



Portage Cove Interpretive Trail & Park

2017-02-29



Reviewed and Approved by:

Date:



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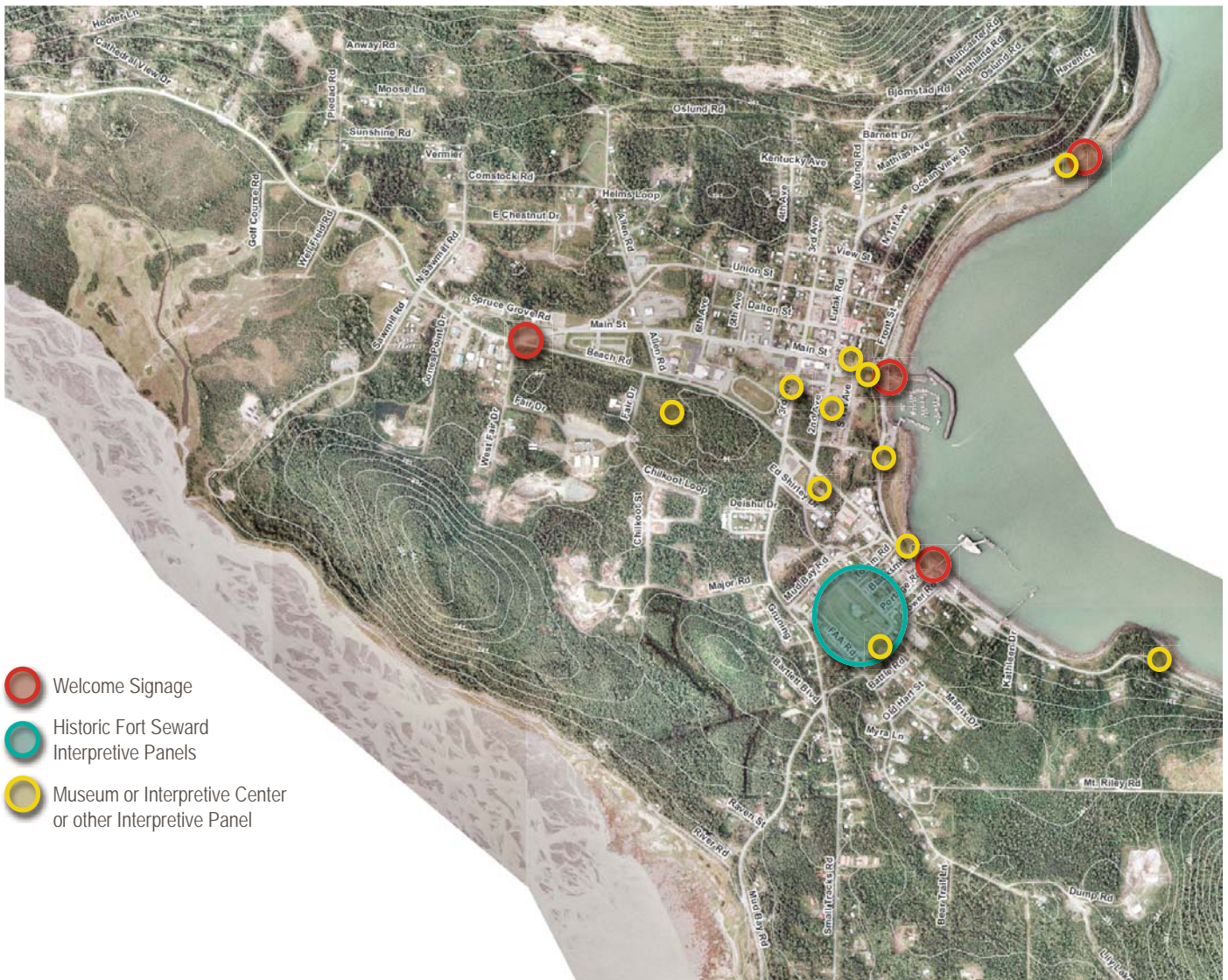


A. Analysis of Existing Signage

1. Locations of Existing Signs

There are many interpretive exhibits throughout Haines. Several different varieties of welcome signs exist in Haines including near the harbor for cruise passengers, from the Marine Highway Ferry Terminal, and along the Haines Highway. Way finding signage exists near the cruise ship dock and leads into the downtown area. A recent interpretive project by Alaska Arts Confluence has installed roughly 15 signs in and around Haines with a focus on Fort Seward. Other signs have also been installed in various locations. Overall, the existing signage lacks a unified branding or theme. The map below provides a general layout of some of the existing interpretation.

Based on the existing interpretation it is recommended that the interpretive trail focus on themes surrounding the waterfront.



2. Existing Sign Content

Below is a snapshot of some of the existing signs that can be found in and around Haines.



Welcome Signs



Welcome Signs at Cruise Ship Terminal - Front and back



Signs created by Alaska Arts Confluence

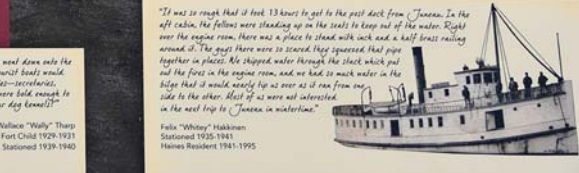
WAGONS & WATERWAYS

The military dock was a lifeline between Haines, the fort, and the rest of the world. Large ships tied up here and this place became a portal for goods and people coming into and leaving the community.

Without a road system, water was the primary mode of transportation for military operations, mail, and freight deliveries. U.S. Harbor Reefs, Peterson and Captain James Forlance carried both soldiers and civilians to Skagway for athletic competitions, neighborly visits, and shopping expeditions.

Tlingit women stationed themselves on the Fort Seward dock to sell handcrafted goods, such as baskets, silver jewelry, and carvings, to the tourists who came to call. The pier was also a favorite fishing spot for children and off-duty soldiers.

On land, dog and horse carts transported goods and people. Sleds replaced the carts in winter. The fort had corrals and a kennel that boarded as many as one hundred dogs. When the Haines Highway was constructed during WWII, the fort dock was designated Milepost 0, highlighting its importance as the hub between the water and overland routes.



"It was so rough that it took 13 hours to get to the post dock from Juneau. In the aft cabin, the fellows were standing up on the seats to keep out of the water. Right over the engine room, there was a place to stand with oak and a half brass railing around it. The dogs there were so scared they squeaked that pipe together in places. He shipped water through the shaft which put out the fires in the engine room, and we had so much water in the bilge that it would nearly tip us over as it ran from one side to the other. Most of us were not interested in the next trip to Juneau in wintertime."



"We were smart enough to know that when we need down into the dock on Saturday night, which is when the furthest boats would come in, there usually would be 40 or 50 Indian-Indian, Inuit, or whatever-in boats. And if we were lucky enough to go to one, we'd say, 'Would you like to see our dog kennel?'"

Wallace "Wally" Sharp
Fort Child 1929-1931
Stationed 1939-1940

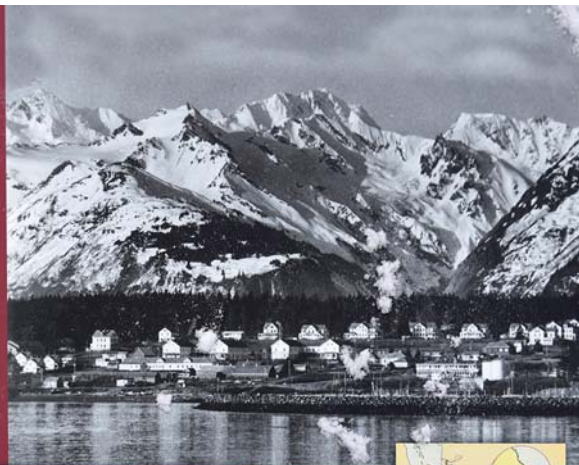
Fella "Whitney" Hakkinen
Stationed 1935-1941
Haines Resident 1941-1995

OUTSIDE LOOKING IN

The land before you is a peninsula dividing the Chilkoot and Chilkat inlets of the upper Lynn Canal. Local Tlingits called the narrowest part of this peninsula Deishu. They portaged canoes and goods over the isthmus between their settlements on the two waterways.

In 1879, the Tlingits proposed Deishu for the establishment of a Presbyterian mission. The location was strategically neutral to both Chilkoot and Chilkat, some of whom chose to resettle nearby. Trade supplied the mission, canneries, and prospectors heading up the Dalton Trail. The town of Haines was established and later incorporated in 1910.

The government's decision to police interactions and conflicts led to the construction of Fort William H. Seward on part of the mission reserve. Active from 1902 to 1945, Fort Seward was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1978. Many of the original Colonial Revival buildings still stand proudly on the hill to your left.



