



**ANACORTES PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

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## **Anacortes Community Forest Lands Advisory Board**

**October 13, 2022  
6pm**

In person and virtual meeting options.

In Person: City Hall, Main Floor Conference Room

Zoom Meeting Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88308344363>

### **Preliminary Agenda**

1. Call to Order
2. Approve September 2022 Minutes
3. Board Member Update
4. Public Comments *for any item not on the agenda*
5. ACFL Dams Update
6. Friends of the Forest Update
7. Parks Commission Report
8. ACFL Trail Committee
9. Staff Reports
10. Other Business

Adjourn

## **Minutes of the Meeting: September 1, 2022**

**Board members present:** Brian Wetcher, JoAnn York-Gilmore, Kit Gerwels

**Staff present:** Bob Vaux, Steve Phillips, Darby Jordan

**Guests:** Ellie Kravets

Meeting held in person and via Zoom and called to order at 6:05PM

**Minutes:** August minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.

### **Public Comments:**

None

### **ACFL Dams Update:**

Still ongoing, no updated information.

### **Water Quality:**

Bob shared that the team is still regularly testing for fecal coliform at all three lakes, and all results are within normal and safe recreational limits. The County Health Department has tested samples of possible blue green algae from Little Cranberry and Heart Lakes, and results are well below any level of recreational concern. There also has been no sickness in any pets reported. Bob also shared that Heart Lake will be treated soon for Milfoil and Yellow Flag Iris. There are signs posted now as well as additional signs put up at the time of treatment by the company doing the work.

### **Friends of the Forest Update:**

Ellie was in attendance for Asa. She said planning is in full swing for their fall fundraiser to be held on November 12<sup>th</sup>. Ellie also shared that the Trail Ambassador program had its last weekend over Labor Day weekend, and they are compiling information to be reported soon. The Friends are working toward a tighter partnership with Transition Fidalgo. Transition Fidalgo has the inhouse expertise scientifically and the Friends will assist with the organizational support. Ellie classified herself as a rouge CC'er and will keep everyone in the loop with emails and information on all topics.

### **Parks Commission Report:**

JoAnn reported on the August meeting of the Parks Commission. The Community Youth Center is in the early stages of funding, partnerships and trades. The Skate Park continues to progress with the preliminary design done and talk of adding a pump track. The Parks Board spoke about the possibility of moving the crosswalk for safety of the users. The Rotary Club will be in attendance at the next Parks meeting to present their designs and ideas for the Cap Sante eastern view point.

Jonnn gave a quick update on the Tommy Thompson trestle fire that occurred on August 30<sup>th</sup>. There are no details on the investigation yet. The last fire occurred on October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009 and the trestle was reopened on June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010, however due to the changes in permitting and regulations, the trestle is not expected to reopen that fast this time. At this time, bicyclists are being asked to use highway 20 to bypass the trestle.

**ACFL Trail Committee Report:**

Bob reported that Bruce Rustad has done some work on trail #118. He has taken a 40 foot section and reduced it to an efficient 20 feet, returning 20 feet to the forest. This has been an ongoing project and all permits were obtained.

**Staff Reports:**

Steve had nothing to add to his written report. He did express again a huge thanks to our seasonal staff. They were an absolutely amazing crew to work with this summer!

Bob spoke about a tough interaction with a homeowner in the Parkside neighborhood regarding a tree they had topped in the buffer between their yard and the forest land, the NGPE. Kit is on the HOA board for that neighborhood and suggested a reminder be sent by the HOA to all residents. Parkside was the first development to have these easements or setbacks.

**Other Business:**

Bob reminded everyone about the Summer volunteer work party hosted by the Friends and parks staff. This will be on September 10th and will be on trail #132. It was recommended by the Board to City Council to close this trail and that will be the project.

