

RECREATION

EXISTING CONDITIONS

A wealth of water dependent and land dependent recreational opportunities exist in and around Auke Bay. Providing for public open space and habitat protection as called for in Chapter 9 of the 2013 *Comprehensive Plan* supports the recreational uses enjoyed by many Juneau residents.

At the center of Auke Bay's hub, Statter Harbor offers water access for sport fishing, whale watching and kayaking. Trails surrounding the University of Alaska Southeast (UAS) connect students and residents to the surrounding area. The Auk Nu and Spaulding Meadows trails offer hiking, biking, and cross-country skiing opportunities. The surrounding area includes Auke Lake for motorized and non-motorized recreational uses. Beach access and camping facilities are provided at the Auke Recreation Area a short distance from the village center.

The City and Borough of Juneau Parks & Recreation Department manages nine sites in the Auke Bay area, including Spaulding Meadows trail. Most of the land managed by CBJ Parks and Recreation in the Auke Bay area surrounds Auke Lake. In 2004 CBJ Parks & Recreation, UAS, and Trail Mix identified the improvement and expansion of the Auke Lake trail with connections to the University as a priority. The proximity of Auke Lake to UAS and Auke Village provides a seamless recreational hub for many residents. According to the (unadopted) *Auke Lake Management Plan*, the completion of the Auke Lake trail has increased area usage by as much as 68 people per day. With the *Auke Lake Management Plan*, CBJ Parks & Recreation would like to actively manage motorized watercraft on Auke Lake to reduce the user conflicts associated with this increase in use.

VISION

Auke Bay should remain a place to live, work, learn and play. Chapter 8 of the Parks & Recreation *Comprehensive Plan* places Auke Bay in planning Subarea 2. Five goals were identified for the Auke Bay area; development of an *Auke Lake Master Plan*, trail connections between Auke Lake and the

Mendenhall Green belt, partner with UAS to connect the trail around Auke Lake to the campus, and develop a trail from the Auke Bay Elementary School to Spaulding Meadows trail. The final goal was to establish safe access to Rotary Park and shelter along the bay. However, it should be noted this park will be removed as part of the Statter Harbor expansion project. With the loss of this park, additional open space will need to be provided for Auke Bay residents and visitors to replace this recreational amenity.

While not considered part of planning Subarea 2, the *Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan* calls for a cultural park at Indian Point that would include trails and shelters. As is discussed in more detail in the Cultural Significance and Resources chapter of this plan, development of park infrastructure such as trails and shelters would be considered disrespectful by the Aak'w Kwáan (Small Lake Tribe) and other Tlingit peoples whom the park is intended to honor. Accordingly, this project should be removed from the *Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan* and from the 2013 *Comprehensive Plan*, or modified to specify that the area should remain in its natural state and not be developed with "campgrounds, picnic areas, trails or other improvements".¹

The *Juneau Trails Plan* calls for increased access and trail improvements for cross-country skiing. No new access points to the Spaulding Meadows area are proposed at this time, but the Forest Service continues to make improvements to the Auk Nu trail by replacing bridges and installing graveled turnpikes.

GOALS AND POLICIES

PEDESTRIAN ACCESS

GOAL 1: LINK THE AUKE BAY AREA WITH AN ACCESSIBLE SYSTEM FOR RECREATION ACTIVITIES.

POLICIES

- 1.1 Provide direct and visible pedestrian connections at trailheads and street crossings.

¹ Greater Juneau Borough Ordinance Serial No. 69-3

- 1.2 Provide complete signage for pedestrian routes.
- 1.3 Seek opportunities to connect hiking and biking trails to provide for longer interconnected loop system that includes connections to Auke Lake and beyond.
- 1.4 Develop a seawalk that connects Statter Harbor’s Seawalk system to the surrounding private sector lands to the south of Auke Bay along Fritz Cove.
- 1.5 Ensure that future development enhances pedestrian access.
- 1.6 The CBJ will periodically (at least every six years) inventory the paths, trails, and sidewalk linkages within the subarea. Gaps in the system will be assigned a priority and reported to the Planning Commission and Assembly as a part of the annual Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

PUBLIC RECREATIONAL AREAS

GOAL 2: DEVELOP A PARK AND TRAIL NETWORK.

POLICIES

- 2.1 Implement the goals of the *Juneau Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan*, which include additional access from behind the Auke Bay Elementary School to Spaulding Meadows.
- 2.2 Create space for programmable events and group use (such as those that exist in Savikko Park).
- 2.3 Provide an open space amenity (park) within the hub that can be reached by all modes of transport.
- 2.4 Encourage the adoption of the Juneau Parks and Recreation Auke Lake Management Plan.

WAYFINDING SIGNAGE

GOAL 3: DEVELOP A RECREATIONAL WAYFINDING SIGNAGE SYSTEM FOR RESIDENTS, STUDENTS AND VISITORS THAT WILL MAKE NAVIGATION AND ACCESS EASIER TO THE RECREATIONAL AREAS OF AUKE BAY.

POLICIES

- 3.1 Recreational wayfinding systems should be of uniform typology.
- 3.2 Encourage motorized traffic to acknowledge recreational use of the area through “Share the Road” signs and similar verbiage.
- 3.3 Where possible, wayfinding to cultural resources should include bilingual message celebrating Auke Bay’s cultural significance.

ENTRY GATEWAYS TO AUKE BAY

GOAL 4: DEVELOP GATEWAYS WITHIN THE *AUKE BAY AREA PLAN* AT THE THREE ENTRANCE POINTS; FROM THE NORTH AND SOUTH ON GLACIER HIGHWAY AND FROM BACK LOOP ROAD.

PUBLIC ART DISPLAYS

GOAL 5: INCORPORATE PUBLIC ART DISPLAYS IN ALL FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS INCLUDING PUBLIC PROJECTS.

POLICIES

- 5.1 Establish a community art plan with specific locations for art within parks, along trails, and on the seawalk and public facilities.
- 5.2 Develop incentives for private sector development to provide art within the Auke Bay area.
- 5.3 Require future developers to set aside 1% of project costs for art or to retain space for publically accessible art projects on a project site.

VIEWSHEDS

GOAL 6: PRESERVE, DEVELOP AND ENHANCE VIEWSHEDS WITHIN THE *AUKE BAY AREA PLAN*.

POLICIES

- 6.1 Preserve and minimize impacts to the view to the Mendenhall Towers from the shores of Auke Lake.
- 6.2 Preserve and minimize impacts to the view of Auke Bay from Back Loop Road, Glacier Highway and the future seawalk.
- 6.3 Seek mitigation for future projects that would directly alter, diminish or otherwise reduce the public’s enjoyment of a publicly identified and mapped vista.