



**ANACORTES PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT**  
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## Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission

**April 8, 2025 at 6pm**

**This meeting will be held BOTH virtually and  
in person at the Parks Conference Room  
(904 6<sup>th</sup> Street)**

Access to the meeting via Zoom through this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85776295672>

### Preliminary Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Approve March Minutes
3. Public Comments
4. Correspondence/Communication
5. Community Center Presentation
6. Department Reports
7. Other Business

If reasonable accommodation due to a disability are needed, please contact Brandon Krause at least 48 hours prior to the meeting date (360-299-1961).

**March 11th, 2025**

**Parks Commission in Attendance:** Brad, JoAnn, Sarah and Chris

**Staff in Attendance:** Jonn and Dustin

Call to order: 6:00pm

February minutes passed unanimously.

**Public Comments:**

None

**Correspondence and Communication:**

Forest Board Notes- JoAnn shared that the Forest Board is reviewing the public comments received. Questions were asked by the public about the procedure and process of this review. She also shared that Jamie is working on trail inspections, trying to get ahead of the maintenance.

Jonn shared about the Parks Foundation meeting. The PSE lease has been sent out and further negotiations are anticipated.

Jonn also noted that Laurie Gere will be attending the next Parks Board meeting to speak about the future of a community center.

**Cemetery Policy Update:**

Staff have been working on updating the policies and moving some things to code which will make them enforceable. There will be no fee changes at this time. The major change will be to allow for green burials in the cemetery. These burials will still require a bottomless liner to help the integrity of the grave but allow the decedent to touch the earth.

**ACFL Plan Update:**

Public comments on the first draft of the Plan were taken until March 5<sup>th</sup>. The Board is now reviewing them and will make recommendations to staff on Plan changes. The Plan will then go to Council where further public comments can be made. The process is ahead of schedule at this time. In the future, the Planning Department may want to move the Plan to the City Comprehensive Plan.

**Department Reports:**

Dustin shared that prices for programs and classes will be increasing for the first time in six years. There will still be a family maximum and scholarships available. Staff tried not to increase costs each year, but this has been a longer stretch due to Covid. Discussion was had about each year increases instead of one larger increase. He also reported that the ATown will be coming out soon with all of the spring and summer programs. Badminton is back and volleyball will take place March-May. Staff is also offering a biology class with Eli.

Jonn reported that the Senior Activity Center is finishing their survey about the needs of the community and will share with Council in April or May.

Jonn gave an update on the City Comprehensive Plan. He is giving a presentation to Council next week on upcoming projects and then will go to the Planning Commission in May. Staff is working on a survey to gather public comments on what the community would like to see at the parks. Staff does not anticipate many changes to the current plan.

Staff met with Andy from the school district maintenance team and a pickleball court consultant. Jonn is working on a MOU with the district to allow for some upgrades to the tennis court and pickleball lines to be laid down. The hope is to allow use of the courts outside of school hours. Staff hopes to have the plans for the West end park by month end and then have another neighborhood meeting.

**Other Business:**

Brad asked about the trail from 41<sup>st</sup> to Heart Lake and where this was at in the process. Jonn shared that it was stopped due to easements so staff has proposed a smaller trail.

Adjourned at 6:35pm

Respectfully submitted by Darby Jordan

## Parks and Recreation Update: March 2025

Assistant Director Report: Bob Vaux

### TREES

Met with an ACFL neighbor on Lake Erie Way. Will be working on some property line trees together.

3/13: some publicly owned trees were impacted by the recent house move near Washington Park. Parks is providing some assistance to Public Works on inventory and value.

### ACFL RECON

2/27: reviewed some trail repair issues on #123 with WDFW staff.

3/3: ACFL Jamie and I spent some time checking on adjacent logging operation to the Forest Lands, south of Heart Lake. Flagged boundaries being observed.

3/6: working with staff on a Port-o-Pottee location for #10 trailhead.

3/21: looked at a trail surface failure on #204, just south of #246 with Jamie. He jumps on the project.

3/25: Jamie and I walked the closed #132. Some foot traffic has removed our closure from the west side. We will get to work on reestablishing the barriers, along with closed signs.

We also looked at some beaver activity near Little Beaver Pond. Have begun the review process with WDFW.

