

Our People & Economy



2022 DEMOGRAPHICS

- Total population: 2,575 **↑3% from 2015**
- Median age: 47.9 **↓-1% from 2015**
- Ages 65+: 640 **↑33% from 2015**
- Under 15: 420 **↑16% from 2015**



2022 GENERAL ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

- Total labor force (job and self-employed): 1,335 **↑2% from 2015**
- Total job earnings: \$61.2 M **↑38% from 2015**
- Average annual workforce earnings: \$45,800 **↑35% from 2015**
- Annual unemployment rate: 6.6% **↓-3% from 2015**



2022 TOP ECONOMIC SECTORS

Government – Public Sector: 16% of all employment earnings

- Total government wages: \$9.9 M **↑23% from 2015**
- Total government employment: 192 **↑2% from 2015**

Health Care – Key Industry: 14% of all employment earnings

- Total health and social services wages: \$8.3 M **↑83% from 2015**
- Total health and social services employment: 149 **↓-1% from 2015**

Visitor Industry – 13% of all employment earnings

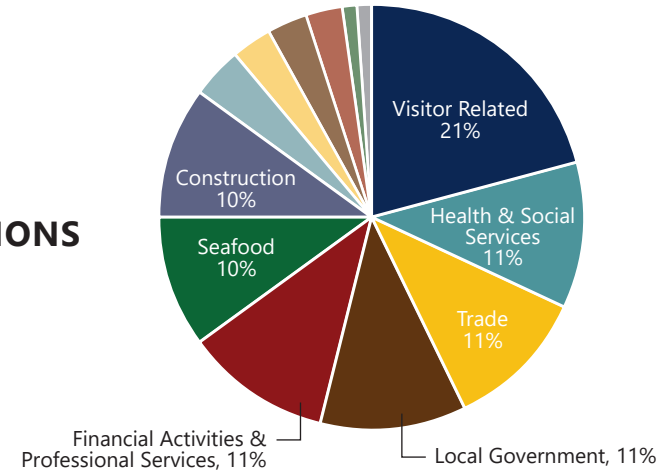
- Total visitor industry wages: \$7.7 M **↑27% from 2015**
- Total visitor industry employment: 280 **↑3% from 2015**

Commercial Fishing and Seafood Industry – Key Industry: 10% of all employment earnings

- Seafood employment (resident fishermen, processors): 130 **↑7% from 2015**
- Seafood employment earnings: \$6.1 M **↑6% from 2015**
- Commercial vessels homeported in Haines: 81 **↑7% from 2015**

2022 JOBS BY SECTOR

(% of 1,335 jobs)



Jobs Representing Less than 5% of Total Jobs in 2022

- Non-Visitor Transportation, Utilities, Warehousing, 1%
- Federal Government, 1%
- Information & Education, 3%
- State Government, 3%
- Mining, 3%
- Other, 4%

Source: Haines By The Numbers, prepared by Rain Coast Data, June 2023

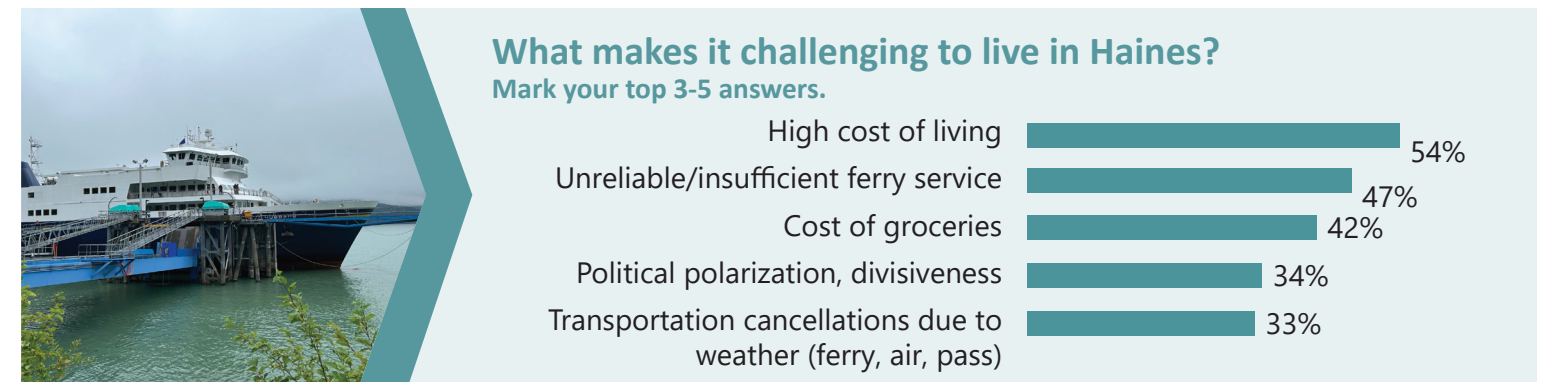
2023 Community Survey: Values, Challenges, & Character

