



Anacortes City Council
Municipal Building Council Chambers
904 6th Street

March 16, 2026
6:00 PM

PRELIMINARY AGENDA
[Packet Materials](#) / [Watch Meeting](#)

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Announcements and Committee Reports**
 - a. Economic Development Committee (Report)
 - b. Finance Committee (Report)
 - c. Housing Affordability and Community Services and Planning Committee (Report)
 - d. Public Works Committee (Report)
4. **Appointments**
 - a. Resolution 3209: Planning Commission Appointment (Action)
 - b. Resolution 3210: Historic Preservation Board Appointment (Action)
5. **Public Comment**
 - a. [Participation Rules and Procedures](#)
6. **Consent Agenda**
 - a. Minutes of March 9, 2026 (Action)
 - b. Approval of claims in the amount of \$851,137.98 (Action)
 - c. Ordinance 4092: AMC Title 19 Permit Review Time Periods (Action), (Second Read)
7. **Public Hearings**
 - a. Anacortes Community Forest Lands Plan* (Discussion)
 - b. 2026 First Quarter Budget and Capital Facilities Plan Amendments* (Discussion/Possible Action)
8. **Other Business**
 - a. Contract Award: Public Safety Building HVAC Improvements – Design #25-187-FAC-001 (Action)

- Meetings may be viewed on the [City of Anacortes website](#), on the City of Anacortes [YouTube Channel](#), or on [TV Channel 10](#)
- The public may also watch, listen to, or participate in the meeting live by visiting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89255646791> or by telephoning 1-253-215-8782 and entering Meeting ID 892 5564 6791.
- The public is encouraged to comment via email to cityclerk@anacorteswa.gov or via written comment addressed to City Clerk, P.O. Box 547, Anacortes, WA 98221. Public comments received by the City Clerk prior to 3:00 p.m. the day of the meeting will become part of the record for the meeting, just as if presented in person.
- Complete guidelines for virtual participation in Anacortes City Council meetings are available [here](#). View the quick video example for connecting to the meeting [here](#).
- The City of Anacortes is committed to making public meetings available and accessible to all members of the community. For assistance with special needs, please contact the City Clerk at 360-299-1960 in advance of the meeting.

- b. Downtown Streetscapes Project Presentation* (Discussion)

9. **Adjournment**

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March 16, 2026

City Council Meeting

Anacortes Senior Activity Center

St. Patrick's Day Luncheon: Tuesday, March 17, 11AM-1PM.

\$5 suggested donation for 60+. Enjoy St. Patty's Casserole, Irish Soda Muffins, and lively entertainment.

Recreational Ukelele Class for Beginners

Fridays, April 3-June 12, 2:40-3:40PM

\$5 suggested donation—email zuke.uke@gmail.com to register.

Aging Mastery Program

Wednesdays, April 15 – June 3, 4:00 – 5:30. Cost is \$40 (scholarships available). Expert speakers, group discussions, and goal setting combine to help you make small meaningful changes.

For a full list of programs: www.anacorteswa.gov/556



Spring Parks and Recreation

Egg Dash at Storvik Park: April 3rd, 6:00pm at Storvik Park

Youth Track and Field starts April 20

Registration now open

www.anacorteswa.gov/490



CDBG Annual Plan

Public Comment March 16-April 23

Public Hearing April 27

[**www.anacorteswa.gov/174/**](http://www.anacorteswa.gov/174/)





**want
project
info?**

anacorteswa.gov/projects

State of the City Address

April 6, 2026

All-Department Q1 Update Work Session

April 13, 2026



Committee Reports

- Economic Development
- Finance
- Housing Affordability and Community Services
- Public Works





Lock or Dispose

RCW 9.41.360 requires safe storage of firearms.

Don't want them? Call APD at 360-428-3211 to arrange drop-off of firearms for disposal.



City Council Agenda Bill

March 16, 2026

Action Type: Motion

Item: 4.a.

Title: Resolution 3209: Planning Commission Appointment

Staff Contact(s): Ryan Walters

Approved for Submittal to Council by:

Greg Francioch

Jennifer Tottenham

Ryan Walters

Summary: Mayor Walters has appointed Jill Underwood to the Planning Commission, subject to City Council confirmation for a 3-year term through February 1, 2029.

Budget Impact:

NA

Previous Action: NA

Recommended Motion: I move to approve Resolution 3209, confirming the appointment of Jill Underwood to the Planning Commission for a 3-year term through February 1, 2029.

Alternative Actions:

Attachments (listed in order presented):

1. Resolution No. 3209 - Planning Commission Appointment

RESOLUTION 3209

A Resolution Confirming the Appointment of Members to the Planning Commission

WHEREAS the Anacortes City Council adopted Ordinance 5015 January 20, 2026, updating Anacortes Municipal Code Chapter 2.42 Regarding Establishment of the Planning Commission to create the Commission consistent with chapter 35A.63 of the Revised Code of Washington; and

WHEREAS the Mayor has authority to appoint members of the Planning Commission with City Council consent as follows: one for one year; two for two years; two for three years; and two for four years consistent with Ordinance 5015, Anacortes Municipal Code (AMC) 2.42.040 (B); and

WHEREAS the Mayor has appointed the persons noted below to the Planning Commission subject to City Council confirmation;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ANACORTES CITY COUNCIL THAT:

The following appointments to the Planning Commission for the referenced periods are confirmed:

Position – Appointee	Term Start	Term End
Jill Underwood	3/16/2026	2/1/2029

PASSED AND APPROVED by the City Council on this 16th day of March 2026.

CITY OF ANACORTES

Ryan Walters, Mayor

ATTEST:

Steven D. Hoglund, City Clerk/Treasurer

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Darcy Swetnam, WSBA# 40530
City Attorney



City Council Agenda Bill

March 16, 2026

Action Type: Motion

Item: 4.b.

Title: Resolution 3210: Historic Preservation Board Appointment

Staff Contact(s): Bret Lunsford

Approved for Submittal to Council by:

Greg Francioch
Jennifer Tottenham
Ryan Walters

Summary: [Anacortes Municipal Code Chapter 18.20.040](#) establishes the Anacortes Historic Preservation Board and provides that: "Members of the city historic preservation board shall be appointed by the city council."

Bret Lunsford, Director, Anacortes Museum, in consultation with members of the Historic Preservation Board and the City Council Museum Committee, recommends that the City Council appoint Zack Mosner to the Historic Preservation Board through December 31, 2028.

Budget Impact:

Previous Action:

Recommended Motion: I move to approve Resolution 3210 appointing Zack Mosner to the Historic Preservation Board through December 31, 2028.

Alternative Actions:

Attachments (listed in order presented):

1. Resolution No. 3210 - Historic Preservation Board Appointment

Resolution 3210

A Resolution Confirming the Appointment of Members to the Historic Preservation Board

Whereas the Historic Preservation Board's responsibility is to identify and encourage the conservation of the City's historical places and review proposed changes to registered properties;

Whereas the Board serves as the primary resource in matters of historic planning and preservation and works to raise community awareness of Anacortes' historic resources;

Whereas the City Council has authority to appoint members of the Historic Preservation Board to three-year terms, and in the case of a vacancy can appoint an individual for the unexpired term in the same manner as the original appointment;

Whereas it is recommended to City Council that the below be appointed to the Historic Preservation Board;

Now, therefore, the City Council does resolve as follows:

The following appointment to the Historic Preservation Board for the referenced period is confirmed:

Position - Appointee	Term Start	Term End
Zack Mosner	3/16/2026	12/31/2028

ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Anacortes this 16th day of March 2026.

CITY OF ANACORTES:

Ryan Walters, Mayor

Attest:

Steven D. Hoglund, City Clerk-Treasurer

Approved as to Form:

Darcy Swetnam, City Attorney

Anacortes City Council Minutes - March 9, 2026

Call to Order

Mayor Ryan Walters called to order the March 9, 2026, Anacortes City Council meeting at 6:00 p.m. Councilmembers Marcia Hunt, Luke Currier, Anthony Young, Christine Cleland-McGrath, Carolyn Moulton, Bruce McDougall and TJ Fantini were present.

Pledge of Allegiance

The assembly joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements and Committee Reports

Mayor Walters made announcements on the following topics: Conversation with the Mayor and Parks and Recreation Open House March 10th at the Senior Activity Center, [Senior Activity Center Programs](#), spring [Parks and Recreation programs](#), and city [project information](#), referring to a slide presentation that was added to the packet materials for the meeting.

Information Technology and ACCESS Anacortes Fiber Internet Committee

Mr. McDougall reported from the Information Technology and ACCESS Anacortes Fiber Internet Committee meeting held March 3rd. Information technology topics discussed included the targeted data migration for the enterprise resource planning software implementation in July 2026, the nearly completed change of city cell phone service providers to Verizon, increasing storage on a main server cluster, and heightened information security measures due to global events. Fiber topics included a subscription update with the service surpassing 3,000 online customers, potential dark fiber agreements, an EDA grant update with the final reimbursement coming in the second quarter, and future upgrades for fiber upstream routers in 2028 that would give customers a 10 GB service option.

Housing Affordability and Community Services and Planning

Ms. Moulton reported from the Housing Affordability and Community Services and Planning Committee meeting held earlier in the evening. The topics discussed included Ordinance 4092 that is on tonight's agenda and a future amendment to final plat approval procedures for a plat of 10 or more separate plats that will be designed to streamline the process. Mayor Walters pointed out that final plat approval is a ministerial action that does not require discretion.

Public Safety Committee

Ms. Cleland-McGrath reported from the Public Safety Committee meeting held March 3rd. Police topics discussed included a hiring and training update, noting that full staffing is providing a notably increased presence in the community, the ability to have an officer in the forest lands during the summer if staffing levels stay as they are, combined rescue task force training with the fire department to train for active threat situations with Skagit and Island counties, the EvidenceonQ system that is being used across the county, the SMART Team composed of representatives from Island and Skagit counties to analyze incidents that require third-party review, animal control fees being added to the unified fee schedule, and an upcoming in-house bicycle patrol officer training class in May.

Fire and Emergency Medical Services topics discussed included the Fire Station 1 remodel project, the most recent behavioral health and crisis outreach response and education joint grant application from the University of Washington with the City of Mount Vernon, Skagit County Sheriff's Office and Skagit County Public Health. Under the grant, the Anacortes Fire Department would receive \$270,000 over 18 months that would fund the Anacortes Community Paramedic, a community outreach representative through the Anacortes Family Center, and other community outreach programs in Skagit County. Ms. Moulton added that the grant would bring the Anacortes Family Center back to full funding.

Mr. Fantini thanked Parks department staff and volunteers with the Friends of the ACFL who were out over the weekend maintaining trails around Cranberry Lake.

Mayor Walters announced he would deliver the State of the City address during the April 6th regular meeting and that the April 13th meeting would feature department updates in work session format.

Public Comment

Mayor Walters invited the public to comment on any item not on the agenda. No one present wished to address the Council on any topic not already on the agenda.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Young moved, seconded by Ms. Moulton, to approve the following Consent Agenda items. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

a. Minutes of March 2, 2026

b. Approval of claims in the amount of \$550,452.03

The following vouchers/checks were approved for payment:

EFT numbers: 115023 through 115070, total \$494,914.45

Check numbers: 115071 through 115084, total \$42,281.83

Wire transfer numbers: 385287 through 385502, total \$13,255.75

Public Hearings

2026 Community Development Block Grant Annual Action Plan

Planning, Community, and Economic Development Coordinator Stephanie Snyder introduced the 2026 Community Development Block Grant Annual Action Plan, referring to a slide presentation that was included in the packet materials for the meeting.

Discussion topics included:

- Impact on grant funding availability due to the federal government shutdown and the federal Department of Government Efficiency.
- Merits of staff recommendations.
- Possible duplication of public services and funding allocation.
- Allocation of funds to meet economic development goals included in the consolidated plan.
- Federal policy requirements that restrict the use of CDBG funds.
- The US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires continually expanding services.
- Rebalancing of priorities due to current political and fiscal conditions.
- Community Action does not get enough funding to accomplish their mission.
- The need for funding far eclipses the availability.
- CDBG funding as a springboard to other grant funding. Look for similar opportunities.

At 6:52pm, Mayor Walters opened the public hearing. No one present wished to address the Council. At 6:53 pm, Mayor Walters closed the public hearing.

Ms. Snyder outlined that next steps are writing the HUD Plan, followed by a 30-day public comment period, and a second public hearing during the regular city council meeting on April 27th.

Other Business

Ordinance 4092: AMC Title 19 Permit Review Time Periods

Planning Manager Libby Grage introduced Ordinance 4092 that would revise permit review time periods under Anacortes Municipal Code (AMC) Title 19, referring to a slide presentation that was included in the packet

Anacortes City Council Minutes - March 9, 2026

materials for the meeting.

Discussion topics included:

- The applicability of the changes to Table 19.41.050.
- Helping Homeowners Associations understand the changes applicable to residential zones in the development code.
 - This proposed ordinance does not address regulations in residential zones.
- Changes to the underlying law and regulations since the ordinance was originally introduced.
- On-call permitting reviews are within the budget for 2026.
- Defensible options chosen for permit reviews.

Mayor Walters invited members of the audience to comment on this agenda item. No one present wished to address the Council.

Mr. McDougall moved, seconded by Mr. Young, without objection to place the ordinance on the consent agenda for the next regular meeting.

Ordinance 5025: Amending AMC 6.16.040 - Dangerous Animals Exemption

City Attorney Darcy Swetnam introduced proposed Ordinance 5025 that would amend AMC 6.16.040 — Potentially Dangerous Wild Animals — Exemptions, referring to a slide presentation that was added to the packet materials for the meeting.

Mayor Walters invited members of the audience to comment on this agenda item. No one present wished to address the Council.

Luke Currier moved, seconded by Anthony Young, to waive the two-read rule and adopt Ordinance 5025. Vote: Ayes - Carolyn Moulton, Anthony Young, Christine Cleland-McGrath, Bruce McDougall, TJ Fantini, Luke Currier, Marcia Hunt. Nays - None. Abstentions - None. Result: Passed

Interlocal Agreement 26-104-EXE-001 with Skagit County for the Skagit STAR Center Funding

Ms. Swetnam introduced proposed interlocal agreement 26-104-EXE-001 with Skagit County for the Skagit STAR Center funding, pointing out that the city is contributing \$250,000 to the startup costs for the first year of operation of the facility and that the agreement has the same terms as those that other cities in Skagit County are concluding as well. She added that the agreement requires the county to provide quarterly reports on the use of the funds, and the term of the agreement goes through June 2028. She then provided an overview of the funds the city had received from various settlements with opioid producers, totaling \$299,277 at the end of 2025, and that the city anticipates collecting approximately \$485,000 in additional settlement funds through 2035.

Mayor Walters invited members of the audience to comment on this agenda item.

Susan Hill of 34th Street and Q Avenue in Anacortes expressed her support for the council providing funding for the STAR Center.

Discussion topics included:

- Other cities and their commitment to the STAR Center.
- Funding for the School Resource Officer for 2026.

Anthony Young moved, seconded by Bruce McDougall, to authorize the mayor to execute interlocal 26-104-EXE-001 with Skagit County. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Contract Award: Fire Station 1 Remodel Project #25-035-AFD-002

Fire Chief Bill Harris introduced proposed contract #25-035-AFD-002 with Lazer Construction LLC to perform the Fire Station 1 Remodel Project, for which 90% of the project total of \$260,704 will be covered by fire impact fees. He then detailed the major points of the project to include expansion of the kitchen and dining areas, increased workspace and storage and replacement of the flooring and paint on the upper level.

Bruce McDougall moved, seconded by Anthony Young, to authorize the mayor to sign contract #25-035-AFD-002 with Lazer Construction LLC. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Mayor Walters announced that Chief Harris had accepted a new position with the City of Oak Harbor, thanking him for his efforts over the last four years in improving the department. The council, mayor and all present gave Chief Harris a standing ovation.

Executive Session

Potential Litigation or Litigation per [RCW 42.30.110\(1\)\(i\)](#) (20 minutes)

Mayor Walters announced that City Council and the City Attorney would convene in Executive Session per RCW 42.30.110 (1)(i) for approximately 20 minutes to discuss potential litigation or litigation. The mayor advised that the regular meeting would then adjourn with no final action having been taken. Councilmembers TJ Fantini, Anthony Young, Christine Cleland-McGrath, Carolyn Moulton, Bruce McDougall, Luke Carrier, and Marcia Hunt attended the executive session.

Adjournment

There being no further business, at approximately 8:05 pm, the Anacortes City Council meeting of March 9, 2026, was adjourned.

The following claims against the City of Anacortes have been preaudited and certified by the Clerk-Treasurer as ready for City Council approval at the March 16, 2026 City Council meeting:

[Download this file in OpenDocument spreadsheet format.](#)

Invoice Doc #	Invoice Date	Invoice #	Vendor Full Name	Description	Total Amount	Approval Queue
384507	12/23/2025	045-548579	TYLER TECHNOLOGIES, INC	ENTERPRISE RESOURCE PLANNING (ERP) SOFTWARE AND IMPLEMENTATION SERVICES	\$ 2,023.68	finance
384539	12/31/2025	045-549335	TYLER TECHNOLOGIES, INC	ENTERPRISE RESOURCE PLANNING SOFTWARE/IMPLEMENTATION SERVICES	\$ 4,900.48	finance
383807	1/1/2026	045-549953	TYLER TECHNOLOGIES, INC	EERP QTRLY SAAS FEES 01/01/2026-03/31/2026	\$ 45,576.61	finance
385929	1/1/2026	INVLEX11260999	LEXIPOL, LLC	ANNUAL FIRE POLICY SUBSCRIPTION 1/1/26 -12/31/26	\$ 8,360.46	medic
385962	1/8/2026	134875	VECA ELECTRIC & TECHNOLOGIES	29TH STREET RESERVOIR NEW POWER FEEDER WIRES	\$ 34,816.00	dwtp
385953	1/19/2026	B20716525	SHI INTERNATIONAL CORP.	ADOBE SOFTWARE LICENSE RENEWAL - 2/11/26-2/10/27	\$ 13,270.93	infosys
383808	1/21/2026	045-551032	TYLER TECHNOLOGIES, INC	ENTERPRISE RESOURCE PLANNING (ERP) SOFTWARE AND IMPLEMENTATION SERVICES	\$ 4,452.10	finance
385960	1/23/2026	135093	VECA ELECTRIC & TECHNOLOGIES	UNIT-PRICED ELECTRICAL SERVICES 2025 - FIBER DC EQUIPMENT 10/31/25	\$ 1,282.78	fiber
384538	1/31/2026	045-552248	TYLER TECHNOLOGIES, INC	ENTERPRISE RESOURCE PLANNING SOFTWARE/IMPLEMENTATION SERVICES	\$ 3,675.36	finance
385954	2/1/2026	INUS419527	AXON ENTERPRISE, INC.	APD AXON TASER 10 PURCHASE	\$ 27,099.50	apd
385434	2/4/2026	65023	SKAGIT PUBLISHING LLC	PUBLISH AA-713079	\$ 44.66	legal
385846	2/5/2026	09P2426	ENVIRO-CLEAN EQUIPMENT INC	PART FOR VEHICLE #6002	\$ 217.17	dshop
385648	2/9/2026	14865791	HACH COMPANY	SOLITAX TURB SERVICE PO 26-106	\$ 1,012.17	dwtp
385646	2/9/2026	154 700 0000 9	CASCADE NATURAL GAS CORP.	LIBRARY 1-10 TO 2-6-2026	\$ 2,404.73	publib
385157	2/13/2026	045-553520	TYLER TECHNOLOGIES, INC	ENTERPRISE RESOURCE PLANNING SOFTWARE/IMPLEMENTATION SERVICES	\$ 2,692.83	finance

Invoice Doc #	Invoice Date	Invoice #	Vendor Full Name	Description	Total Amount	Approval Queue
385194	2/18/2026	045-553661	TYLER TECHNOLOGIES, INC	ENTERPRISE RESOURCE PLANNING SOFTWARE/IMPLEMENTATION SERVICES	\$ 1,225.12	finance
385973	2/18/2026	243645	BLYTHE MECHANICAL, INC	HVAC ANNUAL PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE 2026 - LIBRARY	\$ 5,903.49	pw1
385972	2/18/2026	243647	BLYTHE MECHANICAL, INC	HVAC ANNUAL PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE 2026 - CITY HALL	\$ 3,562.11	pw1
385725	2/18/2026	568654717	SIGMA-ALDRICH, INC.	LAB SUPPLIES: ROCARE A X12	\$ 305.65	dwtpt
385024	2/19/2026	6560721719	VESTIS SERVICES LLC	APD NYLON MATS CLEANED	\$ 16.32	apd
385728	2/20/2026	203337700-1	OFFICE OF FINANCIAL RECOVERY, STATE OF WASHINGTON	REIMBURSE WA GEMT FOR OVERPAYMENT	\$ 16,811.56	medic
385781	2/20/2026	203337700-2	OFFICE OF FINANCIAL RECOVERY, STATE OF WASHINGTON	WA GEMT OVERPAYMENT REIMBURSEMENT	\$ 14,165.28	medic
385711	2/20/2026	6136551935	VERIZON WIRELESS	SCADA COMMUNICATIONS PUMP STATIONS	\$ 1,398.72	dwwtpt
385986	2/23/2026	ReimbLindquist	LINDQUIST, THAD	TRANSAMERICA, LTC COVERAGE, THAD LINDQUIST, LEOFF 1 RETIREE	\$ 862.18	hr
385987	2/24/2026	DE60171314	WILSON DDS, NICHOLAS J	DENTAL SERVICE, LEOFF 1 RETIREE, D MEAD.	\$ 190.00	hr
385468	2/25/2026	045-554416	TYLER TECHNOLOGIES, INC	ENTERPRISE RESOURCE PLANNING SOFTWARE/IMPLEMENTATION SERVICES	\$ 2,023.68	finance
385975	2/25/2026	110097770	PUGET SOUND ENERGY INC	UTILITY POLE TOPPING FEE	\$ 125.00	fiber
385971	2/25/2026	243648	BLYTHE MECHANICAL, INC	HVAC ANNUAL PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE 2026 - FIRE STATION 1	\$ 1,996.90	pw1
385970	2/25/2026	243649	BLYTHE MECHANICAL, INC	HVAC ANNUAL PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE 2026 - FIRE STATION 2	\$ 427.58	pw1
385717	2/26/2026	300000290043	PUGET SOUND ENERGY INC	STREET LIGHTS: 1/1-1/30/26	\$ 11,782.95	dshop
385715	2/26/2026	300000325005	PUGET SOUND ENERGY INC	STREET LIGHTS: 1/7-2/5/26	\$ 145.53	dshop
385716	2/26/2026	300000340004	PUGET SOUND ENERGY INC	STREET LIGHTS: 1/29-2/26/26	\$ 56.01	dshop
385931	2/26/2026	58682	PACIFIC SECURITY	JANUARY 2026 - SECURITY DETAIL AT COURT REVISED INVOICE	\$ 134.25	finance

Invoice Doc #	Invoice Date	Invoice #	Vendor Full Name	Description	Total Amount	Approval Queue
385947	2/26/2026	Pay App 19	SUMMITX CONTRACTORS, INC	EDA FIBER EXPANSION - CONSTRUCTION	\$ 130,932.20	pw1
385930	2/27/2026	1029	MESA PRODUCTS, INC.	SKAGIT RIVER DEEP ANODE WELL GROUND BED INSTALLATION	\$ 71,726.66	dwtpt
385726	2/27/2026	14893837	HACH COMPANY	LAB SUPPLIES: RECURRING ORDER OF REAGENT SET CL17	\$ 3,222.53	dwtpt
385982	2/27/2026	777603	THE LIBRARY STORE, INC	BARCODE LABELS	\$ 1,165.92	publib
385649	2/27/2026	990411	JCI JONES CHEMICALS INC	SODIUM HYPOCHLORITE PO 26-118	\$ 6,693.10	dwtpt
385857	2/28/2026	0173	SKAGIT COUNTY SOLID WASTE FUND	FEBRUARY TONNAGE HAULED	\$ 100,163.19	dshop
385932	2/28/2026	045-555096	TYLER TECHNOLOGIES, INC	ENTERPRISE RESOURCE PLANNING SOFTWARE/IMPLEMENTATION SERVICES	\$ 3,675.36	finance
386032	2/28/2026	149535	PROCOM LLC	DRUG TESTING - CDL FOLLOW UP	\$ 128.00	hr
385718	2/28/2026	20382513	PACWEST MACHINERY, LLC	PART FOR EQUIP #4000	\$ 475.51	dshop
385950	2/28/2026	2116	WIDENER & ASSOCIATES	ON-CALL ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITTING - FIDALGO MARINA REPAIRS	\$ 1,475.87	pw1
385592	2/28/2026	351427	LAKESIDE INDUSTRIES, INC.	SUPPLIES FOR STREET DEPT	\$ 1,797.46	dshop
385650	2/28/2026	41-51806	SKAGIT FARMERS SUPPLY	ETHANOL FREE UNL 226 ACCT# 26681	\$ 81.26	dwtpt
385951	2/28/2026	56748	SKAGIT SOILS, INC.	WATER MAINTENANCE: SKAGIT RIVER DEEP WELL	\$ 309.51	dwtpt
385864	2/28/2026	58906	PACIFIC SECURITY	FEBRUARY - SECURITY DETAIL ON COURT DAYS	\$ 748.89	court
385859	2/28/2026	9020577002	LANGUAGE LINE SERVICES, INC	LANGUAGE LINE INTERPRETER SERVICE	\$ 19.89	court
385976	2/28/2026	FB-3073	CITY OF MOUNT VERNON	DARK FIBER, FEB 2026	\$ 525.00	fiber
385647	2/28/2026	February 2026 1378	GORDON THOMAS HONEYWELL	2026 LEGISLATIVE LOBBYING SERVICES	\$ 3,000.00	executive
385961	2/28/2026	IN968129	NOANET	BASE NOC SVCS FEE, FEB 2026	\$ 12,548.46	fiber
385651	2/28/2026	INV-5937142	UNITED SITE SERVICES, INC	PENN AVE PORTA POTTY 2/1/26-2/28/26	\$ 210.25	dwtpt
385949	3/1/2026	0138690-2819-4	WM LAMPTRACKER, INC	PHARMACEUTICAL DISPOSAL	\$ 149.00	medic
385985	3/1/2026	052-0010-00	CITY OF ANACORTES	OPS: 2/1- 2/28/26	\$ 2,232.00	dshop
386025	3/1/2026	0542005-001	UNUM LIFE INS CO OF AMERICA	MARCH UNUM LONG TERM CARE INSURANCE	\$ 1,517.07	hr