"From Portage Bay of Chilkoot Inlet west to the Chilkat River and southeast to the point, lies the longest tract of arable land... in Southeast Alaska, which the climate does not differ greatly from that of Pennsylvania. Here summer reaches perfection, never sultry, rarely chilling (and) the darkest hour is like early summer twilight, not too dark for reading."

Caroline Willard
Haines Missionary 1881-1886



CHILKAT PENINSULA (8pp)
WITH CHIEF OF HAINES AND ITS SEWARD AFTER 1910

FEEDING A FORT

Although much of the food consumed at the fort was shipped to Alaska as military rations, a certain amount was grown and harvested locally. Soldiers cultivated a post garden in the area below the barracks. Buildings and family gardens lined the alley above Officers' Row. Hardy produce such as cabbage, carrots, turnips, and greens all contributed to the main crop of potatoes. Demand for food at the fort encouraged the development of civilian farms and dairies. Those local businesses failed when the post closed after WWII.

To encourage self-sufficiency, small groups of soldiers were periodically granted leave to hunt and fish. Locally caught salmon and halibut graced mess hall tables. In autumn, game birds were harvested and hunting parties headed south for Sitka black-tailed deer. Locally grown crops, wild game, and fish enriched the meals on base. Fort Seward had its own bakery where, in 1730, a loaf of bread cost two cents.



"There was a [freight] boat every two weeks in the summer but only one a month during the winter. This meant you had to plan your grocery order well in advance and order enough food for a month in winter plus a little extra in case the boat was late. The committee published a list of what was available and prices, and you had to sit down and figure out damn near everything that you'd need. The committee kept a small stock but there were no stores to amount to anything in Haines."

Lynnan Woodman
Fort Child 1928-1931

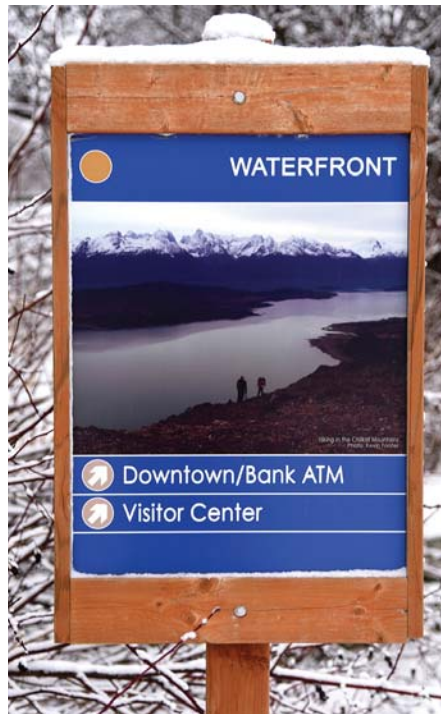
"Hank Vermorel arrived with his family in 1913. He took up a small area just out of town, drained the land and put in a 1/2 acre garden. On this small acreage, he brought up seven children. He sold most of his vegetables to the Army Post."

Robert "Bub" Henderson
Historian and Teacher
Haines Resident 1960-2015





Sign at Portage Cove Campground



Wayfinding Signs found throughout Haines



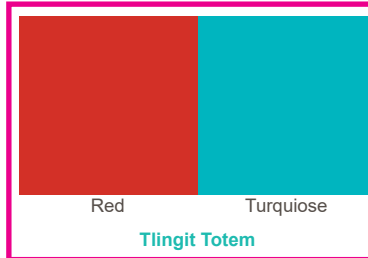
B. Interpretive Guidance

1. Interpretive Branding

Color Palette

These colors are for preliminary discussion only. They are bold with good contrast, but the actual colors for palette selection will be recommended during the next phases of design. These colors are based off Tlingit natural dyes. Yellow is derived from a type of lichen called wolf moss. Greenish-blue is derived from oxidized copper. Dark brown is produced from hemlock bark, or sometimes mud or iron. **Red and turquoise are colors often seen on totem poles.**

DRAFT - Palette to be reviewed and modified as desired during next phase. Intent is to represent Tlingit coloring of the wool blankets produced in the Northern Lynn Canal.



