



City of Gustavus
P.O. Box 1
Gustavus, AK 99826
Phone: (907) 697-2451

June 14, 2022

Community Respect and Cooperation Urged

Please join your fellow Gustavus community members in keeping Gustavus an attractive, safe, and environmentally responsible home for all of us!

Respectful Beach Protection

Please respect motor vehicle limits at the Gustavus Beach Park. The Beach Park upland meadows are posted as closed to motor vehicle traffic in all areas beyond the edges of Dock Road, the restroom area by the fuel tanks, and the outlined eastside parking area. The purpose is to restore and protect the beautiful natural resources we all enjoy. Please respect the limits and do not drive motor vehicles into the closed areas beyond the road edge and the log barriers.

The 1985 Quieting Title court decision, which deeded the two beach tracts to the State of Alaska, includes a covenant stating: "It is intended that recreational use shall be consistent with the natural state of the land and be of low-intensity nature." The Cooperative Resource Management Agreement between the Alaska Department of Natural Resources and the City of Gustavus establishing the Beach Park respects this covenant in closing the beach tracts to motorized vehicle use except in the limited parking areas provided. Since the closure was effected two years ago, beach vegetation has been recovering well from previous vehicle damage. Beach Park users have enjoyed the low-intensity recreational uses provided for in the legal settlement.

There are miles of gravel and dirt roads and trails around Gustavus suitable for ATV use outside the Beach Park, but please respect private properties that also may be closed to motorized vehicle use.

Safe Fish Waste Disposal

Please dispose of fish waste responsibly to avoid problems with bears, sealions, and other wildlife. Fish waste should be disposed of at the City Disposal and Recycling Center compost facility, or far offshore out of reach of bears and where sealions will not be attracted to the dock and float system.

A few days ago, several halibut carcasses were left carelessly along the shore of the Salmon River Boat Harbor. Last summer bears attracted to fish waste in the Salmon River Harbor caused adverse bear interactions with people and local dogs. Bears attracted to fish waste also rummaged in vessels pulled up on the harbor shoreline. Such interactions risk harm to people, pets, boats, and the bears themselves and must be avoided. The city is working to provide convenient, safe fish carcass disposal facilities. In the meantime, the DRC accepts fish waste for composting with food waste.



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Respectful Household Materials and Waste disposal

Please keep our community clean and beautiful. Please take garbage to the DRC for responsible disposal. Take surplus household items you wish to give away to the Community Chest. Please do not stack "free" items by roadsides or at public facilities. The trash and recycling bins by the Beach Park bathrooms are not for household waste. They are provided as a courtesy for small items associated with beach and dock activities only. Restrooms are not for honey-bucket disposal.

We can take pride that Gustavus is a cooperative community. *We are the largest community in Alaska without local police.* By being thoughtful, respecting others, avoiding impacts to our neighbors, and following public laws and rules, we can retain that distinction. But when people are disrespectful of others and of community norms, some folks call for the City to adopt police powers. Let's all do our best to keep Gustavus a place that doesn't need such enforcement presence. And let's all please help prevent unnecessary expenses by City staff to repair damage or clean up messes from thoughtless or careless activities.

Mike Taylor, Mayor