms, and a paved access path and viewing area allowing disabled access to the beach.

Valley of the Eagles **GOLF COURSE** is a privately owned 9-hole golf course located on the tidelands adjacent to the airport at 1.5 mile Haines Highway. There is a driving range near 33 mile Road House.

The **PORTAGE COVE STATE RECREATION** area is on the shoreline near downtown Haines and offers a wonderful view of the Chilkoot Inlet and surrounding mountains. There is a day use picnic area and several campsites for bicycle or walk-in camping.

The **CHILKOOT LAKE STATE RECREATION** site is at the south end of Chilkoot Lake, near the outlet to the Chilkoot River. There are 35 campsites, a boat launch and a picnic shelter. The park and surrounding area offers some of the best salmon fishing in Southeast Alaska, with four salmon runs, starting in mid-June and ending in mid-October. Because of the salmon spawning in the river and at this end of the lake, this area is also a bear highway.

CHILKAT STATE PARK is on Chilkat Inlet and has a log cabin information center, 35-site campground, picnic area, boat launch and trails. The boat launch provides access to the inlet and the run of king salmon in early June. The information center offers views of Chilkat Inlet, Rainbow and Davidson glaciers. There are three trails in the park; Seduction Point, Battery Point and Mount Riley.

The **CHILKAT BALD EAGLE PRESERVE** was created by the State of Alaska in 1982 to protect and perpetuate one of the world's largest concentration of Bald Eagles and their critical habitat. It also sustains and protects the natural salmon runs and allows for traditional uses;

provided such uses do not adversely affect preserve resources. The Preserve consists of 48,000 acres of river bottom land of the Chilkat, Kleheni, and Tsirku Rivers. There are designated parking areas between Haines Highway and the river and a two mile riverside trail.

The **MOSQUITO LAKE STATE RECREATION** area is 27 miles northwest of Haines off of the Haines Highway. There are five campsites beside Mosquito Lake in a sitka spruce and western hemlock forest. There is a small dock and unimproved boat launch to access the lake.

D. Trail Network

Hiking, walking, biking and cross-country skiing are all popular recreation activities in Haines and the existing formal trails are listed below. Some of these trails are in good condition; many of them require maintenance.

Existing conditions and required improvements for walking and biking along city streets and on separated paths between community destinations are considered part of the community's transportation system and will be considered in the non-motorized transportation section.

The **BATTERY POINT TRAIL**, on Alaska State Parks Land, is an easy 1.2 mile trail that follows the shoreline and provides access to beaches and the Mount Riley Trail. The trailhead is at the end of Beach Road and there is a parking area that was recently improved.

The **MOUNT RIPINISKY TRAIL** is on Haines State Forest Land and leads up to the top of Mount Ripinsky which at 3,900 feet has views of Haines, Lynn Canal, Taiya Inlet and icefields. There are two trailheads, one at the end of Young Road in the Skyline Estates and one at 7 Mile on the Haines Highway. The entire traverse is 9.8 miles. The trail is steep in some place and additional switchbacks and more consistent maintenance would make the trail more useable.

The **MOUNT RILEY TRAIL** system is on State Parks Land and passes through forest and muskeg they meet near the summit with views of Chilkat Peninsula, the city of Haines, and Davidson Glacier. There are three ways to access this trail; at approximately 3 mile Mud Bay Road, via Lily Lake at the end of FAA Road, and from the Battery Point Trail. The trail segment connecting Battery Point and Mount Riley is an informal trail, and it needs to be improved and re-aligned to avoid crossing wetlands.

The **SEDUCTION POINT TRAIL** is on Alaska State Parks lands runs south from the Chilkat Lake campground, following the coast for 7 miles to the end of the Chilkat Peninsula and offers good wildlife viewing and nice scenery.

In the valley, the **PORCUPINE ROAD/SUNSHINE MOUNTAIN** trail offers an 11-mile loop, with a 600 foot elevation gain that provides access to the old Porcupine Townsite. The trailhead is across the steel bridge on the south side of the Haines Highway at Mile 26.

To provide opportunities for **CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING**, the Haines Ski Club sets tracks for cross-country skiing at the Golf Course, on Chilkoot Lake, on shore at the Chilkoot Lake State Park, 25 Mile, and occasionally on the Kellsall Road. The club holds ski events, have volunteers who set the track, and offers avalanche training.

There is an increasing interest in **OFF-ROAD BIKING** in Haines. A newly formed group, Haines Bikes, has been formed to advocate for improvements that will benefit road bikers, off-road bikers, and commuter bikers. Off-road bikers currently use several short informal trail segments close to town as well as an 8 mile trail along an old road starting at Chilkoot Lake. Volunteers have spent time clearing brush and improving these trails.

For **MOTORIZED TRAIL USE**, logging roads in the Kelsall, Klehini, Sunshine Mountain, Porcupine, Devil's Elbow, and Flower Mountain are used for snow machining. (Identify areas that are used for 4-wheeling)

E. Remote Recreation Opportunities

CHILKAT ISLANDS State Marine Park is a 6,560-acre park undeveloped group of islands 13 miles south of Haines. Access can be difficult due to high and unpredictable winds, making a regular anchorage difficult. **SULLIVAN ISLAND** State Marine Park is south of Chilkat Island and 20 air miles south of Haines. This 2,720-acre park sits at the south end of Sullivan Island. Two bays on east side provide access, but no anchorages. Neither park has developed facilities.