DRAFT - Red and Turquoise are here for variety. Open to other suggestions



Tlingit Blanket from the Sheldon Museum

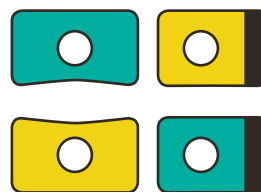
Branding Elements/Logo

Branding Elements/Logo development for the Interpretive Trail will help brand the trail and signage, ensuring that users have a good understanding of project extents. **These are just preliminary examples of a few, simple options for the trail.**

DRAFT - Logo ideas to be reviewed and modified during next phase.



Borders



Shapes



2. Overall Interpretive Goals

Mission - Why are you doing this?

- Create a waterfront pedestrian route that links the State Park Portage Cove Campground to the new harbor uplands and continues to Picture Point on the Haines Highway.
- To foster a responsive conservation ethic and a sense of stewardship within Haines residents and businesses that integrates with other community priorities.
- To promote increased appreciation and knowledge among residents and visitors about the working waterfront, historical connections to the harbor, and natural habitats along the water.

Audience - Who is this for?

- Residents, visitors, children.

Concept - What's the Big Idea?

- See interpretive content plan

Subject - What is this about?

- Haines' working waterfront, historical connections to the harbor, and natural habitats and the beauty of Haines.

Messages - What do you intend to say?

- See interpretive content plan
- The following will be woven through them: what is unique to Haines, traditional/cultural information, stewardship.

Voice - What is your point of view?

- See interpretive content plan

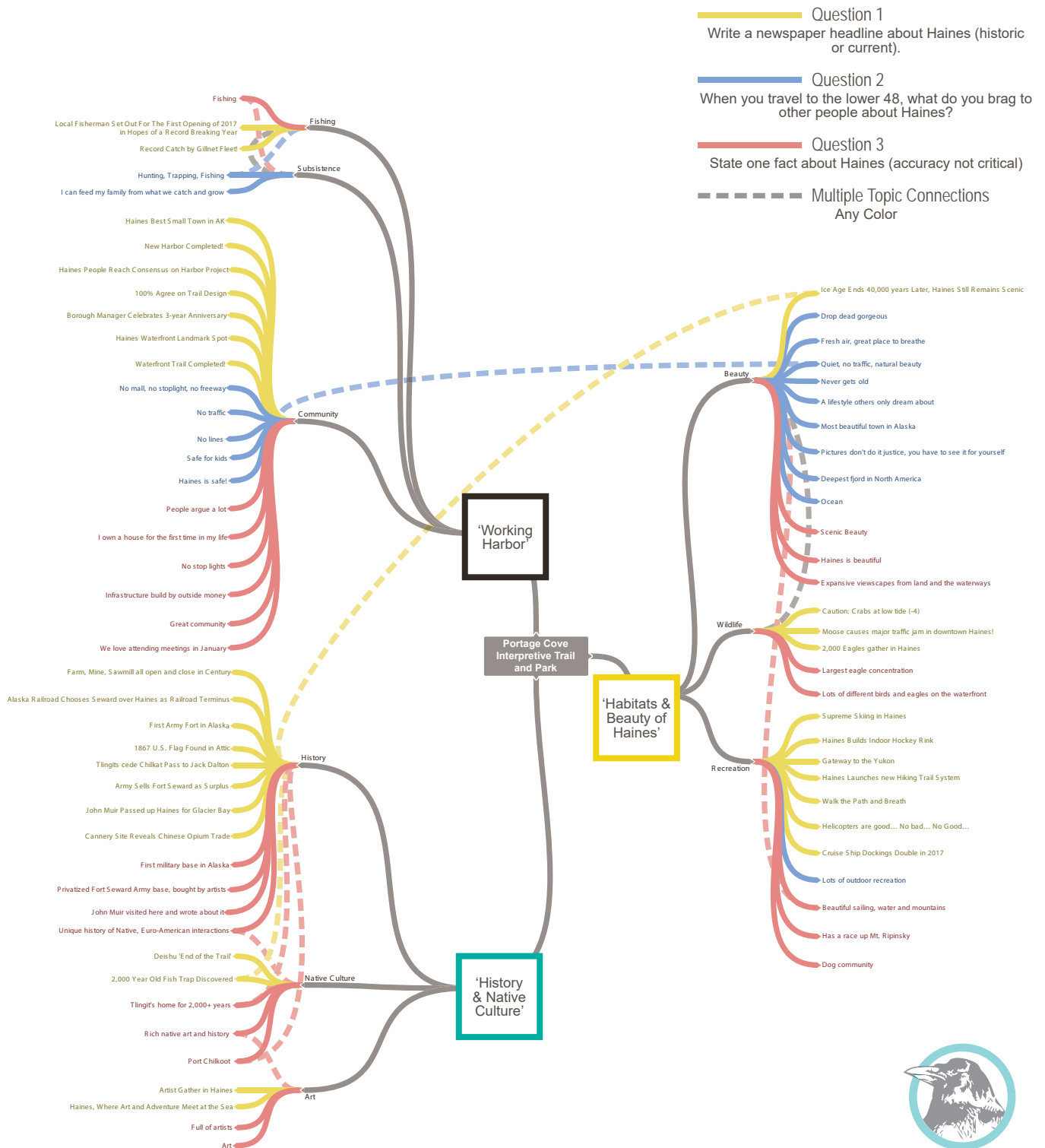
Organization - How will you organize it?

