

Hames Point Sheet

In this time of economic uncertainty, increased stress and rising social issues such as unemployment, rising healthcare costs and youth at risk, the need for recreation programs and services is even more essential now to maintain a healthy and prosperous community. City of Trenton, MI

❖ **Major Users:**

Coast Guard, Trooper Academy, AMSEA, Raven's Way, Bill Brady Healing Center, SCAPs, Fire Department, Boys and Girls Club, Head Start, school sport teams, Mt. Edgecumbe High School, Youth Sports League . . .

❖ **2007 Sitka Comprehensive Plan**

Chapter 2.10 Sitka Commission on Health Needs and Community Services

2.10 Health Goals and Policies: The City and Borough Assembly encourages healthy lifestyles and activities within the community, and will strive to work towards the provision of human services for all members of the community. . .

C. Healthy youth and elder activities and services.

Chapter 2.10.2 The community will strive to have priority health and service needs met in the community by:

B. Developing a system, utilizing a public process, to identify priority health and service needs, identifying gaps and barriers to services, and encouraging collaboration among Sitka health, social, human service, and other agencies. This system may be used to allocate city funds for identified needs.

2.12.1 To preserve and continue to enhance the quality of life by maintaining and expanding recreational opportunities for all residents along the existing road system, along trail systems, and in the outlying areas.

2.12.6 To improve Municipal, State, and Federal agency efforts to maintain existing recreation facilities, both indoor and outdoor and to conduct recreation planning.

2.12.8 Community Schools are outstanding recreation resource and should be supported to insure maximum use, as follows:

B. Coordination should continue among Community Schools, University of Alaska Southeast, and Sheldon Jackson College. Programs should be designed to accommodate the interests of all age levels.

2.12.46 To support organized sports activities offered through non-profit organizations, parent-run clubs, and Community Schools. This support can be demonstrated by continuing to maintain and develop ballfields, park areas, and indoor facilities.

2.12.47 To encourage and assist in the development of a broad array of youth recreational activities, programs and facilities.

2.12.55 To implement the specific recommendation made in the Sitka Parks and Recreation Plan wherever possible. These recreation sites include:

City and Borough of Sitka:

. . . . , Hames PE Complex,

SITKA GENERAL CODE: A Codification of the General Ordinances of the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska

❖ **Chapter 2.56 Parks and Recreation Committee**

2.56.060 Duties: The parks and recreation committee shall:

- A. Study and make recommendation to the assembly through the administrator, regarding the needs or renovations necessary to existing parks and recreational areas or facilities;
- B. Investigate sites and make recommendation to the assembly, through the administrator, for new park and recreational facilities, or areas which they deem necessary and/or desirable for such purposes;
- C. To promote interest in recreational resources; to investigate all recreational facilities, sites and programs in the municipality to assure that they are being utilized to the maximum extent possible, and to assist in locating facilities or space for various recreational activities;
- D. To make recommendations on all parks and recreation considerations to come before the assembly. (Ord. 75-199 § 3(f), 1975.)

❖ **Parks and Recreation Plan Recommendations:**

4. Survey results show that there is a great need for indoor recreation facilities. The municipality should continue its efforts to encourage private enterprise through zoning and site selection assistance. The municipality should begin to search for funding for a multipurpose recreation center. (pg. 7)

Sitka Recreation Center: An indoor recreation center is badly needed and should include a variety of uses (pg. 52, Appendix C)

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Jul 11, 8:39 AM
Added: Paragraph Break

Benefits to the Community

- Municipalities with accessible community recreation centers have higher rates of employment, lower rates of school drop-out, lower healthcare costs, higher standards of living, and lower rates of poor mental health.

- Studies have shown that communities without recreation centers have higher rates of drug use, domestic violence and crime.
- When relocating, individuals seek communities that support quality of life infrastructure like a recreation facility for their families. Without one, they may choose another community. Conversely, the erosion of services and recreation opportunities in a community can cause an attrition of its citizens.
- Quality of life affects real estate values, and real estate values affect tax revenues.
- The Hames Center provides a public service to the community that isn't reflected in statistics or revenues. It is very accessible to the public with convenient open hours and availability.
- Sitka youth extensively use the gym as an informal gathering spot to play sports and socialize. It is one of the few "things to do" on a rainy day when you are a Sitka kid.
- It is available to parents of small kids as an indoor play spot on rainy days. Parents of small children extensively use the pool during open swim times.
- Mt. Edgecumbe High School relies on the Hames Center and the pool for its student swimming classes and activities.
- Availability of indoor exercise options during long periods of inclement weather and darkness is key to prevention of Seasonal Affective Disorder and depression.