Invoice Doc #	Invoice Date	Invoice #	Vendor Full Name	Description	Total Amount	Approval Queue
385942	3/1/2026	190-1840-00	CITY OF ANACORTES	UTILITY BILL FOR WWTP	\$ 9,631.58	dwwtp
385855	3/1/2026	667806	SAN DIEGO POLICE EQUIP CO INC	TRAINING AMMO	\$ 2,058.48	apd
385974	3/1/2026	Cogent-260301	COGENT COMMUNICATIONS, LLC	BACKUP DEDICATED INTERNET ACCESS, MAR 2026	\$ 3,717.47	fiber
385652	3/2/2026	1100005576	EUROFINS ENVIRONMENT TESTING	WATER ANALYSIS - TCR NORTH 2026-02-17	\$ 154.00	dwwtp
385979	3/2/2026	125	SKAGIT COUNTY OFFICE OF	SKAGIT COUNTY OFFICE OF ASSIGNED COUNSEL	\$ 1,543.50	pubdef
385784	3/2/2026	16437	NORTHWEST CLEAN AIR AGENCY	2026 REGISTRATION FEE FOR EMISSIONS	\$ 1,079.80	dwwtp
385978	3/2/2026	200000666863	PUGET SOUND ENERGY INC	LIBRARY 10TH STREET LED 1/31-3/2/2026	\$ 19.77	publib
385981	3/2/2026	200000667218	PUGET SOUND ENERGY INC	LIBRARY 10TH & M ST 1/31-3/2/2026	\$ 34.09	publib
385727	3/2/2026	200012505505	PUGET SOUND ENERGY INC	WTP 2/1/26 - 2/28/26 (CREDIT ISSUED FOR \$ 138,377.08)	\$ 4,655.04	dwwtp
385714	3/2/2026	220025931985	PUGET SOUND ENERGY INC	CHERRY LN & ORCHARD AVE ST LIGHTS: 1/31-3/2/26	\$ 13.38	dshop
385713	3/2/2026	220030712800	PUGET SOUND ENERGY INC	STREET LIGHTS: 1/31-3/2/26	\$ 8.69	dshop
385722	3/3/2026	638193	HUGHES FIRE EQUIPMENT, INC.	PART FOR VEHICLE #221 ACCT 16225	\$ 266.77	dshop
385948	3/3/2026	7463195606	CARDINAL HEALTH 110, INC.	PHARMA: ROCURONIUM, NACL, ASPIRIN	\$ 222.62	medic
385712	3/3/2026	990647	JCI JONES CHEMICALS INC	PLANT CHEMICALS	\$ 9,243.99	dwwtp
385723	3/3/2026	99389028	EMERALD SERVICES, INC	DISPOSAL SERVICE FOR SHOP	\$ 1,372.10	dshop
385793	3/4/2026	1963	OSBORN CONSULTING, INC	PROFESSIONAL PLAN REVIEW CONSULTANT SERVICES - THROUGH 2/28/26	\$ 8,394.75	pw1
385792	3/4/2026	1964	OSBORN CONSULTING, INC	COMMERCIAL AVENUE ENHANCEMENT PROJECT - DESIGN - THROUGH 2/28/26	\$ 826.15	pw1
385794	3/4/2026	1965	OSBORN CONSULTING, INC	17TH STREET DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT - DESIGN - THROUGH 2/28/26	\$ 14,186.26	pw1
385934	3/4/2026	2026-2-01-ANACORTES	PERISCOPE LEGAL	PUBLIC DEFENSE SERVICES - FEBRUARY 2026	\$ 23,750.00	finance
385791	3/4/2026	37080	TRANSCO GROUP USA, INC.	TRANSPORTATION ELEMENT OF THE 2025 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN - THROUGH 2/27/26	\$ 4,775.00	pw1
385653	3/4/2026	8498 30 017 0319913	COMCAST	LIBRARY INTERNET ACCESS 3/9-4/8/26	\$ 185.23	finance

Invoice Doc #	Invoice Date	Invoice #	Vendor Full Name	Description	Total Amount	Approval Queue
385944	3/4/2026	907035	LAKESIDE EQUIPMENT CORPORATION	MAINTENANE SUPPLIES	\$ 356.00	dwwtp
385938	3/4/2026	XA116027367:01	RWC INTERNATIONAL	PARTS FOR VEHICLE #222	\$ 73.63	dshop
385724	3/5/2026	14927	PETDATA, INC	PETDATA LICENSING FEES FEBRUARY	\$ 500.00	finance
385785	3/5/2026	1898	FIDALGO CLEANING	MUSEUM 3/5-3/19/26	\$ 200.00	museum
385786	3/5/2026	1899	FIDALGO CLEANING	HERITAGE CENTER 3/5-3/19/26	\$ 140.00	museum
385969	3/5/2026	243650	BLYTHE MECHANICAL, INC	HVAC ANNUAL PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE 2026 - DEPOT	\$ 418.88	pw1
385782	3/5/2026	248 984 6277 5	CASCADE NATURAL GAS CORP.	WTP 2/4/26 - 2/28/26	\$ 8,962.27	dwwtp
385952	3/5/2026	26442.00-1	GRAY & OSBORNE INC	HEART LAKE SHORELINE RESTORATION-SURVEY, DESIGN, PROJ MNGMNT - 1/25/26-2/21/26	\$ 524.35	parks1
385783	3/5/2026	2US1032476	MALVERN PANALYTICAL, INC.	FOLDED CAPILLARY ZETA CELL 10/PACK X2	\$ 650.62	dwwtp
385936	3/5/2026	394522	BAY CITY SUPPLY	SUPPLIES FOR FACILITIES	\$ 123.13	pwfac
385850	3/5/2026	58776100	FEDERAL EASTERN	LESS LETHAL - BEAN BAG ROUNDS	\$ 302.74	apd
385849	3/5/2026	6560729127	VESTIS SERVICES LLC	APD NYLON MATS CLEANED	\$ 16.32	apd
385778	3/5/2026	6560729132	VESTIS SERVICES LLC	OPS & PARKS LAUNDRY SERVICE	\$ 80.46	dshop
385721	3/5/2026	CDBG.2025.PLN.01.1 20	ANACORTES HOUSING AUTHORITY, CDBG	ROOF REPLACEMENT AHA CDBG PROGRAM	\$ 65,512.00	plan
385941	3/5/2026	INV00981551	USA BLUE BOOK	LAB SUPPLIES	\$ 860.22	dwwtp
385977	3/5/2026	INV2170000282	MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS AMERICA	FIBER CPE, ONTS & WIFI ACCESS POINTS	\$ 41,843.85	fiber
385943	3/6/2026	0018325-IN	NELSON-REISNER DISTRIBUTOR INC	INCINERATOR FUEL	\$ 7,400.28	dwwtp
385968	3/6/2026	09P2860	ENVIRO-CLEAN EQUIPMENT INC	PARTS FOR VEHICLE #304	\$ 1,460.45	dshop
385860	3/6/2026	1200808921	HDR ENGINEERING, INC	WTP LEAD AND COPPER RULE (LCR) SAMPLING PLAN - 11/2/25 - 2/21/26	\$ 4,088.81	dwwtp
385844	3/6/2026	1500006480	EUROFINS ENVIRONMENT TESTING	WATER ANALYSIS - BACT RAW 2026-02-17	\$ 70.00	dwwtp
385861	3/6/2026	2079618	LIFE ASSIST, INC	TUBING, MEGAMOVERS, RESUS PACKS.	\$ 5,744.06	medic
385853	3/6/2026	220013286491	PUGET SOUND ENERGY INC	APD 2/5-3/5/26	\$ 3,324.60	apd
385939	3/6/2026	220021901958	PUGET SOUND ENERGY INC	1958 PW TSUNAMI WARNING 2-5 TO 3-5-26	\$ 10.89	dwwtp

Invoice Doc #	Invoice Date	Invoice #	Vendor Full Name	Description	Total Amount	Approval Queue
385966	3/6/2026	243644	BLYTHE MECHANICAL, INC	HVAC ANNUAL PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE 2026 - FIRE STATION 1 CO-RAY-VAC	\$ 1,705.98	pw1
385843	3/6/2026	37124	TRANSCO GROUP USA, INC.	PEDESTRIAN ROADWAY CROSSING IMPROVEMENT PROJECT - DESIGN - THROUGH 2/27/26	\$ 2,528.75	pw1
385856	3/6/2026	426624	SUN BADGE CO.	BADGES - REPAIR	\$ 547.00	apd
385852	3/7/2026	00005W5A83106	UNITED PARCEL SERVICE, INC	UPS SHIPPING; WEEK ENDING 3-7-26	\$ 30.83	apd
385845	3/9/2026	1100005686	EUROFINS ENVIRONMENT TESTING	WATER ANALYSIS - FLUORIDE BH	\$ 35.00	dwtpt
385862	3/9/2026	1200809272	HDR ENGINEERING, INC	COMBINED SEWER OVERFLOW PUMP STATION DESIGN - 11/30/25 - 2/21/26	\$ 13,967.80	pw1
385927	3/9/2026	1200809325	HDR ENGINEERING, INC	WTP NORTH LINE REPAIR & FLOWMETER UPGRADES - DESIGN - 1/25/26 - 2/21/26	\$ 1,584.41	dwtpt
385926	3/9/2026	1200809335	HDR ENGINEERING, INC	WTP FILTER AND BACKWASH STUDY - 1/25/26 - 2/21/26	\$ 2,293.79	dwtpt
385851	3/9/2026	1901	FIDALGO CLEANING	APD CLEANING & SUPPLIES 2/23-3/8/26	\$ 905.00	apd
385928	3/9/2026	1988	OSBORN CONSULTING, INC	NPDES PERMIT COMPLIANCE SUPPORT SERVICES - THROUGH 2/28/26	\$ 9,794.75	pw1
385984	3/9/2026	200000667101	PUGET SOUND ENERGY INC	LIBRARY 1220 10TH ST 2/6-3/6/2026	\$ 4,752.18	publib
385964	3/9/2026	244127	BLYTHE MECHANICAL, INC	LIBRARY & FIBER SERVER ROOM AC REPAIRS	\$ 2,548.18	pw1
385788	3/9/2026	645599	MOMENTUM TELECOM INC	SIP TRUNKS 3/1-3/31/26	\$ 1,080.83	finance
385940	3/9/2026	6560730531	VESTIS SERVICES LLC	LAUNDRY SERVICE FOR WWTP	\$ 41.91	dwwtpt
385787	3/9/2026	INV3151984	COPIERS NORTHWEST, INC	S/N 4HU11634 LIBRARY 1/14-2/13/26	\$ 82.66	finance
385789	3/9/2026	RI107144832	FRANCOTYP-POSTALIA, INC	MAILING MACHINE QUARTERLY RENTAL 3/1-5/31/26	\$ 141.02	finance
385955	3/10/2026	1100005718	EUROFINS ENVIRONMENT TESTING	WATER ANALYSIS - BACT FINISHED 2026-02-23	\$ 22.00	dwtpt
385957	3/10/2026	1100005733	EUROFINS ENVIRONMENT TESTING	WATER ANALYSIS - TCR SOUTH 2026-02-24	\$ 154.00	dwtpt
385956	3/10/2026	1500006490	EUROFINS ENVIRONMENT TESTING	WATER ANALYSIS - BACT FINISHED 2026-02-17	\$ 22.00	dwtpt

Invoice Doc #	Invoice Date	Invoice #	Vendor Full Name	Description	Total Amount	Approval Queue
385980	3/10/2026	220013297076	PUGET SOUND ENERGY INC	6821 STATE ROUTE 20 2/6-3/6/26	\$ 17.86	finance
385937	3/10/2026	INV3152540	COPIERS NORTHWEST, INC	CANON/IRC5560I FINANCE/OPS/WWTP 2/8-3/7/26	\$ 489.13	finance
385945	3/10/2026	L173840	STATE AUDITOR'S OFFICE	ACCOUNTABILITY AUDIT 24-24	\$ 3,525.00	finance
385965	3/10/2026	UF10561CAM06	WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT	PASS LAKE WATERLINE PROJECT - PERMIT FEE	\$ 500.00	pw1
385848	3/26/2026	220015523313	PUGET SOUND ENERGY INC	CAR CHARGING STATION: 2/5- 3/5/26	\$ 28.00	dshop
385847	3/26/2026	300000006951	PUGET SOUND ENERGY INC	STREET LIGHTS: 12/31-1/29/26	\$ 19,778.75	dshop
	Total				\$ 851,137.98	



City Council Agenda Bill

March 16, 2026

Action Type: Ordinance

Item: 6.c.

Title: Ordinance 4092: AMC Title 19 Permit Review Time Periods

Staff Contact(s): John Coleman, Libby Grage

Approved for Submittal to Council by:

Greg Francioch
Libby Grage
John Coleman
Steve Hogle
Darcy Swetnam

Summary: Draft Ordinance 4092 and Exhibit A to the ordinance (attached) present amendments to [Anacortes Municipal Code \(AMC\) Title 19, Unified Development Code](#) to bring Anacortes into compliance with the new state law requirements and to improve predictability and timeliness in permit review processes. City Council reviewed the draft ordinance at the March 9, 2026 City Council meeting and directed staff to place the ordinance on the consent agenda for the March 16, 2026 City Council meeting.

Budget Impact:

Under current state law, if the City does not meet adopted permit review timeframes, it must refund a portion of the permit application fees unless specific measures are adopted to streamline the review process. Ordinance 4092 would adopt 3 measures to streamline permit review, thereby preventing the need to refund permit application fees and avoiding impacts to the budget.

Previous Action: [Planning Commission public hearing and recommendation — December 11, 2024](#)
[City Council review and discussion - March 9, 2026](#)

Recommended Motion: I move adoption of Ordinance 4092 as presented.

Alternative Actions: Adopt Ordinance 4092 with changes.

Do not adopt Ordinance 4092.

Attachments (listed in order presented):

1. Draft Ord. 4092 & Att A (Draft Amendments)
2. Public Comment - Ordinance 4092 - William Turner

**City of Anacortes
Ordinance No. 4092**

An Ordinance Amending AMC Title 19 Regarding Permit Review Time Periods and Permitted Housing Types in Mixed-Use and Industrial Zones

Whereas the State Legislature through 2SSB 5290 (2023) amended portions of RCW Chapter 36.70B, Local Project Review, to expedite permit application processing by local governments;

Whereas effective January 1, 2025, RCW 36.70B.080 requires the City to establish new time periods for review of permit applications;

Whereas, effective January 1, 2025, RCW 36.70B.080(1)(l)(i) requires the City to refund a portion of permit application fees for an application that it does not review within its adopted review time period;

Whereas permit fees provide critical funding for the work of the Planning, Community, and Economic Department to review applications to ensure compliance with health, safety, zoning, and environmental requirements;

Whereas RCW 36.70B.080(1)(l)(ii) exempts the City from the fee refund requirement if it adopts three process improvement measures from the list in RCW 36.70B.160;

Whereas the City Council Planning Committee has recommended this ordinance to comply with state law and ensure applicants receive timely processing of their applications;

Whereas the City advertised a public comment period on the proposal starting on November 13, 2024;

Whereas the Planning Commission held a public hearing on the proposal and recommended approval to City Council on December 11, 2024;

Whereas the City issued a SEPA threshold Determination of Nonsignificance (DNS) for the non-project proposal on November 13, 2024 and an appeal was timely filed; the Hearing Examiner heard the appeal on January 30, 2025 and denied it in a written decision dated February 18, 2026.

Now, therefore, the City Council of the City of Anacortes does ordain as follows:

- Section 1. The City Council finds that timely processing of permit applications is an important function of city government and immediate action is required to expedite the City's review of permit applications.
- Section 2. The Anacortes Municipal Code is amended as shown in Exhibit A.
- Section 3. Superseding the provisions of Ordinance 2992 that adopted the Unified Development Code, an application for a development permit that was submitted but not yet approved on the effective date of this ordinance, whether or not it has been deemed or determined complete, will be processed pursuant to the procedures as amended by this ordinance.
- Section 4. Per RCW 36.70B.080(1)(k), this ordinance is not subject to appeal under RCW Chapter 36.70A.
- Section 5. The City Council finds it has adopted three of the options in RCW 36.70B.160(1) as follows:
- (1) The City has budgeted, and will continue to budget, for on-call permitting assistance for when permit volumes or staffing levels change rapidly, consistent with RCW 36.70B.160(1)(d);
 - (2) The City has, through adoption of this ordinance, adopted development regulations that make housing types an outright permitted use in all zones where the housing type is permitted, consistent with RCW 36.70B.160(1)(h);
 - (3) The City has, through adoption this ordinance, adopted a procedure to offer a meeting with the applicant to attempt to resolve outstanding issues during the review process, consistent with RCW 36.70B.160(1)(j).

Section 7. Per RCW 35A.12.130, this ordinance takes effect five days after passage, approval, and publication in the manner required by law.

Section 8. Severability. The various parts, sections and clauses of this ordinance are declared to be severable. If any part, sentence, paragraph, section or clause is determined unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of the ordinance must remain in effect.

PASSED and APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2026.

CITY OF ANACORTES:

Ryan Walters, Mayor

Attest:

Steve Hoglund, City Clerk-Treasurer

Approved as to Form:

Darcy Swetnam, City Attorney

Exhibit A

19.12.020 Definitions

[The following definitions are amended or added to this section:]

“Development permit” means a permit or approval for a development, and includes project permits per RCW 36.70B.020 and permits issued pursuant to AMC Chapter 19.14.

“Expiration of application” means a decision to expire an application per AMC 19.20.110.

“Review Time Period” means the time period set by AMC 19.20.030 for review of an application for a development permit, as applied by AMC 19.20.160.

19.20.030 Types of review.

i RCW 36.70B.080, effective January 1, 2025, requires the City to establish and implement time periods for review of permit applications. The review time periods added to the type of review table below are the default time periods set by statute.

A. – C. [No change.]

Table 19.20.030-1
Review classification and process matrix.

Types of Review	Type 1 Administrative Ministerial Actions	Type 2 Administrative Decisions	Type 3 Hearing Examiner Decisions	Type 4 City Council Decisions
Types of Applications	[add “ <u>Expiration of Application</u> ”; no change to remainder of table cell]	[no change]	[no change]	[no change]
[no change to remainder of table]				
<u>Review Time Period</u>	<u>65 days</u>	<u>100 days</u>	<u>170 days</u>	<u>170 days</u>

19.20.100 Pre-application neighborhood meeting.

A. [No change]

B. When Required.

1. A pre-application neighborhood meeting is required when shown in AMC 19.20.030.
2. The applicant must hold a neighborhood meeting before submitting an application and after any required pre-application conference.
3. The Director may require the applicant to hold another neighborhood meeting if the applicant’s plans change significantly from those described at the neighborhood meeting.

i The next paragraph is added to correspond to the same exemption that exists in section 19.20.090 for a pre-application conference.

4. Exception. The Director may waive the pre-application neighborhood meeting if the proposal has few development-related issues, involves subsequent phases of an approved development, or is substantially similar to a prior proposal affecting substantially the same property.

C. -E. No change.

19.20.110 Application—Contents and completeness—Revisions—Expiration.

i This section is updated to comply with revisions to RCW 36.70B.070.

A. Contents of Applications. [No change.]

B. Complete Applications. [No change.]

C. Timing.

1. Initial Receipt of Application. Upon initial receipt of an application, the Director must provide the applicant a determination of completeness within 28 days. If the Director does not provide a written determination within 28 days, the application is deemed complete ~~at the end of the twenty-eighth on~~ the 29th day.
2. Receipt of Additional Information. When the applicant submits the requested information, the Director must evaluate the application for completeness within 14 days. If the Director does not provide a written determination within 14 days, the application is deemed complete ~~at the end of the~~ fourteenth day on the 15th day.
3. Incomplete Applications.
 - a. The applicant may submit a written request for extension of the deadline to submit the requested information for an additional 90 days. The Director may grant up to two such extensions.
 - b. If the applicant has not provided the requested information by the deadline, the Director must reject and return the application along with any unspent application fees.

D. [No change.]

i Current code does not provide authority to expire applications. Alongside requirements for the Department to timely process applications, the city ought to expire applications when an applicant is not doing their part and timely responding to requests for more information.

E. Expiration.

1. Unless review is suspended under AMC 19.20.160.A.3.b, if the Department requests more information from the applicant about the application, the applicant has 90 days to respond with the requested information.
2. If the applicant does not respond within the required period, the Director may expire the application for failure to timely submit requested information by providing the applicant with written notice of expiration.
3. If the Director expires an application, the applicant must submit a new application, including any applicable fees, to restart the review process.
4. The Director may grant one or more 90-day extensions (not to exceed three extensions) if:

- a. a written request for extension is submitted prior to expiration of the application;
- b. based on information in the request, the Director concludes that the applicant is making reasonable progress toward submitting the required information.

19.20.130 Application—Department review.

A. – C. [No change.]

i The new subsection below is based on RCW 36.70B.160(1)(j), which creates the process described.

- D. Requests for additional information or corrections.
 - 1. If the Department twice requests additional information or corrections during application review, the Department must offer the applicant a meeting with Department staff to resolve outstanding issues. The meeting must be scheduled within 14 days of the second request for corrections.
 - 2. If the meeting cannot resolve the issues and the Department requests additional information or corrections a third time, upon receiving the additional information or corrections the Department must forward the application to the next step in the review process, i.e., the recommending body or decisionmaker for decision on the application.
 - 3. Nothing in this section affects the timelines for application expiration in AMC 19.20.110.E.

19.20.160 Decision—Timing.

A. Time Limits.

- 1. The decision-maker may not issue its decision on an application until the expiration of the public comment period on the notice of application.
- 2. The final decision on an application for a development permit must be made within the ~~time limits from determination of completeness listed in Table 19.20.160~~ Review Time Period shown in Table 19.20.030-1 for the applicable type of review, as measured from the date the application is determined complete. Review Time Periods for preliminary and final subdivisions are set by RCW 58.17.140.

~~Table 19.20.160 Decision timing.~~ [table deleted]

i This subsection is updated to match revisions to RCW 36.70B.080.

- 3. Consistent with RCW 36.70B.080(1)(g), the following time periods are excluded from the calculation of the time limits:
 - a. ~~Any time required to correct plans, perform studies, or provide additional information. Any period between the day that the city has notified the applicant, in writing, that additional information is required to further process the application and the day when responsive information is resubmitted by the applicant;~~
 - b. ~~Any time during which substantial project revisions are made or requested by an applicant, in which case the 120 days will be calculated from the time that the city determines the revised application to be complete. Any period after an applicant informs the department, in writing, that they would like to temporarily suspend review of the project permit application until the time that the applicant notifies the department, in writing, that they would like to resume the application, up to 12 months;~~
 - c. Any time required for the preparation and review of an environmental impact statement;
 - d. Any time required to complete the process for the siting of an essential public facility;

- e. Any time required to obtain any necessary variance;
 - f. ~~Any time required for any administrative appeals. Any period after an administrative appeal is filed until the administrative appeal is resolved and any additional time period provided by the administrative appeal has expired;~~
 - g. Any time required for any administrative appeal of SEPA threshold determination, if applicable;
 - h. Any time required for any remand to the hearing body;
 - i. Any extension of time mutually agreed upon by the city and the applicant.
 - j. ~~Any specific amount of additional time that the city determines is necessary for the processing of a specific complete project permit application.~~
4. The Review Time Period starts over if an applicant proposes a change in use that adds or removes commercial or residential elements from the original application that would make the application fail to meet the determination of procedural completeness under AMC 19.20.110 for the new use.
 5. Failure to Complete Review within the Time Period ~~Extension of Time~~. If the city is unable to issue its final decision on an application within the time periods ~~limits~~ provided for in this section, it must provide written notice to the applicant. The notice must include a statement of the reasons why the time limits cannot be met and an estimated date for issuance of the notice of decision.

i RCW 36.70B.160 now requires the City to carefully track compliance with the new Review Time Periods.

6. Consistent with the requirements in RCW 36.70B.160(2), the Department must:
 - a. starting January 1, 2025, track its compliance with the Review Time Periods in AMC 19.20.030-1; and
 - b. starting January 1, 2026, report compliance to the City Council for the previous year each February 1.

B. [No change.]

19.41.050 Principal uses permitted in mixed-use and industrial zones.

i The change in this section makes the city compliant with RCW 36.70B.160(1)(h).

Table 19.41.050 below provides the list of permitted principal uses in mixed-use and industrial zones.

Table 19.41.050
Principal uses permitted in mixed-use and industrial zones.

Principle Use	CBD	C	MMU	CM	CM2	LM	LM1	MS	—	HM	Reference
[No change to intervening rows]											
Single-family	€ ^(x)	€ ^(x)				€	P ^(x)				AMC 19.43.020(B) ^(x) AMC 19.43.020(B)(2)
[No change to intervening rows]											
Multifamily dwellings, 4 or more units	P	P ^(x)	P ^(x)	€ ^(x) P		€		€ ^(x) P ^(x)			AMC 19.43.080
Live-work	P	P	P					€			AMC 19.43.100
[No change to intervening rows]											
Adult family home	P ^(x)	P ^(x)	P	P		P ^(x)	P				AMC 19.43.120
[No change to remainder of table]											

AMC 19.43.080 Multifamily

A. – B. [No change.]

C. Zone-Specific Standards

1. MMU Zone East of Q Avenue Standards. [No change.]

i The CM Zone is mostly within shoreline jurisdiction, and shoreline regulations DR-5.10.3 and DR-5.10.4 already address the paragraph below.

2. ~~CM Zone Standards. Multifamily uses are conditionally permitted, provided it can be demonstrated that the use will not weaken the zone's tourist or marine-oriented purpose, nor diminish the marine values inherent in the zone, such as physical and visual access to waterways and shoreline. Multifamily units that are part of a mixed-use development incorporating commercial marine uses are permitted and single-purpose multifamily developments require a conditional use permit.~~
Reserved.

i The only project the next section is expected to apply to is the Olson Building renovation project.

3. MS Zone Standards.

- a. Multifamily dwellings are ~~conditionally~~ permitted only west of Commercial Avenue and south of 2nd Street on sites historically used for multifamily residential uses.
- b. Residential units must be no larger than 800 square feet each and constructed within a mixed-use development.

4. – 5. [No change.]

19.43.120 Adult Family Home

A. [No change.]

B. Standards

1. [No change]

i The constraints in the next section are not necessary after amendment of the table above, and inconsistent with state law prohibiting discrimination against these uses,

~~2.—Use Permissions in the CBD and C Zones.~~

- ~~a.—An adult family home is a permitted use when in an existing single-family dwelling.~~
- ~~b.—An adult family home is conditionally permitted when within an existing building that was a single-family residence at some time in its past.~~
- ~~c.—An adult family home within a newly constructed single-family dwelling is not allowed.~~

~~3.—Use Permissions in the LM Zone.~~

- ~~a.—An adult family home is a permitted use when in an existing single-family dwelling.~~

i The next subsection is inconsistent with the change to the table.

- ~~b.—An adult family home within a newly constructed single-family dwelling is conditionally permitted.~~

19.49.040 Enlargement, alteration, reconstruction of nonconforming buildings and structures.

A. – D. [No change.]

i The change below allows existing residential in the LM zone, of which there are many in the area around 4th and M/N, functionally conforming uses without the typical constraints of a non-conforming use. This is consistent with existing code that in the Lot of Record section, hence the cross-reference.

- E. Residential buildings in the LM zone. Nothing in this chapter prevents the alteration, addition to, repair, restoration, or reconstruction of an existing residential building or residential accessory building in the LM zone. See also AMC 19.20.060.C.

From: [William Turner](#)
To: [City Council](#); [CityClerk](#); [Ryan Walters](#)
Cc: [Munce Ian](#); [Doyle John](#); [Nihart Mark](#); [Johnson Nicholas](#)
Subject: Comments on draft ordinance 4092
Date: Friday, March 13, 2026 10:34:39 AM

***** This email is from outside the City of Anacortes network. Please use caution when clicking on links, opening attachments, or replying. *****

Dear Council, and Mayor,

Please print my comments for Monday nights council meeting March 16.

Please consider the changes I've suggested below. I have previously commented on the new attempts to speed up permit processing, mostly of my concerns that these rules are being used by our City to simplify the permitting process to avoid public comments, and to ignore consideration of our critical areas, and our environmental rules.

In fact several appeals have been made recently suggesting that with the elimination of conditional uses the public will have no say and little recourse once the permit is issued, thus eliminating or lessening the public's ability to comment. This policy is completely adverse to the Open Public Meetings act, OPMA, and common sense.

As a past president of Skagit Habitat for Humanity, I endorse more housing units, but Anacortes has no real plan for affordability, nor who needs homes in which economic levels etc. as required by law.... No plan! After a new Housing Action Plan was put in place here, years ago, the only constituents thus far included in the public process are developers, which I was one. Somehow, for some 30 years since the GMA we have managed, with Conditional Uses, to create a beautiful city which we love. Are we returning to the days of no regard for our sensitive ecosystem or a lack of concern for what kind of city we want? Before the GMA?