- See templates.



3. Hierarchy of Themes

The community of Haines participated in a few exercises to help develop interpretive themes important to its members. They were asked three questions and were to supply responses to each. The graphic below is color coded by question then organized by topic and finally into three main themes to illustrate how the responses relate to each other.



1. Symbols and Themes

This section outlines the three main themes under which each individual sign is organized. Each gateway element has a corresponding theme that fits best with that section of the trail.

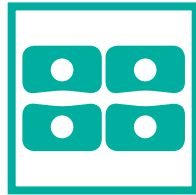
Icons

Here are a few icons used to depict general themes and organization of the interpretive story line. These will be used throughout the report to begin to show groupings of signs within these over-arching themes. These are placeholders and will be developed to correspond with the theme, after general approval of this sign list.

Themes

Each icon shown here corresponds to theme along the trail and the topics that will be presented.

DRAFT - Icons shown are only placeholders



'History & Native Culture'



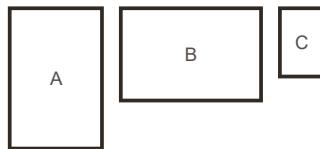
'Habitats & Beauty of Haines'



'Working Harbor'

DRAFT - Sign types TBD (if multiple sizes needed?)

Sign Types



Type A: 24x36 vertical. Broadbrush concepts or introduction to a concept. Used at Gateways.

Type B: 24x36 horizontal. Specifics to Portage Cove corridor.

Type C: 12x18 vertical or horizontal. Side facts or more in-depth information.

Kid - Focused Signage and Locator Maps

Locator Maps will be found at each gateway and kid-focused signage will be found along the entire trail.



Kid-Focused Signage



You Are Here Locator Map

C. Signage List

Draft sign concepts are described here by theme. More specific location information is given where possible. This list and locations will be verified in the next phases of design. The quantity, type and themes of signs may change during design development. The minimum sign quantity will be per our accepted proposal unless otherwise negotiated with the client.

Overview Map



- Habitats & Beauty of Haines
- History & Native Culture
- Working Harbor

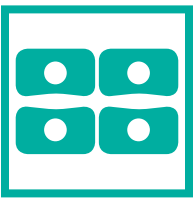




'Habitats & Beauty of Haines'



'Habitats & Beauty of Haines'



'History & Native Culture'



1. Mountain Vistas

Theme

Habitats & Beauty

Content

- Horizon with peak names
- Possibly combine with Geology/Glacier Rebound

Location

Picture Point or another location with an extensive horizon view.

Title Ideas

- TBD

2. Wildflowers

Theme

Habitats & Beauty

Content

- Local wildflowers with identification, uses, habitats
- Possible content, invasive species?

Location

Near Picture Point between the transition from rocky tidal beach to vegetated land.

Title Ideas

- TBD

3. Raven Clan House

Theme

History & Native Culture

Content

- History of Raven Clan House
- History of Raven Clan

Location

Near Raven Clan House

Title Ideas

- TBD

4. Old Village (Tlingit)

Theme

History & Native Culture

Content

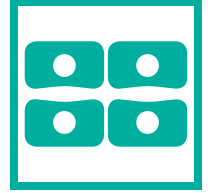
- Tlingit settlement of Portage Cove area
- Layout and locations of buildings with usage?
- Tlingit Potlatches

Location

Near the old town site.

