



ANACORTES PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
P.O. BOX 547, ANACORTES, WA 98221
(360) 293-1918 / (360) 293-1928

Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission

August 12, 2025 at 6pm

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

Access to the meeting via Zoom through this link:

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

Preliminary Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Approve June Minutes
3. Public Comments
4. Correspondence/Communication
5. Pickleball Court Hour Discussion
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).

June 10th, 2025

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

Staff in Attendance: Jonn, Bob, and Karl

Call to order: 6:00pm

May minutes passed unanimously.

Public Comments:

Bill Turner and Jim Schaffner were in attendance to speak about the Ace of Hearts Dog Park. The park gets lots of use at all times of the day and some users would like to see various improvements made as well as use of half of the ballfield from Sept-May. Bill would like to form a committee of dog park users to work with the Park Board to come up with a plan for park improvements and create an outline for ideas going forward. They feel it is a great asset to the community but has the potential to be better. Both staff and board members encouraged the group to first meet with staff to find out what the possibilities and limitations are. Bill and Jim stated that they would be back in a couple of months with ideas.

Correspondence and Communication:

Jonn reported that he is working with Samish and Public Works on a new park at the end of U Ave that is a condition of the outfall project. Historically the area was known as Rose Point. It will be a small park but have access to the water for the public.

JoAnn shared that the Forest Board held their annual walk with the Friends Board and public. They walked the Heart Lake parking lot, reviewing the proposed plan and upgrades. Then walked the trail around the lake.

Park Comprehensive Plan:

Staff has been working on the Parks Comprehensive Plan, part of the City wide Comp plan. There are no major changes to the first few chapters in the plan with the policies and goals being similar to the last 20 years. Staff have been working on the "Level of Service" which will guide the Capital Facilities Plan and the Impact Fees collected. Jonn presented both a chart and narrative, including the NRPA average for communities our size. The State Legislature has passed a new law and requires an update of the Level of Service and Impact Fees. Staff will work with Berk Consultants to update this report.

Chapter 6 lists the inventory of parks and compares that to the NRPA averages as well as what the community as a whole provides.

Chapter 10 covers what the needs are and guides the plan going forward.

The Board reviewed the chart and narratives and gave some feedback. There was discussion on various possibilities and needs. Jonn asked that they continue to submit their ideas and comments on this project.

Department Reports:

Jonn reported that the project to fix and restripe the tennis courts at the middle school is currently on hold at the request of the school district. Parks staff are working on the outfall park, the skate park restroom project is moving forward with a CXT unit, the Maritime plaza will go out to bid in September and the West end park is being reworked by the engineer and when complete another public meeting will be held to review the design. Staff is doing their best to keep up as the crew is down 28% right now.

Karl shared that the Center is very busy right now. Berk has finalized their report and it was presented to Council on May 19th. The next step is for staff to meet with the Foundation in July to plan out the goals. The air

conditioning unit is being installed and will be functional within the next 2-3 weeks allowing the Center to be listed as a cooling center.

The Gala was held last weekend and was a great success, raising about \$130,000 for the Foundation. This will be used for larger capital projects at the Center, one of which may be for Karl and Amanda to move out of their office and use that as program space.

Over the Memorial day week and weekend, Karl had the opportunity to visit Washington DC and attend the National Council on Aging conference. This allowed him to network with other Senior Center staff and explore their ideas and challenges.

Upcoming events are the bake sale on the 13th and an end of school event for multigenerations.

Other Business:

None

Adjourned at 7:00pm

Respectfully submitted by Darby Jordan

[Parks and Recreation Update: August 2025](#)

Recreation Staff Report:

Submitted by Dustin South, Recreation Manager and Eli Moore Recreation Coordinator

Youth Girls Basketball Clinic: The camp was held for kids in grades 2nd – 8th and had about 25 participants. Thank you to all the high school players and coaches for helping provide this recreational opportunity for basketball players to improve their skills.

Bark in the Park: The annual event was held on Saturday, June 14 at Storvik Park. Several dog friendly businesses/organizations provided booths and contests were held for the participants. Zabrina Nybo, from the Police Dept., helped with planning for the event. Also, a very big “Thank You” to City Council Member TJ Fantini for taking on the Master of Ceremonies duties for the event.