660 total responses (note: character question = 512 responses)

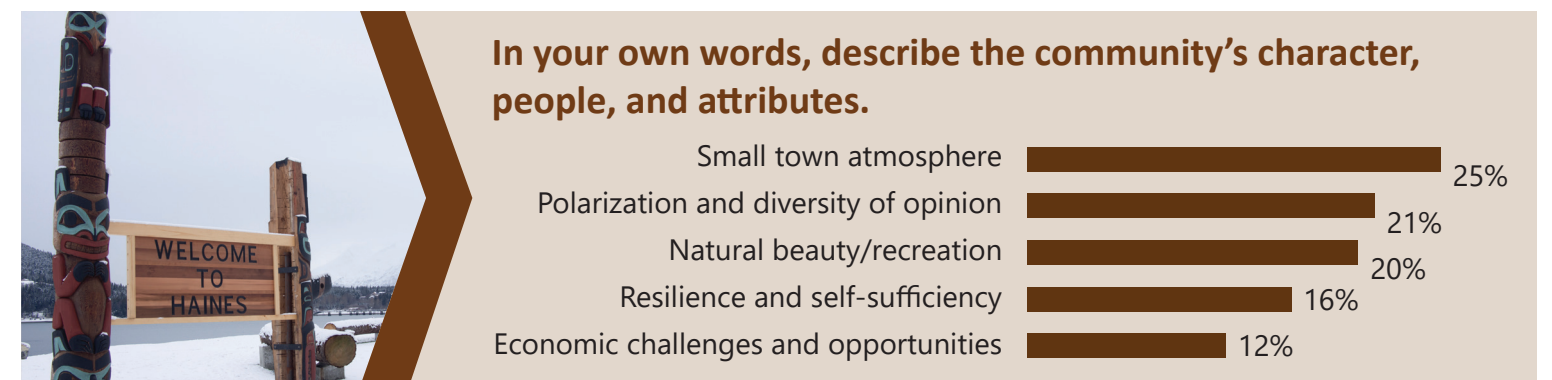
Quotes are directly from the community survey



"Haines is a beautiful, pristine, safe and wild place to live. It is one of the most community-minded towns that I've ever seen or lived in."