Title Ideas

- TBD



'History & Native Culture'

5. Presbyterian Land Grant

Theme

History & Native Culture

Content

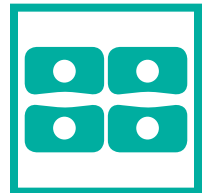
- Survey Marker history
- Granting of land to the church, how it happened and why
- First settlers

Location

At the corner of Main Street and Front Street near the original survey maker.

Title Ideas

- TBD



'History & Native Culture'

6. Old Town Dock

Theme

Working Harbor

Content

- Location of dock with stats on size
- Historic capacities for boats, commercial fishing harvests, goods, etc...

Location

On beginning of breakwater near the old town dock site.

Title Ideas

- TBD



'Working Harbor'





'Working Harbor'



'Working Harbor'



'Working Harbor'



7. Sport Fish

Theme

Working Harbor

Content

- Types of fish caught for sport from harbor

Location

On breakwater or near public fish cleaning station.

Title Ideas

- TBD

8. Boat Types

Theme

Working Harbor

Content

- Boat types that call Haines home port with images of typical or actual boats in the harbor.
- Boat design helps with function.
- Can you spot all types of boats?

Location

On breakwater with view of greatest number and variety of boats for comparison with sign information.

Title Ideas

- TBD

9. Commercial Catch

Theme

Working Harbor

Content

- Fish species caught commercially in harbor with stats on harvest quotas
- Any regulations that may be interesting
- Where the fish is sold

Location

At land portion of harbor or near the off loading area of the commercial activities.

Title Ideas

- TBD

10. 'Safe'/Sustainable Fishing

Theme

Working Harbor

Content

- Species of fish listed as sustainable
- Ways the public can help support sustainable fishing practices

Location

Along Harbor for easy view of boat activity or near public fish cleaning station.

Title Ideas

- TBD



'Working Harbor'

11. Chilkat Blankets

Theme

History & Native Culture

Content

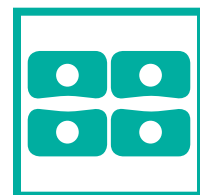
- Information about color palette and how they are dyed
- Meaning of shapes and patterns
- Cultural significance to owners of the blanket and their purpose
- How they are made

Location

Near new harbor uplands area or near the new park.

Title Ideas

- TBD



'History & Native Culture'

12. Tlingit Cemetery

Theme

History & Native Culture

Content

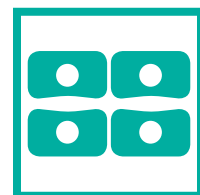
- Founding and reason for being
- Possible notable people who are buried in the cemetery if know
- Burial customs of the Tlingit

Location

Across the Front Street from the cemetery or on the cemetery side of Front Street.

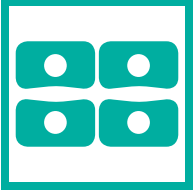
Title Ideas

- TBD

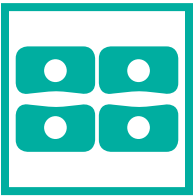


'History & Native Culture'





'History & Native Culture'



'History & Native Culture'



'Habitats & Beauty of Haines'



13. Mining (Remake)

Theme

History & Native Culture

Content

- Existing sign about the Drill Rig located at Lookout Park could be redesigned to fit the Portage Cove Interpretive Trail branding
- All content on existing sign should be transferred to the new sign
- Any new content if possible including but not limited to, operation of the drill rig, map of where the rig was used in relation to Haines, stats on the estimated quantity of gold recovered from the Haines area

Location

Near the existing Drill Rig. Drill Rig may be relocated to the new park or an alternative location all together.

Title Ideas

- TBD

14. Deishú (End of Trail) - Grease Trail

Theme

History & Native Culture

Content

- History of Grease Trail and its significance to Haines
- Map of Grease Trail route
- History of Deishú

Location

Near or in relocated park or near the Old Village (Tlingit) and similar sign.

Title Ideas

- TBD

15. Birds

Theme

Habitats & Beauty

Content

- Identification with pictures of local birds including migratory, shore birds, song birds, waterfowl, etc...
- Less emphasis on eagles as they are the focus of the American Bald Eagle Foundation

Location

Near the area of spruce trees between the new harbor uplands and the intersection of Front Street and Beach Road.

Title Ideas

- TBD

16. Dog Cart (Remake)

Theme

Working Harbor

Content

- Existing content of the Dog Cart sign located near the intersection of Front Street and Beach Road could be redesigned to fit the Portage Cove Interpretive Trail branding
- All content on the existing sign should be transferred to the new sign

Location

At the existing location of the dog cart sign because of the historic image on the existing sign. It is aligned with the landscape to provide the current view with a historic comparison.

