
WRANGELL, ALASKA

Located in central Southeast Alaska

2015 Community Profile



WRANGELL : COMMUNITY PROFILE

LOCATION

Wrangell Island is located 90 miles north of Ketchikan in Southeast Alaska, near the mouth of the Stikine River. By air, Wrangell is approximately 1 hour 30 minutes (155 air miles) south from Juneau, and 3 hours from Anchorage and Seattle (just over 700 air miles each). The City of Wrangell is located on the northern tip of Wrangell Island.

POPULATION

Wrangell Borough 2,456 (1/2014)

CLIMATE

Wrangell lies in the maritime climatic zone and experiences cool summers, mild winters with snow, and year round rainfall.

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| January Average Temp | 30.5 F |
| July Average Temp | 58.1 F |
| 65 yr Minimum Recorded | -10 F |
| 65 yr Maximum Recorded | 92 F |
| Average Annual Rainfall | 82.4" |
| Average Annual Snowfall | 64 " |
| Prevailing Wind Direction | southeast |
| Mean Hourly Speed | 5-15mph |

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Wrangell is a Unified Municipality (Borough) with an Assembly- Manager form of government. On May 30, 2008, the City of Wrangell was dissolved and the City and Borough of Wrangell was incorporated. There is a seven member Borough Assembly and an elected Mayor.

2014 Tax Assessment

Real Property Net Taxable Assessed Valuation
12.75 mills \$137,043,529

The Borough has two tax structures, 12.75 mills for those within the Service Area; 4 mills for a Tax Differential Zone and for the remote areas.

Sales Tax is 7% on all goods and services.

Police Department has seven sworn officers. Fire Department has one full time salaried employee and 40 volunteers. There is a substation at milepost 5.5 on Zimovia Highway. ISO rating is 3.

ECONOMY

Wrangell's economy, while historically based on the wood products and fishing industries, is now driven by tourism and marine industries.

Fishing and fish processing are a very important segment of the local economy. Fleets of shrimp, crab, troll, seine, gillnet, and trawler vessels are based in Wrangell. There are two seafood processors and a crab processor. The community has completed several marine industry enhancement projects, including the recent completion of a marine service and repair yard with two travel lifts to support the commercial and recreational boats transiting the Inside Passage.

Independent visitor tourism plays a major role during the summer months from May through September. Wrangell's Downtown Revitalization project to rebuild infrastructure and enhance the downtown commercial corridor is recently completed. The local Tlingit tribe completed reconstruction of Chief Shakes Tribal House. Fishing, hiking, museum, sightseeing, flightseeing and wildlife charters, petroglyphs and local art are available for independent travelers arriving by ferry or jet, yachts and cruise ship passengers.

Public sector employment is also a significant contributor to the local economy. This includes employees of the City and Borough of Wrangell, Wrangell School District, Wrangell Medical Center, local employees of state agencies including Health and Social Services, Fish and Game, Transportation and Public Safety; and local federal employees of the Postal Service, Customs and US Forest Service.

TRANSPORTATION

Wrangell is an island community and accessible by air and water.

Air: There is regular Alaska Airlines jet service from Seattle and Juneau. Local air charter services (fixed wing and float plane) are available.

Water: There is regular mainline passenger ferry service via the Alaska Marine Highway System from Bellingham WA, and Juneau. Regular barge service from Seattle area and Juneau is provided by Alaska Marine Lines and Samson Tug and Barge. There are also local marine freight haulers available.

Port: Borough operated port facilities include a T-shaped City dock for cruise ships and yachts, deep water port with barge facility, 2 marine travel lifts and work yard, seaplane dock, and three boat harbors. State operated facilities include an international airport and ferry dock.

Truck: Wrangell has several trucking companies hauling and shipping materials and goods including Arrowhead Transfer, Lynden Transport.

Bus/Taxi/Rental Cars: There is no regular community bus service, but is one taxi company. Senior Citizens have a van for transportation. Several tour companies have busses or vans available for charter. One car rental facility located at the airport.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Health Care: Local physicians provide medical services out of the new Alaska Island Community Services Clinic. Wrangell Medical Centre is an acute care hospital has 7 beds, participates in a visiting specialist physician program and houses a 14 bed long-term care unit. There is a State Health Clinic with a resident nurse practitioner. Wrangell has one dentist and one chiropractor.

Education: During the 2014-2015 school year, 272 students are enrolled in the district, with 30 certified instructors employed. Contact the District office for information on extracurricular activities or specific educational programs.

Evergreen Elementary is dedicated to providing hands-on learning experiences with reading, writing and math as core curriculum. *Stikine Middle School* serves students grades 6-8 and shares many facilities with the adjacent High School. *Wrangell High School* serves students grades 9-12. Specialized classes in tech prep and career oriented courses, and computer technology are popular classes to complement core curriculum courses.

Irene Ingle Public Library: The library boasts an outstanding collection of children and adult books, videos, books on tapes and computers, free internet and wi-fi usage and sponsors a summer reading program.

Wrangell Museum and Civic Center: The Museum is an interactive story of Wrangell's history with local and regional artifacts. Convention facility rentals are available. Current movies are scheduled regularly in the facility by Castle Mountain Inc.

Recreational Facility and Community Center:

Attached to the High School is a community recreational facility housing a swimming pool, weight room, racket ball court and public showers.