### ADMIN

- Continued work on processing Forest Plan written public comments. I do appreciate everyone who has taken the time to submit. Getting them organized for the April Forest Advisory Board meeting.
- Welcome aboard to the new Friends of the Forest E.D., Josie Henderson. She, Ellie, Director Lunsford and I had a great initial meeting.
- Working with HLN Engineering on conceptual plan for W. 6<sup>th</sup> Park. Hoping to schedule the next public meeting mid-spring.

FRIENDS OF THE FOREST ANNUAL MEETING

Thank you, FoF, for the invitation to attend and say a few words. Always great to reflect on all the good work and education that has been done in the ACFL.

BEN ROOT SKATE PARK PROJECT: PHASE II

Met on site with Samish Nation staff, re: cultural resources survey. Working together on a plan for this critical element of the process.

Thanks again to the Public Works Engineering team for all of their work on this project as well. We are finalizing contract details with our Civil Engineer.

WASHINGTON PARK

Conducted annual residence inspection with our Caretaker Chris. He does a great job for us out there, including caring for the home. Other than some long term/expected maintenance, all is well.

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Parks Manager Report: Nicole Johnston

Below are a few details from the month of March.

- First Day of Baseball/ Fastpitch games was a success. Both AHS teams are off to a great start. Thanks to AJ and Gabe for having the fields game ready. All youth teams started practices as well on Storvik, Ace of Hearts, Volunteer Field, and Rotary Field. Games are set to start the first week of April. AJ is training a group of youth coaches on how to prep the field for game days with chalk/ paint.
- Thanks to the Anacortes Parks Foundation - Volunteer Project Funds we were able to hire Northwest Colors Painting to paint the MDD and the Volunteer Restroom building. Looks nice and clean.



- Steve is finding some joy with the trash cans at Washington Park. Steve recently visited a state park in Oregon where he saw a new design for a trash rack that helps keep the animals out. We are giving this new trash rack a test drive down at Sunset Beach.

- Brian took about a week to improve the Anacortes Community Garden water lines. The lines are deeper and a bit more efficient. The people of the community garden are happy and that is all that really matters.



- Parks crew has replaced the fence poles needed at the Clearidge court. We will work to repair the fence and then install the acoustiblok. This will be done by the end of April.



- Storvik Tree near the condo building was approved to be removed. The HOA of the Storvik Condos paid for the tree to be removed, and parks crew did the cleanup.

Looks a little muddy in that area right now, but grass will grow back.



- Finally got the Tommy Thompson Trail Counter battery replaced. Below are the numbers/counts for 2024:

Time	Tommy Thompson Trail	Tommy Thompson Trail Pedestrian	Tommy Thompson Cyclist
January 2024	4891	4002	889
February 2024	6839	5363	1476
March 2024	9306	7129	2177
April 2024	11023	8185	2838
May 2024	13590	9446	4144
June 2024	15949	10607	5342
July 2024	18711	11109	7602
August 2024	18275	11439	6836
September 2024	14871	9566	5305
October 2024	8836	6696	2140
November 2024	7018	5804	1214
December 2024	6089	5056	1033

**2024 Total: 135,398**

**Peak Day: 1,497- Thursday, June 20, 2024**

- Jonn and I are reviewing the Technical Memo from Gray & Osborne on the Ship Harbor Trail Boardwalk repair and expansion options. Due to the number of variables, alternatives, and optional features to consider

for this project, the report breaks down the project into two phases. Phase 1 representing the replacement of damaged boardwalk and the installation of ADA access paths from the ferry lanes down to the viewing platforms near the beach. Phase 2 includes an additional stairway from the ferry lanes, an ADA access path to the beach, and additional boardwalk sections between the ferry lanes and the Phase 1 boardwalk, to provide a continuous elevated walkway. The estimated cost of this project ranges from approximately \$1.07 million (if only Phase 1 is implemented and with the least expensive materials) to approximately \$2.28 million (if Phase 2 is fully implemented with the most expensive materials).

- Mowing season is here and when it is not too wet, we have been able to sneak some mowing in this past month.
- Multiple work parties are happening this past month. On March 1<sup>st</sup> the AHS Fastpitch Team hosted a work party on MDD field, Jamie and Nichola had a work party in the ACFL also on March 1, The VFW had a work party at Causland Park on March 1<sup>st</sup>, Anacortes Little League had a work party on Ace of Hearts Ballfields on March 8, Blackhawks had a work party on March 23<sup>rd</sup> at Rotary field and the Rotary club had a successful work party on Friday, March 21 cleaning various areas of Rotary Park.
- Special thanks to Street Department for trimming along the Mt. Erie Road and for patching a few of the potholes. We kept the Mt. Erie road closed for two days so that this work could be done.
- Braydn Krueger passed his exam to become a Certified Playground Safety Inspector. He has studied hard for this test and we are super proud of his accomplishment. We now have 2 CPSI on our parks crew.

