



ANACORTES PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

P.O. BOX 547, ANACORTES, WA 98221
(360) 293-1918

Anacortes Community Forest Lands Advisory Board

**There will be no meeting in July, 2024.
The next meeting will be Thursday, August 1st at the
Anacortes Library Community Meeting Room.**

June 2024
Assistant Director's Highlights
Submitted: 6/24
Bob Vaux

FOREST PLAN

We continue to work on the first draft of the 2026 Update.

ACFL SUMMER TEAM

Jamie, Tenzin and Ruben are off to a great start on the annual trail trimming. We were all very happy to welcome the wet Memorial Day weekend weather.

Progress remains steady as we get into mid-June. Seasonals are asking all the right questions and doing quality work.

THE "C" IN THE ACFL

Thanks so much to the Friends of the Forest and the half dozen or so hard-working volunteers who came out to pull evergreen daphne from various Morrison Ridge locations. Our next volunteer project with the Friends will be in the fall. In the meantime, they are busy with the Trail Ambassador program all summer long. Making a difference with good works.

AGGRESSIVE COYOTES

Some regular trail users reported an encounter with up to five coyotes along trail #113 over the weekend of the 1st/2nd. I have spoken on the phone with one of the hikers. I am still waiting to hear back from the equestrian involved. The trail users did have dogs with them. The hikers had theirs on leash. No human or animal was injured.

Took a similar call on 6/20. Same neighborhood and behavior. ACFL Jamie has been approached in the field as well. The common theme is folks walking with their dogs. The information we receive is shared with APD's Animal Control Officer.

APD IN THE WOODS

We are happy to confirm that the School Resource Officer (SRO), Jordan Kellington, will be returning to the ACFL and the Parks this summer. This seasonal "Park Ranger" makes a very positive difference for staff and the public's enjoyment of the sunshine.

Parks Manager Johnston and I met at the PD with Capt. Fuller and Officer Kellington, discussing voluntary visitor compliance goals for the summer.

TREES

Working with a Highlands homeowner on a tree in the NGPE. Arborist Steve produced another great hazard tree evaluation. The homeowner will handle the removal of the tree, and we will work with them on a replacement, as per the plat conditions.

ACFL PATROL AND ENFORCEMENT

A regular ACFL user reported finding a homeless camp near and climbing hardware in an old growth tree just NE of Heart Lake. Jamie met with the reporting party on site the morning of 6/1. Jamie and staff cleaned up the camp. Jamie and I met on site a couple of days later. Did not find any more clues near the site. Looking into hardware removal options.

On an interesting note, a few weeks later Jamie was able to get our suspected creator of this site to admit to the damage. APD has been contacted.

Jamie and I looked at a North Heart Unit project as well, making contact with two off leash dogs and an out of compliance motorcycle operator.

Sometime between 530PM June 8th and 10A on the 9th, the north Heart Lake pit toilet was blown up and essentially totaled. Seasonal staff notified me and I made my way out there to meet with APD. We are now working on the demolition process. The long-term fix is undetermined.

We had Rainbow Septic pump out the still functional unit but will not be able to clean out the destroyed side until we get that unit demolished. Working on the permit.

DOGS OFF LEASH

This continues to negatively impact our parks and woods on a daily basis. Of all the different kinds of vandalism, environmental degradation and disregard for others we see in our facilities and public lands, dogs off leash continues to be the most chronic abuse. Director Lunsford, Parks Manager Johnston and I met with Animal Control Officer Nybo, and are working on some different enforcement strategies. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to get on leash. It's not only the law, it's the right thing to do.

FOREST ADVISORY BOARD

The June meeting was replaced with the annual hike with the Friends of the Forest Board. The majority of both boards were on hand, as were most staff. We had a beautiful stroll along #'s 101, 105 and 131. Good conversations as well.

LAKE CONDITIONS

Parks Tottenham and I did some Heart Lake milfoil recon from the shore. No large-scale evidence. Tottenham and ACFL Jamie will head out in the boat for a closer examination soon.

PARKS COMMISSION

Graduation events had our Parks Commissioners busy, so no quorum for this meeting. Nicole did give a very nice presentation on options for the NW corner of Storvik. We will revisit that in August.

CITY OWNED NGPE

Based upon a vehicle sighting, Parks Tottenham and I did a homeless encampment recon on the 7+ acre parcel of NGPE at the Woods at Sunset Cove. We found no evidence of one.

CAP SANTE HOMELESS CAMP: Parks Mgr Johnston and I did a follow up check on a rather established camp a day after initial contact with COA staff. No one was home, but our Community Outreach Team is working on it.

WINDOWING PREP

Working with Planning on the always challenging San Juan Passage windowing for views project. This comes around every three years, as stated in the plat language. Parks offers feedback on the vegetation removal and works with the contractor on Guemes Channel Trail closure and user safety.

SAMISH / COA HIKE

Denise Crowe and I had a great trip along #'s 108, 124, 125, 113 & 10. Had the place to ourselves on a beautiful Friday afternoon.

AND...

Attended a half-day DEI training for COA staff on 5/31.

Attended the COA Comp Plan update kick off on 6/5. Helped out with some small group discussion at the beginning.

Joined the Parks & Rec traffic control team for the 6/11 AHS Senior parade 😊

Attended a Dept. of Ecology spill report protocol training.

Worked traffic control at the Anacortes Pride Parade. Another great event.

James Burroughs

ACFL Maintenance technician

June 25th, 2024

ACFL Maintenance Report: June – 2024

Introduction

Another busy month in the ACFL, some highlights included our ACFL work party with the Friends of the Forest, more prep work for the 108 bridge project and trail trimming. This month also has had the seasonal staff and I patrolling the lakes as needed. We have certainly had our hands full this month.

Maintenance Activities

Hazard/downed tree removals: Trails 129, 22, 10, 11, 316, 137, 201, 302, 115, 237

Trail Trimming: Northeast and North Whistle, North Heart Lake, South Little cranberry

Fire bucket inventory: checked fire bucket placements around ACFL

ACFL Garbage and restroom cleaning

ACFL work party: Invasive pulls in Morrison meadow area

Organized heart lake kiosk

Removed wasp nest from kiosk

ACFL Signage: trail signs 27, 29, fire bucket signs, No firework signs up

Encampment clean up: off trail 312

108 Bridge project: Made planks and cut and prepped stringers

ACFL lake patrols: educating users on ACFL rules

Violations in the ACFL

Heart Lake Restroom vandalism: Heart Lake restroom was victim to explosives, which has destroyed one of the stalls, it must be demolished once permitting has been established

Encampment off 312: It was brought to my attention that there was an old homeless camp off trail 312 underneath a giant old growth doug fir, to my discovery of the camp the tree above was heavily vandalized by climbing equipment bolted into the tree, the person responsible has been issued a trespass from the ACFL

Whistle lake shenanigans: usual summer crowds of swimmers drinking and smoking, so far this summer I have had very little negative interactions while providing these folks with ACFL rules

Off leash dog saga: my efforts in educating ACFL users of the importance of keeping dogs on leash has continued as always

Pictures of the month:

