

Gustavus Economic Recovery Ideas

As tourist visitation grows across Southeast Alaska, Glacier Bay National Park and the United States Forest Service are both agencies that sit at a pivotal planning point. There are projections of over 2+ million visitors annually to come via cruise ship, Adventure Cruise, and Small Ship Charters within the next 20 years. Glacier Bay's gateway community of Gustavus with its year round population of 400~ could reap valuable benefits from these increased tourism numbers as well as to strengthen local business and economy. The community of Gustavus needs sites that keep visitors in town longer. I believe the average night stay at the GB Lodge is currently just 2 nights on average Gustavus largest lodging facility. How to expand that visitor night stay duration is with more worth-while sites to visit! It is estimated that just 1 tourist dollar is circulated 7 times in a community! This can provide economic stability for a wide range of not only seasonal businesses, but also permanent jobs in a town like Gustavus. A pro-visitor culture within GBNPS staff needs to be cultivated. Our visitors are always looking for more time on the ground and almost always inquire why there are not more interpretive sites and trails developed within the park. Development of such sites and trails would not only help to increase the overall visitor stay, but would also undoubtedly help to reduce the consumption of resources in and around Glacier Bay and Icy Strait by giving additional activities to regular visitors to the area outside of the traditional fishing activities that currently constitute the bulk of activities available to the average visitor.

US Forest Service

Gustavus City needs to coordinate and share their needs with Juneau Ranger Brad Ore and Hoonah Ranger Basia Trout and Coordinate with the USFS forest recreational coordinator. Looking at location like home shore or other areas that trails and sights could be developed to keep visitors in the area longer.

Ideas

Glacier Bay Lodge

Aramark will not operate GB lodge in 2020. They are very difficult to work with and require a 20% commission on other vendor trips promoted in the lodge. Before GVA spends city marketing money on promoting the lodge agreement is needed to reduce commissions and work with community business to work for the same goal of increased visitor ship.

Glacier Bay Kayak Fest

Sponsor ship: Kayak company

Date: June 2021

<https://www.bajakayakfest.rocks/>

Coordinate with the local Kayak company (GBSK, Spirit Waker, AK Disc, AK MT Guides)
Develop up bay events, Point Adolphis, Inian island, Dundas Bay use local vessel and GBNP Charter operator to transport kayakers for day trips and over night stay.

"The Last Great Kayak Race" In GB

Fourth of July

Start and end the parade on Dolly Varden. Opening up the GST park. Freshen it up with new ideas. City Fire work show.

Strawberry Point Days

End of July Historical remembrance event ??

Create a celebration week of events like a Hot Air Ballon festival

https://panguitch.com/event/panguitch-valley-balloon-rally/?instance_id=244

Fishing Derby

Engage local lodges and Guides in support. recognizing Anglers/lodges/Guides/DIY

Promote RV's and Campers to come to Gustavus Via AK Ferry

Most RV rigs are \$50-100 thousand dollars. Promoting RV's increases demand on the Ferry showing an increase in ridership to the state prioritize the ferry for the GST community.

Most RV's are Snow Birds or older retirees.

Development of a RV parking and amenities will come as demand is seen with in the Gustavus city area.

Promote Mariculture, Aquaculture and Agriculture gardens in Gustavus

Work with the USDA-NRCS and Alaska State agriculture to help educate people in town to the potential opportunities of industries For Gustavus in the process for maximum yield.NRCS has funds or grants available to help farmers and agriculture Best Management Practices Ag lands.

-Kelp Farming

-co-op Salmon Hatchery

- green houses and ship produce to other SE communities and local farmer markets

- DRC if the "DRC compost" is such a Hot item how can we increase production and **export** it out of GST to other communities to recapture cost of the new \$100 K building.

Re-Branding Gustavus

Change the town name back to "Strawberry Point Alaska" much like Barrow did. More attractive for visitors and easier to promote. Take a poll of town and take it to a vote. Share the historical name of the place. You have to admit that "Welcome to Strawberry Point Alaska" sounds more romantic than "Welcome to Gustavus Alaska"

History^[edit]

Gustavus, formerly known as "Strawberry Point", lies on the outwash plain created by the glaciers that once filled Glacier Bay. Two hundred years ago, it was primarily a single large "beach". The native Tlingit people and others used the area for fishing, berry picking, and other similar uses. The town itself is less than one hundred years old. The first settlers arrived in 1914, but left shortly afterward. The first permanent homestead was established in 1917, when Abraham Lincoln Parker moved his family to Strawberry Point. Many Gustavus residents are descendants and relatives of the original Parker homesteaders.

