



ANACORTES PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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Anacortes Community Forest Lands Advisory Board

November 6th, 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 October '25 Minutes**
- 3. Public Comments for any item not on the agenda**
- 4. Friends of the ACFL Update**
- 5. Staff Reports**
- 6. Parks Commission Update**
- 7. Other Business**

Adjourn

Minutes of the Meeting: October 2nd, 2025

Board Members Present: Brian Wetcher, JoAnn York-Gilmore, Tabb Stringer, Kit Gerwels

Staff Present: Bob Vaux

Meeting held in person and called to order at 6:01PM. Despite Darby's best efforts before leaving for vacation, Bob was unable to activate the Zoom link for this meeting.

September meeting minutes unanimously approved.

Public Comments: motorcycle enthusiast Tim Schmidt thanked the Board and the City for another wonderful season of riding in the ACFL.

Friends of the ACFL Update: E.D. Josie shared school programs underway, Oct. camp coming soon and working with the Library on a variety of activities. Halloween hike filling up quickly. Last weekend's annual benefit event went well, nearing \$100K for donation totals. Thanks to all who were there and gave to Forest Lands Education.

Staff Reports: Bob thanked Jamie for his continued good work and wished him well on his current vacation. Because Jamie has been away our typical ACFL response time to blowdown and such is longer than normal. The SEPA checklist first draft for the Forest Plan update has been submitted to Planning. The Plan does not yet have a scheduled Council meeting appearance. The Board went on to discuss some aspects of the Heart Lake Parking Lot Improvement Project.

Parks Commission Update: JoAnn spoke mostly of the Commission's recent recommendation to staff to reduce pickleball hours at the Clearidge Courts. Please see Parks Commission minutes for a deeper dive into this topic. Brian Wetcher mentioned the volleyball community still wants to help bring sand courts to Storvik Park.

Other Business: none.

Adjourned at 6:30PM.

Minutes respectively submitted by Bob Vaux.

OCTOBER 2025

Assistant Director's Highlights

Submitted: October 17, 2025

Bob Vaux

FALL VACATIONS

- Continued to help cover for Director Lunsford. But now (9/29) the real challenge, getting by without Darby for two weeks!!
- I am taking much of the month of October off as well.

BEN ROOT SKATE PARK

- 9/26: PF Nichola and I met on site with Rachel, working on sign installation plan, pending warranty work from Grindline and future skate classes at the park.
- Ph II improvement project planning and design work continues.

ANACORTES COMMUNITY FOREST LANDS

- 9/27: joined many others celebrating another year of Friends of the ACFL education programming at their annual fundraiser. Well done, Friends.
- Continuing with off-season trail patrol.
- Enjoyed another evening with the Friends at their 10/16 volunteer appreciation pizza feed at Village. Celebrated so many great accomplishments with folks giving their time to the Trail Ambassador, Citizen Scientist and Forest Discovery Center docent programs.

W. 6TH PARK PLAN

- Nels Strandberg has taken an interest in the project and we are exploring a potential partnership. Some more specific design work taking place as well. Director Lunsford and I have had some preliminary permitting discussions with Building and Storm Water.

HEART LAKE PARKING LOT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

- Director Lunsford and I reviewing first planning and design proposal to be submitted.

FOREST PLAN

- Working on 2nd draft of SEPA checklist. Plan not yet scheduled for Council review.

James Burroughs

ACFL Maintenance technician

October 29, 2025

ACFL Maintenance Report: October 2025

Tree Removals

We have had some windy days in October which has led to quite a few downed trees in the ACFL. I have cleared downed trees on 210, 28, 27, 247, 216, 230, 300

and Rotary Park. The parks crew and I removed some hazardous trees on Trail 302, Storvik Park and City owned property neighboring residential area.

November Work party prep

With our Friends of the Forest work party approaching quickly I have spent some time doing some prep work for it, measuring out the area and gathering cedar turnpike material.

Beaver rounds

I have continued my efforts in monitoring the water levels at our beaver locations. As the wet seasons continue more frequent monitoring will be required.

Mt. Erie Road work

Mt. Erie Road was in rough shape with many deep potholes. I spent a day with the help of one of our in-town parks crew members patching potholes with cold mix.

Trail safety

I removed some old rebar that had been sticking out of a rotten turnpike on Trail 123.

Mt. Erie Trail run

Our Recreation team hosted the Annual Trail run. I spent some time walking the Trail run route making sure it was clear of fallen debris and ready to go for the participants.

Motorbike activity

With October coming to an end this also means we start our Off season for motorbikes. I will make an effort to monitor any motorbike activity once this begins. We have seen the continued trail poaching of the 300 sections of trails by motorbikes. This continues to be a common issue in this area of our woods.

In-town work

I have spent quite a bit of my time helping the In-town crew out this month. Some of these tasks included some cemetery work, installing markers, emptying compost bin and blowing chestnuts off the lawn. I also helped removing Ivy and brush at the Police Station where there were many trees growing into the fence there. Dead animal removal is another task I have helped with in-town.