

City of Wrangell

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City of Wrangell

Interview Date: January 2023

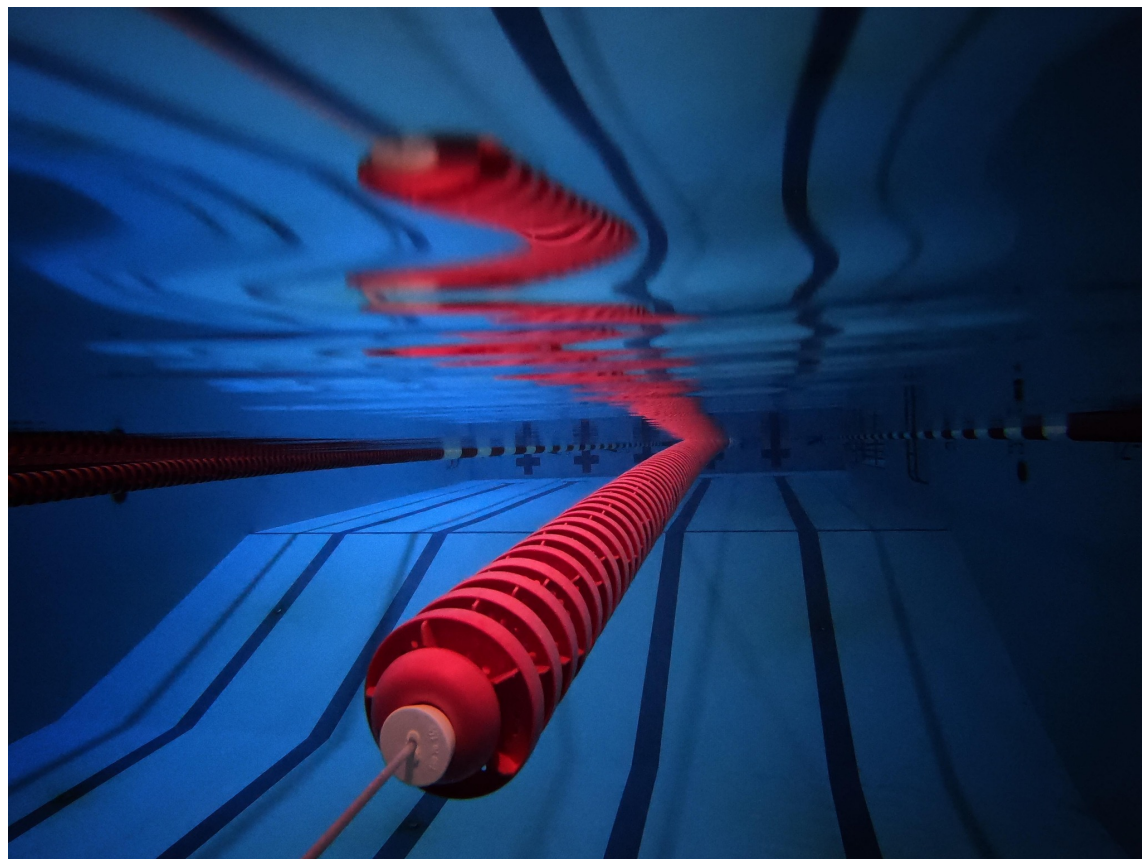
Kate Thomas started her Alaskan career in 2007, with a degree in Adventure Tourism and Business Operations from the College of the Rockies in British Columbia. Kate has worked as a backcountry canoe, kayak and hiking guide for high end clients and behavioral health programs serving at-risk youth. Kate's experiences in the wilderness have transformed her into a tenacious creative mentor and leader with an ability to build healthy professional and personal relationships and understand progress and relationship barriers while implementing sustainable solutions. She currently resides in Wrangell and has served as the Parks and Recreation Director for the Borough since 2015.



Kate Thomas

We sat down with Kate to chat about our **24-year relationship with Wrangell**. As a town with just over 2,000 people, Kate expressed that they are lucky to have a pool. The pool was constructed in 1985 and opened in 1986, converting to salt with TMI in 1999. Some of the reasoning for building a pool, as with many Alaskan communities, was motivated by the need to reduce the number of fatalities from drownings around the island.

The town has a temperate coastal climate, is located on the NW tip of Wrangell Island and you need a boat, ferry or plane to get anywhere from there. Prior to building the pool, not everyone had the opportunity to learn to swim and at least some of the motivation was to make this available to the entire community. The City partnered with the school to build the pool followed by ownership and maintenance being transferred to the borough.



Underwater shot of City of Wrangell's pool

"This is one of the coastal communities left with the values of the 'last frontier'. Having worked here for over 8 years, I know most all people by name and swim competency."