Harbors: There are three recreational and commercial fishing harbors. Reliance Boat Harbor is located in town and has 230 slips available with transient moorage space. Shoemaker Bay Harbor is located 5 miles from town with 250 slips. Heritage Harbor is 1 mile from town with 160 stalls and transient yacht moorage. Public boat ramps and hoists are located at each harbor. Summer floats at City Dock are for loading and unloading gear and passengers and for transient yachts.

Campgrounds: Overnight camping is allowed at City Park, located about one mile from town. There is also camping available for tents and 16 R.V.'s at Shoemaker Bay Harbor 5 miles from town. Dump station and water are available, with electrical to RV sites. Cost is \$15 and \$25. Primitive camping is provided at several US Forest Service campgrounds in Tongass National Forest on Wrangell Island for tents and RVs. The USFS also maintains 23 cabins in surrounding remote areas for public use on a reservation basis.

Other recreational facilities and opportunities:

There is a skating rink, two tennis courts, basketball courts, indoor and outdoor shooting ranges, two baseball fields, golf course, year-round recreational programs, archery range, fishing, boating, biking, beach combing, children play equipment, petroglyphs, hiking trails, camping, hunting, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, outdoor covered playground and track/multi-purpose field. There are over 100 miles of forest roads on Wrangell Island for access to lakes and scenic areas.

General: There are 11 churches, 2 banks-each with ATMs. The Visitor Center is located in the Nolan Center.

UTILITIES

Electricity:

Supplier: Wrangell Municipal Light and Power
Source: Primary power source is hydro power from Tyee Hydro project. Secondary source is diesel generators.

Rates:

| | Residential |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Base monthly rate | \$8.00 |
| 0-300 KWH | \$.126 per KWH |
| 300 -1200 KWH | \$.102 per KWH |
| >1200 KWH | \$.08 per KWH |

| | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| | Small Commercial |
| Base monthly rate | \$9.00 |
| all KWH | \$.116 per KWH |
| | Large Commercial |
| Base monthly rate | \$13.50 |
| 0-70,000 KWH | \$.107 per KWH |
| > 70,000 | \$.103 per KWH |
| | Industrial |
| negotiated per KWH | |

Water:

Supplier: City and Borough of Wrangell
 Water Service: 80 % of households within the Service Area are connected to the system.
 Water source: Two reservoirs, central piped water system. Ozone and sand filtered water filtration plant came online in July of 1999.
 Average Daily Consumption: 700,000 gallons/day
 Water Usage Rates: Flat monthly fee for service. Residential rate is \$38.44. Commercial rate is defined in the Borough Code by business type.

Sewer:

Supplier: City and Borough of Wrangell
 Service: 80 % of the households within the Service Area are connected to sewer. The remainder have a state approved on-site treatment facility.
 Sewer Treatment: New secondary treatment facility with a marine outfall.
 Sewer Rates: Flat monthly fee for service. Residential rate is \$36.95. Commercial rate is defined in the Borough Code by business type.

Garbage:

Supplier: City and Borough of Wrangell.
 Service: Garbage is picked up weekly and disposed of at a material recovery handling facility. Garbage is shipped south to a landfill.
 Rates: Residential rate is by can size. 48 gallon can is \$26/mo; 64 gallon can is \$43.20/mo; and 96 gallon can is \$51.80/mo. Commercial rate is defined in Borough Code by business type.

COMMUNICATION

Telephone: Local supplier is Alaska Power & Telephone. Long distance is supplied by AT&T, AP&T or GCI Communication. Cellular phone service is provided by ACS, AT&T or GCI.
 Internet Access: Local dial-up, broadband and fiber optics. Broadband access is provided by AP&T; fiber optics is provided by GCI Communication.

MEDIA

Radio: KSTK-FM 101.7 (local) www.kstk.org

Newspaper: Wrangell Sentinel (weekly)
 P.O. Box 798, Wrangell, AK 99929
 907/874-2301; www.thewrangellsentinel.com

Television: Cable service by GCI Communication or private satellite dish.

MAIL DELIVERY SERVICES

Postal Service was established in Wrangell in 1873. First U.S. Postmaster started in 1902. No home delivery by the U.S. Postal System is currently provided. Mail is delivered to post office boxes or to general delivery. Wrangell Diversified and Alpine Expediting provide delivery pick-up for incoming and outgoing air cargo, United Parcel Service and Federal Express.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

- Economic Development Director
 P.O. Box 531 Wrangell, AK 99929
 tel (907) 874-2381 fax (907) 874-3952
 email: ecodev@wrangell.com
 website is <http://www.wrangell.com>
- Wrangell Convention and Visitor Bureau
 P.O. Box 1350 Wrangell, AK 99929
 tel (907) 874-2829 800-367-9745
 email: fun@wrangellalaska.org
www.wrangellalaska.org
- Wrangell Chamber of Commerce
 P.O. Box 49 Wrangell, AK 99929
 tel (907) 874-3901 fax (907) 874-3905
 e-mail: info@wrangellchamber.org
- Superintendent Wrangell School District
 P.O. Box 2319 Wrangell, AK 99929
 tel (907/ 874-2347 www.wrangellschools.org
- James and Elsie Nolan Civic Center
 P.O. Box 1050 296 Campbell Drive
 Wrangell, AK 99929
 tel (907) 874-3699
 email: nolancenter@wrangellalaska.org
www.wrangellalaska.org