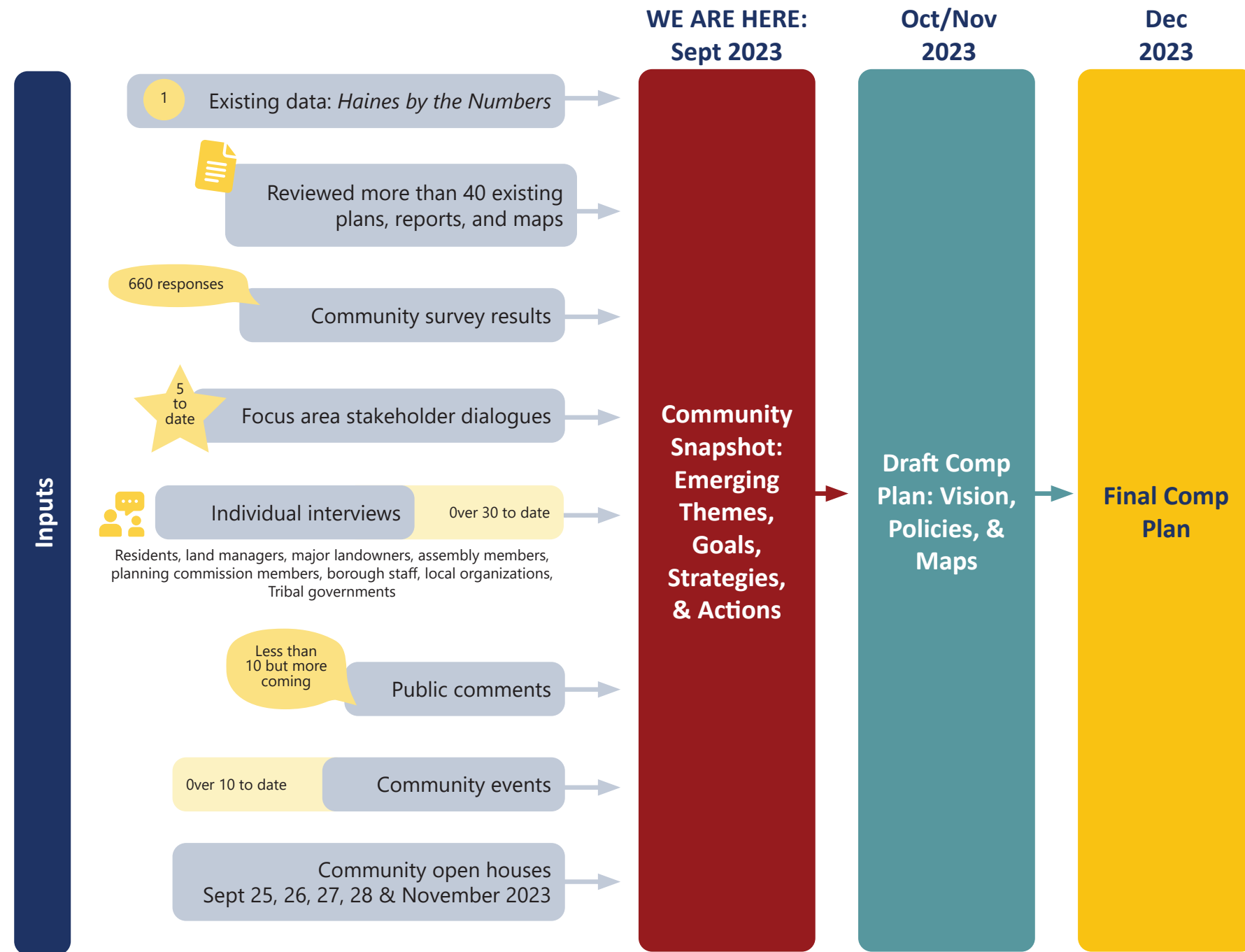
"Haines is a divided community. Neighborhoods can provide friendly connections, but political differences can create harsh and uncivil exchanges."



"We are divided on a lot of issues, but when push comes to shove, we are always here for each other. We also raise great kids here."

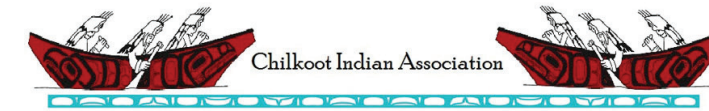
Source: Haines Community Survey Assessment, August 2023

How Input Informs Comp Plan Policies



Public Involvement Throughout: Residents, Tribes, Businesses, Organizations, Planning Commission, Assembly

Our Traditional Stewards



Chilkat Indian Village and Chilkoot Indian Association

The Tlingit people of the present day Haines area were known to belong to one of the largest and most well-known tribes in Southeast — the Chilkats. As the first settlers of the area, the Tlingits of the Chilkat Valley trace their family lineage back generations to many local village sites in the valley and along the Chilkoot and Chilkat rivers. Today, there are only two remaining village sites occupied in the Chilkat Valley — Klukwan and Deishú – represented by two sovereign and federally recognized Tribes.

Chilkoot Indian Association (CIA) seeks to represent Haines as a Native Sovereign Nation. Through the integration of traditional culture, values, and community programs, the Chilkoot Indian Association supports and uplifts their tribal citizens.

Klukwan is nestled along the banks of the Chilkat River and enjoys a multi-layered cultural history that is preserved through the Tlingit language, rituals, stories, oral histories, and subsistence activities practiced by the Chilkat Tlingits, a federally recognized tribe known as the Chilkat Indian Village (CIV).

Sources: Chilkat Indian Village, Chilkoot Indian Association, and Haines Borough websites.

Comprehensive Plan Project Contacts

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EMERGING THEMES, GOALS, STRATEGIES, & ACTIONS



Land Use & Environment

Themes →

- Conflict between current/projected land use and current zoning and future growth designations.
- High development costs and redevelopment challenges.
- Community values recreation and natural spaces.
- Hazard mitigation vital in future development.
- Aging management plans for public lands.

Goals ✓

- Maintain a balance between the area’s predominantly small town and rural character with ready access to open space as well as vital community commercial areas.
- Guide land use in predominantly residential areas to maintain neighborhood character, including buffering residential uses from more intensive commercial and industrial uses.
- Support the responsible development of resources, including agriculture, tourism, timber and mining, to create a stronger, more diverse local economy.
- Establish policies that better guide land use to mitigate hazards, promote affordable, quality housing, expand economic opportunities, and maintain the character of Haines.
- Maintain and increase access to recreation opportunities for residents of all abilities and all user groups and for maintaining tourism as an economic driver.
- Protect the health of the Chilkat Valley ecosystem.