Next month we will continue to mow, find time to work on small projects and get ready to hire seasonal parks staff for the summer.

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Recreation Staff Report: Dustin South, Recreation Manager/Eli Moore, Recreation Coordinator

**Puzzle Competition:** We held our second to last team puzzle competition on Mar 12<sup>th</sup>. We had 10 teams registered. Puzzlers liked this puzzle better than the last one. However, there were enough challenges with this puzzle it still made it competitive. Our last puzzle competition of the winter/spring season will be April 17<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm. There are still a few spots left, register ASAP.

**Youth Volleyball League:** Practices for this annual league started at the end of the month. We have about 70 kids signed up. Many of whom this is their first experience playing volleyball. We have special equipment (lighter and oversized volleyballs, etc.) and we lower the nets to help the younger players experience success. The program takes place at the middle school gym on Tuesdays/Thursdays from 4-6pm.

**Youth Art Club:** The second session concluded on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Staff has worked dates for summer program with the instructor and looking to advertise with our other programs offered during that time of the year.

**Kids Open Gym:** Staff created an open gym time on Thursdays in the City Hall Basement gym. This program is primarily geared towards toddler aged kids. Participants can burn off some energy in a warm, dry, and safe environment. The last day for this program was on the 20<sup>th</sup>

**Drop-in Youth Soccer:** The free program has about close to 35 kids registered and moved to Sunday from 4-6pm at Rice Field at Anacortes High School. The program switch days due to Spring High School Sport teams practicing on Rice Field during the weekdays for the next couple months.

**Drop-in Youth Basketball:** Another free program has about close to 50-60 kids registered and provides youth the opportunity to practice their hoop skills for a couple more months in the gym. We offered this last spring and it was a huge success. It has picked back up where it left off.

**Rec Hall:** Staff worked with parent volunteers to offer some open gym (variety of activities) for kids at Island View Elementary on Mondays. The program started on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and wrapped up at the end of the month. With the wet weather this month it was a nice option for young people to recreate inside.

**Mom & Tots Workout:** An ongoing program to benefit moms and toddlers looking to burn some energy through physical activity. While developing social opportunities outside the home. This is a new twist on a consistent popular past program. The program is open to toddlers ages 1-3.

**Adult Drop-ins:** Adult Volleyball takes place at Fidalgo Elementary on Wednesday and Friday (7-9 pm) evenings. Adult drop-in Basketball takes place on Sunday evenings in the High School and Tuesday evenings at Fidalgo Elementary, 5-7 pm (Sundays) and 7-9 pm (Tuesdays). Pickle Ball goes from M, W, F from 7-9 pm. To see the latest on the drop-in sports schedule visit: <https://www.anacorteswa.gov/971/Drop-In-Programs> (times may shift throughout the winter months due to facility demands.)

**Other Items of Interest/Upcoming Events:**

Recreation Staff continues to work on items for summer programs and events. Finalization of the A-town publication is happening right now. Getting ready to go to the printer and distribute it to the community in mid-April. With registration for most programs starting on April 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Total Volunteers Hours for March**



**Drop-in Sports**

1	X	26 hrs. = 26
1	X	16 hrs. = 16
2	X	10 hrs. = 20
1	X	4 hrs. = 4
1	X	7 hrs. = 7



**Youth Volleyball**

7	X	21 hrs. = 147
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Total for Month            220

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**Director’s Report: Jonn Lunsford**

**Thompson Trail Trestle Study:** Our consultant from Hanson Professional Services will be at City Council on Monday, April 7<sup>th</sup> to discuss the findings from the research conducted over the past year. The meeting starts at 6pm. People can attend in person, or watch remotely on the City’s YouTube channel.

Cap Sante Lookout: The public is welcome to attend the ribbon cutting for the Cap Sante Lookout on Wednesday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm. Many thanks to the Anacortes Rotary Club for their hard work and perseverance to see this project through. The road to the summit will be closed for the ceremony. There will be shuttle buses leaving from the Anacortes Yacht Club, or you can walk to the top via the newly improved trails.