Title Ideas

- TBD

17. Fort Seward Connection to Harbor

Theme

History & Native Culture

Content

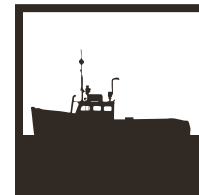
- Fort Seward's influence on the development of Haines
- How the fort became to be privately owned today
- (should confirm this information is not already displayed on the existing interpretive signage installed throughout the fort currently)

Location

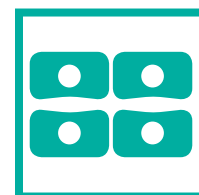
Near the location of the old dock or on the cruise ship dock.

Title Ideas

- TBD



'Working Harbor'

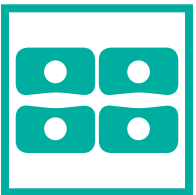


'History & Native Culture'





'Habitats & Beauty of Haines'



'History & Native Culture'



'Habitats & Beauty of Haines'



18. Recreation Opportunities

Theme

Habitats & Beauty

Content

- Recreation opportunities of Haines including all seasons
- Skiing, cross country, downhill, heli
- Hiking and walking trails and how to access them
- River rafting, kayaking, sailing
- Could be a possible 'Welcome to the Portage Cove Interpretive Trail and Haines' sign

Location

At cruise ship dock for visitors to easily see what is available upon arrival.

Title Ideas

- TBD

19. Dalton Trail

Theme

History & Native Culture

Content

- History of Dalton Trail and it's significance
- Who was Jack Dalton
- Map of trail

Location

Near the start of the trail or at the cruise ship terminal.

Title Ideas

- TBD

20. Geology/Glacier Rebound

Theme

Habitats & Beauty

Content

- Geologic history of Haines, including rock types, reason for mountains (plates/faults)
- Glacial history of Haines with emphasis on current glacial rebound and comparison to future sea level rise due to climate change

Location

At the cruise ship terminal or near the Mountain Vistas sign at Picture Point if displayed in conjunction with each other.

Title Ideas

- TBD

21. Old Ferry Terminal

Theme

Working Harbor

Content

- History of the old ferry terminal/dock and it's significance to the development of Haines

Location

Near the old ferry terminal location.

Title Ideas

- TBD



'Working Harbor'

22. Mammals

Theme

Habitats & Beauty

Content

- Identification of the local mammals one may find in and around Haines.
- Rodents, large mammals like moose and mountain goats, sea mammals including seals, whales, and otters (if not places on sea life sign below).

Location

Near the south end of the interpretive trail as the trail opens up into the more natural areas.

Title Ideas

- TBD



'Habitats & Beauty of Haines'

23. Sea Life

Theme

Habitats & Beauty

Content

- Sea animal identification excluding commercial and sport fish
- Identification of prominent types of plant life
- Focus on tidal pools and what one may find within Portage Cove

Location

Near the south end of the interpretive trail as the trail opens up into the more natural areas and close to the tidal pools

Title Ideas

- TBD



'Habitats & Beauty of Haines'





'Habitats & Beauty of Haines'

24. Tides (Remake)

Theme

Habitats & Beauty

Content

- Existing content of the Tides sign located near within the Portage Cove Campground could be redesigned to fit the Portage Cove Interpretive Trail branding
- All content from the existing sign should be transferred to the new sign

Location

Replace the existing sign within the Portage Cove Campground or relocated sign to near the Sea Life sign and tide pools.

