



**ANACORTES PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT**  
P.O. BOX 547, ANACORTES, WA 98221  
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## Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission

**May 13, 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 April Minutes
3. Public Comments
4. Correspondence/Communication
5. Parks Comprehensive Plan
6. Parks Budget Overview
7. Department Reports
8. 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).

**April 8th, 2025**

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

**Staff in Attendance:** Jonn, Bob, Dustin, Nichola and Bradyn

Call to order: 6:01pm

March minutes passed unanimously.

**Public Comments:**

None

**Correspondence and Communication:**

Forest Board Notes- JoAnn shared that the Forest Board has reviewed the public comments received and the draft plan. Staff is now in the process of writing the final draft which will come back to the Board for approval and then go to Council. There will be opportunity for public comment at that time. She also reported that the Friends of the ACFL have a new Executive Director, Josie. The Board got a thorough report from Jamie about the vandalism and issues he is faced with in the forest lands.

Jonn shared there was no Parks Foundation meeting.

**Community Center Presentation:**

Former Mayor Laurie Gere was in attendance to present about the future Community Center. This was an idea that started years ago when she was Mayor. It became apparent that families and youth needed a space to gather. She met with community members and support groups for a year, discussing issues and challenges. Two issues that were solved out of these meetings were a drug dog and School Resource Officer. However, teens were still requesting a youth center. The group looked at locations and partnerships over the years and in 2021 there was land donated and two major donors came forward. It was decided in 2022 by Council that if it were to be built, they would support the Parks & Recreation Department running it. There have been quiet conversations with various community members and now it is time to broaden the scope to all of the community. It has evolved from just a Youth Center to being a Center for all of the community. The major donors have given the deadline of the end of 2025 to see forward motion on the fundraising for this project. Laurie discussed the reasons why this is needed in our community, such as year round recreation, health, community engagement and the weather. This Center will support individuals, families, and youth. This will not be an event center or wedding venue and will also not have a pool. The location donated is on R Avenue just south of the Ben Root Skate Park. This location is ideal due to the donation of the land, but also it is on a bus line, near the skate park and Tommy Thompson trail. It is also in an area that will allow for growth within the City limits. Laurie spoke about the funding already raised and what is needed in community support. The land and \$10 million have been donated. There needs to be another \$10-15 million raised by the community. The goal is that it will be owned and maintained by the City but built with community supports and funds. There will most likely be user fees that help off set operating costs. The next step is to gather volunteers for project and fundraising plans. Laurie is looking for community members to put her in contact with other major donors. Capital fundraising will begin in May with the next informational meeting to be held on April 24<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in Council Chambers.

Questions were asked about looking at other Centers in other communities as a model, Laurie responded that Anacortes is behind in having a community center and she has reached out to other cities regarding their spaces. Another question about Council authorizing a levy was asked. At this time, the major donors would like to see funds raised by the community.

Inquiries were voiced about reaching more people. The issue that conflicted with this meeting was spring break. The hope is for a larger crowd at the next meeting.

Suggestions were made for fundraising with a buy a brick model, bringing in the Samish and their funding options, and speaking to the Parks Foundation.

Discussion was had about the other user groups, fundraising options and next steps.

Laurie would like to see a Board formed and progress on fundraising by summer so that the major donors see the support for the project. The goal is to have \$2 million by the end of 2025.

### **Department Reports:**

Dustin shared that the Community Center is an exciting opportunity for the Recreation Department. There have been conceptual designs including a gym.

There is volleyball happening now as the school sports are outdoors and have freed up gym space. Badminton is running on Wednesdays. Track and field will be starting soon with over 120 signed up at this time. The Egg Dash happens this Friday at 6pm sharp at Storvik park.

Bob reported that staff are close to phase 2 of the Ben Root Skate Park-the restrooms and parking lot. He is working at getting an engineer under contract.

The preliminary design for W 6<sup>th</sup> Street Park should be delivered soon. There will be a community meeting in early May.

Staff is in the process of hiring seasonal staff. Interviews have been held and now Bob is offering jobs and working with HR to get them on board.

April 19<sup>th</sup> is the Dallas Kloke clean up to check climbing routes on Mt Erie and also do some trash clean up.

April 26<sup>th</sup> is opening day for fishing.

Nichola was in attendance and gave the Board a bit of insight into her responsibilities and what her days are full of. She is the Team Lead and also Cemetery Lead. She was the only playground safety inspector until recently when Bradyn passed the training and test. She shared that this is a busy time of year as everything is growing but the seasonals have not started. Big changes at the Cemetery have been happening. The large juniper at the north end has been ripped out and staff will be planting grass. There is also a new water line being laid to help with irrigation at the cemetery.