Seahawk Youth Soccer Camp: High school girls soccer team provided an opportunity for kids in grades K-5th to hone their soccer skills. Camp was held the week after school let out for the summer. The weather was not ideal the first couple of days but finished with lots of sunshine. There were 108 registered participants, some who were trying soccer for the first time. Each player received a soccer ball as part of their registration fee.

Dino, Pirate, & Survivor Camps: These popular themed camps are took place at WA Park from Monday through Thursday, from 9 am – 12pm in June and July. Activities and games are scheduled around the theme of each week. These are some of our more popular youth enrichment camps for the summer. The camps are geared towards kids ages 5-12. This year our Seasonal Recreation Leader in charge of these camps was recent AHS graduate, Addyson Conley.

Skyhawks Sport Camps: Multi-Sport camp, Mini-Hawk, Tennis, Track & Field, Basketball, Volleyball, and Soccer were the sports provided kids the opportunity to play different sports during the week-long camp. Campers ages ranged from 4 – 12. The half and full day options for select weeks provided an opportunity for

them to have fun and social while providing a flexibility for a family's summer schedule. Camp participation numbers varied, but most were well attended.

Youth Arts & Crafts Camp: Instructor Vickie Corley offered two separate weeks of camps for kids to explore their creative side. Two sessions were offered each week for ages 5-8 and 9-12 respectively. All four sessions were full, and the participants created several masterpieces. We are looking into offering some classes throughout the school year during early release days. We did this last year, and it was successful.

Youth Water Sports Classes: Our continued partnership with Anacortes Waterfront Alliance allowed the city to offer Learn to introductory Water Sports Class to the community. These classes not only gave kids the opportunity to try sailing, but they could learn the basics of Paddle Boarding and kayaking as well. Outside of our program AWA offers further opportunities for youth to continue whichever water vessel they most enjoyed. The main mission of AWA is providing water recreation to the Anacortes Community through a variety of means. Registration numbers have been very strong for all the classes offered this summer.

Kids R Best Fest: Saturday, July 12th was filled with a variety of fun filled kid/family friendly activities, games, and entertainment. This was the 35th year of the event. We were able to get pony rides back and they were as popular as ever! Entertainment was provided by Eric Haines and his one-man band. The 2025 event will be held on Saturday, July 11.

Youth Wrestling Camp: Hawkeye Wrestling Club provides beginner wrestling camp for kids the week of July 14-17. This gave kids the opportunity to try out wrestling for the first time. Basic skills and techniques were taught to the participants.

Adult Co-ed Softball: We had a total of 8 teams register for the 2025 season. Games are usually played on Sundays, started the week of July 5th, and concluding the weekend before Labor Day. We continue to offer this league as a "wood bat" league for the male hitters. We work with the Skagit Valley Softball Umpire Association to provide umpires for all the games. Several of the adults who play in the league have played for years and becomes a tradition for them every summer.

Challenger Soccer Camp: Recreation staff continue to work with Challenger Sports to provide soccer development program during a week in the summer. This unique camp brings coaches from overseas and is a great opportunity for kids to learn how to play soccer with an international flavor. Challenger does a great job with the camps, keeping the drills fun and engaging for the participants. There are about 90 kids signed up for this year's camp. This is close to our record high of 100 kids in the early 2000's.

Drop-in Sports: Adult Volleyball takes place at Fidalgo Elementary on Wednesday and Friday evenings. Adult drop-in Basketball takes place on Sunday evenings in the Middle School and Tuesday evenings at Fidalgo Elementary Pickle Ball is on Mondays and Wednesdays at Mt. Erie Elementary. Youth Drop-in Basketball on Sunday afternoons at the middle school from 2-4 pm that will take place through the spring/summer. To see the latest on the drop-in sports schedule visit: <https://www.anacorteswa.gov/971/Drop-In-Programs>

Fall/Winter A-Town Programs: Staff is currently working on our Fall and Winter recreation programs and coming up with a plan to advertise them. Due to nature of the direction of the A-town publication staff is working on another way to publicize programs to the community.