Title Ideas

- TBD

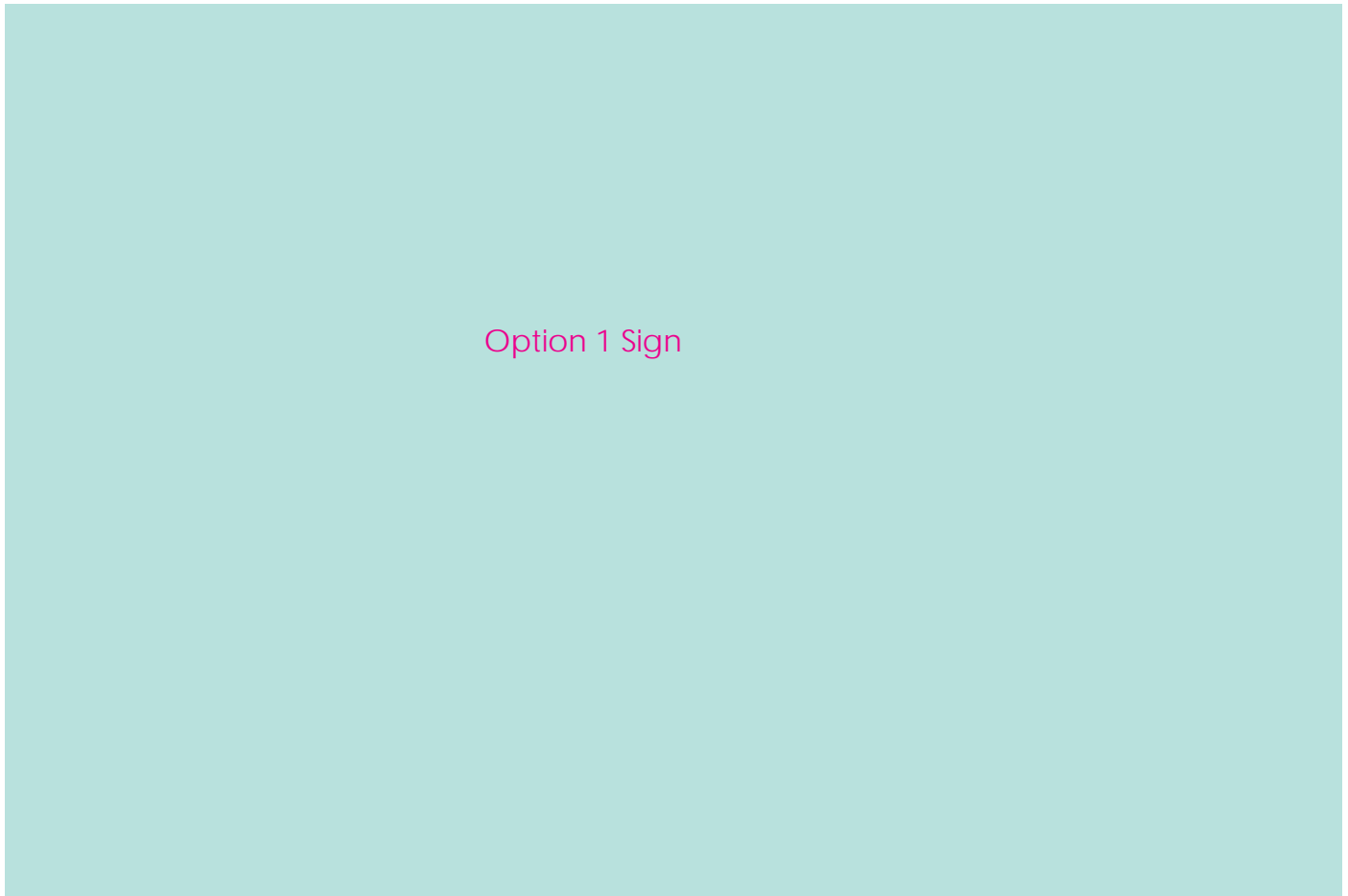


D. Conceptual Sign Design

We've included three conceptual layout options for the basic, Type B sign panel. We are showing information that could represent Sign X, the XXX of Portage Cove. This is very preliminary content and assembled only to put into concept layouts. All three options use the same content to put the focus of this section on layout design.

1. Option 1 - Title

Description of Style



2. Option 2 - Title

Description of Style



Option 2 Sign



3. Option 3 - Title

Description of Style



Preferred Option:

Date:



E. Kiosk / Gateway Design

1. Basic Upright Kiosk and Wayfinding

This type of kiosk is the simplest type of kiosk and wayfinding sign, using standard exhibit bases with vertically oriented sign panels. These could be single or double sided.



2. Kiosk and Wayfinding Betterments

Options for customizing kiosks and wayfinding elements are numerous. We've included a few examples of what might be possible as the budget takes shape.



This option shows how a kiosk can be incorporated into structural elements or take on the character and use details from surrounding designs.



This example uses steel in a non-traditional form for a base.





These two (above and right) are examples of how a modified shape can place emphasis on a sign, simply and effectively creating a gateway element.



This sign is an example of a more artistic base and frame for a non-traditional sign.



F. Site Visits & Meeting Notes

