



ANACORTES PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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Anacortes Community Forest Lands Advisory Board

September 4th, 2025
6pm

In person and virtual meeting options.

In Person: **Anacortes Library Community Meeting Room**

Zoom Meeting Link:

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

Preliminary Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Approve August '25 Minutes
3. Public Comments *for any item not on the agenda*
4. Forest Plan 2026 Update: FAB Review / Possible Vote
5. Friends of the Forest Update
6. Staff Reports
7. Parks Commission Update
8. Other Business
 - A. Little Cranberry platform area trail repair

Adjourn

Minutes of the Meeting: August 7, 2025

Board members present: Brian Wetcher, JoAnn York-Gilmore, Tabb Stringer, Nathan Schwarck, Kit Gerwels

Staff present: Bob Vaux, Jamie Burroughs, Darby Jordan

Meeting held in person and called to order at 6:00PM

Minutes: May minutes were unanimously approved.

Public Comments:

None

Forest Plan Board Review

Bob reviewed the process timeline to date and then distributed the second draft of the plan. He shared that his hope was to have the Board give their review in September and then either make Board requested changes or vote to pass it to Council. The Board agreed they will be prepared with their feedback at the next meeting.

Questions were raised about how public comment was incorporated in the plan. Bob responded that staff had tried to balance public comment with staff experience. Not every comment will be reflected in the plan, but the general themes and requests are there.

The next opportunity for public comment will be at the City Council.

Friends of the Forest Update:

Josie Henderson was in attendance and shared that they are preparing for their annual benefit fundraiser. This will be on Sept 27th.

She also shared that they have served 90 kids over the last 5 weeks of camp. They tried a new middle school camp this year and it went well! Registration for after school camps will open on August 18th.

The Discovery Center was open this summer and welcomed about 700 people. A new event in partnership with the library and Skagit County Public Works, was "Library Loves Lakes" and was very successful. They are looking at doing more collaborations with the library.

The Trail Ambassador program is going great with lots of data being collected.

Staff Reports:

Jamie had nothing to add to his report. He was asked about any issues on the 4th of July. Jamie shared that the only problem was two girls at the top of Mt Erie who had ordered Door Dash and the driver could not deliver due to the locked gate.

Bob reported that it has been a regular summer in parks. The maintenance team is down two people but remaining staff have been doing a great job at keeping up.

The weather is expected to warm up this weekend and into next week so hoping to have an officer helping patrol the ACFL. The Heart Lake grant is in the works and staff is looking for a civil engineer to take the next step.

Parks Commission Report:

JoAnn reported that there is lots going on in Parks. There will be a Clearidge courts item on the Parks Board agenda next week. The neighbors are bringing a proposal to limit the hours that the court is open. There is also a petition circulating against the potential collaboration between the City and school district to resurface and fix the tennis courts at the middle school, laying lines on two of the courts for pickleball. This project is currently on hold with the district. She also shared that there are some issues with pools at the dog park and staff is trying to work toward a compromise and solution.

Other Business:

Brian requested that the Board look at the trail and platform off trail 100 as it has widened significantly and the platform needs to have some maintenance done. It was decided that all would take a look before the next meeting and discussion would continue. Bob and Brian will go out together.

Adjourned at 6:45pm

Respectfully Submitted by Darby Jordan

AUGUST 2025
Assistant Director's Highlights
Submitted: August 28, 2025
Bob Vaux

BICYCLE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY AWARD: SILVER!!

- Congratulations to all the hard-working volunteers on the Anacortes Bicycle & Pedestrian Action Committee (ABPAC) for achieving Silver status. They were recognized at the 8/11 Council meeting.

OPEN STREETS

- ABPAC team providing the usual support for this annual quieting of Commercial event. And thanks so much to Josh Gates for taking over as Lead.

Lots of positive feedback and experiences at the 8/24 event. We did have some safety concerns expressed, re: traffic control. We will be reviewing these with APD.

FOREPERSON HIRING PROCESS

- Parks Management, along with HR, put together a competitive in-house hiring process to replace Parks Tottenham. We conducted interviews on 7/30-31, and I am pleased to say our interim Foreperson, Nichola Mitcell, has been offered and accepted the position. All candidates did a great job representing themselves and their commitment to the Parks Team. Congratulations as well to Steve Phillips, who has been appointed to the Lead Worker role previously held by Nichola. Now, we get to work on replacing one of our two maintenance tech vacancies.
Parks & Rec staff reviewed all 64 applications, and we are currently putting together an interview roster of 6-8 individuals.