Section 5 (1). On call permit help

I recently tried to call the Storm Water staff person to report a violation of Storm water control. I called several departments, to find someone to help me and finally Fire Dept. Picked up. That person and I got a big laugh after she told me "this happens a lot, even I can't find anyone most of the time." This has repeatedly happened to me. How will you fix that? It's not permit applications necessarily at fault, but the lack of trained staff. Please do better

Section 19.20.100 Exhibit A

The powers given to the Planning Director are too vague. The requirements for preapplication meetings and exceptions are arbitrary. Need an appeal process that is accurate and timely. Who really determines timeliness? And completeness? Why not 2 days for deadline to determine completeness? Can't someone who is trained do that quickly and move it forward? Why not at the counter? The City is being told to speed up by our legislature, but we have always had the means to permit quicker. Just needs good leadership from Planning and Mayor.

Public Comment Period

In the cases of new 2025 CP rules for infill housing and Multifamily housing, the City should always make every effort to notify neighbors with mailings etc. As it's rare that homeowners know the new rules for ADUs and Multifamily housing, and they should be given sufficient time to make comments. When a developer, I always contacted neighbors and others to lessen impacts and anxiety, and make good neighbors. Most of us moved here to enjoy a small town with big natural beauty. The Council still has the power to ignore comments if they are improper.

What's the hurry here except for finding affordable living units. In fact using this market based system here will never do that. Only a cooperative effort by all citizens, including City, developers, and current residents will do that.

Sincerely,

Bill Turner

Sent from my iPad



City Council Agenda Bill

March 16, 2026

Action Type: Public Hearing

Item: 7.a.

Title: Anacortes Community Forest Lands Plan

Staff Contact(s): Jonn Lunsford, Bob Vaux

Approved for Submittal to Council by:

Greg Francioch
Bob Vaux
Jonn Lunsford

Summary: This is a public hearing for the Anacortes Community Forest Lands (ACFL) Plan. The Forest Plan is the comprehensive Anacortes Community Forest Lands document that covers Management Authority, Trail Use Plan, Transition Fidalgo Citizen Science Work, Environmental Stewardship and the many topics under these broad headings. The current plan was approved by Council in November 2021, and no major shifts in policy are proposed in the updated draft plan. Parks staff led an in-house public update process at the Forest Advisory Board level that has resulted in a greatly improved format along with new details on issues like law enforcement, wildfire protection, ebike use and regulatory protection.

Public comments received since the council initially reviewed the plan on February 23, 2026, are included as attachments. All other public comments submitted regarding the plan are available on the [Anacortes Community Forest Lands Documents page](#).

Budget Impact:

Previous Action:

- Current Plan Approved November 2021.
- The Forest Advisory Board began the 2026 update process with a lengthy series of public meetings running from late 2023 to its unanimous approval in September 2025.
- Parks staff have worked with Planning on the non-project SEPA review. The DNS was published for public review and comment on February 11th, 2026.

- Council reviewed the draft Plan at the [February 23, 2026](#), regular meeting.

Recommended Motion: NA

Alternative Actions:

Attachments (listed in order presented):

1. ACFL Management Plan Presentation March
2. Draft Anacortes Community Forest Lands Management Plan
3. Public Comment - Mark Nihart - ACFL Motorcycles
4. Public Comment - John Meehan - Two-stroke Restrictions
5. Public Comment - Mark Nihart - AI Comment Analysis
6. Public Comment - Mark Nihart - Forest Plan Security Considerations
7. Public Comment - Mark Nihart - Process
8. Public Comment - Martha Hall - ACFL Plan
9. Public Comment - Ray Lewis - ACFL Plan Public Process
10. Public Comment - Bob Jepperson - Trails and Little Cranberry Lake
11. Public Comment - Carolyn Suryan - Motorcycles and Staff Process
12. Public Comment - Mark Nihart - Forest and Comprehensive Plan Integration
13. Public Comment - Deb Call - 2026-03-16 Public Hearing on the ACFL 2026 Forest Plan
14. Public Comment - Jack Hartt - ACFL plan
15. Public Comment - Robbie Hutton - ACFL Plan Motorcycles
16. Public Comment - Todd Board ACFL Plan
17. Public Comment - Tarn Ohana - Two-Stroke Motorcycles & Little Cranberry ADA
18. Public Comment - Chris LeBoutillier - ACFL Plan
19. Public Comment - Peggy Woods - ACFL Plan
20. Public Comment - Tom C. Johnson - ACFL Plan
21. Public Comment - William Kennedy - ACFL Plan
22. Public Comment - Steve Taylor - ACFL Plan
23. Public Comment - Mark Nihart - ACFL Plan Funding - Organization - Management
24. Public Comment - Kathleen Lorence Flanagan - ACFL Plan
25. Public Comment - Marlene Finley - Evergreen Islands - ACFL Plan

Anacortes Community Forest Lands Plan



November 1, 2021



Anacortes Community Forest Lands Plan 2026



The Forest Advisory Board has committed to updating the Forest Plan every five years. Passage of this draft in 2026 meets that goal.

Beginning in Spring 2023, staff received 103 comments from the Community on updates to the 2021 plan.

- Motorcycle & E-bike use
 - Trail management & signage
 - Little Cranberry management
 - Security & enforcement
 - Forest fire management
 - Conservation & development
 - Public access & recreational planning
 - Wildlife & habitat protection
 - Water & lake management
 - Governance & policy development
 - Public engagement & funding
 - Residential development & expansion
-

On October 2, 2025, the Forest Advisory Board unanimously approved this draft with minor edits and corrections.



Public Comment Matrix with Staff Responses

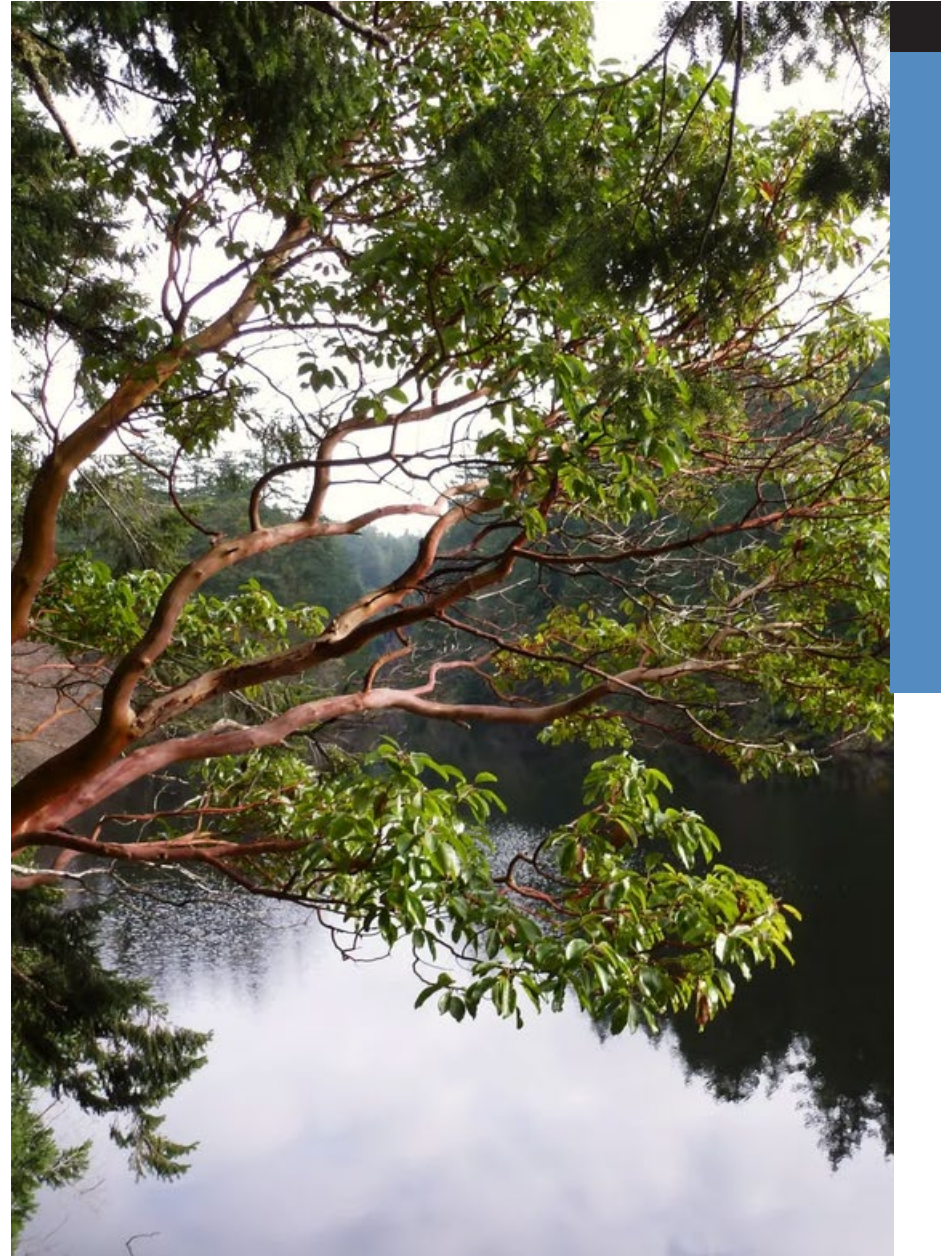
Presented in full at the
Forest Advisory Board meeting March 7, 2024
and posted online

Mark Nihart	6	General	"A five year trail budget should be created and be included in the Forest Plan."	looking at the Forest Plan's relationship to budget work
Mark Nihart	6	General	"The Forest Plan should identify funding sources for trail projects and any other infrastructure projects outside of funding from the City of Anacortes."	RCO, DNR, USFS, WDFW are likely partners
Mark Nihart	6	General	"The Forest Plan needs to employ models to predict with some level of confidence ACFL future use; number of users, type of use and where the use will be concentrated."	sounds like a great Doctoral Thesis
Sarah Roberts	6	General	"...in the management plan there needs to be included regulation of drones and of e-bikes..."	agreed
Sarah Roberts	6	General	"...ACFL should be prioritized for local resident use. I am not sure how you plan to manage this or enforce it. If we need to hire more City staff for this, then usage fees, particularly for non residents who pay no local taxes, should be created to cover the cost."	keeping it local has been one of the greatest management challenges since the ACFL was so designated. we have done our best to keep promotions at bay, and have discontinued events like the Heart Lake Triathlon and the mini hydro races. Staying open during Covid in support of our local citizens brought thousands of new users. We are still catching up. We are working with APD to increase a law enforcement presence, and have had success with the Friend of the Forest Trail Ambassador program. User fees are something the City has always prided itself on keeping minimal.
Mark Nihart	6	General	"The Forest Plan should have a section that identifies areas of needed, non-human, permanent security infrastructure, a priority of security projects with a Rough Order of Magnitude (ROM) budget each year for the next five years."	we have been using cameras more. the money required for really good ones has been cost prohibitive
Mark Nihart	6	General	"The Forest Plan should also identify priority areas and best practices for portable (trail camera) security systems and extend their current use as appropriate."	we have been using cameras more. the money required for really good ones has been cost prohibitive
Mark Nihart	6	General	"The Forest Plan should identify funding options outside of the normal taxpayer support of the ACFL to pay for security systems projects and maintenance."	opinion noted
Mary Maloney	6	General	"My wish is to have minimal maintenance."	opinion noted
Mark Nihart	6	General	"The Forest Plan should have a specific section regarding forest fire management."	this is in the plan, under Management Procedures
Mark Nihart	6	General	"Parks, AFD and the DNR should do a full assessment of potential forest fire areas within the ACFL and all bordering areas."	we work with AFD on community outreach

Next Steps

Staff will create a new Public Comment Matrix based on tonight's comments. This will be sent to Council and posted on the ACFL website.

Come back on April 20 for a City Council discussion of the draft plan.



All Plan documents can be found on the City website at anacorteswa.gov.

Forest Advisory Board

ACFL Interactive Trail Map

[Departments](#) › [Parks & Recreation](#) › Community Forest Lands (ACFL)

Community Forest Lands (ACFL)

The Community Forest Lands cover over 2,950 acres within the City of Anacortes. They encompass a mosaic of forest, wetlands, lakes and meadows coupled with the broad based desire of local citizens to act as stewards for this environmental and recreational resource.



Forest Lands Plan Update 2026

The second draft of the **2026 Forest Plan Update** is now available on the Parks & Recreation website (in the upper right of this page). This draft reflects the culmination of the public review process and is currently under review by the Forest Advisory Board. Public comments are not being ~~accepted~~ at this stage.

Please view the SEPA application [here](#).

Staff expects to go before City Council on February 23, 2026. Public comments may be taken by Council at this time.

For questions, please contact **Bob Vaux** at Parks & Recreation — 360-588-8233 or bobv@anacorteswa.gov.

Anacortes Community Forest Lands Documents

- [NEW: Anacortes Forest Lands Plan \(Draft\)](#)
- [Forest Plan Board Review](#)
- [Forest Plan Public Comments Summary Presentation](#)
- [Pinson Correction](#)
- [2025 Forest Plan Comments 4](#)

[View All Links](#)



QUESTIONS?

Staff Contact:

Bob Vaux bobv@anacorteswa.gov



Anacortes Community Forest Lands Plan



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REPORT ALSO AVAILABLE ONLINE

www.anacorteswa.gov/ACFL



Anacortes Community Forest Lands Plan

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many people and organizations contributed to the development of this plan, including the members of the Anacortes Community Forest Lands Forest Advisory Board.

Prepared by
**City of Anacortes Staff and
Forest Advisory Board Members**
October 2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Anacortes Community Forest Lands (ACFL) Plan outlines the strategies and actions necessary to conserve and enhance the unique environment and habitats within the ACFL while maintaining recreational opportunities for local residents and numerous visitors. Managed by the Anacortes Parks & Recreation Department (APRD), this plan covers approximately 3,000 acres of community forest lands.

Purpose and Scope: The purpose of the ACFL Plan is to provide a comprehensive framework for the conservation and sustainable management of the Anacortes Community Forest Lands. This plan aims to balance the ecological integrity of the forest with the recreational needs of the community. It outlines specific goals, objectives, and strategies to protect biodiversity, enhance habitat quality, and ensure the forest's resilience to climate change. The scope of the plan includes detailed management strategies for different areas within the ACFL, stakeholder engagement processes, and methods for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the implemented actions.

Key Objectives:

- **Conserve Biodiversity:** Protect native species and enhance habitat quality.
- **Promote Sustainable Recreation:** Improve and maintain trail systems and recreational facilities.
- **Engage Stakeholders:** Involve community members, local government, and non-government organizations in the planning and implementation process.
- **Adapt to Climate Change:** Implement strategies to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change on the forest ecosystem.

Management Strategies: The plan includes specific recommendations and strategies for different management areas, such as Little Cranberry Lake, Whistle Lake, and Heart Lake. These strategies are designed to achieve the plan's goals and objectives, including habitat restoration, invasive species control, and sustainable recreational use.

Implementation and Monitoring: The plan outlines a structured approach to implementing the management strategies, including timelines, responsible parties, and required resources. It also includes methods for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the strategies, ensuring adaptive management based on ongoing data collection and analysis.

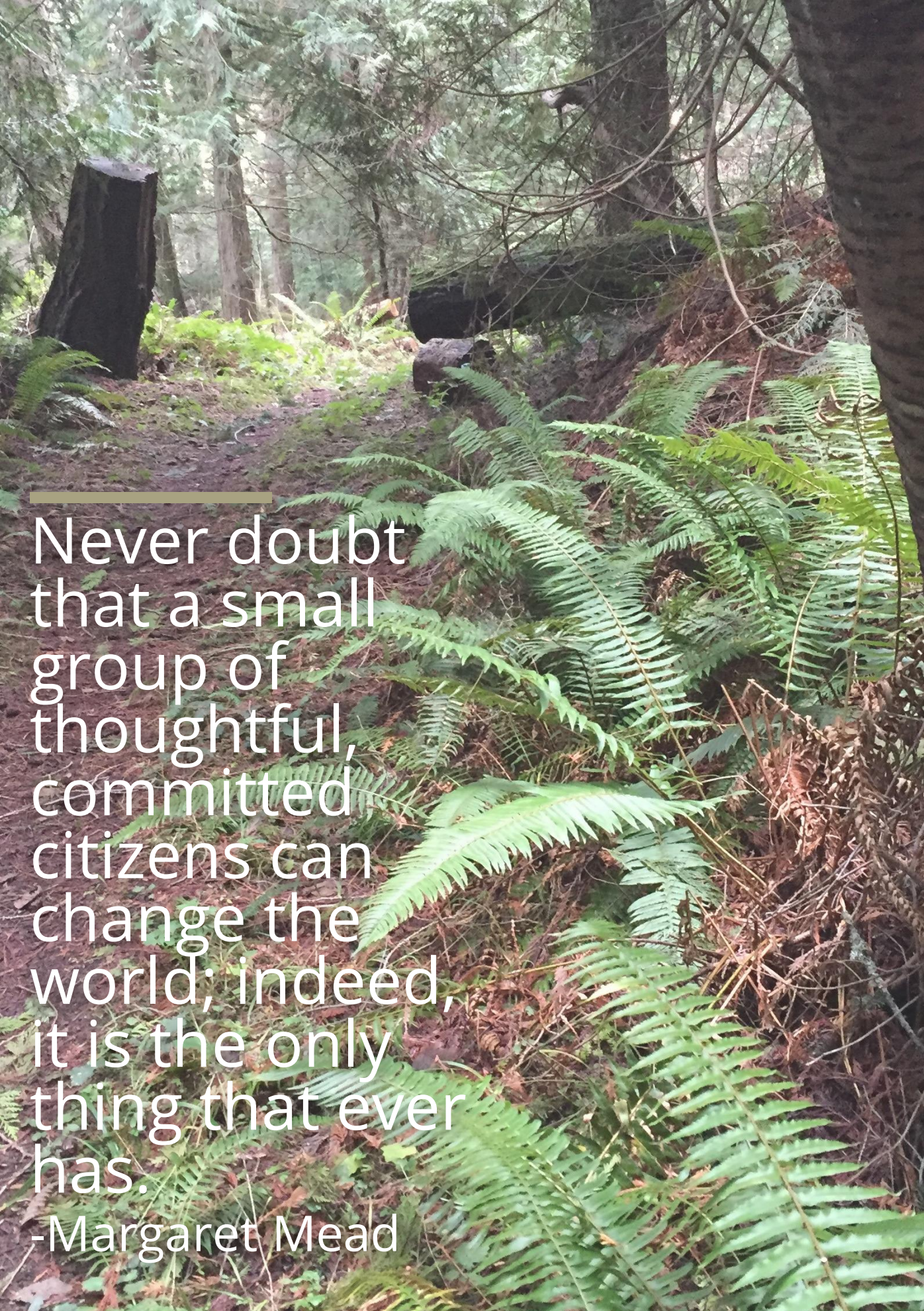


City of Anacortes

904 6th Street

Anacortes, WA 98221

anacorteswa.gov



Never doubt
that a small
group of
thoughtful,
committed
citizens can
change the
world; indeed,
it is the only
thing that ever
has.

-Margaret Mead

Introduction

Since the first trails maps began to emerge in the early 1980's, the citizens of Anacortes have taken great pride in the care and enjoyment of what is now the 3,000 acres of Anacortes Community Forest Lands (ACFL). The ACFL contains some of the most unique and complex living environments in the Puget Sound Region. Few cities are so fortunate to have such a resource, coupled with the broad-based desire of its citizens to conserve and responsibly use these resources.

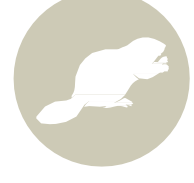
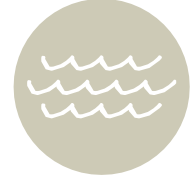
Managed by the Anacortes Parks & Recreation Department (APRD), the fifty miles of shared use trails have created a link between recreation and conservation, leading to a very successful Conservation Easement campaign in the 1990's and 2000's, along with partners the Skagit Land Trust and the Friends of the Anacortes Community Forest Lands (FoACFL).

In addition to the Conservation Easement Program (CEP) the most significant policy shifts in the nearly forty years of formal management of the ACFL have been the FoACFL-led termination of the City's logging plan, the end of the mini hydro races on Heart Lake, the lease of ACFL land to Lakeside Industries for their quarry extension and the transfer of Heart Lake State Park to the ACFL.

The 2020 COVID pandemic impact on outdoor recreation everywhere has also had a lasting impact on the ACFL. The number of regional visitors exploded and APRD has been unable to add any staff to account for this increase in recreation visits. The City continues to explore enforcement options with the Anacortes Police Department.

The 2021 Forest Plan update was the result of several years of work and various delays. The most significant change was the formalized closure of trail #132. Because of this longer than anticipated update timeline, APRD committed to the 2026 plan update and began the process in the spring of 2023. The goal was to develop a plan that works to conserve and enhance the unique environment and habitats within the ACFL while maintaining recreational opportunities for local residents and visitors to our community.

Early public comments voiced opposition to the chapter-by-chapter public participation plan, so a more general series of public comment meetings were held in October, November and December of 2023. The Mayor-appointed five-member volunteer Forest Advisory Board (FAB) presided over these meetings. The vast majority of the oral and written comments were focused on Little Cranberry Lake.



ANACORTES COMMUNITY FOREST ADVISORY BOARD

At the April, 2024 Forest Advisory Board (FAB) meeting, all five members gave APRD staff direction to begin writing the plan. No significant changes were recommended, and the 2021 Forest Plan was referred to as being an effective management tool but needing an organizational upgrade. The public has also asked for more science to be included in the plan. The City has been working with the Transition Fidalgo citizen and professional scientists, and their work is featured in this plan. This plan includes a more focused discussion on adapting forest management to climate change and what may be the results of same, including the changing wildfire risk levels.

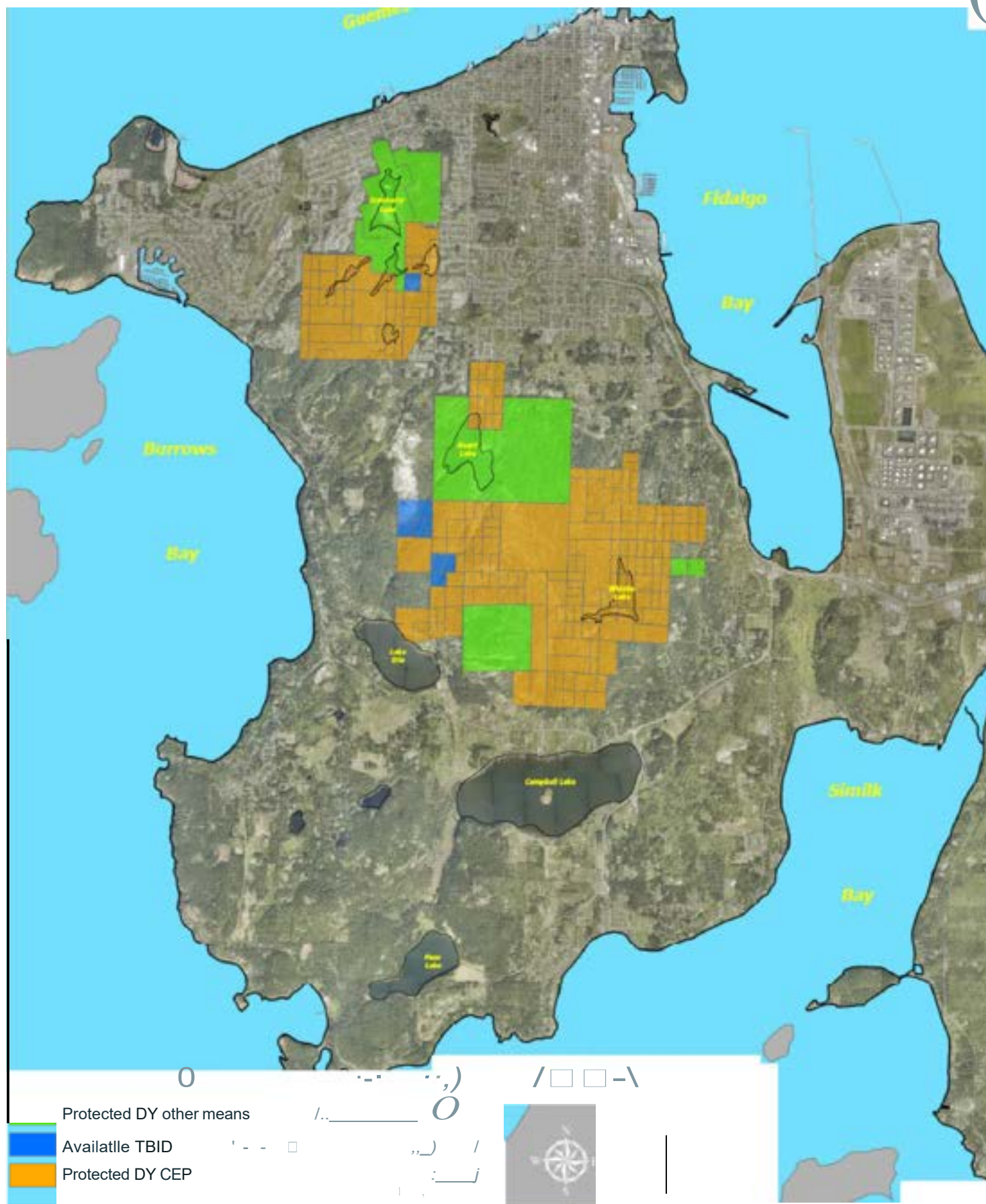
The FAB spent time in early 2025 reviewing the Plan draft prepared by staff. Another round of written and in person public comments were accepted through the March and April meetings. The focus of the comments was similar to the first round, with an emphasis put on support for ADA projects in the ACFL at locations other than Little Cranberry. The first round of public input featured a total of 58 comments from 45 different sources, while the second round totaled 45 comments from 33 different sources. Many of the sources participated in both the first and second rounds.

Other points of emphasis from the public comments were to limit or ban motorized recreation, prioritize conservation over recreation and limit access to the woods by preventing any expanded parking. Staff worked hard to balance the public testimony with practical experience on the ground when writing this draft.