Strategies and Actions ★

- Develop a Haines Parks and Trails Master Plan through an inclusive process that includes both motorized and non-motorized access. Prioritize projects, pursue funding, and implement.
- Implement the goals and actions in the 2022 Hazard Mitigation Plan and develop/implement a community climate adaptation plan.
- Work with residents through a robust public review process to update the Borough’s “Title 18 Land Use/Development” zoning code to reflect revised land use categories and goals in the Future Land Use Map.
Sample actions:
 1. Rezone “General Use” areas in the Upper Valley and other locations to better reflect historical, current, and projected use.
 2. Create agricultural zones where land can support farming.
- Develop and apply land use policy tools to promote economic development priorities.



Economic Development

Themes →

- Haines has a uniquely diverse economy.
- High cost of living - goods, services, transportation - impact to residents and businesses.
- Differing and divisive perspectives about industrial development.

Goals ✓

- Sustain Haines’ economic resilience and diverse economic base.
- Pursue moderate economic growth while preserving natural resources and characteristics that residents value.

Strategies and Actions ★

- Support implementation of Haines Economic Development Corporation Five-Year Economic Development Strategy.
- Support moderate growth in tourism with improvements that support small businesses and entrepreneurs, tourists, and residents.
Sample actions:
 1. Increase the supply of both short- and long-term camping options, especially close to town.
- Expand vocational and technical education opportunities that support existing and expanding economic drivers: healthcare, commercial fishing, guiding, tourism, and recreational opportunities and skilled trades. Include craftsman and subsistence skill building/community educational opportunities.
- Support increased Alaska Marine Highway reliability and consistency.
- Support and promote sustainable, regenerative activities.

EMERGING THEMES, GOALS, STRATEGIES, & ACTIONS



Transportation

Themes →

- Expensive access to and from the community.
- Reduced Alaska Marine Highway service.
- Environmental/hazardous threats to transportation infrastructure.
- Lack of public transportation for residents within borough.

Goals ✓

- Continue advocating for reliable and affordable ferry and air service.
- Maintain, preserve, and operate a safe and functional community transportation network that accommodates desired future change and growth.
- Maximize Haines' unique opportunity as a deep water port to support tourism, transportation, and economic development.

Strategies and Actions ★

- Identify options for reliable and affordable air and ferry service.
Sample actions:
 1. Explore the feasibility of water-based ferry alternatives for both passenger and freight service.
- Establish additional public transit and alternative transportation options for residents.
Sample actions:
 1. Provide a network of pedestrian and bicycle facilities within the townsite that are usable year-round by people of all abilities.
- Implement the goals and strategies of the 2023 Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan.



Utilities

Themes →

- Small population and high service costs.
- Sewer improvements required by Environmental Protection Agency.
- Inconsistent and expensive communication networks and service.

Goals ✓

- Provide and support delivery of adequate and cost effective utilities to enable residential living, economic opportunity, public safety, and add to the quality of life.

Strategies and Actions ★

- Provide consistent and regular maintenance of existing water and sewer service to borough customers.
Sample actions:
 1. Conduct a third-party rate study to develop a future rate increase schedule.
 2. Enforce code to prevent backflow issues.
- Increase public education and outreach on water code and issues.
- Implement proposed improvements in 2023 water and sewer masterplans.
- Increase advocacy for more stable and affordable communications with internet and cell providers.
- Encourage net metering.



Housing

Themes →

- High cost of new construction.
- Fluctuating seasonal housing demands.
- Limited stock of affordable, attainable, and accessible housing (attainable housing is housing that is affordable to working adults commensurate with their income).
- Limited stock of townsite housing/building options.
- Housing is not an authority or power granted by the Borough charter for the Borough government to address.

Goals ✓

- Increase the supply of affordable, attainable, quality, accessible housing that addresses the needs of all residents.

Strategies and Actions ★

- Support recommendations outlined in the 2023 Haines Housing Opinion Survey.
Sample actions:
 1. Prioritize securing housing and related supports for the most at-risk and vulnerable populations in Haines.
- Implement specific mitigation goals and actions that pertain to land use and affect future residential construction (Also included in Land Use section.)
- Pursue options for removing regulatory barriers to increase the availability of affordable, accessible, and quality housing.
Sample actions:
 1. Explore the HUD technical assistance programs and grants for municipalities aimed at removing regulatory barriers to promote more affordable housing.