Existing Conditions

The Auke Bay area has been the home of the Aak'w Kwáan (Small Lake Tribe) for hundreds of years, with archaeological records and traditional sources indicating that the Auke Bay area has been inhabited for as long as 750 years. The Aak'w Kwáan are represented by the Douglas Indian Association as a Federally-recognized tribe under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Although this plan is not the place to reiterate the detailed history of the Auke Bay area in Tlingit culture, it cannot be stressed enough that the area contains many sacred sites and features which should be protected from interference, including intentional and unintentional destruction as well as culturally-insensitive “improvements”.

A good example of potentially negative impacts of cultural insensitivity is that of Indian Point. Documented in Rosita Worl’s article Indian Point Not for Sale; Or, Reflections on Indian Point and Thomas F. Thornton’s article Anatomy of a Traditional Cultural Property: The Saga of Auke Cape¹, the decades-long fight of Tlingit and other Alaska Native groups to protect this sacred site from both government and private development is currently threatened by Guideline and Consideration 13 for Subarea 3:

The Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan, Chapter 8, recommends a number of parks, trail, community garden and stream corridor improvements for this subarea. Those recommendations include: (a) develop a cultural park at Auke Cape/Indian Point that would include trails, interpretative panels and other low-impact structures; ...

Ordinance Serial Number 69-3 rezoned the Auke Cape properties from R012 Residential to P-Public Use, with Section 4 of that ordinance classifying and restricting the use and development of the subject lots:

Lots 3 and 4 of U.S. Survey 3811 are hereby classified as recreation land to be used in its natural state. This land shall be kept open, clear, and unrestricted for public access and enjoyment. Recreation development including campgrounds, picnic areas, trails and other improvements shall not be permitted on said land except as expressly authorized by the Assembly by ordinance.

Following the adoption of the 1984 Comprehensive Plan, the entire Land Use Code, CBJ 49, was re-written using an entirely new set of zoning designations. In this borough-wide rezoning, the Public use zone was eliminated with the thought that public uses should be

¹ The George Wright Forum, Volume 26, Number 1 (2009)
located in areas where their impacts were appropriate for the surrounding zone. In this process, the Indian Point area was rezoned to D3(T)D5, single-family/duplex residential zoning districts with respective densities of three and five dwelling units per acre, with a transition occurring from the three unit per acre limit to the five unit per acre limit after the provision of public water and sewer. The rezoning ordinance did not carry the restrictions on development codified in Ordinance 69-3, and left the area vulnerable to damage by development and park improvements.

Many sites of cultural significance have been documented in the Auke Bay area, but sadly, due to the threat of vandalism, most of these sites must remain hidden from the public eye. This results in a situation where unintentional destruction of significant artifacts can result from a simple lack of information; a catch-22 in which traditional values and relationships to the land are hard-pressed to survive.

**Vision**

The Vision Statement for the Auke Bay Area Plan speaks directly to the importance of the Auke Bay area to the original inhabitants of the area, the Aak'w Kwáan:

*Auke Bay is a community that offers: gateways to many outdoor activities, including fishing, kayaking, boating, hiking, and bicycling; study and programs at the University of Alaska Southeast; and history and cultural significance for the Aak'w Kwáan who have made Auke Bay their home for millennia.*

The vision of this plan regarding the cultural significance of the Auke Bay Area to not only the Aak'w Kwáan, but to all Tlingit and Alaska Native people, must be to protect the sacred sites in the Auke Bay area and surrounding environs.

**Recommended Tools**

The Sealaska Heritage Institute and Douglas Indian Association have partnered [Chuck, please add any other groups who are involved] to nominate Indian Point and Auke Cape to the National Register of Historic Places, an important step in protecting this area. Designation of this area and any other important sites as locally-recognized historic resources would also provide a level of protection from encroaching development, such as fill on private tidelands that destroys herring ponds or canoe runs, both archaeological features which can be found throughout the area.

Lacking formal protection, interested agencies such as the Sealaska Heritage Institute and Douglas Indian Association should provide the CBJ Community Development Department with a listing of sites which should be protected, or at least which should require notification to those agencies when development proposals are made for those properties. This would ensure that important sites were not negatively impacted or destroyed through carelessness and a lack of information.
Guideline and Consideration 13 for Subarea 3 in the 2013 *Comprehensive Plan* should be deleted, as the development of this area as a cultural park would be culturally insensitive, and opposed by the people it was intended to honor.

The Auke Cape/Indian Point properties subject to ordinance 69-3 should be re-zoned from D3(T)D5 to RR or another restrictive zoning district, and/or should be protected through recording of development restrictions such as a no-disturbance public access easement.

The Land Use Code could be amended to include a review for historic sites and structures during permit processing. Currently, such a review does not exist.

The City and Borough of Juneau has a draft Preservation Plan. This plan could be adopted which would give it official status. Identified goals in this plan include the following:

*Goal 1: Identify, evaluate, and protect the historic and archaeological resources within the City and Borough of Juneau.*

*Goal 2: Increase public awareness of the value and importance of Juneau’s history and historic resources.*

*Goal 3: Preserve and protect the unique culture of Juneau’s native people including buildings, sites, traditions, lifestyles, language, and history.*

*Goal 4: Promote heritage tourism which enhances and accurately represents Juneau’s unique history and Native culture.*

This plan proposes the following Goals and Policies for Auke Bay:

*Goal 1: Identify Auke Bay’s historical sites and structures.*

**Policies**

1.1 Conduct a detailed historic survey of the Auke Bay area to identify cultural and historic sites and structures.

*Goal 2: Preserve and protect Auke Bay’s history.*

**Policies**

2.1 Preserve Indian Point by rezoning the property to its original designation to limit activities allowed on the site, and amend the Parks Master Plan to further limit activity at Indian Point.

2.2 Seek National Register recognition for significant sites.

*Goal 3: Promote Auke Bay’s rich culture and history.*

**Policies**

3.1 Include culturally compatible elements into Auke Bay’s gateway design.
3.2 Consider bilingual signage in the Auke Bay area.
3.3 Include interpretive signage along the seawalk that details Auke Bay’s history and sites.
3.4 If an Auke Bay neighborhood committee is formed, include a cultural representative on the committee.