Upcoming Events: Youth Soccer registration completed this month. The largest youth sport league in Anacortes. Teams are being formed, coaches recruited and equipment being prepared for the upcoming season. The first Saturday of games will be September 6. Practices from some teams will start the week of August 18 and the rest of the teams the week after. Recreation Coordinator, Eli Moore, is currently working on a Family Bingo night with ASAC staff and developing plans for a toddler open gym in the basement of City Hall next month. Mt. Erie Road & Trail Run is scheduled for Saturday, October 18. Haunted Forest is taking place in Saturday, October 25. Wonderland Walk, Friday & Saturday, December 12 & 13.

Total Volunteers Hours for June & July



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



Bark in the Park

1	X	5 hrs. = 510.5
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Kids R Best Fest

2	X	6 hrs. = 12
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Total for Month 90

Parks Manager's Report

Submitted by Parks Manager Nicole Johnston

- **Earlier this month, we encountered significant graffiti at the new Cap Sante viewpoint. While this was certainly disappointing, the response from our team was outstanding. Everyone pulled together for a full-crew cleanup effort at the park. Armed with a pressure washer, the well-known "elephant snot" graffiti remover, and plenty of elbow grease, the team was able to restore the viewpoint to its original condition.**



Thanks to the hard work and dedication of everyone involved, the area is once again looking brand new and ready for visitors to enjoy.



- **If you haven't had the chance yet, be sure to check out the three charming fairy houses tucked away up on Cap Sante. They're a fun, whimsical and different features to the park!**

- In one of the more unusual sightings this month, Parks staff came across a man and his two goats taking a break at the Heart Lake parking lot. The trio was reportedly making their way through Anacortes during the week of July 7th and were last seen in Oak Harbor. The photo included in this report, courtesy of John Dumas from the Port of Anacortes—captures one of the goats sporting a backwards hat. Not something you see every day!



- As you might have heard we were encouraged by our own Animal Control officer to remove the pools from the Ace of Hearts dog park, and we are encouraging users to utilize the hose to cool or rinse off dogs. Thanks to the crew who worked hard to install a standpipe on the small dog park side.

- Trim crew and Miles from Street Department spent a full day down at Kiwanis Waterfront Park cleaning up a lot of black berries.



- We continue to work on irrigation head replacements

and a water line break. We were able to work with the water department to make a repair on the 32nd Street side of Storvik Park. We still must find time to work on irrigation at the top of commercial round about, Tursi Park and Altair Americus Park.



- A major effort was put into cleaning up the rhododendrons at Causland Park this month. The crew did a fantastic job, and their hard work didn't go unnoticed—Jonn treated the team to a well-deserved lunch at the park. Thanks, Jonn, for the thoughtful gesture and to everyone who helped with the cleanup!

- Washington Park continues to be *the* place to be this summer. The recent three-day salmon opening brought a surge of activity, especially in the boat launch parking lot, which turned into a high-energy scene. Our WP staff handled it

like a special event, stepping up to direct traffic and keep things moving. A huge thank you to them for staying calm, organized, and professional throughout. We're happy to report that about 98% of boaters were friendly and patient just what we like to see. Unfortunately, a small number (about 2%) weren't as kind to our young seasonal staff, and we're always working to support and protect our team in those situations.

- **Crew Update-** We want to extend our best wishes to Brian Tottenham, who has decided to pursue a new career path after 15 years with the City. Brian brought a wealth of knowledge, creativity, and dedication to the department. We wish him all the best in his next chapter. In the meantime, Nichola who is the Parks Lead has been stepping in as Parks Foreperson during this transition. We are currently in the process of working with HR to fill that position from within the crew, with interviews scheduled for July 30 and 31. We've also posted a full-time Parks Maintenance Technician position. As August approaches, we'll begin saying goodbye to some of our seasonal staff as they return to college. We've been fortunate to rehire Lucca at Washington Park and Tenzin for the ACFL, and we're excited to welcome a new seasonal, Wolfgang, to the ACFL crew. Thanks to everyone for your continued hard work and flexibility during this time of transition and change.
- In July, the parks have been the host to various wedding ceremonies: July 6- Juniper Point & July 12- Causland Park. We have also hosted various camps and special events at various parks.
- We don't want to jinx it—but the hanging baskets are looking fantastic this year! All the credit goes to our dynamic watering team: Parker, Kody, and Gabe. Their consistency and care have really paid off. The next big challenge? Making it through the Arts Festival weekend!
- A few things coming up for August- potential work party at Tursi Park with HF Sinclair. Still working on the scope of that work party. Braydn and crew will work on revamping the Soroptimist Flower bed thanks to the funding of Soroptimist. Steve will have a bench to rebuild on the Tommy Thompson Park. Nichola met with Nickerson Creative Services who is going to work on rebuilding the bridge at Our Town Our Park and then getting soccer fields lines and ready by mid- August.



