

Jan. 26, 2022

I consider the Ward lake area the most important, and most used locally recreation area outdoors in Ketchikan. Specifically I'm talking about the picnic area and shelters, the nature trail around the lake, the Signal Creek campground and Crossy Point area.

Unfortunately deferred maintenance has permitted a number of the facilities or trail to deteriorate over the past several years. This includes:

1. Ditches being formed in the trail due to water erosion.
2. The top layer of pebbles being washed away and having to walk on base layer bigger rocks.

Drainage ditches and the surface layer rocks need to be maintained. It is becoming increasingly more difficult for ADA users and individuals with baby strollers to use the trail.

3. Fireplaces and support post are not being maintained in the three shelters. Some fire places need new mason work and it appears some support posts are

deteriorating.

I like the prohibition of large tourist tours in this specific area. Please maintain that.

Finally to encourage local winter usage, it would be encouraging to have the road plowed from Revilla road down to the picnic ground parking lot and the parking lot plowed also.

I use the Ward Lake area almost daily and feel it is so good for both my physical and mental health.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Dick Axelson