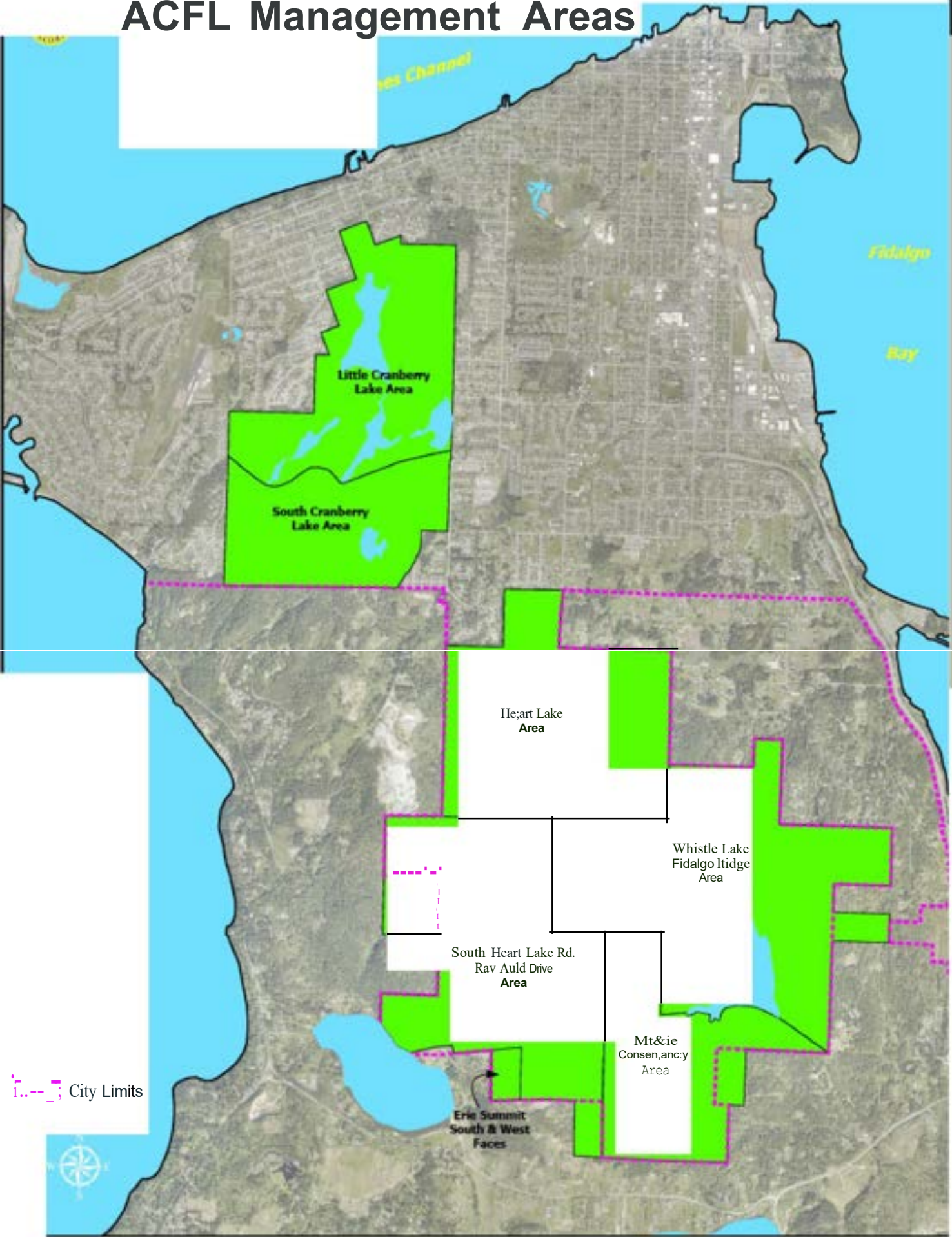




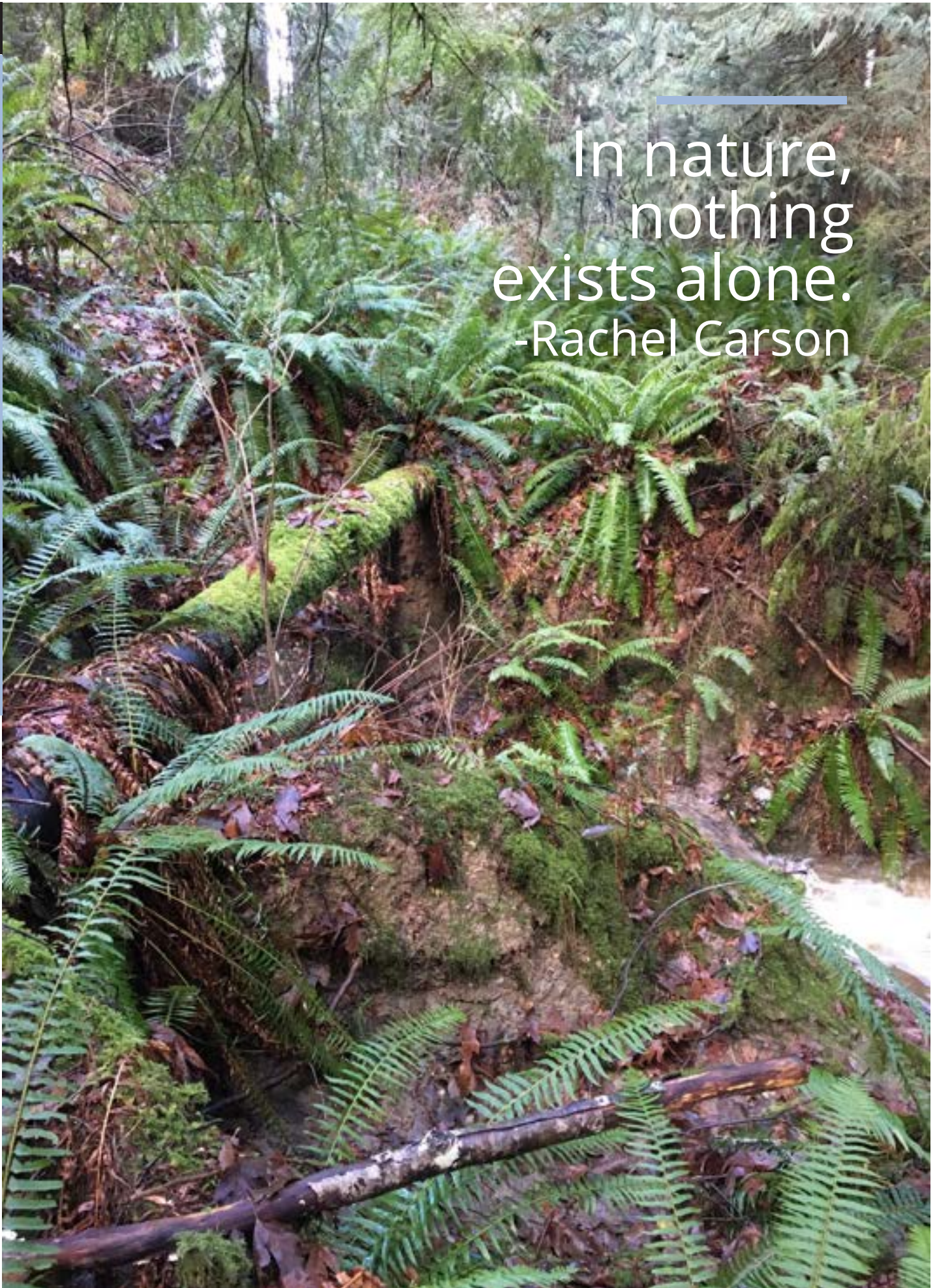
Conservation Easement Program



ACFL Management Areas



In nature,
nothing
exists alone.
-Rachel Carson



Management Areas



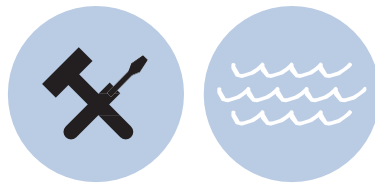
There are seven management areas in the ACFL, defined by topographical features and deed limitations, in order to help simplify management decisions. All areas will be managed to conserve and enhance their unique environment and wildlife habitat while maintaining recreational opportunities. A primary goal of this plan is to provide these for local residents, but the regional draw of the ACFL must be acknowledged as we look to future impacts. Management decision processes must caution against looking to the past rather than the future.

The vast majority of the Community Forest Lands have multiple layers of protection, including the Conservation Easement Program, the City's Critical Areas Ordinance and the Shoreline Master Program, as well as the State's Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas. These provide a guarantee to the public that the ACFL is protected for generations. These regulations and the recreational activities described in this plan balance recreation and conservation. The various requirements of these protections greatly assist City staff in continuing to find the balance between recreation and conservation. When areas are considered for acquisition in the the ACFL, the proposed trail plan for these properties will be reviewed via public process with the Forest Advisory Board and then a recommendation to the City Council.

The governance of the ACFL explained in this Forest Plan is supported by the City of Anacortes Comprehensive Plan which may be found here:

<https://www.anacorteswa.gov/245/Comprehensive-Plan>





Little Cranberry Lake

Boundaries: Entire area dedicated as Little Cranberry Park (1964), This area includes John M. Morrison Natural Park along with the associated wetlands. Approximately 257 acres

Restrictions: The majority of this area is land dedicated for “public park purposes only.” The Morrison Natural Park was given with the stipulation that “timber and land never be alienated.” In addition, Little Cranberry Lake is still technically a back-up water supply for the City (see Acquisition section). Its dedication as Cranberry Park in 1964 and the need to maintain water quality argue for very sensitive and careful management.

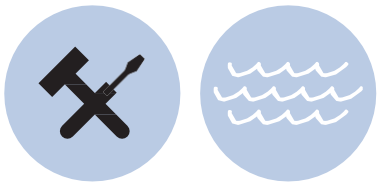
The associated wetlands feed the lake and provide important habitat for waterfowl and other animal life. In addition, the presence of scattered old growth and mature second growth create a very rich and diverse biological zone.

Current Conditions: Little Cranberry Lake is used extensively by hikers, runners, mountain bikers and some horseback riders. Use has increased now that neighborhoods around the lake have been developed. Fishing, from shore and small non-motorized boats, is also popular. Swimming and picnicking are major activities in good weather. The majority of users are local residents. The access, a partially improved but mostly gravel road from Georgia Avenue and West 4th, is only closed during inclement weather. The Comprehensive Trail Plain prohibits motorcycle use in this unit. The lake basin provides a variety of habitats for plants and animals, and wildlife is relatively plentiful. The rocky meadows on both sides of the lake are prime spring wildflower sites.

Projected Use: The lake basin should be reserved primarily for local resident use. Expanded parking should not be developed. Neighborhood and social trail access should be closely monitored. Current low impact uses include hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, and fishing. Picnicking, nature observation and non-motorized boating should also continue. City staff will continue to manage the dam at the north end of the lake as per Department of Ecology regulations.

Recommendations: The following measures should be instituted:

- 1.) Provide a permanent restroom facility at the lake access parking lot if permitting allows.
- 2.) Parks staff will work with the Forest Advisory Board to explore options to close a portion of trail #101. This should be done at points between the junctions with trails #131 and #105.
- 3.) Parks staff will work with the Forest Advisory Board on a plan to move trail #106 to higher ground.
- 4.) Continue to remove invasive plants.
- 5.) Explore options to improve ADA access as opportunities arise.
- 6.) Continue to monitor and learn from the natural reforestation of the 2016 burn area.



South Cranberry Lake

Boundaries: All of Section 26 exclusive of those areas in the Little Cranberry Lake Unit, bounded by "A" Avenue on the east and south line of Section 26 on the south. The west boundary is delineated by four City of Anacortes short plats and a small amount of undeveloped private property within the Anacortes city limits. Approximately 460 acres

Restrictions: This unit is comprised entirely of land purchased from the Washington Water Company in 1919. There are no restrictions attached to the original deeds but the entire unit (save for the Old City Dump) is now protected by the Conservation Easement Program. The major wetland in this area (in the southeast corner) drains south, towards Havekost Road and Alexander Beach. Most of this area is not in the Little Cranberry drainage basin.

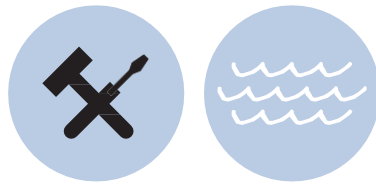
Current Conditions: This area, excluding the old City dump, is used extensively by motorcycles, horseback riders, mountain bikers and hikers.

Projected Use: Current recreational uses will increase, and corresponding trail improvements will be required.

Recommendations:

- 1.) Boundaries of adjacent private property ownerships should be posted. In particular, the Predators of the Heart/Because We Matter adjacent property lines should be clearly marked. Signs alerting ACFL visitors to the compound should be updated.
- 2.) There is a unique stand of trees at the property corner of 41st and "A". This is one of the stands of mature Cedar, Hemlock, White Fir and Douglas Fir in the forest lands and should be preserved.
- 3.) Maintain trail #10 as a fire/emergency access road.
- 4.) The City of Anacortes will continue to work through the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) protocol at the Old City Dump as per the Department of Ecology.





Whistle Lake/Fidalgo Ridge

Boundaries: This area includes the northern half of the Whistle Lake basin and all ACFL property north of Whistle Lake in sections 6 and 31. The western boundary is the west line of section 6. The east boundary is comprised of a variety of private parcels in unincorporated Skagit County. The south boundary is a combination of the same, along with the Mt. Erie Conservancy area. Approximately 805 acres

Restrictions: Whistle Lake is a former City reservoir, acquired when Douglas Allmond sold the Washington Water Company to the City in 1919. The lake was used as a storage reservoir for water pumped from the Skagit river. In case of a future water emergency, it may become necessary to use this source again. Consequently, all efforts should be made to maintain the water quality and the wilderness quality of the basin. Parts of this area are also visible from the summit of Mt Erie and on the descent along the Summit Road. This area includes the major ridge seen when traveling west along highway 20 into Anacortes. All forest practices should take visual impacts and watershed management impacts into account.

Current Conditions: Like all areas of the ACFL, trail and lake use at Whistle have increased dramatically since the global events of 2020. While use patterns remain seasonal, local use is still the primary activity most of the time. Most locally-based violations of the ACFL Code involve off-leash dogs. There is also ongoing motorbike use of trails closed to them, as well as unsanctioned use during the November 1-March 31 winter closure.

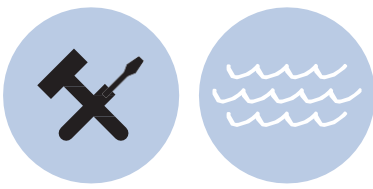
Whistle Lake does have the famous “cliffs”, enjoyed by thousands every summer. With this extraordinary summer-time popularity comes a variety of challenging issues: alcohol and drug use, smoking, illegal camping and use of cook stoves and exceeding parking capacity. Because of this, City staff end up spending most summer hours in the Whistle Lake area. Parks staff continues to work with the Anacortes Police Department on strategies for visitor safety and voluntary visitor compliance.

Projected Use: The trails will only continue to grow in popularity. Trails in this area should be maintained for current user groups, with exploration of motorized options. Parks and Police staff should focus on dogs on leash enforcement and education, as well as the same for motorized trail use. Water quality will remain an important factor when considering any future uses of the lake.

Recommendations:

- 1.) Continue to work with Public Works and Department of Ecology on bringing the dam into compliance with state regulations.
- 2.) Repair existing trail system based upon current trail plan.
- 3.) Do not expand any parking.





Heart Lake

Boundaries: This area is comprised of the 80 acre North Heart Unit and approximately 435 acres that were formerly Heart Lake State Park. Approximately 515 acres

Restrictions: The 80-acre parcel on the northern side of the lake was acquired by the City from the State of Washington to assure access to the outflow from Heart Lake for reservoir purposes. In the past, the City allowed this unit to be logged “except for 300 feet along the road to preserve the scenic beauty.” Visually, this unit is the entry to the magnificent Heart Lake Road corridor. The entire area is protected by a combination of the Conservation Easement Plan and the deed restrictions handed down by State Parks.

Current Conditions: This trailhead serves as an entry point for almost all ACFL user groups. While there is no trail open for motorized activity that leaves directly from the Heart Lake parking lot, road legal bikes use this as a jump off point. The fishing community, car top boat launchers, equestrians, mountain bikers, hikers, dog walkers and trail runners may all be found here in large numbers. This area is a very important connecting corridor for both people and wildlife between the Little Cranberry area and the Whistle Lake area. Care must be taken to keep only approved trails open. A variety of social trails (mostly hiker shortcuts and mountain bike jumps) continue to take shape in this area, along with a variety of homeless encampments as well as “van life” over night occupancy. Roadside over-nights by vehicles is a common occurrence along the entire Heart Lake Road corridor.

Projected Use: Visitor and local recreation numbers will continue to grow. Improvements to the parking lot will benefit the environment and trail users alike.

Recommendations:

- 1.) Develop ADA access and trails where possible at Heart Lake.
- 2.) Continue to work with law enforcement on illegal forest and vehicle-based encampments.
- 3.) Continue work on improved sanitary services throughout the area.
- 4.) Support the Fidalgo Fly Fishing Club pursuit of year-round fishing on Heart Lake.
- 5.) Seek funding for the repair of trail #311.





S Heart Lake/Ray Auld Dr.

Boundaries: All City property adjacent to Heart Lake Road south of Heart Lake and all City property adjacent to Ray Auld Drive with the exception of 35 acres around the Mt. Erie summit and south and west faces. Approximately 525 acres

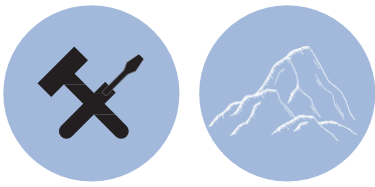
Restrictions: As with the Heart Lake Area, parts of this area were logged in the past between 1940 and 1950 with the stipulation that a 300-foot buffer be left along Heart Lake Road. The 160 acres at the top of Mt. Erie were given to the City for “park purposes” by Gus Hensler and the Kiwanis Club. Mr. Hensler stipulated that his donated 120 acres be a “haven for birds and/or animals”.

Current Conditions: Heart Lake Road (formerly Lake Forest Road) is a scenic corridor. The thoughtful stipulations of past City Councils have preserved a feeling of passage through primeval forests. The summit of Mt Erie serves as a multiple-use park. Thousands of people drive to the parking lot for rock climbing, picnicking, sightseeing, photography, hiking and nature study.

Projected Use: Heart Lake Road, Ray Auld Drive and the Summit Road will continue to be sightseeing destinations.

Recommendations:

- 1.) Maintain trails and continue to enhance access for south Mt. Erie trail.
- 2.) Continue road repair to Mt Erie Road.



Mt Erie Summit & S/W Faces

Boundaries: This area is primarily defined by the southern boundary of City property on Mt. Erie, the south shore of Whistle Lake, and the east flanks of Mt. Erie.

Approximately 35 acres

Restrictions: In addition to the Conservation Easement Program, some of the management area includes Kiwanian and Hensler donations and inherits the restrictions that accompany that land.

Current Conditions: The summit of Mt. Erie is already a multi-use park. Hundreds of people visit for rock climbing, picnicking, sightseeing, photography, hiking, nature study and hang gliding.

Projected Use: Mt. Erie will continue to be a regional attraction for sightseeing, mountain climbing and scrambling.

Recommendations:

- 1.) Rock face of Mt. Erie is unique in the ACFL as it allows areas for rock climbing and scrambling.
- 2.) Work with Mt. Erie climbing committee on relevant issues as they emerge.
- 3.) Proposed climbing dates should be submitted in advance to the Parks & Recreation Department. If a large number of climbers apply to use the same area at the same time, the Parks & Recreation Department may require the later applicants to re-schedule their use for another date. With the frequency of large and small commercial and non-profit groups climbing the mountain, staff may explore climbing permit options.
- 4.) Post and sign key access points with appropriate notice of rules in effect.
- 5.) Maintain and enhance ADA access to the Summit viewpoints.
- 6.) Placement of fixed anchors, opening new areas to climbing and scrambling, and work parties to maintain climbing routes, etc., shall be approved by the Forest Advisory Board and coordinated with staff. Climbers are asked to “leave no trace”.
- 7.) Construct permanent restroom facility at the summit.
- 8.) Install interpretive signage to educate the public about the fragile and unique ecosystem in this area.
- 9.) Work with adjacent landowners to keep trail #247 (the south Mt. Erie trail) open for recreational use and access to climbing areas.





Mt Erie Conservancy

Boundaries: This area is primarily defined by the southern boundary of City property on Mt. Erie, the south shore of Whistle Lake, and the east flanks of Mt. Erie. Approximately 462 acres

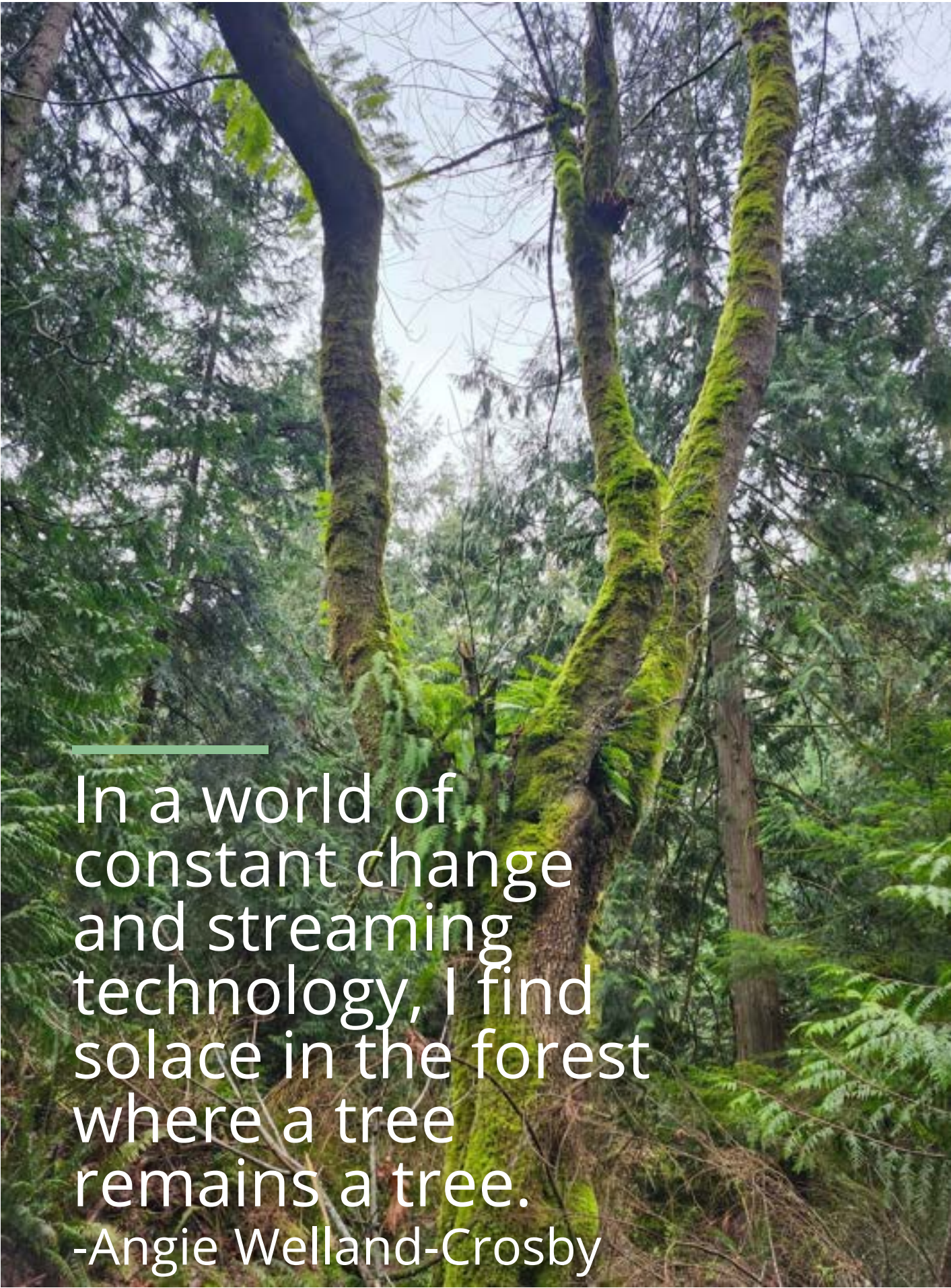
Restrictions: The Conservation Easement Program, along with the marshes at the western and southern edges of the lake provide a relatively isolated habitat. Much of the area is without trails and has been intentionally kept that way due to difficult terrain or to maintain wildlife corridors.

Current Conditions: This is a relatively inaccessible area that has intentionally not received the same density of trails as other places in the community forest lands. It has an old logging road, trail #22 that runs through the northern portion of the area and off that run a few multi-use trails. This includes trail #247 built in 2001 and was reopened after years of closure through agreements with the landowners.

Projected Use: While there is limited motorized trail access, this area should focus on low intensity use: hiking, nature observation, mountain biking and horseback riding on designated trails. Sensitive habitat, difficult access and steep rocky slopes are all reasons to place this unit in a Conservancy/Forest Study designation.

Recommendations:

- 1.) Post signs and erect suitable barriers to restrict intensive use of this area.
- 2.) Work to acquire trail easements or property to maintain a south Mt. Erie trail and provide a connecting route to Heart Lake area.
- 3.) Limit additional trail construction to increase habitat value.
- 4.) Work with users to help them understand the reasons for these restrictions and direct recreational use to other areas.

A photograph of a forest with moss-covered tree trunks and dense green foliage. The image shows several tall, slender tree trunks covered in vibrant green moss, standing amidst a thick forest of evergreen trees and ferns. The lighting is soft, creating a serene and natural atmosphere.

In a world of
constant change
and streaming
technology, I find
solace in the forest
where a tree
remains a tree.
-Angie Welland-Crosby



Management Authority

Goal: To provide efficient and effective management of the Anacortes Community Forest Lands in order to implement the goals and policies of this plan.

Under Council form of government, the City Council has ultimate legal authority and sets policy direction for the City. The Mayor is charged with management responsibility for administration of all City assets under the direction of City Council. The City Council must approve appropriate contracts, asset sales, and use policies.

Within the framework of these legal restrictions, it is recommended that the Forest Advisory Board set use policies and effectively guide management of the Anacortes Community Forest Lands.

Again, ACFL management policies in the City's Comprehensive Plan may be referred to here:

<https://www.anacorteswa.gov/245/Comprehensive-Plan>



Levels of Protection

The Forest Plan provides the goals, policies, and desired management direction for the ACFL. However, it is not the only regulatory authority over the ACFL. The forest lands are additionally protected at the federal, state, and local level.

Federal Level Protection

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) regulates the discharges of dredged or fill materials into “waters of the United States” (WOTUS), including wetlands and streams, under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The purpose of the Clean Water Act is to “restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation’s waters” and a Section 404 permit (Corps permit) may be required if a proposed project involves filling wetlands or altering streambeds or other WOTUS.

State Level Protection

Applicable state regulations and approvals include compliance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act for federally regulated wetlands, the state Water Pollution Control Act, and the Shoreline Management Act.

Clean Water Act

For wetlands and streams determined to be a WOTUS, the state certification process under Section 401 of the federal Clean Water Act is usually triggered through a Section 404 permit application. Section 401 directs each state to certify that proposed in-water activities will not adversely affect water quality or violate state aquatic protection laws. In Washington State, the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) is responsible for administering the state certification program.

Water Pollution Control Act

For wetlands and streams that are not considered a WOTUS, Ecology may conduct the state certification process outside of a Section 404 permit application. Under the state’s Water Pollution Control Act (WPCA), Ecology has jurisdiction to control and prevent pollution in waters of the state. According to RCW 90.48.020, waters of the state include “lakes, rivers, ponds, streams, inland waters, underground waters, salt waters and all other surface waters and watercourses within the jurisdiction of the state of Washington.” Ecology regulates wetlands and streams within Washington State regardless of federal jurisdiction and encourages applicants to coordinate with regional staff on projects that have potential impacts on wetlands or streams. For non-federally regulated wetlands and streams, applicants must submit a request for an administrative order to comply with the WPCA. Mitigation, particularly in the context of wetland and stream alterations, is a key component of the WPCA, ensuring that projects minimize or compensate for any negative impacts on water resources.





Shoreline Management Act

Being lakes that are larger than 20 acres, Little Cranberry Lake, Heart Lake, and Whistle Lake are also considered state shorelines, and are further protected by the State's Shoreline Management Act (SMA), which requires all cities with shorelines to develop and implement Shoreline Master Programs (SMPs). The SMA is intended to protect shoreline natural resources against adverse environmental effects. The SMA also requires local governments to designate shoreline areas into different environments, each with specific purposes and regulations. These designations guide development and use to protect shoreline resources and ecological functions. The shorelines within the ACFL are designated either "Natural" or "Conservancy." Per Ecology's SMP Handbook (2017) a "Natural" shoreline designation protects shoreline areas that are relatively undisturbed and have intact ecological functions. A "Conservancy" shoreline designation aims to maintain existing ecological functions and provide opportunities for compatible recreational and other uses.

Hydraulic Project Approval

Any project that would occur in or near a stream or lake in the ACFL, would also need approval from the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). According to State law, any activity that would use, divert, obstruct, or change the natural flow or bed of any water, would need to apply for Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA) from WDFW. This includes, but is not limited to, construction and maintenance near water (e.g., building bridges, culverts, etc.) and habitat modifications (e.g., removing aquatic plants, beaver dams, etc.). The purpose of the HPA is to ensure that construction is done in a manner that protects fish and their aquatic habitats.