Assistant Director Report: Bob Vaux, Assistant Director

FOREPERSON HIRING PROCESS

- We have been going through an in-house hiring process as Parks Tottenham decided to make a career change and has moved on from parks & recreation. It was my great pleasure to work many years with Brian and wish him well on all his future endeavors.

ACFL

- Work continues on the Forest Plan update. It should be available for the Forest Advisory Board at the August 7 meeting.
- Provided patrol support on Sunday 6/29. Whistle was very family friendly, and numerous leashed dogs.
- Did the same on Monday 6/30. Had a motorbike travelling at excessive speeds, dog off leash and alcohol consumption contacts all in a row at Whistle. None of the subjects spoken to cared much about their disregard for ACFL policy/safety.
- 4th of July: we got through another one in one piece. I took the early shift, handling firewatch and patrol until mid-afternoon. Thank you, Officer Kellington, for working the late afternoon at Whistle

and making it so much safer for guests and parks staff alike. Also, thanks to ACFL Jamie and the summer team for some late shifts and making sure we closed the gates on the Mt. Erie summit road as well as Heart Lake. And thank you FAB member Brian Wetcher for his annual volunteer firewatch at Little Cranberry.

- Morning rounds on July 5th were happily quiet.
- Provided staff support at Whistle Lake on the 6th, 12th & 13th. Busy days. Most guests very happy to enjoy the ACFL as well as its policies.
- More patrol on the 15th, 16th. . . .super sunshine days with manageable numbers in the woods. Jamie and team handling Whistle while I monitored other lakes and trailheads.
- 115 bridge: site recon on the 16th. Working with Jamie and Stormwater Aaron on replacement plan and permitting.
- HL Survey: we have a signed contract with AcquaTechnex to survey for invasives. Hoping this happens soon.
- Seasonal Switch-Over: our current seasonal team will be departing over the first couple of weeks of August. Lucy and Ginny have done a great job protecting the woods and trimming all 50 miles of trails. Thank you!! The good news is we have found two young people (one a returnee) to take over their work through Labor Day.
- Ended up in the middle of a little dust up between two families at Little Cranberry on 7/21, one with off leash dogs and the other without. After talking through the situation, a fender bender between the two occurred and I ended up involving APD. The officer took it from there.
- New APD Officers: Parks Mgr Johnston and I enjoyed a 7/23 orientation tour we are now providing all new APD staff. Loved the enthusiasm and curiosity of APD's two newest additions.
- Filled in for Ginny on patrol rounds with Lucy on the 27th. Pretty solid family friendly day. A few dogs off leash.
- Quick patrol rounds on the 28th. Quiet numbers.

PROJECT UPDATES

- Ben Root Skate Park PH II: Cultural Resources Survey has been completed by Samish Nation staff. Report should be delivered soon.
- West 6th Park Plan: will be meeting with our design engineer in early August. Hoping to have a preliminary design early fall.
- Heart Lake Parking Lot: we have qualified for grant \$'s from the Recreation and Conservation Office. We will now begin the initial planning steps.

OPEN STREETS

- Josh Gates doing a great job in his first full year as the Open Streets Czar. The ABPAC team continues to support as well, as we close in on Aug. 24th.

Senior Activity Center Report: Administrator, Karl Wolfswinkel

The average daily attendance at the Center was 181 in June which was the same as May.

Most of the Foundation Gala models and designers returned to the Center on the 5th for an encore fashion show. Over 100 participants packed the house to enjoy up close and personal access to the models and costumes as well as a great lunch.



Many thanks to the volunteers as well as City staff from the library, police and fire departments, who created a fun environment for children and their families at our first annual Summer Kick-Off on the 13th. Approximately 40 children spent the first hours of their summer vacation with us and we look forward to continued opportunities to engage with them in the months ahead.