The US Forest Service has identified large areas within the Borough on the Chilkat Peninsula and the east side of Lynn Canal around Katzehn River, is designated Semi-Remote Recreation or Remote Recreation in the 2008 USFS Tongass Land Management Plan. The US Forest Service also manages the **ENDICOTT RIVER WILDERNESS** area is on the Chilkat Peninsula approximately 30 miles south of Haines. The western alpine portion of the area bounds Glacier Bay National Park. Presently the most common access is by boat to the confluence of Endicott River and Lynn Canal, then by foot to the area. This area is rugged and glacially influenced. A large portion of the US Forest Service ough, both on

Gaps, Issues and Needs

Indoor Recreation

The Haines Pool building was constructed in 1980 and is structurally sound. However, the change rooms need upgrading and the ramp should be made ADA compliant by altering or replacing a lift. The Borough is currently working on the design of a series of improvements to both the high school and pool that may address these issues.

There is strong support for the Haines Borough to pursue converting the old school building into a recreation center with multi-purpose rooms. Ninety percent of Haines Borough residents either support (30%) or strongly support (60%) this. When asked to name the single most important improvement among six choices, this was tied for number one (along with road widening and maintenance). For women, creating the recreation center was the most favored improvement project.

Playgrounds and Sports Fields

Developed Parks and Outdoor Recreation

Trails

Most of the existing trails are in need of ongoing maintenance. Some trails have dangerous sections, are in swampy difficult-to-walk areas, or are too close to important fish habitat.

There are several well used trails in Haines, but there is also opportunity to expand and improve the trail network. Haines can capitalize on the fact that visitors use enjoy trails to access additional sources of funding.

The existing trails used for off-road biking are generally difficult to ride, and in some area cross private property without proper easements from the land owners.

Trails suitable for beginners close to town are needed.

Remote Recreation

There are a wide range of high quality recreation opportunities in Haines. One gap that residents have identified is a public use cabin that could be easily accessed from Haines for family and other getaways. Developing cabins that could be accessed year-round would provide the opportunity to easily complete overnight hiking and skiing trips.

Map 2. Proposed Parks, Recreation Facilities, and Trails

(developing) Objectives and Strategies

Objective: Reinstate the Haines Borough Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. This Board will provide guidance to the Borough in prioritizing improvements to local recreation facilities and will work to ensure good communication between borough staff, community members and the assembly about recreation issues.

Objective: Manage existing Borough-owned recreation facilities and work to expand opportunities in a coordinated and efficient way.

Strategy: Support community groups and volunteers in their efforts to develop new recreation opportunities. (For example, there is a group interested in building boards and a cover for an ice rink at State Fairgrounds. The covered area could potentially be used as a horse riding arena in the summer.)

Objective: Continue to maintain existing trails. Priorities for maintenance should be areas that are dangerous or where trails impact fish habitat or wetlands.

Objective: Increase use of pool by improving accessibility and providing a range of programs.

Objective: Develop Nukdik/Picture Point to include parking, beach access, and a viewing area. Acquisition and improvement of this area was identified in both the Haines Public Use and Access Plan and the Haines Highway Corridor Partnership Plan.

Objective: Improve trail network for off-road/mountain biking. The priority should be trails for beginner/intermediate riders that are close to downtown Haines. In the future, a terrain park and more technical free-ride trails could be developed to draw tourists to Haines.

Strategy: Work with volunteers from Haines Bikes to improve and formalize existing trails and develop new trails for off-road biking. Acquire easements or other permission where trails cross private land.

Objective: Continue to implement the recommendations from the Haines Highway Corridor Partnership Plan for recreation/tourism improvements along the Haines Highway.

Objective: Continue to implement the recommendations from the Plan for Public Use and Access, and others may be identified as part of this planning process. Focus on acquiring land that is used for beach access and boat launches.

Objective:Community Recreation Center to provide a range of spaces for indoor recreation, community user groups and exercise equipment.

May 20 1st Discussion Draft COMMUNITY GOALS

Goals are concise, general statements of the desired future the Haines Borough and its citizens wish to achieve over time.

Objectives are more specific statements that provide additional focus about the purpose or desired outcome of the goal.

Strategies are specific steps to take to accomplish an objective. (In the Comprehensive Plan each will be followed in parenthesis with a list of who should be involved in doing the strategy.)

Quality of Life

Celebrate Haines's excellent quality of life, which is based in large part on:

- The outdoors and natural beauty
- Our small town atmosphere and community
- The presense of family and friends
- Safety and low crime
- Abundant hunting and fishing opportunities.

Recognize that quality of life is part of what keeps residents living here and draws potential businesses and residents to the area.

Haines Borough Government

Maintain a balanced municipal budget.

Conduct government policy and budget processes in an open manner that welcomes public participation.

Systematically evaluate competing capital improvement projects, set the community's top priorities, and implement.

Economic Development

Support, strengthen and diversify existing businesses and commerce.

Build the Haines' economy by pursuing new opportunities that provide jobs and revenue, build on local assets, and provide needed goods and services while maintaining public health, safety and welfare.

Land Use

Guide development in Haines Borough

Ensure an adequate supply of appropriately zoned land is available to meet the full array of community needs, including but not limited to, viable commercial and industrial development, varied residential living and neighborhoods, and diverse recreational opportunities.

Parks, Recreation, Trails and Open Space

Provide a diversity of parks, recreation facilities, trails and open spaces to meet the needs of Haines residents now and in the future.

Capitalize on the community's unique setting and natural beauty to develop recreation opportunities for the enjoyment of residents and visitors.

Transportation

Provide a safe, convenient, reliable and integrated transportation network to move goods and people to, from and within Haines Borough. Access is needed to work, school, services, facilities, and for hunting, fishing, subsistence and recreation.

Public Utilities and Services

Provide adequate and cost effective infrastructure and services to enable residential living, economic opportunity and add to the quality of life.

Public Safety

Provide effective public safety services to residents and visitors.

Place a high value on the safe low-crime environment that exists for adults, children and seniors.

Excursion Inlet