City Level Protection

Critical Areas Ordinance

The Growth Management Act (GMA) requires all cities and counties to adopt development regulations that protect critical areas. The five types of critical areas defined by the state are: wetlands, fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas (FWHCA) which include streams, critical aquifer recharge areas, frequently flooded areas, and geologically hazardous areas. The ACFL has been designated a habitat of local importance by the City; and therefore, considered a fish and wildlife habitat conservation area (FWHCA). Not only are wetlands and streams within the ACFL protected under the City's Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) (Anacortes Municipal Code [AMC] 19.70 – Critical Areas), but the ACFL lands as a whole are protected by the CAO. Per AMC 19.70.035, any proposal to modify a critical area and/or required buffer must require a critical area permit unless it qualifies as an exemption.

The CAO also includes regulations specific to the ACFL (AMC 19.70.335.C.1) including but not limited to, prohibiting invasive plants in landscaping plans for adjacent properties; prohibiting new access without approval of the Forest Advisory Board and City Council; restricting burn piles within 300 feet of the Forest Lands; and requiring building setbacks for adjacent properties. Additionally, the CAO states that all proposed alterations to the ACFL must be consistent with the adopted Forest Plan.





Conservation Easement Program

The ACFL Conservation Easement Program is a partnership between the City, the Skagit Land Trust, and Friends of the ACFL, dedicated to permanently protecting the ACFL. This program allows citizens to donate to preserve land, ensuring its long-term protection and providing funding for forest management. The Skagit Land Trust holds the conservation easements, ensuring the land's conservation values are protected. Friends of the ACFL helps promote the program and educates the community. Donations to the program are used to support forest management and care.

As discussed above, the Forest Plan is just one piece in a wide array of protections and regulations that the forest lands fall under. All development proposed in the ACFL, including bridge and trail construction, will be reviewed at one or more of these levels depending on anticipated impacts. All proposals must follow mitigation sequencing to avoid or minimize impacts, and must not result in loss or decrease of ecological function.





Finance

Goal: Funding the ACFL Management will be provided by the annual Parks & Recreation Department Budget.

Policies:

- 1.) Funds 101, 113 and 114 have been established for the management of the ACFL. City ordinance specifies the uses for which these monies may be expended. The funds derived from the Conservation Easement Program and the lease of the ACFL for mining also have specifications and limitations regarding their use.
- 2.) If necessary, special accounts may be set up within the Forest Land Management Fund.
- 3.) Any revenues derived from the Forest Lands shall only be used for Forest Lands management, stewardship, land acquisition and education per City Ordinance 2535.
- 4.) Continue to pursue appropriate grant opportunities as well as partnerships with other public and private entities as recommended by the Forest Advisory Board and approved by City Council.





Enforcement

Goal: The policies and regulations developed in this plan will be enforced by the City of Anacortes.

Policies:

- 1.) The day-to-day maintenance and operations of the ACFL will be managed by the Parks & Recreation Department.
- 2.) City staff will continue to look for ways to permanently fund a fully commissioned Park Ranger whose job it will be to focus on voluntary visitor compliance throughout the ACFL and the City's extensive park system. In the meantime, the ACFL will be patrolled by the City of Anacortes Police Department.
- 3.) The City will emphasize off leash dog patrol whenever possible.
- 4.) Continue community education to help people understand the cost of vandalism and illegal dumping in the Forest Lands and the damage this can do to the environment.
- 5.) Defensively plan facilities to minimize vandalism. Build and design rugged facilities to harmonize with surroundings.
- 6.) Maintain facilities. Rundown areas promote vandalism and destructive behavior.





Law Enforcement

Goal: A full-time, fully commissioned Park Ranger dedicated to the City's Parks and Forest Lands. The job description for this position will allow for maintenance as well as enforcement work.

The City has a significant amount of park space that is enjoyed year-round by residents and visitors, which includes nearly 3,000 acres of City owned forest lands, trails and lakes. The Parks and Police Departments both recognize the necessity and value of a Park Ranger position to maintain order in the parks, keeping them inviting and family friendly to all users. The Police Department attempts to have a presence in the ACFL during months of peak use, but cannot afford to have an officer dedicated to spending a full shift in the parks/forest lands, many times a long distance from their patrol vehicle, out of necessity to be available for response to 911 calls. The Parks Department analyzed the possibility of converting a park maintenance position to a Park Ranger that would have a limited commission for enforcement in City owned parks for low level issues like dogs off leash, possession/consumption of alcohol, etc., but research revealed that the Park Ranger position would have to be a Police Department employee for access to the law enforcement maintained data bases needed to take enforcement action.

Policy:

1.) The Parks and Police Departments should continue to work together toward meeting the goal of a full-time dedicated Park Ranger. The Forest Advisory Board will work with the Parks & Recreation Director to encourage and secure funding for this position.





Fire Protection

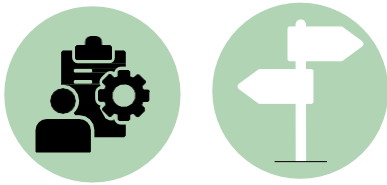
Goal: To protect City Forest Lands from damage or destruction by fire.

Policies:

- 1.) When a possible wildfire in the ACFL is reported, Parks staff initiate the response by notifying the Anacortes Fire Department (AFD). The AFD then becomes the lead and Parks provides support as requested.
- 2.) The City of Anacortes pays an annual Forest Fire Protection Assessment to the WA State Department of Natural Resources(DNR). This assessment helps to pay for the DNR to prepare to fight wildfires. The DNR will suppress any wildfires in our unimproved areas (ACFL) at no additional cost to the City.
- 3.) All firefighters at the AFD are trained and equipped to fight wildfires and most carry state certification at the Wildland Firefighter Type 2 level. In addition to the staff at the AFD, there are two volunteer fire districts on the island that are dispatched on automatic aid to any significant fire event in Anacortes. AFD also participates in a county wide mutual aid agreement with all cities and fire districts within Skagit County. This allows for immediate mutual aid response from all fire suppression units if needed. If a fire event anywhere in the county overwhelms our local resources AFD is eligible to ask for a State Mobilization. When approved, this mobilization will bring any needed resources from throughout Washington State to our assistance.
- 4.) Continue to maintain all two track trails in the ACFL for emergency response as well as maintenance and recreation.
- 5.) Work with Anacortes Fire Department, Friends of the ACFL, the Skagit Conservation District and other relevant organizations regarding wildfire response. There are numerous programs and resources available to the public for the protection of private property against wildfire.
- 6.) Fireworks, smoking, vaping, grilling/cooking/barbecuing of any kind are all prohibited in the ACFL.

Please see page 54 for additional fire protection measures.





Signs & Markers

Goal: The boundaries of the Anacortes Community Forest Lands shall be clearly marked at trailheads, access points and wherever possible to indicate that users are entering publicly owned property.

Policies:

- 1.) Work with ACFL neighbors on clearly marked boundaries.
- 2.) All access roads and parking areas within the ACFL shall be maintained in a safe manner.
- 3.) All access and egress points should be posted with notification that use of the City of Anacortes lands is governed by certain rules and regulations.
- 4.) Access roads should be blocked by sturdy gate, ditch and berm or other suitable barriers to prevent unauthorized garbage dumping, timber harvesting and creation of mayhem on City lands. Unauthorized uses should be punishable by stiff fines.
- 5.) Continue to place distinctive, visible boundary tags as needed.

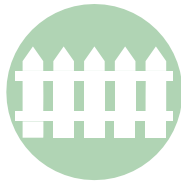


"In recent years, we've begun a meaningful partnership with city leaders and departments to develop interpretive signage throughout the community. This collaboration offers a powerful opportunity to honor our shared history while fostering a more informed, inclusive, and connected future for everyone who calls this place home.

This partnership is not just about signs. It is about listening, learning, and working together to create a future that honors the past and enriches our shared community.

We are fortunate to live in a place as beautiful as Anacortes. By telling the whole story and caring for this land together, we can keep it safe, meaningful, and welcoming for those who come after us."

-Chairman Tom Wooten, Samish Indian Nation, goSkagit article, July 25, 2025



Adjacent Property

Goal: The ACFL should be a good neighbor. All development adjacent to the ACFL is required to follow relevant City, County, State and Federal guidelines, including all appropriate permits, buffers and other environmental protections.

Policies:

- 1.) Work with neighbors on opportunities for buffers and access.
- 2.) Work with neighboring jurisdictions, Skagit Land Trust and private landowners to acquire or protect in an undeveloped state wildlife corridor between the ACFL and other undeveloped and marine habitats.
- 3.) Work with County residents adjacent to the ACFL on access and other issues arising from a shared property line.
- 4.) Any access to the ACFL requires approval from the Parks and Recreation Director along with a recommendation from the Forest Advisory Board.





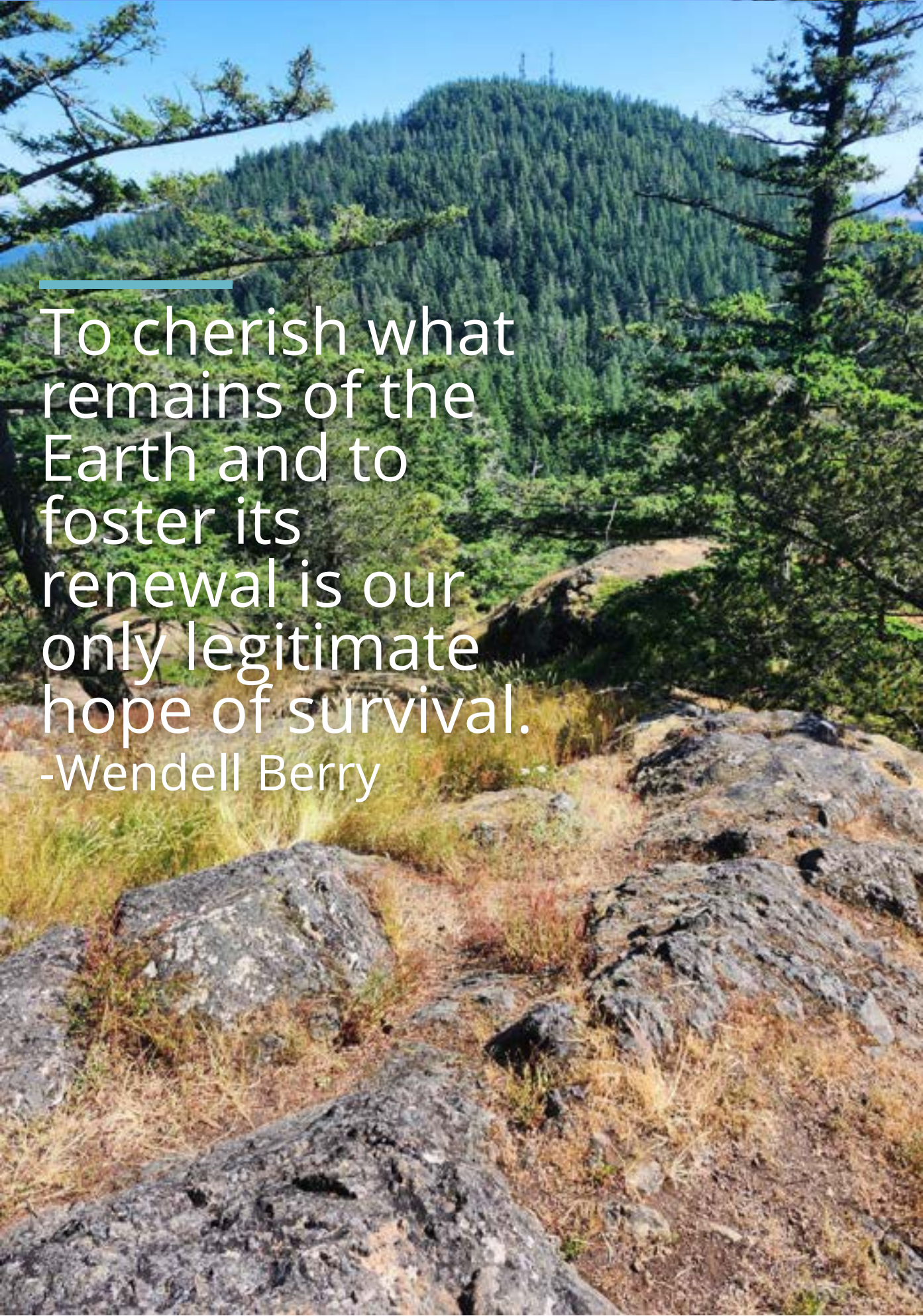
Future Acquisitions

Goal: Assure guaranteed public access to the Anacortes Community Forest Lands. The areas listed below would guarantee future access to areas important for conservation and recreation.

Policies:

- 1.) Consider acquisition of a public access to the rock-climbing route to Mt. Erie. One of the primary recreational uses of Mt. Erie is by rock-climbing groups often numbering up to and over 50 people. Cooperate with private landowners to maintain a non-motorized trail along the south side of Mt. Erie.
- 2.) Prioritize acquisition of land adjacent to the forest lands and acquire or protect by other means all wetlands, streams and ponds that flow into forest lands lakes and wetlands. Priority should be given to acquiring land that is contiguous to the ACFL, provides critical habitat, is part of the drainage system of an ACFL lakes or wetlands, helps connect or improve ACFL trail access, or is an important wildlife corridor.



A scenic view of a forested hillside. In the foreground, there are large, dark, jagged rocks and patches of dry, yellowish-brown grass. The middle ground shows a dense forest of green trees covering a slope. In the background, a clear blue sky is visible, and a few distant structures can be seen on the horizon.

To cherish what
remains of the
Earth and to
foster its
renewal is our
only legitimate
hope of survival.

-Wendell Berry

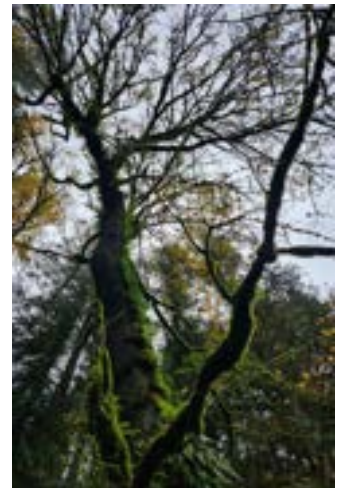


Forest Management

Goal: The Anacortes Community Forest Lands should be managed and protected in perpetuity to insure the maximum benefit to sensitive habitats and wildlife and enjoyment to the citizens of Anacortes.

Policies:

- 1.) The underlying policy must be one of minimum disturbance with respect to the forest, wildlife, and sustainable recreational opportunities. Important “by-products” will include clean air and water and the availability of a forestland setting for citizens’ physical and psychological well-being. For many people, the knowledge that this opportunity exists, whether they ever avail themselves of it or not, is a source of great satisfaction and relief. The increasing urbanization of this area will make this “relief valve” principle a priceless community resource in coming decades.
- 2.) Any direct economic benefit realized in the management of this land should be re-invested to protect the resources.
- 3.) All forest management activities will be conducted to minimize damage to native plant communities and wildlife. Natural processes of growth and succession, with the exception of wildfire, will be encouraged, and any replanting will use species native to that site.





Flora Management

Goal: To maintain, enhance and rehabilitate the native vegetation on City of Anacortes properties.

Policies:

- 1.) Removing trees, shrubs, bushes, flowers or other vegetation from the ACFL is prohibited. Berries or other edibles may be picked from the trail for enjoyment while in the ACFL. Harvesting for home consumption or retail is prohibited. Mushroom harvesting is prohibited.
- 2.) The City should be open to proposals by groups wishing to study these lands in order to provide baseline data on wildlife populations and species diversity. These proposals will be reviewed by the Parks & Recreation Director. The Director will then make a recommendation to the Forest Advisory Board.
- 3.) Identify those areas of particular and/or unique plant species or colonies and restrict use to an appropriate level.
- 4.) An updated list of plant species found on City land should be pursued and made available to the public.
- 5.) Invasive non-native plants should be identified and managed for removal from the ACFL. Volunteers have been and are likely to be relied upon heavily for their work to help keep the forest lands free of these species. Whenever possible, invasive plants should be removed by the roots manually without the use of herbicides. It is prohibited to introduce any plant species into the ACFL without express written approval of the Parks & Recreation Director.





Wildlife Management

Goal: To preserve and enhance the present diversity of wildlife on City of Anacortes Forest Lands.

Policies:

- 1.) No activity shall be permitted which will significantly alter the mixture of habitats that provide a varied and abundant wildlife population.
- 2.) The City should be open to proposals by groups wishing to study these lands in order to provide baseline data on wildlife populations and species diversity. These proposals will be reviewed by the Parks & Recreation Director. The Director will then make a recommendation to the Forest Advisory Board.
- 3.) An updated list of wildlife species found on City land should be pursued and made available to the public.
- 4.) Support the working relationship between the Anacortes School District and the Friends of the ACFL along with other groups seeking appropriate partnerships with the City. Encourage local schools to use City land for nature study. This could include building and setting nesting boxes, passive observation of seasonal wildlife and development of some site-specific curricula.
- 5.) Develop suitable wildlife observation sites in conjunction with recreational development. After a detailed study, observation boardwalks could be built for research, field work and observation by local educational institutions.
- 6.) Identify those areas of particular and/or unique plant species or colonies and restrict use to one or more of the marshes for the purposes of nature study and education.
- 7.) No native wildlife shall be removed from the ACFL. Domestic species or wild animals shall not be placed in the forest lands without review by the Forest Advisory Board and written permission of the Parks & Recreation Department.





Water Management

Goal: To maintain and enhance the water quality of lakes, marshes and wetlands in the Anacortes Community Forests.

Policies:

- 1.) New trail construction requires review and approval by the Parks and Recreation Director, including a public review process via the Forest Advisory Board and eventual approval by the City Council.
- 2.) Improve existing trails to minimize erosion. Where necessary, obliterate trails which are causing undue resource damage.
- 3.) All Critical Area Ordinance regulations, along with a comprehensive list of other local, State and Federal guidelines, will be met when designing and building a new trail is required.
- 4.) All Critical Area Ordinance regulations, along with a comprehensive list of other local, State and Federal guidelines, will be met when maintenance demands moving any portion of an existing trail.
- 5.) Whistle Lake, Heart Lake, and Little Cranberry Lake are back-up supplies of water in case of an emergency. All management activities in the watersheds of these lakes must take this into account.
- 6.) Work with other City departments and neighboring developments to eliminate run off of contaminants into ACFL watersheds.





Education

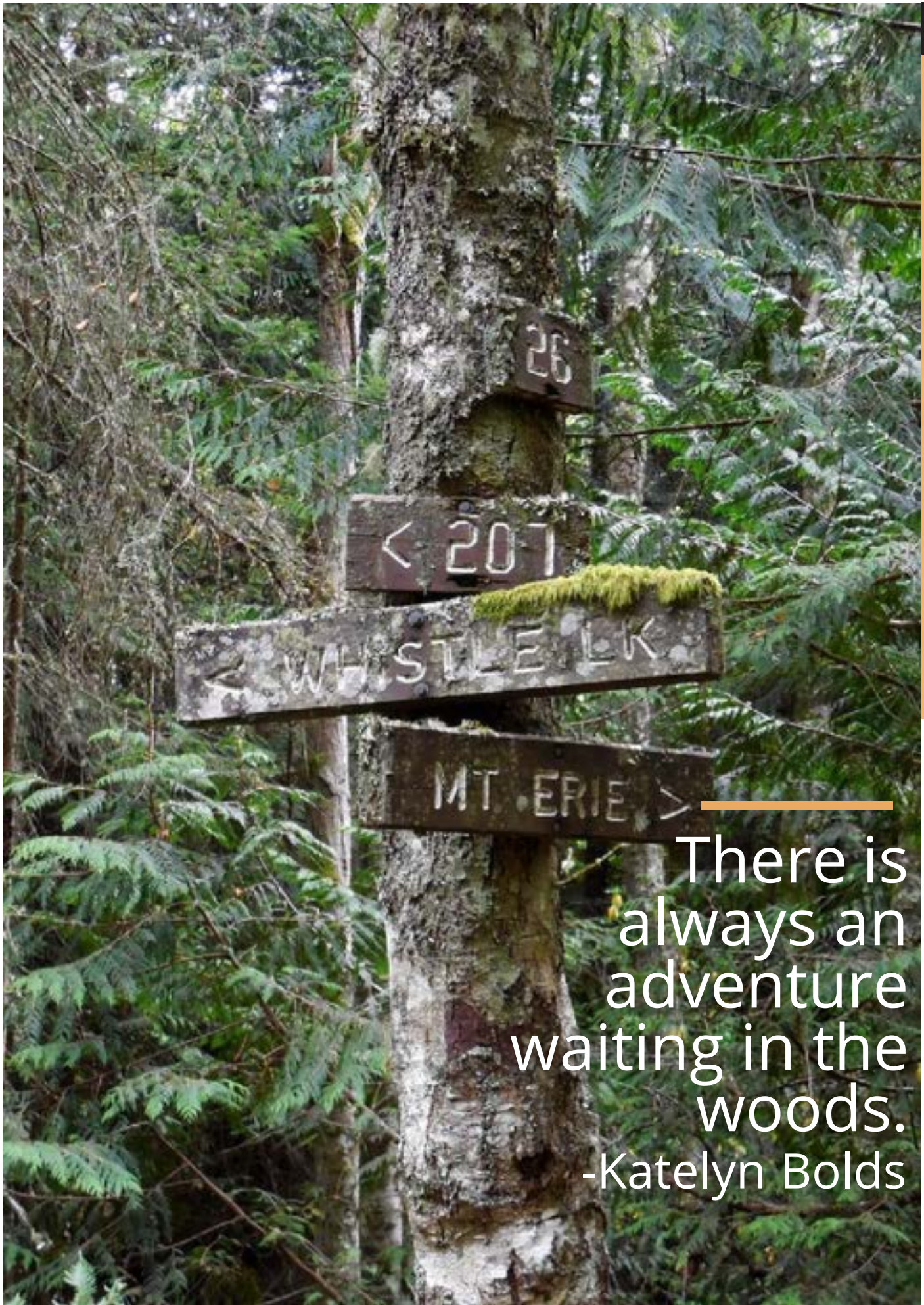
The decades-long partnership between the Friends of the ACFL and the City of Anacortes has proven to be an invaluable experience for the Anacortes School District students and the local community.

Goals: Continue to support the education, outreach and stewardship efforts of the Friends of the Anacortes Community Forest Lands as a civic partnership. The ACFL shall continue to be made available for community forest education that encourages stewardship of our natural resources, a conservation ethic, and deeper understanding of our unique forest ecology. Continue to develop the working relationship between the Samish Indian Nation and the City of Anacortes. The City and the Samish have been building a very positive working relationship over the past several years. The City should continue to respectfully reach out to the Samish for a variety of cultural, historical and educational processes.

Policies:

- 1.) Continue to collaborate on ACFL land use projects with the Samish Nation prior to pursuing permitting for same.
- 2.) Encourage joint cooperative arrangements with the Anacortes School District, local colleges and universities and local non-profit organizations to use these lands for ongoing research projects by students and faculty.
- 3.) Teaching our young people about the recreational and natural values of the forest lands will continue to develop generations instilled with a sense of stewardship that will only enhance the long-term health of the ACFL and its recreational opportunities.
- 4.) Provide physical infrastructure as appropriate to support environmental education efforts.





There is
always an
adventure
waiting in the
woods.
-Katelyn Bolds

Recreation



Trail System

Goal: Maintain a shared use recreational trail system in City forest lands.

Policies:

- 1.) Trail maintenance should focus on improving the condition of current trails. New trail construction should be minimized and only pursued when a reroute is an improvement for both the natural forest and trail users.
- 2.) Continue to work with local non-profit organizations and other properly managed volunteers on trail repair projects.
- 3.) Maintain a supply of current ACFL maps at the Parks & Recreation City Hall office. These maps are to be sold, with the price to be determined by the Parks & Recreation Director or designee. Other businesses, non-profits and information centers may purchase the maps from the Parks & Recreation Department for resale at their respective locations. Purchase price for these organizations also determined by the Parks & Recreation Director or designee.
- 4.) ACFL maps should summarize Forest use policies. Trail maps should be updated and improved as new trails are identified and trail maintenance must be increased to accommodate the greater use.
- 5.) Obtain easements for current-use trails where they cross onto private property. Work with adjacent owners to prohibit, control or allow current use. Minimize conflicts by working with user groups.
- 6.) Post regulatory signs at all entry points, trail junctions and where trails cross onto private property.
- 7.) No new trail access will be established into the ACFL from private property without review by the Forest Advisory Board and written permission from the Parks & Recreation Director.
- 8.) Work with Skagit County, the State of Washington, other City departments and other entities to establish linkages between the ACFL trail system and other trails to provide continuous recreational and non-motorized transportation options across Fidalgo Island.
- 9.) Hours for public access in the ACFL are 6am to 10pm.



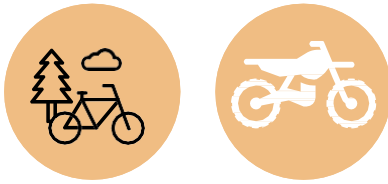
Climbing

Goals: Maintain and enhance climbing areas on Mt. Erie while conserving the unique environment and habitat on the summit and South and West faces; Continue to explore options for a reservation system for all commercial climbing groups; Work with the Mt Erie Climbing Committee to establish a climber capacity for the mountain.

Policies:

- 1.) Climbing and scrambling shall be restricted to the Mt. Erie summit and South and West Face Management Area.
- 2.) Maintain a Mt. Erie Climbing Committee consisting of five members including: three members representing climbers and/or scramblers, one naturalist and one at large Anacortes citizen. At least two of the climbers shall be residents of Anacortes. At least one of the climbers shall be a climbing instructor. All climber members of the committee shall have substantial experience climbing on Mt. Erie. Each representative shall be appointed by the Forest Advisory Board and the Parks & Recreation Director. The duties of the Mt. Erie Climbing Committee are:
 - A.) Assist staff and the Forest Advisory Board with regulation of fixed bolting, creation of new belay platforms, opening new climbing areas and other relevant issues.
 - B.) Be available to represent their user group at Forest Advisory Board meetings when issues affecting climbing and scrambling arise.
 - C.) Be available to organize volunteer work parties with this user group when needed on Mt. Erie. All maintenance projects must be approved in advance by the Parks & Recreation Director.
 - D.) User restrictions and methods to appeal decisions should follow the outline and applicable guidelines discussed in the Anacortes Community Forest Lands Comprehensive Trail Plan.



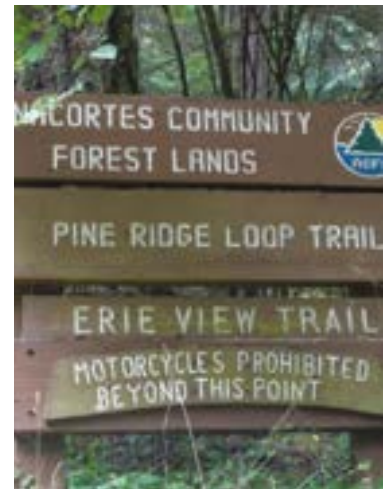


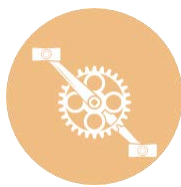
Motor Vehicles

Goals: To ensure the safety of all trail users, preserve trail conditions and natural resources, and provide clear guidance on the appropriate use of motorcycles.