In 1925 the name became "Gustavus", when the U.S. Post Office required a change for its new post office, although locals continued calling it "Strawberry Point" long afterwards. The new name came from Point Gustavus at the mouth of Glacier Bay.

In 1793 George Vancouver named Point Adolphus (at the northern tip of Chichagof Island, and today a well-known humpback whale feeding area) after Adolphus Frederick, seventh son of King George III. In 1878, W.H. Dall, while working on a coastal survey, saw "Adolphus" on the map and assumed it was for Swedish king Gustavus Adolphus. The point across Icy Strait from Point Adolphus at the mouth of Glacier Bay was not named on the map, so Dall called it "Gustavus". Another possibility is that Dall named Gustavus for Gustavus C. Hanus, a U.S. Naval Academy graduate who had extensive experience throughout southeast Alaska, and both Dall and Hanus served with the Coast Survey in Alaska. Hanus laid out the first streets in Juneau and helped quell the trouble in Klukwan in 1881.

There is still a large beach at Gustavus, with many strawberries

Cruise Ship

We can all plug are noes and shake are heads about cruise ship. Location, location ,location is key to any business and we sit at the gate way to Glacier Bay. Cruise ship have done the work in getting passengers on the ship. Capturing some of this revenue will only help accomplish the goals and support life in the community.

Quickest way to increase visitors to Gustavus is to work at attracting smaller cruise ship that don't have access to Glacier Bay.

Activities:

Day Boat

Whale Watching

Kayaking

Other Activities development

GBNP Charter Concession operator are limited to a max of 45 passengers vessel.

A list of Cruise operation that service Alaska.

As of 5-6-20, here is what is known regards the upcoming 2020 cruise season in Alaska:

(new updates are in red since 5-4-20)

Canada closed all ports to cruise ships of over 12 passengers through June 30 (changed from 500 passengers)

Port of Seattle has closed Port to cruise ships "indefinitely", likely until July 1 and may extend beyond

NCL suspended sailings through June 30, 2020

Oceania Cruises Regatta (NCL) suspended sailings through June 30, 2020

Regent's Seven Seas Mariner (NCL) suspended sailings through June 30, 2020

RCI/Celebrity suspended Alaska and Canada sailings through June 30, 2020

Viking Cruises suspended operations through June 30, 2020

Silver Sea Cruises suspended sailings through June 30, 2020

Disney Cruise Line suspended Alaska cruises through June 30, 2020

Scenic Luxury Cruises suspended Alaska cruises until later this summer
Ponant Cruises suspended Alaska cruises until later this summer

Alaskan Dream Cruises suspends sailings through June 30, 2020
Lindblad Expeditions suspends sailings through June 1, 2020
American Cruise Lines intends at this time to start operating in June/July, 2020
UnCruise Adventures suspended Alaska ship sailings until June 26, 2020

Princess Cruises has announced the cancellation of all remaining Alaska sailings for 2020

Holland America Line has announced the cancellation of all remaining Alaska sailings for 2020

Seabourn Cruise Line has announced the cancellation of all remaining Alaska sailings for 2020

Princess Cruises announced cancellation of Gulf of Alaska cruises and interior Cruisetour packages in 2020.

Holland America Line announced cancellation of Gulf of Alaska cruises and interior Land&Sea Journeys packages in 2020.

Carnival Cruise Lines cancelled the 2020 Alaska season for Carnival Spirit.

Carnival Cruise Lines cancelled the 2020 Alaska season for Carnival Miracle.

NCL cancelled the Alaska season for Norwegian Sun

Hapag-Lloyd cancelled the Bremen 2020 Alaska season

Hurtigruten Cruises cancelled their 2020 Alaska season

Cunard Line cancelled the Queen Elizabeth 2020 Alaska season

Windstar Cruises cancelled their 2020 Alaska season

The Boat Company cancelled their 2020 Alaska season

Approximately 479 voyages and 955,784 passengers cancelled

Community Goal:

Better Roads:

Safe Drinking water:

Incorporate Drinking water near the Dock for dual purpose support local that need safe water and charter business to protect their investments with fresh water to wash down vessel.
Can a Rain catchment system be used?

Protected Harbor:

A protected harbor would allow for expansion of the community and business. This would service all in the community.