**Adjourn at 7:07pm**

Respectfully Submitted by Darby Jordan

## **September 2022 Report from the Assistant Director's Desk**

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**SK8 PARK!**

Aug 19/ Had a great Zoom Room session with the Grindline Team and our very own Fidalgo Trail Riders. The two groups shared work based upon the Pump Track charrette from earlier in the summer. The design coming together should be a real crowd pleaser. We are looking forward to sharing this good work soon.

Sept 8/ FTR signs off on some very cool pump track renderings from Grindline. Private side Project Lead Rachel also very supportive. Time to start working on Construction Documents.

Sept 14/ Rachel, Parks staff and Grindline team put together a rough schedule to get us to bid documents. If all goes well, we should be going out to bid shortly after the new year.

**OPEN STREETS**

Aug 19/ Wrapped up my prep work with Warren Tessler. Very special thanks to Parks Manager Johnston for covering for me on event day. Allowed my wife and I to deliver my youngest to college and celebrate her 21<sup>st</sup> birthday in the process.

**ACFL PATROL**

Aug 20/ I joined Devanne for the afternoon in Steve's absence and had a new encounter: rogue wedding at Whistle Lake's family beach. Devanne spotted the group setting up @ 30 chairs in the morning for a 6PM ceremony. They had transported the chairs in with the help of a struggling riding lawn mower. Early indicators were not good. Devanne put me in touch with the bride, and rather than ruin her day, which policy certainly justified and in fact dictated, I did my best to work with her and the rest of the

group. The short story is that it all worked out. I was very clear with this party that this kind of event would never have gained permission from the City, and please communicate this with anyone who compliments them on what a beautiful wedding venue they found.

The rest of the day was pretty standard fare.

Sept 5/ spent some afternoon patrol time at Whistle so Devanne could take lunch. Ended up ending the summer with a solid alcohol contact, and a few miscellaneous typical situations. We topped out at about 30 vehicles on this Labor Day. Thrilled to have the fall winding its way in.

## **VACATION**

Special thanks to Director Lunsford and Parks Manager Johnston for covering for me while I enjoyed time off Aug 21-29. Also took Sept 15-16, as well as Sept 22-26.

## **TRESTLE BURNS AGAIN**

8/30 My first day back. I find it difficult to put words together on this time travel tragedy.

9/21 Met on site with Andy Culbertson/Culbertson Marine. He is one of many talented and generous community members helping us explore options on the trestle repair front.

## **TREES**

Sept 1/ Visited three homes adjacent to the North Heart Lake Unit. Each had a unique tree(s) situation. Working on some hazard mitigation plans with Planning.

Sept 8/ ACFL Steve and I met with homeowner adjacent to the LC access road. She had a couple of limbs she would like to have removed. We agreed to the project. Homeowner will schedule and pay for the work.

Sept 13/ Parks Manager Johnston, ACFL Steve and I removed a hazard tree from the TTPW, as reported by condo residents across the path.

## **FOREST ADVISORY BOARD**

We all enjoyed meeting Ellie Kravets, the new staffer at the FoF. Fairly routine meeting otherwise.

## **DISC GOLF COURSE**

Sept 2/ Met on site with Kevin Kennedy, one of the local DG club leaders. He is working on the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual local invitational, and I am exploring some helpful options. I invited him to come and speak to the Parks Commission Sept 13.

## **HOMELESS CONTACTS**

Sept 6/ Parks Manager Johnston and I attempted to contact a fellow entrenched above the Cap Sante disc golf course. His level of agitation prompted us to call APD in. Two officers joined us and made contact. When Nicole leads the PD and Parks staff back there later in the week for clean-up, the fellow was packed up and ready to move on.

## **FORTS**

Sept 6/ Nicole and my next step that morning was just north of Kiwanis Meadows, on what turned out to be School District property. Parks staff pointed us toward a rather substantial "fort", including furniture, hammocks, lots of graffiti, and some wetland impacts. We notified ASD of the situation, and they will handle it from here. Thank you, AJ Yost, for locating this youth hang out area.