What's coming in July?

The Chemo Quilters is a new program for the Center. This program consists of quilters who create lap quilts for chemotherapy patients at Peace Health Hospital in Sedro Woolley. The group meets on the third Tuesday of the month.

Estate planning is a consistent conversation for our participants and we are grateful for Safe Harbor Legal Solutions expertise in this area. On the 16th, Elder Law Attorney Phillip George will offer a presentation providing valuable planning insights including avoidance of the costly and time consuming probate process.

The SeaNotes Big Band will provide a late afternoon concert at the Center on the 30th. The following day, participants will enjoy a turkey croissant in the Sally Hill Pavilion while listening to Warren Newton's Jazz Trio.

Project & Program Updates

A/C at the Center—the contractors continue the installation work and we hope to have the project completed by early July.

Foundation Retreat—City and Center staff look forward to our retreat on July 15 to discuss plans for the future including collaboration opportunities to better serve Anacortes seniors.

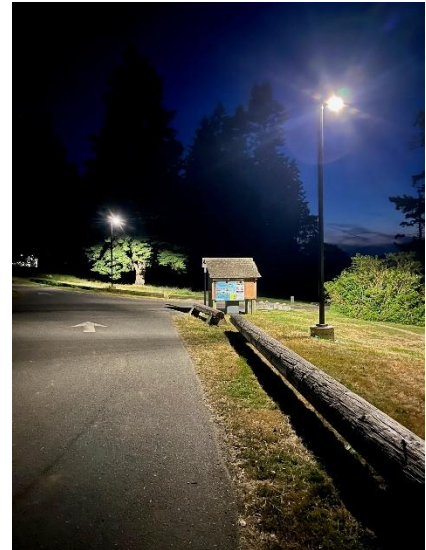
Front Desk Check-In System--with an increased focus on the need for good data to support the good work of the Center, City and Center staff with the help of a volunteer with years of technical experience and expertise are exploring technology that will automate check-in and other processes at the front desk.

After a more than 10-year hiatus, the Center is hosting a resource fair on Saturday, September 13. The fair will provide an opportunity for seniors and their families to connect with more than 60 local service

providers who will provide relevant information on staying active, healthy, engaged, and safe.

Park's Manager Report (June 2025): Nicole Johnston, Parks Manager

- **Washington Park has been busy with many visitors this past month. All the graduation parties, Father's Day Network, and end of the school year field trips. Also, thanks to the facilities department for the install of the new light poles. The light poles are on a motion sensor light and will be at 25% when no one is around.**
- **SHIP Harbor Boardwalk repair project update is that we are continuing to work with the Samish Indian Nation. Jackie Ferry from the Samish Indian Nations has shared with me that since archaeological testing is only a sampling of the area, they can't guarantee they will find everything during their surveying. In a place where the midden is as disturbed and pocketed as it is in Ship Harbor, a foot one way or another could make the difference in not disturbing any material. Samish will provide a map of their results. The City will have to get the area surveyed or work with an engineer who can give the Samish a precise location of where the potential footings will go. A citizen emailed me that there is at least one active great blue heron nest at SHIP this year. The man said he was sitting on the bench by the cormorant statue for about half an hour (waiting to photograph the next ferry as it came in) and heard the distinctive sound of young herons making their distinctive clicking sound when they anticipate being fed. Two adult herons flew back into the trees perhaps 50 - 100 yards behind him, an area where herons have also nested in years past. Thought that was interesting to share.**



- **Thanks to the ladies who like to bike and have coffee at the Pickett Pocket Park. They had a successful work party and replanted most of the plants at that park.**



- **Crew and seasonal staff continue to fight the battle of the summertime rush. We have a handful of irrigation fixes and a busy cemetery this past month. Despite the pace, the crew's dedication and efficiency have kept things running.**