Policies:

- 1.) All access points into City property shall be gated or blocked to prevent unauthorized vehicular access.
- 2.) No unauthorized motor vehicles (cars, trucks, and ATV's) will be allowed on ACFL roads.
- 3.) Motorcycles are prohibited on all ACFL trails from November 1 to March 31 due to seasonal closure. Motorcycle engines over 250cc are prohibited. Street legal dual sport motorcycles shall be exempt from the 250cc size limitation. Only four-cycle engines are allowed in the ACFL.
- 4.) Staff will work with the Forest Advisory Board on electric motorcycle policies.
- 5.) All City of Anacortes fleet vehicles are allowed on properly designated two-track for maintenance and emergency response. Other public agency vehicles may be approved for temporary access as circumstances demand.
- 6.) Volunteer vehicles may receive temporary permission from the Parks & Recreation Director or designee, to participate in specific projects.
- 7.) Prohibit all motorized use of the ACFL trail system except sanctioned maintenance, emergency and motorcycle use approved by the trail plan.
- 8.) Continue to work with the ACFL Trail Committee on updating motorcycle policies.
- 9.) Current cc and four-cycle engine policies could be studied and reviewed.
- 10.) Temporary permission for a controlled study may be considered by the Forest Advisory Board, with final approval coming from the Parks & Recreation Director.
- 11.) Review current route options for motorcycles. Changes may be suggested to improve trail-use flow for all user groups.





E-bikes

Goals: To ensure the safety of all trail users, preserve trail conditions and natural resources, and provide clear guidance on the appropriate use of electric bicycles (e-bikes) and electric motorcycles.

Definitions

- Class 1 E-Bike: Pedal-assist only; motor ceases to assist at 20 mph.
- Class 2 E-Bike: Throttle-assisted; motor ceases to assist at 20 mph.
- Class 3 E-Bike: Pedal-assist only; motor ceases to assist at 28 mph.
- Electric Motorcycle: Motorized two-wheeled vehicle powered by electricity; not classified as an e-bike.

Policies:

- 1.) Class 1 E-bikes allowed on bicycle designated trails with year-round access.
- 2.) Class 2 and 3 E-bikes allowed only on motorcycle approved trails and during the open season only: April 1-October 31.
- 3.) Electric motorcycles allowed only on motorcycle approved trails and during the open season only: April 1-October 31.
- 4.) All riders must obey posted signage and trail regulations.



Fishing

Goals: Provide access to fishing in Little Cranberry, Heart and Whistle Lakes; Continue to support the efforts of the Fidalgo Fly Fishing club to make Heart Lake open year-round for fishing, as Little Cranberry and Whistle lakes are.

Policies:

- 1.) Develop or improve limited access points for fishing City-owned lakes.
- 2.) Prohibit use of any combustion engines on Whistle Lake, Little Cranberry Lake and Heart Lake.
- 3.) Continue to work with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife on short- and long-term goals for recreational fishing on Heart, Whistle and Little Cranberry lakes.
- 4.) Monitor fish population in conjunction with water-quality monitoring program. There are seven major lakes on Fidalgo Island. Each has a particular recreational and fisheries value. Heart Lake is a well-known trout-fishing lake. Campbell Lake and Lake Erie both have boat launch facilities and are managed for spiny-ray and trout. Pass Lake is a fly-fishing only lake adjacent to Highway 20. Trafton Lake (Crater Lake) is surrounded by private property. Little Cranberry Lake is accessible by automobile and is actively used for fishing. Whistle Lake is the only lake not impacted by automobile access. Whistle Lake will be reserved for a more “primitive” recreational experience.





Picnicking

Goal: To allow picnicking at designated walk-in areas.

Policies:

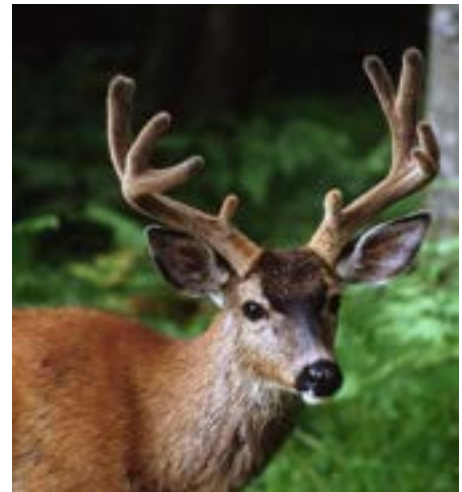
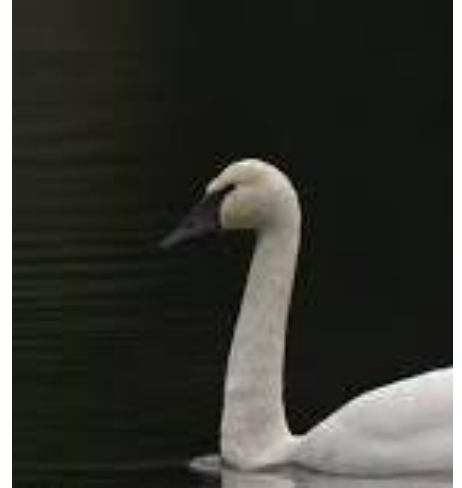
- 1.) Provide garbage, recycling and sanitary facilities where appropriate. Fires and barbeques are prohibited.
- 2.) Prohibit camping throughout the ACFL.
- 3.) Develop at least one walk in picnic site for local use.
- 4.) There are a few picnic tables in the ACFL and they may be used on a first come, first served basis.
- 5.) Any new picnic tables in the ACFL shall require the recommendation of the Forest Advisory Board and the approval of the Parks & Recreation Director.
- 6.) Off trail picnicking is prohibited.
- 7.) There are a few informal clearings in the ACFL where a picnic will be easier to execute.





Hunting & Trapping

Hunting and trapping are not allowed on City land. Resolution No. 968, adopted December 7, 1987 and amending Resolution No. 663, prohibits all hunting, trapping and discharge of firearms on Anacortes Community Forest Lands.





Other Activities

Goal: To use the Anacortes Community Forest Lands for dispersed low-intensity recreational activities.

Policies:

- 1.) Developed parks sites in Anacortes allow the opportunity for group games and activities such as baseball, soccer, basketball, tennis and other sports. There is no need to develop these sorts of facilities on City Forest lands.
- 2.) Deception Pass State Park and Washington Park offer an opportunity for overnight recreational camping. It is not appropriate to develop any facilities of this sort in the ACFL.
- 3.) Possession or consumption of alcohol is prohibited in the ACFL.
- 4.) Recreational groups in excess of 25 participants shall apply for a permit from the Anacortes Parks & Recreation Department under the Special Events section of the Anacortes Municipal Code. City staff will review all requests with the Forest Advisory Board.
- 5.) Commercial activities in the ACFL that do not violate existing policies may be permitted by the Parks & Recreation Director in consultation with the ACFL Advisory Board.





Comprehensive Trail Use Plan

This comprehensive trail use plan builds upon the plan originally created for the 1991 Forest Lands Management Plan. It is designed with a sense of stewardship for native flora and fauna in the Community Forest Lands and the need to balance multi-use recreational activities. The goal of this plan is to ensure the protection of the ACFL and provide a range of recreational activities.

Little Cranberry Area

Rationale

The Little Cranberry Lake Area of the ACFL includes a number of environmentally sensitive areas. There is one lake, three large beaver ponds, and numerous smaller wetland areas, which support diverse wildlife populations. There are also a number of rocky bluffs covered by thin soils and small meadows of native wildflowers. To protect these sensitive environments, the trail plan for the Little Cranberry Unit directs the heaviest usage to the South end. All terrain vehicles (ATV's) are prohibited on all Forest Lands Trails.

Hikers & Walkers

All Little Cranberry Unit trails are open to pedestrian users. Those wishing to avoid other trail users may wish to use some of the pedestrian-only trails. The pedestrian-only trails are as follows:

- 1.) The 101, 102, 105, 11 and 106 loop around the lake shore of Little Cranberry.
- 2.) Trail 103, 133 the Morrison Forest Nature Trail.
- 3.) Trail 122, the Mine Shaft Trails.
- 4.) Trail 123, along the east shore of the Big Beaver Pond.
- 5.) Trails 130 and 131 on the west side of Little Cranberry.
- 6.) Trail 125 on the south shore of Big Beaver Pond.

Horses

Horses are allowed on most Little Cranberry Area trails. As with mountain bikes and motorcycles, horses are prohibited in some trails near shorelines and areas where the terrain does not accommodate horse access. Horses are permitted on the following trails:

- 1.) Trails 100, 127, 128, 105 and 104 around Little Cranberry Lake.
- 2.) Trails 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 129, 10, 11, and 12 around Big Beaver and Little Beaver Ponds.
- 3.) Most trails in the South Cranberry area south of the beaver ponds, this includes trails 113, 114, 115, 117, 118, 120, 124, 126, 134 and 135.

Mountain Bikes

Pedaled bicycle use is allowed on many trails throughout the Little Cranberry area. Mountain bikes are permitted on the following trails:

- 1.) Trails 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 119, 121, 129, 10, 11, and 12 near Little Cranberry Lake, the Big Beaver and Little Beaver Ponds.
- 2.) Most trails in the South Cranberry area south of the beaver ponds, this includes Trail 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 120, 124, 126, 134 and 135.

Motorcycles

Motorcycle use must remain in the South end of the Little Cranberry Area. Access is provided to the south end via Trail 10 at the Old City Dump. Motorcycles are permitted on the following trails:

- 1.) Many trails in the South Cranberry area south of the beaver ponds; this includes trails 12, 111, 115, 120, 134.
- 2.) Trail 10, south of trail 12.
- 3.) Sections of trail 113 and trail 124.



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LEGEND

Horse Usage
 Walker Usage
 Mountain Bike Usage
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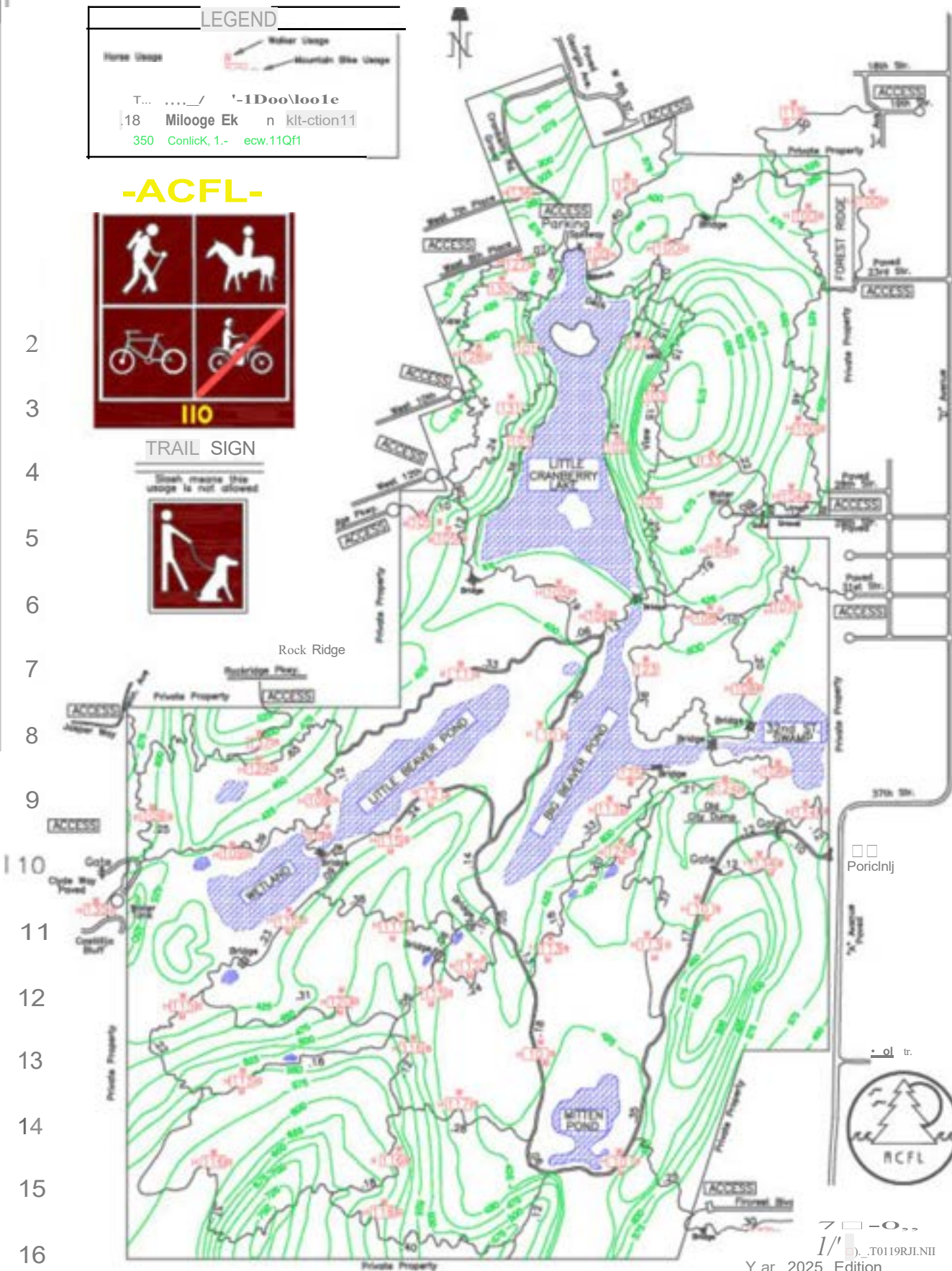
-ACFL-

TRAIL SIGN

Sign means this
 usage is not allowed



Rock Ridge



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Principol Trail
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 Anacortes Community
 Forest Lands

Cranberry Lake Area

Trail #	Location	Trail Mileage	Physical Rating	Technical Rating	Brief Trail Description	○ Easiest	□ More Difficult	△ Most Difficult
10	1-11	1.4	○	○	Two Track - Flat - Small Hills			
11	D-8	.38	○	○	Two Track - Flat			
12	D-9	.24	○	○	Single Track - Flat			
101	G-1	1.12	○	○	Single Track - Flat - Small Hills - Rocky			
101	G-2	.28	○	○	Single Track - Flat - Small Hills - Rocky - Wetters Only			
102	D-4	.51	○	○	Single Track - Flat - Small Hills - Rocky			
103	G-3	.55	○	○	Single Track - Flat - Small Hills - Rocky - Wetters Only			
104	H-5	.19	○	○	Single Track - Flat - Small Hills - Rocky			
105	F-6	.41	○	○	Single Track - Flat - Small Hills - Rocky			
106	F-7	.19	○	○	Single Track - Flat - Small Hills - Rocky			
107	I-6	.24	○	○	Single Track - Flat - Small Hills - Rocky - Blower Dam			
108	I-8	.40	○	○	Single Track - Flat - Small Hills - Rocky			
109	B-9	.69	○	○	Single Track - Flat - Small Hills - Very Rocky			
110	B-10	.59	○	○	Single Track - Flat - Small Hills - Very Rocky			
111	C-11	.36	○	○	Single Track - Flat - Moderate Hills - Very Rocky			
112	D-12	.24	○	○	Single Track - Flat - Moderate Hills - Very Rocky			
113	G-10	.88	○	○	Single Track - Flat - Moderate Hills - Very Rocky			
114	J-10	.12	○	○	Single Track - Flat - Moderate Hills - Very Rocky			
115	A-13	.34	○	○	Single Track - Flat - Small Hills - Some Rocks			
116	C-13	.87	○	○	Single Track - Flat - Small Hills - Some Rocks			
117	G-14	.28	○	○	Single Track - Flat - Small Hills - Some Rocks			
118	D-18	.52	○	○	Single Track - Flat - Small Hills - Some Rocks			
119	J-1	.25	○	○	Single Track - Flat - Small Hills - Some Rocks			
120	B-12	.31	○	○	Single Track - Flat - Small Hills - Some Rocks			
121	O-1	.48	○	○	Single Track - Flat - Small Hills - Some Rocks			
122	G-2	.15	○	○	Single Track - Flat - Small Hills - Some Rocks			
123	G-8	.36	○	○	Single Track - Flat - Moderate Hills - Some Rocks			
124	G-10	.41	○	○	Single Track - Flat - Moderate Hills - Some Rocks			
125	G-8	.20	○	○	Single Track - Flat - Moderate Hills - Some Rocks			
126	I-16	.65	○	○	Single Track - Flat - Moderate Hills - Some Rocks			
127	E-1	.07	○	○	Single Track - Flat - Moderate Hills - Some Rocks			
128	D-3	.62	○	○	Single Track - Flat - Moderate Hills - Some Rocks			
129	A-9	.45	○	○	Single Track - Flat - Moderate Hills - Some Rocks			
130	E-1	.05	○	○	Single Track - Flat - Moderate Hills - Some Rocks			
131	E-3	.24	○	○	Single Track - Flat - Moderate Hills - Some Rocks			
132	H-4	.22	○	○	Single Track - Flat - Moderate Hills - Some Rocks			
133	I-10	.72	○	○	Single Track - Flat - Moderate Hills - Some Rocks			
134	A-11	.12	○	○	Single Track - Flat - Moderate Hills - Some Rocks			
135	E-1	.10	○	○	Single Track - Flat - Moderate Hills - Some Rocks			
137	A-B	.18	○	○	Single Track - Flat - Moderate Hills - Some Rocks			

ACFL HISTORY

Acquisition of the Anacortes Community Forest Lands began early in the century when several large parcels were donated to the City for public park purposes. Douglas Almond, John Morrison, and other ACFL donors made and donated parcels of land to the City of Anacortes. In addition to these generous donations of early citizens, the City of Anacortes purchased several large parcels in 1918 from Douglas Almond, John Morrison, and other ACFL donors. The City of Anacortes then set up the ACFL as a public park system. The ACFL was established in 1921 by City Council. The City's forest lands are to be managed for scenic, aesthetic, and recreational uses.

The Anacortes Parks and Recreation Department manages the ACFL. Please direct any questions/comments to the Forest Lands Manager at 360-399-1953.

PLEASE REMEMBER

hunting, trapping, shooting, camping, campfires, bonfires, fireworks, consumption of alcohol, firearms, consumption of drugs, and consumption of wildlife are PROHIBITED in the Anacortes Community Forest Lands.

Keep pets leashed at all times in the ACFL and dogs out of domestic animal waste.

The Forest Advisory Board meets at 6:00 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month, at City Hall. All meetings are open to the public.

ACFL TRAIL USE RESTRICTIONS

Shared use trails are essential to the management philosophy of the ACFL. Please review your map carefully as not all trails are open to all user groups. Your courteous regard for other users and user groups will ensure all of our enjoyment of this wonderful trail system for many years to come. If you have any questions about trail etiquette, the Forest Manager would be very happy to answer them.

A few quickies:

- Please remember that you are a visitor in the woods. The native animals and plants deserve to thrive here and need your respect.
- If you pack it in, pack it out. Leave only footprints and take only memories.
- Mountain bikers, keep your speed reasonable, don't kick up your bike and talk to all passing hikers.
- Horse riders, please ride with care as our trails have more users on them every day.
- Motorcyclists, your group is a completed about most. Keep your speed under 10 mph and work on PPE for your user group.
- Day 311 to report any forest fire or other emergencies in the ACFL.
- ACFL CLOSURE: 10/1 to March 31st
- MONITORING CLOSURE: 10/1 to March 31st

Opportunities to Protect the ACFL

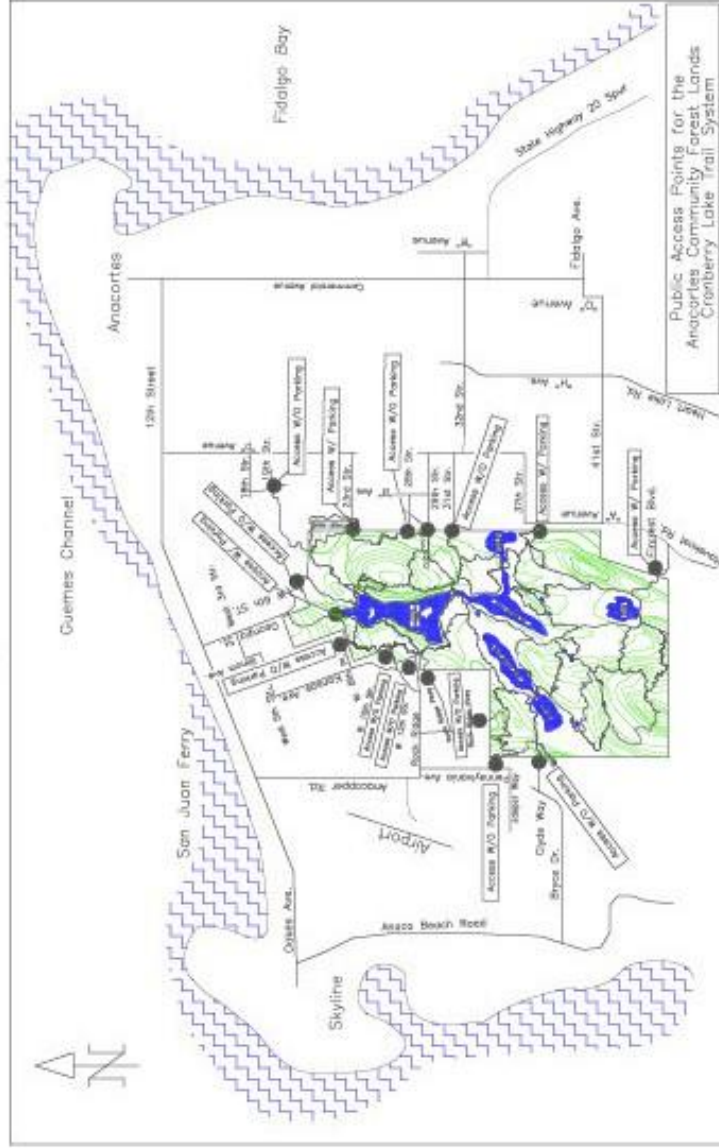
THE CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM: The CEP allows for conservation easements to be placed on ACFL acreage as a direct result of your \$ donation. For every \$1,000 put toward the CEP, another ACFL acre is protected forever. Donate \$5,000 or more, and you may request a piece to be protected either in your name, or in honor of a loved one. Any amount makes a difference.

VOLUNTEER TRAIL PARTIES: Help fly the flag of the ACFL, by being a positive trail role model and educating others on how to properly enjoy recreation opportunities here.

VOLUNTEER WORK PARTIES: These happen at least quarterly, and are well publicized in the local media.

FRIENDS OF THE FOREST: This grass roots political action group's main focus is funding and managing the ACFL education program.

CONTACT THE FOREST LAND MANAGER WITH ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THESE TERRIFIC OPPORTUNITIES.



Whistle Lake Area

Rationale

The Whistle Lake Area includes deep forest areas, a beautiful lake, a swamp, mountainous bluffs with native wildflowers, and numerous trails. This relatively undisturbed area must be protected from over-use, thus our trail designations direct most non-pedestrian usage to wide forest trails and old skid roads. All-terrain vehicles (ATV's) are prohibited on all Forest Lands Trails.



Hikers & Walkers

All Whistle Lake Area trails are open to pedestrian users. Those hikers seeking to avoid other trail users may wish to use some of the pedestrian-only trails. The pedestrian-only trails are as follows:

- 1.) Trail 246 at the cliffs is hiker only.
- 2.) Trail 205, along the East shore of Whistle Lake from the end of 20 to the intersection with Trail 29.
- 3.) Trail 215, from its Southern access on Mt. Erie Road to the top of Sugarloaf.
- 4.) Trail 214, the Ray Auld Trail.
- 5.) Trail 227, 228 and 238 near the Sugarloaf meadow, and Trail 216 which leads to the summit of Mt. Erie.

Horses

Horses are allowed on most Whistle Lake trails. As in other areas horses are prohibited near the shorelines and in sensitive meadow areas. Horse use is permitted on the following trails.

- 1.) Trails 20, 21, 22, 26, 27, 28, 29, 201, 202, 203, 206, 207, 218, 219, 225, 226, 229, 231, 232, 234, 235, 237 and 245; trail 233 where it is a double track trail; trail 204 along the West edge of Whistle Lake, to trail 203; trail 217 but must turn on trail 245 before heading west to Whistle Lake.
- 2.) Horses are only permitted on Trail 205 on the stretch of trail between Trail 22 and Trail 206.
- 3.) Horses climbing Sugarloaf must access 215 from its north end at the base of Ray Auld Drive. Near the top of Sugarloaf, horses must be left in the marked wooded intersection on Trail 226. Leaving horses at this intersection and walking out to the viewpoint will protect the meadows and native wild flowers.
- 4.) Horses are prohibited on Trail 217 on the stretch from 245 to 205.

Mountain Bikes

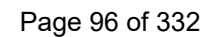
Mountain bikes are allowed on most Whistle Lake Unit trails. Mountain bike use is permitted on the following trails:

- 1.) Trails 20, 21, 22, 26, 27, 28, 29, 201, 202, 203, 204, 206, 207, 217, 218, 219, 225, 226, 229, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 237, 245, 247 and 248; trail 205 except the section along the shore of Whistle Lake from trail 20 to trail 29.
- 2.) Mountain bikes are prohibited on Trail 215 from its southern access on Ray Auld Drive, to the top of Sugarloaf. Mountain bikes climbing Sugarloaf must access trail 215 from its north end at the base of Ray Auld Drive. Near the top of Sugarloaf, mountain bikes must be left in the marked wooded intersection at trail 226. Leaving bikes at this intersection and walking to the viewpoint will protect the meadows and native wildflowers.

Motorcycles

Motorcycles are allowed on a number of Whistle Lake Area trails. Motorcycles are permitted on the following trails:

- 1.) Trails 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29, 201, 206, 231, 232, 234, 235, 237, and 245.
- 2.) There is no motorcycles access to the cliffs at Whistle Lake.
- 3.) Motorcycles are prohibited on Trail 207 except that portion between Trails 230 and 21.
- 4.) Motorcycles are prohibited on most of Trail 205, except that portion of 205 between its intersection with trails 206 and 22. Motorcycles are prohibited on Trail 202 (through the Sugar Cube meadow) except the section between Trail 231 and Trail 27.
- 5.) Motorcycle use is prohibited on Trail 215. Trail 226 is open to motorcycles approaching Sugarloaf from the east until it intersects with Trail 238. Leaving motorcycles at this intersection and walking to the viewpoint will protect the meadows and native wildflowers.



At Anacostia Community Forest, Fox was dropped in June 1981, and in May 1981, 2079 and again in 1971 by D.C. Council. The City's forest lands were to be merged for historic, aesthetic, and recreational lands. The Mayor-designated A.C.F. board must oversee the implementation of the management plan, and discuss policies to the supervisor as one of the city's boards. The Anacostia Parks and Recreation Department manages the A.C.F. Parks and Recreation Department is the Forest Land Manager of 300-200-4325.

shading, trapping, shredding, camping, cat-
to be the American Community Fund | 100

deeply located at 28 firms in the AOL and took out all electric credit wires. The first Advisory Board meets at 6:00 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month.

Shared use trails are essential to the health and success of our watershed and the

Several case studies are awarded to the management philosophy of the ACFT. These case studies had carefully do not all tools are open to all user groups. Your comments request for other users and user groups will result of all our enjoyment of this wonderful tool system for many years to come. If you have any questions about tool's design, the Forest Manager would be very happy to answer them.

