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First name: Deborah

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a member of a 4 generation family, born and raised Ketchikan, I feel it a responsibility to respond to the request for input in the improvement of the Ward Lake recreational area.

We have used the Ward Lake area to enhance the family life we have created, and continue to create, for literally DECADES. We love it for it's convenience and versatility in the ways to enjoy this area. The ability to walk (or jog) in our beautiful rain forest is a gift that we utilize daily.

One improvement that I would love to see is to the old "swinging bridge" at the outlet of Ward Lake trail. It has become quite dangerous upon entering and exiting the bridge. The pathway has eroded to a point that slipping over the edge to the out flowing creek is an accident waiting to happen. I am always aware of the danger when walking with an elderly person, a child or even a pet. It literally is a drop off, on both ends of the bridge. Also, there are a few areas on the path that are eroding away from the run off of the forested side of the trail. We often use our stroller for the babies and at times it is a 2 wheel maneuver. My input is for improving the trail around the lake by making these repairs to our existing trail. In this same area, having the DOT keep the access road clear of snow would be a GREAT improvement. The lake offers enjoyment in the winter for us but we are not always able to access it because the road is not maintained during these months.

Also, and more importantly, we do NOT want to see tourism invading this area. The tourist are EVERYWHERE it seems, even in the Ward Lake area already, and we don't want any more invasion into the one place that is accessible to all the residents of Ketchikan. I know tourism has an economical impact on our community but that does not mean we need to cede all of our resources over to it. The local population needs to be taken in account when we begin finding areas to exploit for the tourism industry.

I really hope you will take my opinions into account. I am writing with the blessing of my entire clan.

Thank you