ACFL

- Thank you, Brandon Lowry, Public Works Streets, Storm, Sewer Supervisor. Met with me at a complicated tree on 29th Street. His team came through with some great hazard abatement.
- Farewell and thank you to Forest Lands seasonal workers, Ginny and Lucy. They did a great job for us, and we'd be happy to have them back. Miraculously, we found two young men to take over their roles through Labor Day. Welcome back Tenzin and welcome to the team Wolfgang.
- Have been providing some patrol support, pouring out random alcohol, stopping smokers and explaining why we have a leash law. Again, the vast majority of our guests are just looking to enjoy the woods, lakes, trails, etc within the etiquette asked for in our Forest Plan.
- An invasive plant survey was executed on Heart Lake Aug. 12th by AquaTechnex. Will share the report with the FAB once we have received it.
- LC BOG ART: thank you, Jamie, for removing this. The ACFL decorates itself just fine.
- FAB Member Brian W. and I spent some time at the LC view platform, focusing mostly on an improved trail approach and revegetation options. Will discuss at the Sept. FAB meeting.

HEART LAKE PARKING LOT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

- Director Lunsford and I toured the site and discussed the project with a prospective design firm. We are looking for a plan and a fee coming our way soon for consideration.

FOREST PLAN UPDATE

- In-house work on the second draft of the Plan was completed, and the document was presented to the Forest Advisory Board on 8/7. The FAB will offer their feedback and potentially recommend the Plan at their Sept. 4th meeting.

DOG OFF LEASH PATROL EMPHASIS

- Thank you, Officer Nybo, for some focused DOL work in Parks this month. That level of enforcement is greatly appreciated.

CAUSLAND PARK

- ACFL Jamie and I handled some unhoused camping issues, along with APD, on 8/6-7. Jamie and the Forest Team ended up cleaning up the drug and alcohol layered campsite, while the Officer moved the individuals along.

BEN ROOT SKATE PARK PH II IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

- Kristen Hannon from Engineering will be managing the project along with me. We are currently working with MacKay Sposito on design and bid package.

WEST 6TH PARK PLAN

- Our design engineer should have a phase I proposal to us soon. We will then notify the neighbors and present at a Parks Commission meeting.

James Burroughs
ACFL Maintenance technician
August 26th, 2025

ACFL Maintenance Report: August 2025



Mt. Erie Kiosks

The team and I have worked on sanding and re-staining kiosks up on Mt. Erie. We have completed re-staining both the Dallas Kloke and Summit kiosks. The Dallas kiosk was a victim of graffiti last year and removing that graffiti caused removal of the stain as well. So, it had been on my to-do list for a while and felt good to finally get to.

ACFL Seasonals

We said goodbye to our May-August seasonals, Lucy and Ginny. They both worked hard this year and were a great help. We welcomed Tenzin and Wolfgang aboard for the

remaining month of August; Tenzin spent last summer with us and we are happy to have him back.



Hazardous/ Downed Tree report

We have had a few trees come down this month. These trees were on Trails 210,115,304,249 and 20. The tree on Trail 20 was an interesting one and required me to utilize our backhoe to completely remove and open the trail up. A sizeable Doug fir broke off from the hillside and completely uprooted a cedar.

Surprisingly no one reported this, it

was the seasonals who came across it on the morning rounds.

No more short cuts

We have been working on closing down hiker made short cuts. Some of the trails include Trail 101-105 and Trail 246-204. These are common ones but as we see increased numbers on our trails they continue to be opened up and used.

ACFL boat patrols

We Continue to get out in the park boat and clean up our shorelines and keep an eye out for floating alcohol consumption. The latest boating mission was to track down “fairy houses” that were put out just south of the southern bog we located 3 of them and collected them.

ACFL patrols/rounds

The usual business, restrooms, garbage and litter pick up. Whistle Lake patrols have been typical contacts including alcohol consumption, smoking, off-leash dogs and improper

motorbike activity. Thankfully all contacts made this month have ended with a willingness to comply with park rules.

Until next time.

May the forest be with you.