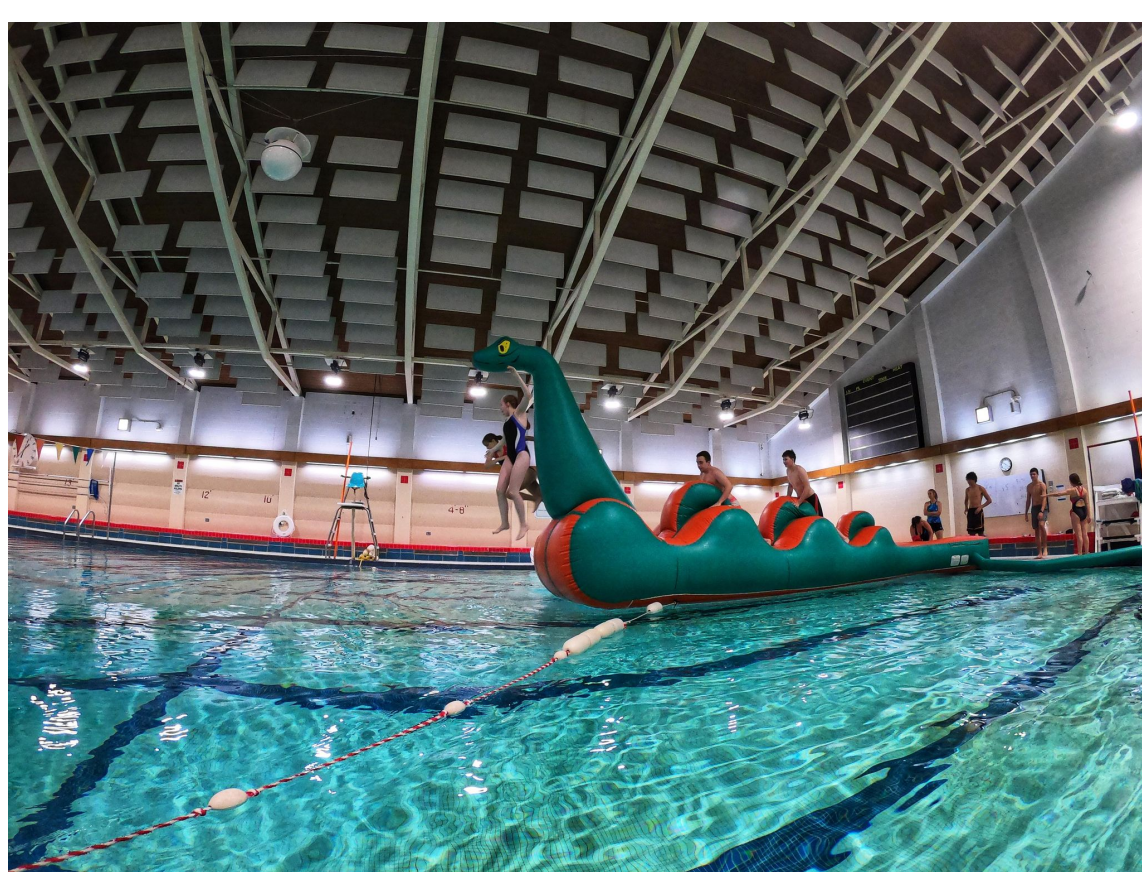
When Kate started as Parks and Rec Director in 2015, she had no previous experience overseeing aquatics. Everything she has learnt at Wrangell is all she knows about aquatics. The most common feedback she gets from her swimmers is that ***"the water quality is exceptional and definitely enjoyable!"***

"In my own experience, I remember swimming in our 2 million gallon pool on Coney Island and by the end of the day, my eyes would be burning. That never happens in our pool at Wrangell! It's a sizeable pool (200,000 gallons) with a 13' depth in the deep end. Depending on the day, over 100 people a day come through."

"When I first started at Wrangell, I had to acquire a lot of knowledge in a short space of time and it was so helpful to work with the TMI techs who have helped me tackle most of my problems and provided extraordinary support not just to my needs for the TMI equipment learning curve but also for the broader scope of best practices right up to pool foundation problems! My experience has been positive for sure and I will be sure to encourage my replacement to draw off TMI assistance in the same way, as I will be taking a position as the Economic Development Director shortly."

"In short, we transitioned to TMI Salt pools many years ago and haven't looked back since. The water quality is extraordinarily good, as is the support from TMI. A TMI System is definitely worth serious consideration."

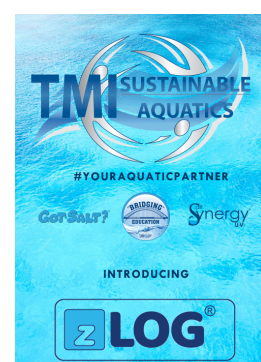
Kate, a self-declared lover of a City Street Hot Dog and master of cooking Eggs Benedict will be sorely missed by our team at TMI and we look forward to working with your newly appointed Parks and Rec Director, Lucy Robinson! Good luck on the next part of your journey! We'll be sure to stop by for some tasty Eggs Benedict when next on the Island and look forward to working with Lucy.



If you are interested in learning more about the City of Wrangell, located in Alaska, click [here](#).

For more information on TMI Sustainable Aquatics click [here](#). For more information on BRIDGING® click [here](#). If you would like to contact TMI, email tjmothy@tmiaquatics.com.

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