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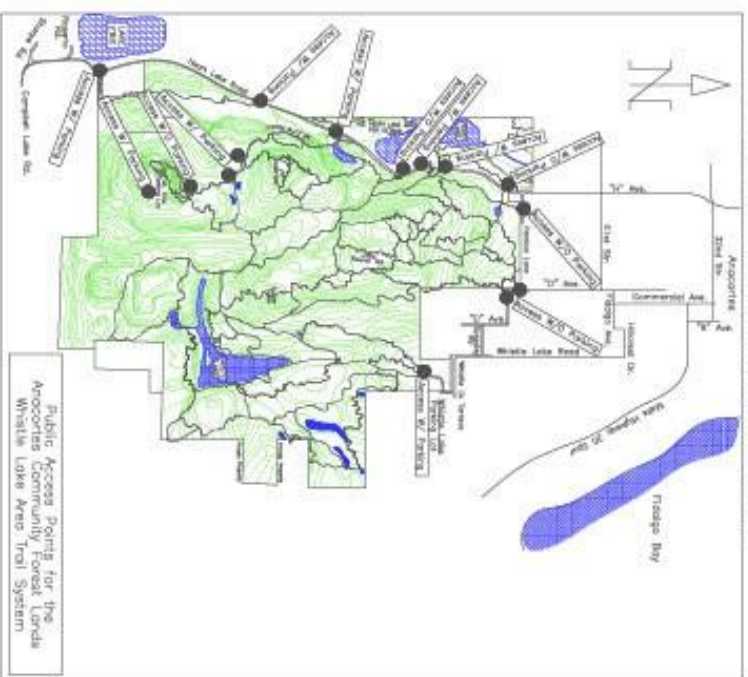
Table 1

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THE CONVENTION FACILITATES PROGRESS

professional services. Donors \$25,000 or more will receive a 20% discount on their fee.

For more information on the Forest Stewardship Council, visit our website at www.fsc.org.
 FRIENDS OF THE FOREST: Contact them at www.friendsoftheforest.org.



The Washington State Parks and Recreation

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission transferred Heart Lake State Park to the City of Anacortes in 2002.

The State requires that motorized vehicles continue to be prohibited within the boundaries of the former State Park as a condition of the transfer to the City. Certain boats and airplanes are prohibited in the trout stream as an Natural Resource Area. This includes type, #243, #120 and #210 south of the intersection with #224. Please see map for details.

At ACFL, policies must be observed in the Warner State Park as well as the rules/regulations mandated by the State as conditions for the transfer.

If you have any questions about this notice please call (360)294-1953.

Heart Lake Area

Rationale

The area that made up the former Heart Lake State Park was transferred to the City of Anacortes in 2002. A management plan was developed shortly thereafter to make this area part of the Anacortes Community Forest Lands and is incorporated into this document. All trail designations conform to requirements passed along by the State of Washington at the time of the transfer or are the result of the subsequent management plan.

The State required that all the land to the City be non-motorized. Therefore all trails in the former State Park are closed to motorcycles. This includes trails around the lake, south of the lake, and almost all trails east of Heart Lake road that were once part of the State Park. All terrain vehicles (ATV's) are prohibited on all Forest Land Trails.



Hikers & Walkers

All Heart Lake Area trails are open to pedestrian use. The following are pedestrian only trails:

- 1.) Trails 213, 243 and 249.
- 2.) Trail 210 from the Heart Lake parking lot to intersection of Trail 242 . Trail 210 is also hiker only from the intersection of Trail 250 to Trail 212.
- 3.) East of Heart Lake Road, in the former State Park lands, Trail 320.

Horses

Horses are allowed on most Heart Lake area trails. The following are open to horseback riding:

- 1.) Trail 23, 25, 208, 209, 211, 212, 221, 222, 223, 224, 236, 240, 241, 242, 244 and 250.
- 2.) Trail 210 is open to horses from the intersection with 242 to Trail 250.
- 3.) East of Heart Lake Road, in the former State Park lands all trails in the 300 series, except Trail 320, are open to horses.

Mountain Bikes

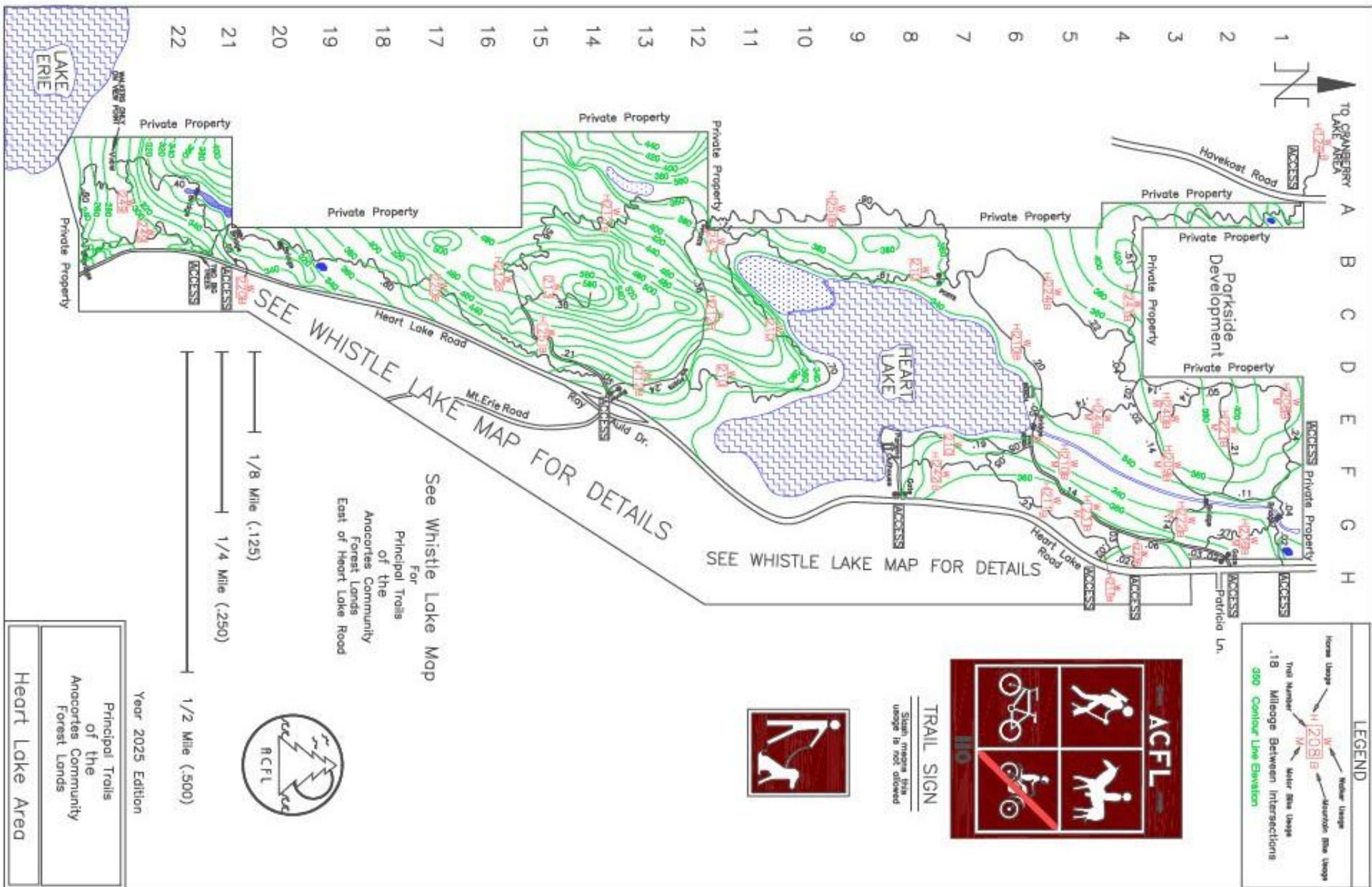
Mountain bikes are allowed on most Heart Lake area trails. The following are open to mountain bikes:

- 1.) Trail 23, 25, 208, 209, 211, 212, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 236, 240, 241, 242, 244 and 250.
- 2.) Trail 210 is open to mountain bikes from the intersection with 242 to Trail 250.
- 3.) East of Heart Lake Road, in the former State Park lands all trails in the 300 series, except Trail 320, are open to mountain bikes.

Motorcycles

Motorcycles are only allowed on a limited number of trails north of Heart Lake. The following trails are open to motorcycles:

- 1.) Trail 23, 208, 209, 221, 222, 236, and 244.
- 2.) East of Heart Lake Road motorcycles are prohibited on all trails in the 300 series with the exception of Trail 300 from Trail 232 to Trail 21.



ACFL HISTORY

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Trail Plan Limitations

Environmental Limitations

If wildlife, flora or water quality are being adversely impacted at certain locations by trail users, the trail plan may be amended in those areas to protect environmental quality. The trail use plan must always ensure that these goals are not hindered. The procedure for amending the trail plan due to environmental impacts is as follows:

- 1.) Environmental impact must be documented
- 2.) Environmental impact documentation must be made available to the Parks & Recreation Director, the Forest Advisory Board and interested citizens.
- 3.) The Trail Committee and/or Mt. Erie Climbing Committee shall review the proposed amendment and make a recommendation to the Forest Advisory Board.
- 4.) User-group representatives must be notified of any potential trail plan changes and must have the chance to be present and make comment during the decision-making process.
- 5.) Amendment to the trail plan must be passed by the Forest Advisory Board in cooperation with the Parks & Recreation Director.

Safety Limitations

Multiple use trails have the potential to create safety problems for all user groups. The trail user rules and regulations, if followed, should prevent safety problems; however, if it is found that the trail use plan must be changed to alleviate trail user collisions, or a number of near-collisions, the following procedure for amending the trail plan must be followed:

- 1.) The safety hazard must be documented.
- 2.) Safety hazard documentation must be made available to the Parks & Recreation Director, the Forest Advisory Board and interested citizens.
- 3.) The Trail Committee and/or Mt. Erie Climbing Committee shall review the proposed amendment and make a recommendation to the Forest Advisory Board.
- 4.) User-group representatives must be notified of any potential trail plan changes and must have the chance to be present and make comment during the decision-making process.
- 5.) Amendment to the trail plan must be passed by the Forest Advisory Board in cooperation with the Parks & Recreation Director.

Fire Limitations

Seasonal dry periods may require temporary trail closures due to high fire danger. These closures do not require trail plan amendment. These trail closures can be mandated by the Department of Natural Resources, the Anacortes Fire Department or can be requested by the Parks & Recreation Director in consultation with the Forest Advisory Board.



Natural Hazard Trail Construction Limitations

There will be times when natural hazards may require temporary trail closures. Trails may be washed out, bridges may become unsafe, or a trail crew may be working on a portion of trail causing it to be temporarily unusable. In such circumstances, the trails involved can be closed temporarily without trail plan amendment. These trail closures will be imposed under the discretion of the Parks & Recreation Director and will be posted until the trail is repaired.

Seasonal Trail Closures

Motorcycles are prohibited on all ACFL trails from November 1st to March 31st. Staff shall have the authority to extend the seasonal closure if warranted with Forest Advisory Board approval. Due to trail conditions during the wet season or if unexpected situations arise throughout the year, seasonal closures may be invoked for other user groups to minimize trail damage. A trail or series of trails may be closed until the problems or conditions leading to the damage are corrected. These seasonal closures will be imposed under the discretion of the Parks & Recreation Director and be discussed at the next regularly scheduled Forest Advisory Board meeting to explain the reasons for the closure and take public input. Seasonal closures will be posted at trailheads and/or popular parking areas.

Provision for Trail Plan Amendment

Unforeseeable circumstances may create in the future the need for trail plan amendments other than those already provided for in the trail plan limitations. If such a situation arises, amendment to the plan must follow the procedures below.

- 1.) The public and user-group representatives must be notified of any amendments proposed by the Forest Advisory Board or the Parks & Recreation Director that have not been covered under other Trail Plan Limitations.
- 2.) The public and user-group representatives must be given the opportunity to make public comment. A public hearing must be held for those amendment proposals which elicit a large amount of public concern.
- 3.) After public comment, the Forest Advisory Board will make a recommendation and send the proposed amendment on to the Anacortes City Council for a final decision.
- 4.) As new trails are added to the ACFL system, permitted uses shall be determined by environmental considerations and what uses are allowed on connecting trails. In between comprehensive plan updates, new trail designations can be found on updated ACFL maps, and rationale for permitted usage will be available through ACFL Trail Committee minutes and/or Forest Advisory Board minutes.





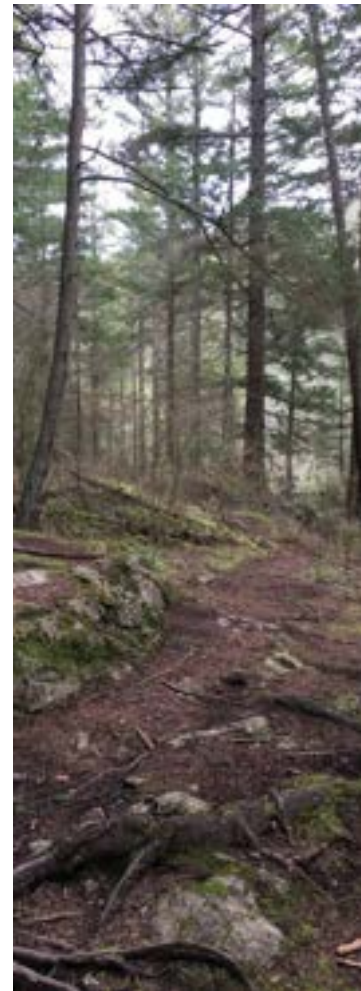
Implementation Enforcement & Education

General Trail User Rules and Regulations

- 1.) Trail users found or proven to be violating the ACFL trail users rules and regulations can be cited and/or fined.
- 2.) All City, State and Federal laws that apply within the city limits can be enforced within the ACFL, except where differences are specifically outlined in this trail plan, or other ACFL documents.
- 3.) All trail users must remain on designated trails. Clearing new trails or traveling off-trail is prohibited except as otherwise allowed by the Forest Advisory Board.
- 4.) Knowledge of trail designations is the responsibility of the user (barring sudden changes which have not been posted or announced). Traveling on trails not designated for the mode of transportation being used is prohibited. Trail use violators on unmarked trails where signs have been vandalized or removed can still be ticketed and fined.
- 5.) Trail users must obey all seasonal trail closures. Motorcycles are prohibited on all ACFL trails from November 1 to March 31, Two cycle engines and ATV's are prohibited year round.
- 6.) Pets must be leashed at all times.
- 7.) Littering is prohibited on ACFL property. All litter and dog waste must be packed out.
- 8.) Fireworks, fires or barbeques are prohibited. Smoking in the ACFL is prohibited.
- 9.) Possession or consumption of alcohol is prohibited.
- 10.) The taking of trees, shrubs, bushes, flowers or other vegetation from the ACFL land is prohibited.
- 11.) Hunting and trapping are prohibited on ACFL property.
- 12.) The taking of mammals, reptiles, amphibians, birds, or any other wildlife (with the exception of legal sports fishing) is prohibited.
- 13.) Geocaching is allowed in the ACFL by permit only. Permits are available through the Parks & Recreation Department.

Hiker Rules and Regulations

- 1.) Pedestrians must remain on trails designated for hiker use in the ACFL trail plan. Traveling off trail is prohibited except as otherwise allowed by the Forest Advisory Board.
- 2.) Hikers must walk in such a way that they will have little or no adverse impact. It is unlawful to cause the following impacts:
 - Severe erosion
 - Damage to vegetation along the trail
 - Damage to vegetation in meadows and mossy outcrops
 - Damage to trails such that trail use by other users is hindered
- 3.) Upon meeting a horse, mountain bike, motorcycle or other hiker from the front, a hiker should slow down or stop and move to the right to allow safe passage to the other users. If you meet a horse, let the horse have the uphill edge of the trail. Say "Hi" as each rider in a string passes you, otherwise a green horse may spook when the thing seen as a stump suddenly moves.
- 4.) Upon meeting a horse, mountain bike, motorcycle or other hiker from behind, a hiker should slow or stop, announce his/her presence, and ask that the other user(s) move to the right (or uphill side in the case of a horse) to allow safe hiker passage. Only when the other user is safely out of the way may the hiker proceed.
- 5.) When stopping along the trail, hikers should move over to the right or uphill trail edge to be out of the way of others. Ideally, a hiker should wait for a widening in the trail before stopping.





Horse Rider Rules and Regulations

- 1.) Horses must remain on trails designated for horses in the ACFL Trail Plan. Traveling off-trail is prohibited. No horse shall be off tether.
- 2.) Horses must be handled in such a way that they will have little or no adverse impact. It is unlawful to allow your horse to cause the following impacts:
 - ♦ Severe erosion
 - ♦ Damage to vegetation bordering the trail
 - ♦ Damage to vegetation in meadows or mossy outcrops
 - ♦ Damage to trails such that trail use by other users is hindered
- 3.) When stopping for equipment adjustment or to view the scenery, horse riders should move over to the right or uphill trail edge to be out of the way of others. Ideally, a rider should wait for a widening in the trail before stopping.
- 4.) Hikers, mountain bikers and motorcycle riders must all yield to horses. As previously stated, maintain voice contact with the equestrian group as they pass.
- 5.) Maintain at least one horse length between horses when traveling in groups.
- 6.) Horse riders must remove all manure left by their horses from parking areas and designated picnic areas. If no receptacle area or container is provided, take it out with you.
- 7.) When tying up horses, be sure to tie them in such a way that damage to vegetation or trees will be minimal. Causing severe impact is unlawful.

Mountain Bike Rules and Regulations

- 1.) Mountain bikes must remain on trails designated for mountain bikes in the ACFL Trail Plan.
- 2.) Bikes must be handled in such a way that they will have little or no adverse impact. It is unlawful to cause the following impacts:
 - Severe erosion
 - Damage to vegetation bordering the trail
 - Damage to vegetation in meadows or mossy outcrops
 - Damage to trails such that trail use by other users is hindered
- 3.) When stopping along the trail, bikers should move over to the right or uphill trail edge to be out of the way of others. Ideally, a biker should wait for a widening in the trail before stopping.
- 4.) Upon meeting a hiker, horse, motorcycle or other mountain bike from the front, a biker must slow or stop, move to the right (unless meeting a horse when one should let the rider use the uphill side even if it is on the right), and allow passage to the other trail user(s).
- 5.) Upon meeting a hiker, horse, motorcycle, or other mountain bike from behind, a biker should slow or stop, announce his/her presence and ask that the other user move to the right (or uphill grade in the case of a horse). Only when the other trail user is safely out of the way may the mountain biker proceed.
- 6.) Maintain at least one bicycle length between bikes when travelling in groups.
- 7.) Mountain bikes shall not exceed 15 mph on the trails designated for their use.



Motorcycle Rules and Regulations

- 1.) A motorcycle is defined as a two-wheeled vehicle. Motorcycle engines over 250cc are prohibited. Street legal dual sport motorcycles shall be exempt from the 250cc size limitation. Only four-cycle engines are allowed in the ACFL. Two-cycle engines are prohibited. Three and four-wheeled all-terrain vehicles are prohibited on ACFL trails.
- 2.) Motorcycles must have an adequate and operating muffler that limits exhaust noise to 105 decibels at 20 inches from the exhaust to be trail legal in Washington State.
- 3.) Motorcycles must have a USDA Forest Service approved spark arrester to be trail legal in Washington State.
- 4.) Motorcycles must have lighted headlights and taillights at night or during poor visibility to be trail legal in Washington State.
- 5.) Motorcycles must have brakes which work properly to be trail legal in Washington State.
- 6.) Motorcycle riders must have a valid Washington State ORV permit or vehicle license to be trail legal in the State of Washington.
- 7.) Motorcycles must remain on trails designated for motorcycle use in the ACFL Trail Plan. Off-trail riding is prohibited.
- 8.) Motorcycles shall not exceed 15 mph on trails designated for motorcycle use.
- 9.) Motorcycles must be handled with extreme caution. Riding unsafely in any way is strictly prohibited and will be enforced. Motorcycles must ensure that all other trail users they meet will be safe from collision or fear of collision. These trails are heavily traveled by pedestrians of all ages.
- 10.) Motorcycles must be handled with extreme caution in environmentally sensitive areas. Wetland areas and erodible trails must be protected from impact. Trail plan amendment will be required if impact becomes great.
- 11.) Upon meeting a hiker, horse, mountain bike or other motorcycle from the front, a motorcycle must stop, move to the right (or downhill side in the case of meeting a horse) and allow safe passage to the other trail user(s).
- 12.) Upon meeting a hiker, horse, mountain bike or other motorcycle from behind, a motorcyclist must stop, announce his/her presence, and ask that the other user move safely to the right or uphill side to allow safe motorcycle passage. Only when the other user is safely out of the way may the motorcycle proceed.
- 13.) Maintain at least two motorcycle lengths between riders when travelling in groups.
- 14.) Motorcycles must be handled in such a way that they will have little or no adverse impact. It is unlawful to cause the following impacts:
 - ◆ Severe erosion
 - ◆ Damage to vegetation bordering the trail
 - ◆ Damage to vegetation in meadows or mossy outcrops
 - ◆ Damage to trails such that trail use by other users is hindered
- 15.) The ACFL recommends that all motorcycle users obtain and read the Washington Off-Road Vehicle Guide from the Washington Department of Natural Resources. This guide provides information important to all motorcycle trail riders.
- 16.) Motorcycle rules and regulations stated here shall be reviewed annually for effectiveness, with regard to safety, protecting habitat, minimizing trail damage and promoting compatibility with other user groups.

Signage

Enforcement of the Trail Plan requires proper signage. A sign will be used to mark all access points, trail intersections, and points where trail use could be confusing.

A number of other signs are also needed. Private property boundaries must be signed where ACFL trails run onto private land and signs are needed for those locations where trail users must leave bikes, horses, and motorcycles, and walk to view points or lakes. Signs will be put up by staff with the help of volunteers from the different user-groups.

Brochure

It is vital to the success of this trail plan to provide for the public a condensed version of this plan. These will be provided on the reverse side of all ACFL trail maps and may contain the following:

- ♦ Explanation of how the trails are signed
- ♦ Rules and Regulations
- ♦ Trail designations
- ♦ Suggestions for minimum environmental impact
- ♦ User group representatives listed as contacts
- ♦ Parks & Recreation Department contacts

These brochures should be made available within all map sets sold from the Forest Lands office at City Hall, User Group representatives, and at well-used trail heads.

Enforcement

The vast majority of the ACFL lies within the Anacortes City limits. Thus, all city, state, and federal laws that apply within the City limits of Anacortes can be enforced within the ACFL. Exception to this would occur only where differences from City laws are specified in this Trail Plan or other ACFL documents.

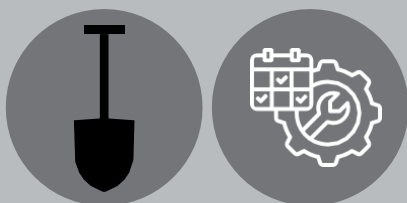
Enforcement of the law will be provided by Anacortes Police Department. Trail users found to be violating the Rules and Regulations specified in this plan or the laws of the City of Anacortes can be cited and fined.



ACFL Trail Committee

For each user-group (horse riders, hikers, mountain bikers, motorcyclists, persons with disabilities, and an ACFL naturalist), a volunteer representative shall be appointed by the Forest Board and Parks & Recreation Director to the ACFL Trail Committee. The ACFL Trail Committee is to:

- 1.) Assist ACFL Staff and the Forest Advisory Board with questions regarding new trails, trail re-routes, trail closure, trail signage, review of the trail plan.
- 2.) Be available to represent their user-group at Forest Board meetings when issues affecting the trail plan arise.
- 3.) Be available to organize volunteer trail maintenance work parties with their user-group, when needed in the ACFL. All maintenance projects must be approved by the Parks & Recreation Director.



Trail Maintenance

Maintenance Standards

Trail maintenance shall follow standards as shown in the USDA Forest Service Trail Construction and Maintenance Notebook. Other recognized trail manuals and staff experience shall be utilized.

New Trails

New trails may be built if such construction is deemed necessary by the Parks and Recreation Director in cooperation with the Forest Advisory Board. The Trail Committee should be involved and review trail location. Trail construction should be completed with all due care to native flora and fauna while providing a quality recreational experience. New trail construction can be completed by user-group volunteers or crews arranged and supervised by the Forest Lands Staff.

Work Crews

The ACFL encourages and depends upon volunteer help in maintaining trails. Volunteers wishing to help with trail work must contact the Forest Lands Manager prior to starting any projects. The Parks and Recreation Office will be able to supply a list of the areas needing work the most, and resources on trail maintenance. The Forest Lands Office may also be able to supply some of the equipment needed. Non volunteer trail maintenance is also done, but employees of the Parks and Recreation Office and contracted work crews such as the Washington Conservation Corps.

Annual Maintenance Record

To facilitate trail maintenance, a record of areas needing trail work or having had trail work completed will be kept by the Parks and Recreation Department. This record will provide information for volunteers and Parks and Recreation Department on the status of the trail system on a yearly basis. Such a record will show the continual trouble areas, which user-groups are causing the most damage, which user-groups are contributing the most volunteer trail maintenance, what types of trail maintenance is most successful, etc. The record shall be updated yearly.





Nature is not
a place to
visit, it is
home.

-Gary Snyder

ACFL Forest Health Monitoring Plan



Authors: Robbie Andrus, Eric Shen, Dave L. Peterson, Nick Kunz, Megan Broadie, Colby Rand

Introduction: In 2019, a concerned and skilled team of citizen scientists launched a multi-faceted inventory and monitoring program in the Anacortes Community Forest Lands (ACFL). The overall goal was to develop a baseline understanding and document changes to multiple environmental systems over time. The team was led by Transition Fidalgo (501c3 non-profit) in partnership with the City of Anacortes (CoA). Interest in the program by CoA forest managers and the public was initially motivated by observed changes in forest health, such as dieback of western redcedar from 2015 to 2019, and the desire to understand the implications of climate change. By annually monitoring changes in abiotic conditions (e.g., weather, soil moisture), vegetation, birds, disturbed areas, and aquatic systems, the monitoring program is well positioned to help detect changes to forest ecosystem health in the ACFL over the next several decades. The plan to conduct this study was approved by the Forest Advisory Board in 2018.

Goals: The ACFL forest monitoring program has three overall goals and benefits:

- 1.) Engage community members in hands-on monitoring projects to improve their understanding of forest ecosystems.
- 2.) Gain insight into the stressors on forest ecosystems and the implications of climate change for individual species and forest ecosystem types.
- 3.) Provide CoA managers and the ACFL Forest Advisory Board with environmental monitoring summaries to support forest management.





Context & Goals of Monitoring Programs

The ACFL monitoring program is comprised of eight individual projects. Each project studies a specific aspect of forest health conditions and wildlife with field data collection in varying locations (field plots or trail sampling) in the ACFL, while the forest canopy assessment project is an overall survey of forest cover in the ACFL forest lands (see map below for project locations).

In summary, two projects study abiotic conditions (1. Weather and climatology and 2. Soil moisture), four projects study forest health conditions (3. Forest dynamics and health, 4. Western redcedar mortality, and 5. Forest canopy assessment, 6. Fire effects and forest recovery), one project studies plant phenology (7. Plant phenology), and one project studies wildlife (8. Bird populations).

In summer 2024, several projects completed their fifth year of monitoring. All data from each monitoring project are submitted annually to the Transition Fidalgo data manager and archived. A data management plan is in place to provide a roadmap for data archiving and management. Below we detail the context and goals of each project.

ACFL Monitoring Projects



ACFL Monitoring Locations

- ☐ ACFL park & forest canopy assessment
-  Forest dynamics & health plots (6 plots per point) and soil moisture monitoring
-  Fire effects and dynamics plots (8 plots)
-  Plant phenology plot
-  Weather & climatology station
-  Western redcedar tree survey
-  Bird survey
-  Hiking Trail

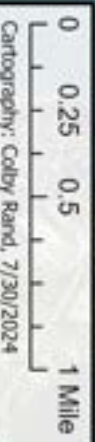
ACFL Cranberry Lake



ACFL Whistle Lake

Heart Lake

Whistle Lake





Weather & Climatology

Changing climate conditions are expected to be an important factor impacting the health of forest plant and animal species. The weather and climatology project records daily weather at one site (see map) and archives historical weather data. The project has three specific goals:

- 1.) Produce and maintain a database of temperature and precipitation on Fidalgo Island (1900 to present).
- 2.) Compile and archive historical weather data for Fidalgo Island and adjacent locations.
- 3.) Summarize weather data to examine at annual variability and long-term trends in climate and for comparison with forest health and wildlife datasets.