- **Storvik Park once again played host to *Bark in the Park*, a favorite community event for our four-legged friends and their humans. A big thank-you goes out to Eli for his continued efforts in organizing and leading this popular event.**
- **Causland Park was the proud host of this year's Pride Month celebration—a vibrant and well-attended community event. A big thank-you to our parks crew for their hard work in preparing the space and ensuring everything looked its best.**
- **Ace of Hearts Dog Park- You might have heard that we posted signs asking the owners of the pools to please remove from the park. Jonn has stated, “ We asked that the pools be removed at the dog park after fielding complaints about them since last year. This took effect on June 20. These complaints came from a few individuals, but I felt the complaints were valid and potentially opened the City up to liability concerns. I asked our staff to reach out to our animal control officer for her thoughts on the pools. She concurred that they could lead to problems such as possible disease transmission if used by wild animals, dogs becoming territorial in the pools, etc. The pools have been in the park on and off for years but only of late had we heard complaints. We also have concerns about the fact that other users of the park, like children, may want to go into the dog pools, which pose health and safety concerns”. We do believe there is way to move forward and return the pools. Jonn is working with Darcy to come up with a solution. In other news Jonn and I met with group of small dog owners, and they had some suggestions and wishes for the small dog side at the park. They would like a covered pavilion and access to water. Both are ideas that we will be talking to the park board about.**

Assistant Director's Report (June 2025): Bob Vaux, Assistant Director

ACFL SUMMER TEAM: Lucy and Ginny are off to a great start. With Jamie coming into his second summer with us he and the team are rolling on the trail trimming and some late May / early June sunshine bringing some guests. These three are also helping in other parks. Their flexibility is much appreciated.

TREES:

- working with an Orchards homeowner on an ACFL windfall in their adjacent NGPE.
- Washington Park neighbor on Parkside Drive has a complicated tree challenge. We are working on a plan.

FOREST PLAN: the 2026 update continues.

BEN ROOT SKATE PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT PH. II: was able to respond to Council questions regarding the CXT restroom unit versus the Portland Loo at their June 2nd meeting. The design contract was returned to Consent and unanimously approved at the June 9th meeting.

Had a great on-site meeting with local skateboard hero Rachel and Grindline James, exploring some long-term maintenance options and the upcoming warranty visit from the pros. We are working on some cost-saving partnering that will benefit the long-term health and enjoyment of the park.

We officially kicked off the planning phase of the project with MacKay Sposito. Looking forward to working with them again. And also very happy to announce that Kristen H. from Engineering has been assigned

to this project. She joined the COA team during the PH I construction and brings great expertise to the process and jobsite.

WASHINGTON PARK: provided some staff support to a very busy park during a shrimp opening and a 30' camping trailer attempting to travel the Loop Road 😊

NEW APD OFFICER: Parks Manager Nicole and I shared in the orientation of another new Officer, showing him some of the basic routes to and locations where we need most of our PD support.

FIDALGO DEMOCRATS WILDFIRE INFORMATION NIGHT: was invited to join this very informative meeting with national, regional and local experts discussing wildfire and how to best manage private property for defensible space. The presenters were complimentary of our community and the work we are all currently doing.

FRIENDS OF THE ACFL: attended the Forest Discovery Center ribbon cutting on the 13th. Congratulations to the Friends for this giant step forward in local forest education. Please take some time to visit the new facility.

W. 6TH PARK PLAN: met with our Civil Engineer. She is coming up with some phased options. Also, doing some early recon on the third floor with Planning and GIS.

ACFL RECON:

- Jamie and I spent some time in the North Little Cranberry zone, putting the plan together for the National Trails Day volunteer work party with the Friends of the ACFL.
- June 5 Forest Advisory Board meeting was the annual hike with the Friends of the ACFL Board. A beautiful evening walking around Heart Lake. Thanks to all the volunteers who attended and for all the great work that you each do.
- Sunday 6/8: spent the afternoon on Whistle Lake guest parking detail. Did have to turn some away as we maxed out our available parking.
- Enjoyed a native plant hike on Sugarloaf with Steve P., Denise C. and a citizen interested in coordinating some new preservation work. We are giving some thought to future possibilities.
- With another bridge needing attention (104 x 106) Jamie and I are working on both a quick temporary fix and meeting the requirements for the long-term repair.
- Tues 6/24: did the trailhead rounds as Jamie was off today. Quiet numbers. We do have some cyanobacteria at Little Cranberry. We have posted information on site and via social media. Skagit County Health Dept. is in the loop. No closure warranted at this time.