



ANACORTES PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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Anacortes Community Forest Lands Advisory Board

**March 5th, 2026
6PM**

In person and virtual meeting options.

In Person: City Hall Main Floor Conference Room

Zoom Meeting Link:

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

Preliminary Agenda

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Approve February '26 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: February 5, 2026

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

Staff present: Jonn Lunsford, Darby Jordan

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

Minutes: January minutes were unanimously approved.

Public Comments:

None

Parks Commission Report:

JoAnn reported that the Kiwanis club is looking to sponsor a shelter at Washington Park but is pushing that project off until 2027. There has been some vandalism at Washington Park to the shower coin machine. There has also been some unauthorized plaques on the Guemes Channel Trail. Staff has posted signs for the owners to reach out.

Bioacoustic Inventory & Monitoring:

Steve Taylor was in attendance to present a proposal for monitoring of the American Bullfrog. He is a biologist and researcher in sound and eco-acoustics. He has done work with bats in the past and is currently volunteering at Shannon Point doing some work on bird species. He would like to study this species of frog as it is non-native and difficult to control. He is proposing audio monitoring in five sites with devices in out of the way places to deter vandalism. These devices will record one minute every 20 minutes, 24 hours a day. He will need to reset the devices and change batteries every 5-10 days. They will be tagged with QR codes that will lead to the presentation and his contact information. This is a self-funded project at this time and the City will have ownership of the data. Steve is proposing a one year study. Brian made a motion to approve the study, the Board gave unanimous support.

Friends of the Forest Update:

Ellie was in attendance and shared that their annual meeting is March 11th at the Depot. This has been their busiest January ever. The Conference Camp is next week. All kindergarten classes in the district have been visited. They are adding another week of summer camp, for a total of 6 weeks and 7 sessions. Spring will bring the Naturalist program, an adult program including classroom and field trip sessions. Friends Staff have met with Bob about the Trail Ambassadors program. They are hiring for a Community Program Specialist by March. The Friends are inviting their members to come to Council to support the Forest Plan, and including an article in their newsletter in support of it.

Staff Reports:

No Questions.

Other Business:

Brian asked when the Plan will be going before Council. Jonn shared that should be the 23rd of February or 2nd of March.

The 17th will have a contract modification for the A Avenue landfill. The State is requiring more information and study.

Jonn also shared that the PSE lease has been finalized.

There will be an open house on March 10th for all park projects.

Adjourned at 6:40pm

Respectfully Submitted by Darby Jordan

FEBRUARY 2026
Assistant Director's Highlights
Parks & Recreation

Submitted: February 25, 2026

Bob Vaux

HEART LAKE SHORELINE RESTORATION PROJECT

- Working with our WA ST Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) Grant Project Manager on getting initial contracts in place and paper trail started appropriately.
- Met with Jackie and Denise from the Samish Nation staff. We will work with the Samish on our Cultural Resource Survey (CRS) for this project, as we have done at the Ben Root Skate Park phased improvement project.
- 2/9 Council Meeting: our design contract with Gray & Osborne passed unanimously.
- 2/18 Held kickoff meeting for the project with contractors and Saben from Public Works. Next steps are site survey related.
- **HEART LAKE:** worked with Darby to complete last year's management report for WA ST Dept. of Ecology (DOE)

ACFL MAPS

- Thanks to our GIS team for updating our trail maps for the 2026 edition. There were a couple of old bridges indicated that have been removed over the years.

FOREST PLAN

- Darby and I worked with Libby in Planning, and the SEPA DNS was published 2/11. Big THANK YOU to Libby for all of her help.
- Darby and I also working on the Plan presentation that is scheduled for 2/23 Council meeting.

- 2/23 Good discussion with the Mayor and Council while presenting the current plan draft. A formal public hearing will be held by the Council on March 16th.

ACFL: IN THE FIELD

- 2/3: Toot Swamp beaver activity recon with WA ST Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) Area Habitat Biologist, Jess P. Our current practice of hand tool notching of dams continues to have the State's support.
- 2/4: took a look at some outer edge tree concerns in the South Cranberry area. There are a couple of trees that warrant a closer look.
- 2/6: ACFL Jamie and I did some recon in the S. Cranberry woods, along with some west side property line inspection. A little bit of trash to pick up, but all in good condition otherwise.
- 2/11: Anna from Planning and I spent some time with Forest Ridge residents, reviewing the dimensions of and rules for that plat's NGPE. We all pretty much ended up on the same page.
- 2/12: Parks Nicole and I did our part for new APD Officer orientation. I focus on Whistle Lake + and Nicole on Washington Park.
- 2/20 Helped Jamie with a S. Cranberry hazard tree + some N. Heart recon in response to some property line concerns shared with us. Did not find anything troubling.
- 2/24 Visited a Vista Too 32nd Street Swamp neighbor residence, called due to concerns over fresh beaver work. Jamie and I will have to finish the job for them on a young alder that is currently heading for the private property.

W. 6TH PARK PROJECT

- Continuing to explore public/private partnership options with our Legal Department, Contracting Division.

FEBRUARY FOREST ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

- Thank you to Director Lunsford and Darby for staffing the meeting as Jamie and I had some outside commitments to tend to.

BEN ROOT SKATEPARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT PHASE II

- Saben from Engineering and I met with MacKay Sposito re: 90% design completed and looking good. A couple of small questions to follow up on, but optimistic MS will have the plans ready in the next few weeks.
- 2/23 Our Cultural Resources Survey has made it through the RCO review process. We will get to work on ordering the CXT unit for the site and continue design work with MacKay Sposito.

James Burroughs
ACFL Maintenance technician
February 24th, 2026

ACFL Maintenance Report: February 2026

Blowdowns and Hazard Trees

- Completed hazard tree removals on ACFL trails 221, 250, 208 and 110

Invasive Species Management

- Removed invasive ivy from a mature tree near Bryce Ct. with Anacortes Parks staff (Steve Phillips).

Beaver Activity Monitoring & Waterway Maintenance

Conducted beaver rounds and cleared debris/flow obstructions at:

- Ace of Hearts Creek
- 32nd St. Swamp
- Mitten Pond
- Little Cranberry Spillway

ACFL Patrols & Facility Maintenance

- Performed off-leash dog patrols in the North Heart Unit and along Trail 10.
- Collected litter, garbage and serviced outhouses during routine ACFL rounds.

In-Town Support

- Assisted with two cemetery services.
- Supported in-town sanitation rounds as requested

Resource Monitoring / Reconnaissance

- Conducted some property line reconnaissance with ACFL Vaux in the southwestern Little Cranberry Lake forest.

32nd St. Swamp

- Removed old T posts and Wire fencing from old tree planting project

Fidalgo Trail Riders Volunteer work party



Lead volunteer Josh Gates, helped organize over 40 volunteers (not all pictured) which were organized into four work groups.

Work was done in the North Heart trail system which included:

- Trail Tread work, over 4 yards of gravel was hauled to multiple trails
- Identification of drainage issues for future maintenance planning
- Event demonstrated strong engagement and effective group productivity