Bradyn was also in attendance and spoke about his tasks. The team is trying to keep up with routine maintenance as well as various projects. They have upgraded the Altair Americus park, hardened the Marine Stadium trail on the east side of Cap Sante, done some extra landscaping at fire station #2 and all of the small mowing around town. Bradyn mentioned that his day is always different and he enjoys the variety.

Jon reported Nicole, Nichola and Darby are working on updating cemetery policies, including green burials. Parks staff will go to the Planning Commission in May with the Parks Comprehensive plan. Then will present that to the Parks Board in June. The City Comp plan is due by year end.

Jon announced that the ribbon cutting for the new Cap Sante Rotary outlook will be on April 16<sup>th</sup>.

Last night with the presentation on the Tommy Thompson causeway and trestle. The video is available online.

### **Other Business:**

Brad asked about the funding for the Heart Lake project. Jonn responded that the legislature has to pass the budget and that should happen before the end of the session on June 30<sup>th</sup>. At that time, there will be community meetings and engineer drawings.

Chris asked about the staff freeze and if that had been resolved. Jonn shared that due to changes at the federal level the FEMA funds that were expect may not come through so there will be no hiring of full time staff this year.

Sarah asked for an update on the pickleball courts. Staff shared that the fence has been repaired and the screens will be installed by month end. The legal department is working on the inter-local agreement with the school district to help improve and upgrade the tennis courts to allow for pickleball there.

Adjourned at 7:00pm

Respectfully submitted by Darby Jordan

## Parks and Recreation Update: April 2025

Recreation Report: Dustin South, Recreation Manager & Eli Moore, Recreation Coordinator.

**Youth Volleyball League:** Our annual recreational league for 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders concluded this month. Thank you to all our volunteers for helping make this season a success.

**Puzzle Competition:** We held our second to last team puzzle competition on April 17<sup>th</sup>. We had 9 teams registered. Puzzlers are appreciative of this program. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place teams were separated by 15 seconds.

**Youth Track and Field Program:** Started on Monday, April 21<sup>st</sup>. AHS Track and Field team helped run the camp again this year. With just over 160 participants signed up for the program, they learn all the basic FUNdamentals of track and field events. The event concludes with a track meet where athletes get to compete against each other and win ribbons for each event they compete in.

**Play Badminton:** Brought back the program due to a request from a community member, this time of year it is much easier to get into a gymnasium. Had about 12 participants sign up. If they are new to the sport they received a brief instruction to the program, then played games. The program lasted about 5 weeks.

**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. Discussing with the parent volunteer about expanding this through the summer months and moving back to weekday evenings.

**Drop-in Youth Basketball:** Another free program started up by a parent volunteer 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.

**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:

Kids Fishing Day is Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup> at Heat Lake. Start fishing at 7am. Kids under 15 get to fish for free.  
 Explore Biology is a new program established by Eli and taking place on Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup>. Bark in the Park  
 Annual Event is Saturday, June 14 from 10am-2pm and Kids R Best Fest is Saturday, July 12 from 10am – 2pm.  
 Both events take place at Storvik Park. Youth Soccer Registration is currently open for the fall recreation season.

### Total Volunteers Hours for April



#### 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	10.5 hrs. = 74
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#### Youth Track and Field

30	X	3 hrs. = 90
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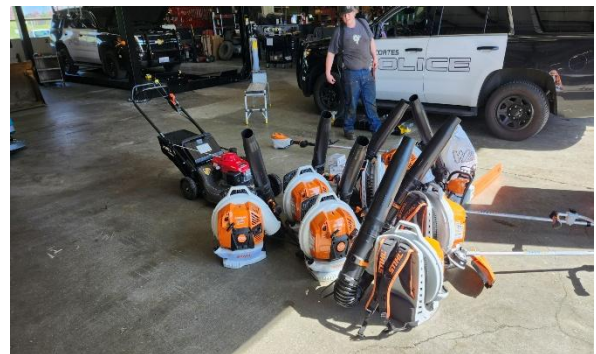
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Total for Month      237

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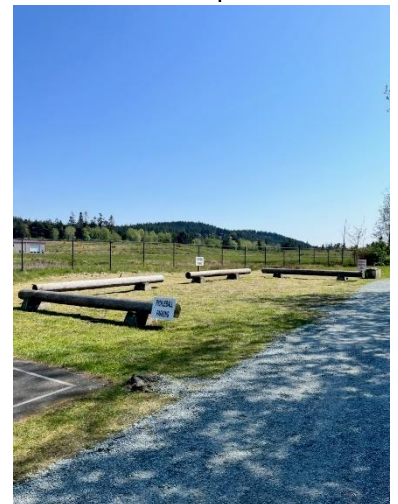
### Parks Manager Report: Nicole Johnston

Small Equipment- Felt like Christmas in April for the Parks crew. Earlier in the month we were able to get some of our small tools replaced ( backpack blowers and weed eaters).