## **HEART LAKE TREATMENT**

Approximately 9 acres of the lake was treated for Eurasian milfoil and yellow flag iris on Sept 6<sup>th</sup>. The details were reviewed with the Forest Advisory Board on Sept 1<sup>st</sup>. There were and are no recreational restrictions on the lake as a result of the treatment. Thank you Aquatechnex.

## **SUMMER ACFL VOLUNTEER WORK PARTY**

ACFL Steve, Asa and Ellie from the Friends of the Forest and myself did a planning walk thru, prepping for our jointly hosted quarterly work party on Sept 10<sup>th</sup>. Our primary goal is to finally get #132 closed.

Sept 10/ in addition to the four us, we had 7 folks come out on a questionable air quality Saturday morning. Due to the extreme dry conditions, we left the chainsaws at the shop, and worked with hand tools. #132 was closed at either end, and we got some surfacing done on 106 as well. The first sign stolen from the site occurred over the 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> weekend. We knew the closure would be an uphill battle.

## **PARKS COMMISSION**

Sept meeting highlighted by great Cap Sante east viewpoint proposal presentation by Rotary Club.

## **WASHINGTON PARK RESTROOM**

9/20 site meeting with Quantum Construction design team and city Planning staff. Good discussion as we strive to get this project to bid documents. So far, very straight forward from a regulatory perspective.

## **W. 2<sup>nd</sup> CONNECTOR TRAIL**

9/27 met on site with Director Lunsford and ACFL Steve. We should be able to start work on this next week. Looking forward to debuting our elevated trail plan, and how it directly benefits wetland functions.

## **FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH**

Sept 8/ attended regular Tailgate Safety meeting with the Parks Crew.  
Sept 13/ regular meeting with FoF Exec Dir Asa. Good S. Cranberry recon.

Faithfully Submitted,

Bob Vaux  
September 30, 2022

## **ACFL Maintenance Report SEPTEMBER – 2022**

**by Steve Phillips**

October 5, 2022

### **Maintenance Activities**

Public usage has slowed down dramatically since the last report at the end of August. It's difficult to work in the forest without having concern about fire: conditions remain very dry in the forest. However, daylight continues to diminish; we have had some foggy, humid mornings; and rain is possible for this coming Monday. These factors all add up to less favorable conditions for fire, as they cause fuel moisture to increase. As a result, I've restricted chainsaw use to during humid times of the day, but there has not been a great need for it, either. It hasn't been windy, so few trees have become trail obstructions this past month. Devanne's final day working in the ACFL as a summer seasonal worker was Labor Day - September 5. My daily written log has therefore gone back to being patchy and nearly illegible (Devanne is known for her excellent handwriting and high level of detail).

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8/25 – Devanne and I took the last water samples of the summer at our three lakes. Levels all came back low/safe.

8/26-7 – Devanne and I visited the Whistle Lake island for litter pickup; we did some tree improvement work at the new Ship Harbor Blvd/Oakes Ave roundabout; we disposed of a dead deer; Devanne continued pruning trees for clearance on Trail 20.

8/28 – about 25 cars at Whistle Lake, at its peak.

8/30-31 saw warmer temperatures again (low 80s). Few people, but still alcohol and attempts to cook dinner by propane BBQ.

I kept 22 water bags full at the base of newly planted trees around town starting this week and onward (until the time of this writing). This is a weekly requirement.

8/31 – Two kids with motorbikes at Whistle Lake Cliffs on trail 246. I had them walk them out to a trail where motorbikes are allowed.

9/2 – last boat day at Whistle Lake to pick up island and shoreline litter. Checked out a trail off of 247 (southeast of Mount Erie) that leads to private property.

9/3 – We began preparations for the work party on 9/10, using the Gator and Parks' tractor to move gravel from old piles to a new pile near 106.

Labor Day weekend passed without a great deal of hubbub.

9/6 - Aquatechnex arrived at Heart Lake to treat Eurasian water milfoil and yellow flag iris.

9/10 – quarterly work party with the Friends of the Forest. The project was to take the first steps to decommission Trail 132. We removed the trail signs, put up 3 TRAIL CLOSED signs, and dragged brush to

obstruct the former trail. We also added gravel to a small section of 106 to repair an existing turnpike. Bob and I had the help of Asa and Ellie from the Friends, and 6 volunteers. We accomplished all we hoped, despite calling it a little early because of decreasing air quality due to smoke from the Bolt Creek fire.

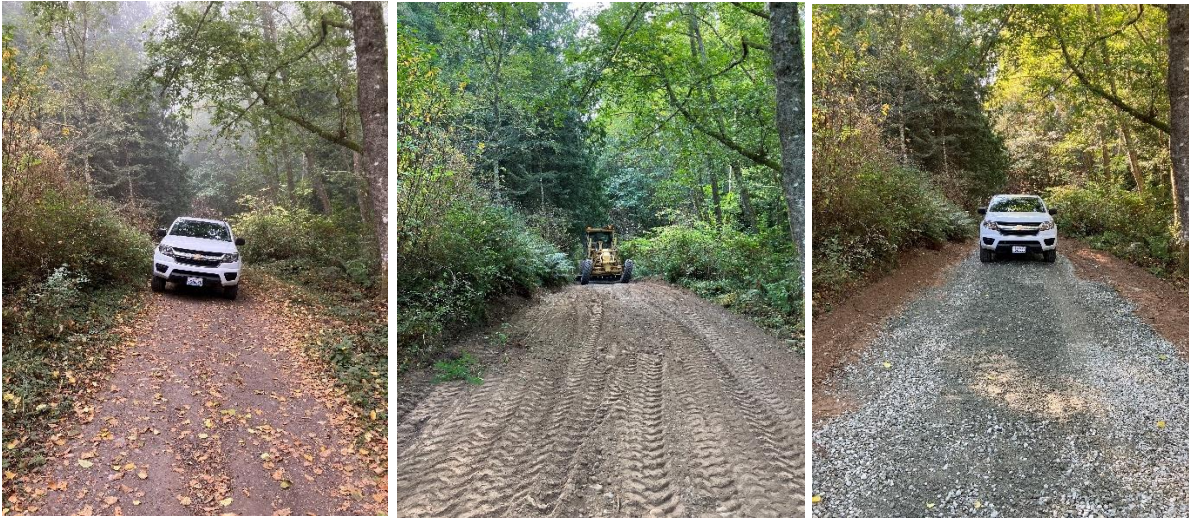
9/11 – This week I continued decommissioning 132, using hand tools to demolish the two bridges and sitting bench. The weather was also ideal to patrol off-trail areas (near 101, 132, 102, 204, 23) for holly, invasive blackberry, and ivy.

9/15 – vandals destroyed/stole TRAIL CLOSED sign from eastern end of 132. The sign shop (COA Street Department) printed three more for me to have. I replaced the stolen one and set up a trail cam to “watch” it for us on 9/21.

9/16 – A splash of rain enabled me to cut trees blocking 234 and 201, as reported by trail runners and bikers.

9/27 – worked with Parks at COA library in a landscaping project. Met with Jonn and Travis Anderson regarding the proposed work on the north shoreline of Little Cranberry Lake. Also did some work regarding a project on West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street trail improvements.

9/30 – Saben and Brett of the COA Street Department spent about 2 hours grading Trail 10 in one particular spot. This was a problem site for me last winter, when I got our dump truck, full of gravel, stuck because the road possessed a slope to the side. This is already a major improvement to this stretch. More gravel will likely be needed here, as will be revealed by rain accumulation. (Photos below: Before, during, and after.)



10/4 – Taught introductory birdwatching class at Anacortes Senior Activity Center.

10/4 – 10/5 – Replaced some rotten planks on the Little Cranberry Lake observation deck.

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