Clearidge Court Update-Parks crew with the help of a few pickleball volunteers installed the Acoustiblok noise curtains. In addition the parks crew added additional parking behind the basketball court at Clearidge. Final to do on this project is to brace the fence. Parks crew is working on a plan to get this done. We will also install a new tennis net and return the trash can when our sanitation seasonal starts.

Clearidge Court Update-Parks crew with the help of a few pickleball volunteers installed the Acoustiblok noise curtains. In addition the parks crew added additional parking behind the basketball



Arbor Day Tree- Planted a Japanese Maple at the Altair Americus Park on Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. Special thanks to San Juan Montessori and Mayor Miller for helping the parks crew add to our beautiful tree city.

Seasonal Staff Update- Bob and I interviewed a handful of candidates on April 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>. We have filled all positions, except for a cemetery mower and an ACFL trimmer. We have opened the job posting and have our fingers crossed.



Baseball Season is in full swing- Aj and Gabe have done a good job making sure all fields are safe and ready for play. Coming up in May we will host the District Baseball tournament on Daniels Field on May 8, 10, 13, 15 & 17.

Ship Harbor Boardwalk Repair and Expansion Project Update- Parks had a meeting with the Port of Anacortes and the Samish Indian Nation to review the G & O memo and 15 % drawings. Both agencies are supportive of the project and wanting to work with the city. Samish is reviewing the 15% plans and working with their Samish GIS manager to review the plans and to check to make sure we are not disturbing any significant cultural area within Ship Harbor. The estimate cost of the 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). Phase 1 is just repairing the damaged boardwalk. Phase 2 is extending the boardwalk to the Washington State Ferry Terminal with ADA access to the beach.

May will be another busy month for Parks. We will continue to mow, turn irrigation on get the parks and the cemetery ready for Mother's Day weekend and Memorial Day Weekend.

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Assistant Director Report: Bob Vaux

**2026 FOREST PLAN UPDATE:** we continue to work on the update via the public comments and input from the Forest Advisory Board.

Received advisement from the Forest Advisory Board at the April meeting to get the next draft written. The goal of this draft is to be approved by the Board and onto the City Council. Now working with colleagues on this draft.

**BEN ROOT SKATE PARK PH II:** work with our Engineering team continues as we are getting close to finalizing our Civil Engineer contract.

**W. 6<sup>TH</sup> PARK PLAN:** HLN Engineering has delivered a few conceptual park design options. We will be holding a second community meeting on May 8th to review and discuss.

**SEASONAL STAFF:** Parks Manager Johnston and I spent most of two days interviewing candidates for these critical positions in the parks and ACFL. We had a nice diversity of candidates. Working on offers the week of the 7<sup>th</sup>.

**ACFL RECON:** Jamie and I spent a beautiful morning on #'s 300/302/303. We were focused on motorbike damage, specifically the Little Round Top meadow and possible steps to better communicate trail use restrictions on the "State Park Hill". We did encounter three hikers up there with a dog off leash.

- Looked at various sites along the Heart Lake shoreline with Dr. Lapsansky from the Northwest Indian College. As explained and approved at the April Forest Advisory Board meeting Dr. Lapsansky will be placing his invertebrate traps soon.

**THANK YOU'S:**

- APD, for helping Parks Maint. Steve and I with a challenging camping situation at Washington Park in Nicole's absence.
- The Samish Indian Nation for this month's COA/Samish hike with Education Program Manager Denise Crowe. A beautiful walk in the woods on the west side of Little Cranberry.
- The Estate of Sherry L. Kolar, for a wonderfully generous donation to the ACFL. It was formally accepted by City Council on the 14<sup>th</sup>.
- The Noon Rotary Club, for all the work required over the last several years to complete the new Cap Sante trail and viewpoint. And all the volunteer work in the meantime. Also, thanks for lunch the day of the viewpoint ribbon cutting.
- APRD staff for covering for me while I take some time off April 21-28. This is also why I am submitting my report early this month.

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Director's Report: Jonn Lunsford

Parks and Recreation at the Planning Commission - On May 14 we will be at the Planning Commission discussing our Goals and Policies and a draft of our Parks and Recreation Plan.

Maritime Plaza (aka Depot Plaza Expansion) -The design is moving forward. Our stormwater report is nearly complete so we will begin our city permitting process now. We are looking at ways to reduce our budget to meet potential cost overruns identified by our project designers. We are coordinating our design with the Farmers Market, Museum, and Port of Anacortes.

Skate Park Restroom and Parking Lot: Staff met with City Council on May 5 to discuss a contract for the restroom design and parking lot at the Ben Root Skate Park. The Council asked us to change the project design and replace the recommended restroom with two Portland Loo facilities. Staff is checking with the State Recreation and Conservation Office on the process to make this change.