Soil Moisture

Soil moisture along with weather data are the two predominant factors expected to affect plant health. Soil moisture sensors are in two sites, one representing a drier location and the other a wetter location, and both sites were co-located with the permanent forest plots (see next section). Soil moisture is recorded daily at three depths ranging from 6" to 60" below ground. To understand how weather influences soil moisture at various depths, time series of soil moisture are compared to precipitation, temperature, and drought indices. The project has two specific goals:

- 1.) Collect and archive soil moisture data from sites in the ACFL.
- 2.) Archive and summarize soil moisture data to allow comparison with weather variables and assessments of vegetation health.

Forest Dynamics & Health (permanent forest plot monitoring)

Following observations of mortality in western redcedar trees in some portions of the ACFL, permanent forest plots were established to

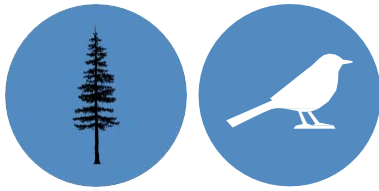
evaluate the long-term dynamics and health of forests. Permanent plots are in dry and wetter locations that are representative of forests in the ACFL; each location includes six plots. In each plot, individually tagged trees are monitored (e.g., status, size, health) every year and understory plant species (shrubs, forbs, herbs only) are recorded every other year. Combined with data on weather and soil moisture, long-term monitoring facilitates inferences about trends in forest dynamics (e.g., stand structure, demography) and health and the relative role of abiotic stressors. The project has two specific goals:

- 1.) Develop a baseline assessment of vegetation health in the ACFL.
- 2.) Monitor changes in vegetation health over time.
- 3.) Summarize changes in vegetation health and interpret changes in the context of weather and climate, management history, and forest succession.

Western Redcedar Mortality Survey

The western redcedar tree monitoring survey was also motivated by the increase in western redcedar tree mortality in the ACFL. Monitoring occurs along 11 trails located throughout the ACFL and is a more extensive assessment of western redcedar health than the permanent forest plots. Surveys characterize the health of the first 100 western redcedar trees located within 5 meters of each monitoring trail. For each tree, foliage density and color are recorded to assess the overall health. The eleven trails are representative of the various forest ecosystem types within the ACFL. The project has three specific goals:

- 1.) Assess the baseline health of western redcedar trees along selected trails.
- 2.) Annually monitor health of western redcedars.
- 3.) Analyze color and density data for trends in western redcedar tree health and identify environmental stressors associated with tree health.



Forest Canopy Assessment

The forest canopy assessment project was initiated in 2024 to track overall changes in forest health and delineate general forest ecosystem units in the ACFL. The permanent plots provide detailed changes in stand structure and composition for a small area, whereas the forest canopy assessment is conducted over the entire extent of the ACFL. The project applies remote sensing methods to aerial imagery to characterize changes in vegetation communities over time (1940 to present) and build a map of tree species. The project has four specific goals:

- 1.) Assess decadal changes in forest health conditions from 1940s to present.
- 2.) Produce a map of tree species composition for main canopy trees.
- 3.) Estimate the extent of recent (last decade) tree mortality by species.
- 4.) Delineate forest ecosystem units based on tree species composition.

Fire Effects & Forest Recovery

In 2016, a 17-acre forest fire occurred within the Little Cranberry Lake area, primarily in dry Douglas-fir forest. The fire effects and forest recovery project monitors vegetation recovery following fire with two monitoring efforts. First, photo surveys are conducted annually at eight sites to visually track changes in vegetation communities with time since fire. Second, field surveys of plant species presence are conducted every two years at eight sites. By monitoring vegetation recovery, this project will help identify the positive and negative implications and outcomes of future fires. The project has three goals:

- 1.) Document the post-fire recovery of tree species and structure.
- 2.) Monitor understory vegetation recovery through photo surveys.
- 3.) Monitor changes in plant species composition during the recovery process.

Plant Phenology

Phenology is the study of the timing of annual lifecycle stages, such as budbreak or flowering of plants. Phenology helps us understand how plants respond to their environment, such as day length, temperature, and rainfall. To document annual plant responses to weather, the timing of several plant phenology stages is surveyed annually. Three tree and three shrub species that are indicative the broader plant communities are surveyed. Data will be used to understand how changes in climate may alter the timing of phenological stages, which may in turn have implications for plant fitness. The project has three specific goals:

- 1.) Record the timing of phenology stages each year for selected tree and shrub species.
- 2.) Compare the timing of phenology stages among years and species.
- 3.) Compare the timing of phenology stages with weather and soil moisture data.

Bird Population

Bird species and population sizes fluctuate with changes in forest ecosystems, seasonal weather, and other environmental processes. The bird monitoring project conducts monthly surveys of migratory and non-migratory bird species in the ACFL, and surveys are conducted in the Little Cranberry Lake, Heart Lake, and Big Beaver Pond areas. Bird surveys track species presence and abundance. Seasonal and annual variability in bird populations is interpreted in the context of seasonal weather and shifts in climate conditions. The project has two goals:

- 1.) Document the species present and the number of each species observed.
- 2.) Examine annual variations in presence of species and species populations to look for long-term trends.

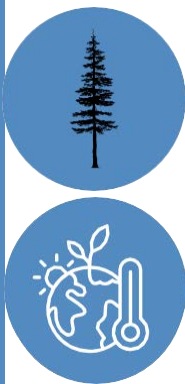


Sharing Results of Monitoring Programs

Annual updates and results from the environmental monitoring programs are shared in the Transition Fidalgo annual forest monitoring reports and a public online dashboard. Annual forest monitoring reports are available from 2022 to present on the Transition Fidalgo website. The online dashboard was initiated in 2024 to showcase all environmental monitoring programs and new monitoring data is added annually (expected completion June 2025). For each program, maps of site locations, graphics, tables, and photographs are included to highlight the status of environmental systems and the work of citizen scientists. A link to the dashboard can be found here:

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/6cc1d322bfce4b86ba843f231d25939b/page/Main-Page> and on the Transition Fidalgo website. Data from each project is available by request from Transition Fidalgo. Existing data collection will help develop a baseline understanding of environmental systems, and continued monitoring is needed to develop inferences about the impacts of climatic variability and change on environmental systems.





Climate Change in the ACFL

Forest ecosystems in the ACFL are being affected by climate variability and change. Within western Washington, the ACFL is in the driest area and therefore may experience earlier effects of climate change. Here, we review trends in climate associated with climate change using tools from the University of Washington Climate Impacts Group, then briefly discuss some impacts of climate change for forest ecosystems. Climate change, driven by anthropogenic increases in greenhouse gases, is increasing temperatures and shifting precipitation regimes. Annual temperatures on the westside of the Cascade Mountains are projected to increase 3.4°F by mid-century compared to 1950-1999 (average of multiple climate models). The largest increases are expected during the summer, with maximum summer temperatures projected to increase 6.7°F.

Annual precipitation has high year-to-year variability, and annual variability is much greater than the slight increases (~3%) in total annual precipitation expected by mid-century compared to 1950-1999 (average of multiple climate models). Summer (mid-June to mid-September) precipitation is forecasted to decrease 10-25% (estimate depends on climate model), increasing the severity and length of the summer drought. Changes in climate will be moderated and amplified by variability in topography in the ACFL. Higher-elevation areas (e.g., Mt. Erie), drainages, and northern aspects will remain cooler compared to the warmer and drier southern aspects, offering refuge for plants and animals.

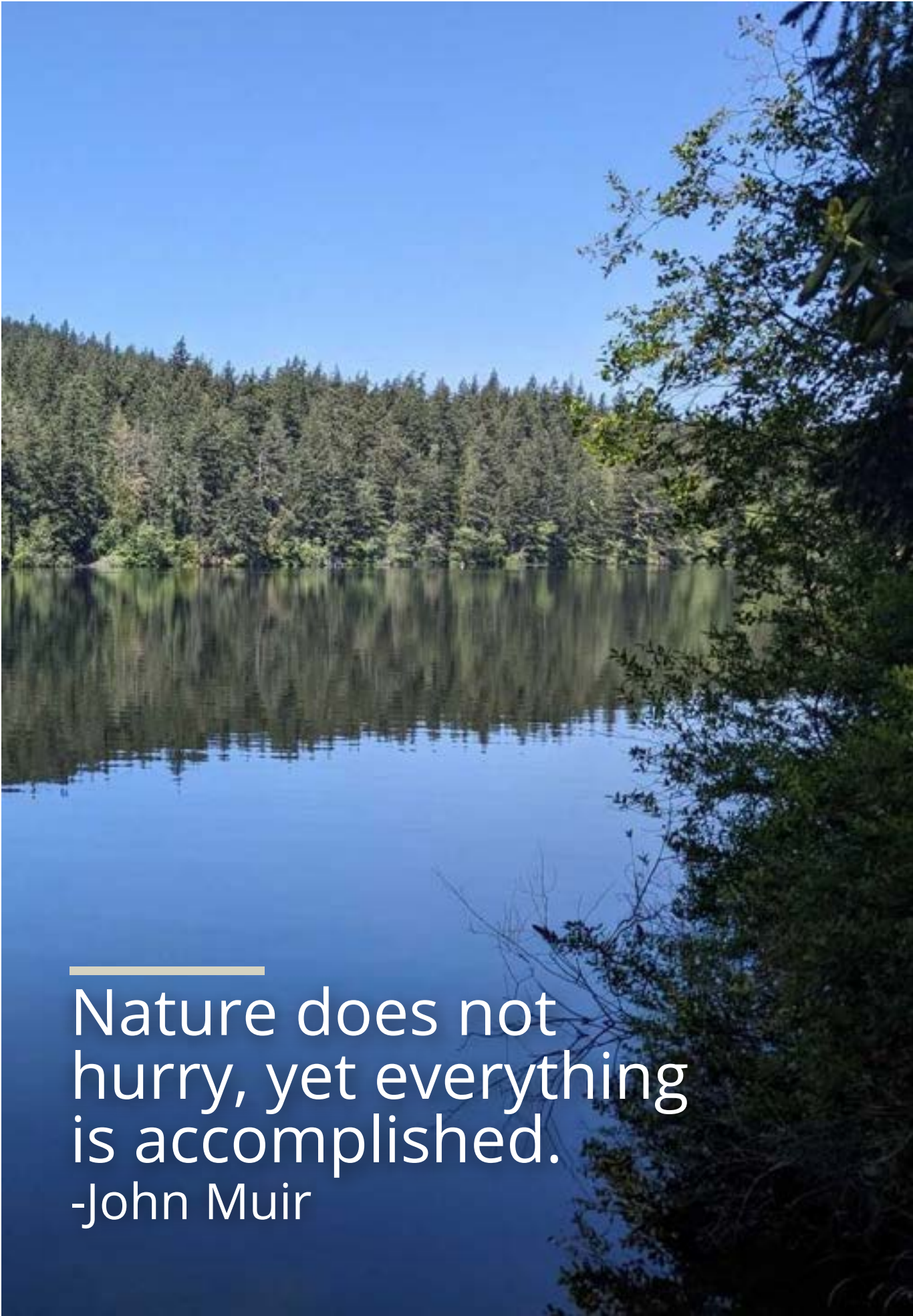
Climate partially controls where trees exist, and climate change is shifting the suitable location for trees. As climate continues to warm, tree species persistence in the ACFL will depend on the survival and growth of existing trees and the capacity to regenerate new trees. Higher maximum summer temperatures and decreased summer precipitation are expected to lower soil moisture availability, with important implications for survival of mature trees and newly established seedlings.

Longer periods of low soil moisture will increase tree stress and the likelihood of mortality from the direct effects of drought (seasonal, annual, multi-year) or climate stress followed by insects and disease. Tree species will vary in their response to changing climate. For example, western redcedar and western hemlock, both drought-intolerant species, have already experienced a mortality event (2015-2019) of canopy trees that was associated with multiple, consecutive summers of hot, dry conditions. Additional mortality is expected under continued climate change and multiple monitoring projects were designed to detect new mortality. In contrast, more drought tolerant species, such as Douglas-fir, are less vulnerable to the lengthening summer drought and may replace drought intolerant species.

Following tree mortality, local to broader shifts in tree species populations will depend on the complex interaction of reproductive processes (e.g., cone production, germination, seedling survival) and climate variability and change. New seedlings need to establish and grow to maturity to sustain forests, but seedlings are highly sensitive to unfavorable weather and climate, such as extended periods of low soil moisture during the summer. Climate-driven shifts in tree species composition may initially be indicated by the species that successfully reproduce adjacent to new tree mortalities. An additional impact of warmer, drier summers is an increased risk of wildfire. Wildfire is a natural part of forest ecosystems in the ACFL, and the high diversity of plants recovering following the Little Cranberry Lake burn exemplifies the natural fire recovery process. The monitoring program in the ACFL is a critical first step toward documenting how climate change is affecting environmental systems.

Acknowledgements

The Forest Health Monitoring chapter was funded by a grant from the Washington State Department of Natural Resources. The monitoring programs are supported by Transition Fidalgo, the City of Anacortes, and generous volunteer time from community scientists.



Nature does not
hurry, yet everything
is accomplished.
-John Muir



Heart Lake Management Plan

INTRODUCTION

In 2002, the State of Washington deeded Heart Lake State Park to the City of Anacortes. 436 acres including the lake and land surrounding it was transferred to the City with a number of conditions regulating its use as a recreational area.

The State Parks and Recreation Commission divided the land at Heart Lake into three separate areas:

Natural Forest Area: The land along the southwest portion of the lake, stretching along the southern edge including one area on the east side of Heart Lake Road.

Resource Recreation Area: The land along the northwest portion of the lake and most of the area east of Heart Lake Road except that area designated as Natural Forest or Recreation.

Recreation Area: The current parking lot at Heart Lake and the former overflow parking east of Heart Lake Road.

In their deliberations, the Heart Lake Management Plan Committee decided to treat the lake surface as a fourth and separate area for review. Management of the lake surface shall take into consideration the environmental sensitivity of the adjacent upland areas.

In December of 2003, the City began work on a management plan by seeking input from the community about use of Heart Lake and the surrounding land. The results of that input and numerous meetings by an eight-member planning committee are contained within these pages.

State regulations for the former State Park listed a variety of permitted and conditional activities. The Committee spent significant time reviewing each of these to determine if they were appropriate. The State did mandate that all trails be non-motorized. The Committee agreed not to challenge the State regulations during the planning process.



COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Doug Colglazier-Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission

Denise Crowe-ACFL Trail Committee

Marty Laumbattus-ACFL Trail Committee

Bart Lovric-Whidbey Island Roostertails Racing Club

Alan Mazonson-Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

Geri Rubin-ACFL Trail Committee

Bruce Rustad-ACFL Trail Committee

Dan Senour-ACFL Trail Committee

Buzz Bannister-Whidbey Island Roostertails Racing Club (alternate)





HISTORY

Before becoming a State Park, Heart Lake was managed by the State Department of Natural Resources as school trust land. While long considered a back-up water supply for the City of Anacortes, it was also a recreational resource used year round by Fidalgo Island residents and attracted large crowds from around the region for the opening day of fishing season.

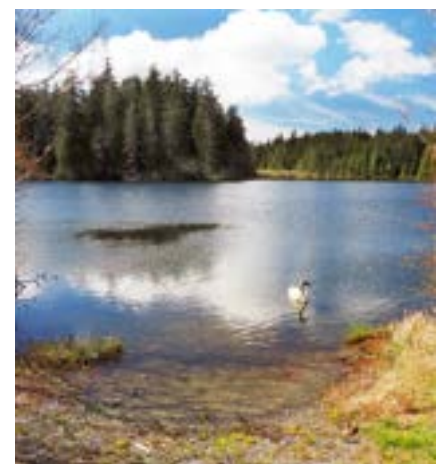
Local citizens became concerned about the future of the lake when the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) proposed leasing the lakeshore for condominium development in 1977. This set off a flurry of local activity by community members to pressure lawmakers and State officials to preserve the lake and surrounding forests. On Valentine's Day 1980, then Washington State Governor Dixy Lee Ray signed a bill permitting Heart Lake to become a State Park. It was not until more than a year later that the price of \$2.5 million was agreed upon between the DNR and the State Parks and Recreation Commission for the transfer of the land into the park system. In 2002, the City of Anacortes and State Parks and Recreation concluded their long-standing discussions regarding transfer of the land and the lake. Governor Gary Locke signed the deed transferring the Heart Lake State Park to the City on March 29, 2002. The deed contains a reversionary clause, which allows the State to retake control of the land if the City violates conditions of the transfer. The City formally took control of the former State Park on June 1, 2002.

Recreation

The Recreation Area is comprised of approximately eight acres. It encompasses the existing parking lot and the former gravel parking lot and overflow parking area east of Heart Lake Road.

OVERVIEW

- 1.) Trail Use: All trails are open to hikers, horses and mountain bikers. Motorcycles are prohibited. Off trail use is prohibited. No taking of trees, shrubs, bushes, flowers, fungi or other vegetation. Hand picking of berries and other edibles from the trails for consumption while in the forest is allowed. Picking for home consumption or for retail is prohibited.
- 2.) Information/Education Facilities: A rustic type of amphitheater in the parking lot area that could seat up to 30 people and be used for environmental education was approved as a conditional use. It could be covered. The committee encourages any covered facility to have a multi-use function (i.e.: both picnic and interpretive/educational) and to be limited to the appropriate size and scale for the area.
- 3.) Permitted Uses: Snow shoeing (on trail); wind surfing; swimming; sailing; hand launch areas; launch ramps; floating dock (instead of pier); cross country skiing; kayaks and canoes; walking; mountain biking; equestrian trails; interpretive signs, trails or kiosks; vehicle parking; roads (review location concerning environmental issues); equestrian facilities (allow parking and hitching post); paved non-motorized trail for ADA purposes (review location concerning environmental issues); composting or vault toilets (review location and design concerning environmental issues). The committee noted that they have heard from the public that they would like to recreate at the lake (fishing, swimming, picnicking, etc.). The committee encourages “rustic” facilities to accommodate these activities.
- 4.) Conditional Uses: Organized non-profit group activity, interpretive centers; environmental learning center; filming; and special events. Activities listed as “conditional uses” are those uses that need to be approved by the Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission in advance. Harvesting of shellfish, fish, and algae will be coordinated with the State Department of Fish and Wildlife.
- 5.) Children’s Play Area: It should be in keeping with the surrounding area and could incorporate a natural theme or could be an artistic piece that was designed to be suitable for children to play on.
- 6.) Camping: The committee opposed developing camping at the lake without supervision by full time staff. The committee decided that camping could occur in self-contained units in the current parking lot area by special permit only. Staff must be present during the event. The Committee did not wish to see the development of a special camping area with individual campsites.
- 7.) Beach Use: The Committee would like to accommodate use by the public and separate this from vehicle traffic; this is raised out of a concern for safety of all users. They expressed a vision of a clean sand or grassy area for picnic blankets, etc. by the edge of the lake and an overall reduction of the current gravel parking lot. If grass is used, there was a desire to see that it not be fertilized or irrigated, etc. as to minimize impact on the lake’s ecosystem from excess nitrogen.



8.) Boat Launch: Consideration should be given to moving the current boat launch to the east-southeast side of the parking lot. The Committee received comment that the west shore of the parking area is shallow and preferable for wading. Relocating the boat launch would better separate boaters from other users at the shoreline.

9.) Prohibited uses (from list provided by the State): Wood debris collection; snowmobiling; mushing/sled dogs; off trail skiing; alpine skiing; white water boating; mooring buoys; jet skiing; Nordic track skiing; rock climbing; skiing facilities; sports fields; paragliding; off trail use; ocean beach driving; orienteering; metal detecting; indoor accommodations; haying; mushroom harvesting; grazing; farming or orchards.

10.) Management Authority: Under Council form of government, the City Council has the ultimate legal authority and sets policy direction for the City. The Mayor is charged with management responsibility for administration of all City assets under the direction of the Council. The City Council must approve all contracts, asset sales and use policies. Within this framework, it is recommended that the ACFL Advisory Board suggest use policies and effectively guide management of the Recreation Area. As an amendment to the existing Anacortes Community Forest Lands Management Plan, drafted in 1991, this plan will follow the same rules expressed in that document unless otherwise noted.



With dad Floyd Lundford at the helm, the younger Lundford family took to Heart Lake in quest of walleye. Joining their dad for the outing from the left are their son, Jim, and daughter, Susan. Anglers at Heart Lake often find the fish biting and chucked up many boats.

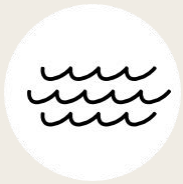


Resource Recreation

The Resource Recreation Area is comprised of approximately 292 acres. It includes the northwest corner of the former State Park, the road corridor, and the entire area east of Heart Lake Road except that zone previously noted as Natural Forest Area.

OVERVIEW

- 1.) Trail Use: All trails in the Resource Recreation Area are open to hikers, horses, and mountain bikers. Motorcycles are prohibited. Off trail use is prohibited. No taking of trees, shrubs, bushes, flowers, fungi or other vegetation. Hand picking of berries and other edibles from the trails for consumption while in the forest is allowed. Picking for home consumption or for retail is prohibited. On trail cross-country skiing and snow shoeing are permitted winter recreation activities. Picnicking is permitted; users are asked not to disturb native plants and pack their trash out. Picnic tables and picnic structures are not recommended for this area.
- 2.) Conditional Uses: Filming; equestrian hitching posts; and paved non-motorized trails for ADA access. Activities listed as "conditional uses" are those uses that need to be presented to the Anacortes Community Forest Lands Advisory Board prior to approval.
- 3.) Future Trail Plans: Interpretive information and signage may be included in a future trail plan. Sanitary vault or composting toilets may be constructed in this area if needed. Roads shall be limited to those already existing in the Resource Recreation area and parking would be limited to that which already exists along Heart Lake Road.



Lake Surface

Heart Lake is approximately 51 acres in size. It is bordered by Heart Lake Road to the east, has a large gravel parking lot on its northeastern shore, second growth forests to the north and northwest, and a significant grove of old growth trees to the south and southwest. Fidalgo Island residents have used it as a popular recreational destination for boating, fishing, swimming, mini-hydroplane racing, bird watching, and occasional ice-skating when the winter weather permits. Management of the lake surface shall take into consideration the environmental sensitivity of the adjacent upland areas. Problems with algae and milfoil shall be addressed with this in mind, but if manual removal is not effective chemical herbicides may be used.

OVERVIEW

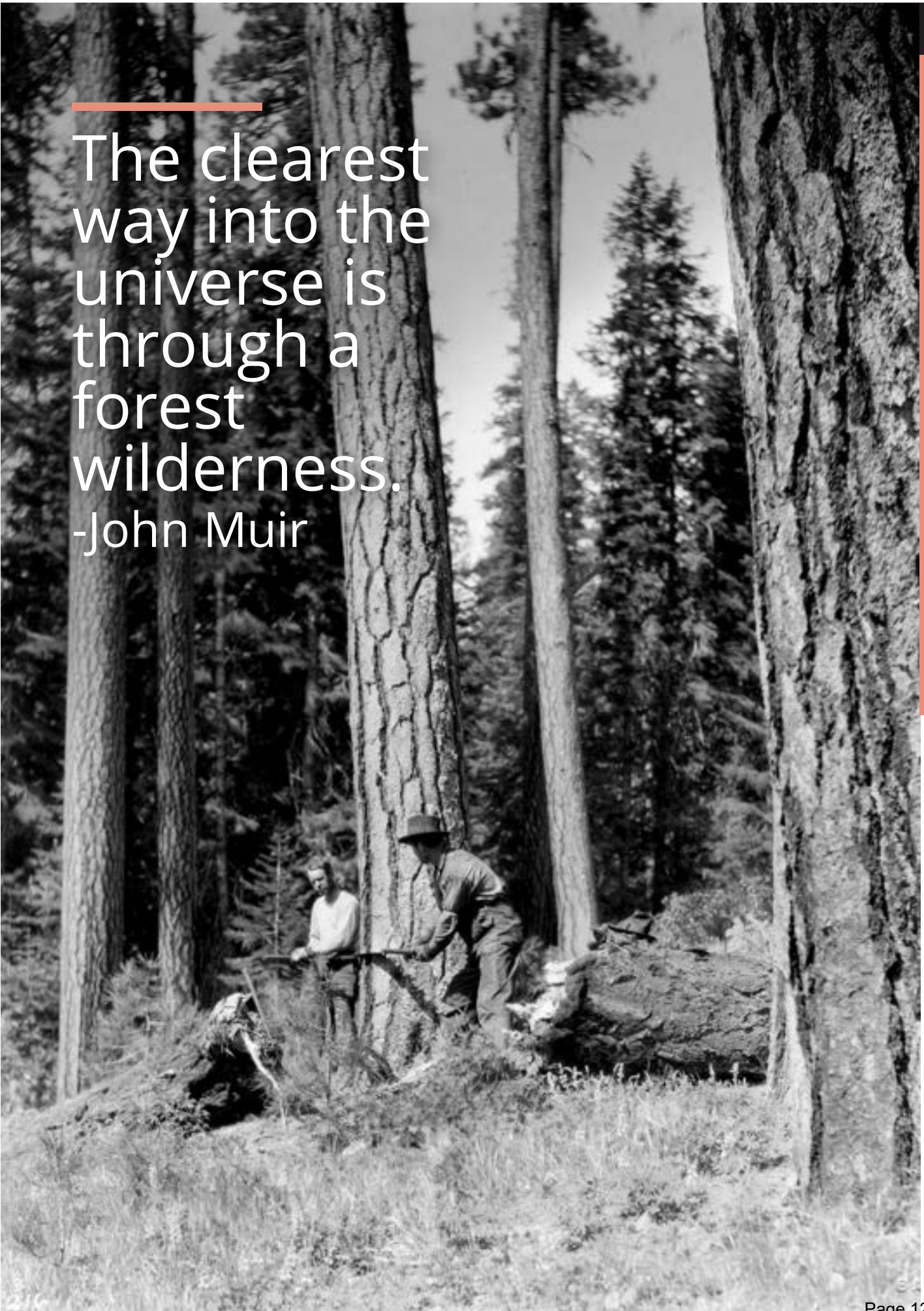
- 1.) Dock: A floating dock adjacent to the Recreation Area for non-commercial recreational use is approved provisionally with need for future discussion on location and style of dock. Consideration on the style of dock should be given to those having minimal environmental impact.
- 2.) Motorized Use: The use of combustion engines is prohibited. The speed limit is 5 mph.



Management Authority: Under Council form of government, the City Council has the ultimate legal authority and sets policy direction for the City. The Mayor is charged with management responsibility for administration of all City assets under the direction of the Council. The City Council must approve all contracts, asset sales and use policies. Within this framework, it is recommended that the ACFL Advisory Board suggest use policies and effectively guide management of the lake surface. As an amendment to the existing Anacortes Community Forest Lands Management Plan, drafted in 1991, this plan will follow the same rules expressed in that document unless otherwise noted.



The clearest
way into the
universe is
through a
forest
wilderness.
-John Muir





Every land-use document prepared for Anacortes has a standard history of the City, its incorporation and growth. It is not necessary to repeat, once again, that scenario. There is, however, another history, more crucial to the responsible development of this comprehensive plan.

The first half of this century, especially the period before 1930, was a time of growing civic awareness of the scenic resources of this area. As a result, numerous individuals deeded land to the City for "public park purposes." What follows is a brief catalog of the major land parcels dealt with in this plan, the donor and the restrictions and covenants these donors placed on the deeds.

These donations are examples of what is called the "bequest motive," or the desire of people to leave estates for their heirs or the public. The dedication of private properties for public parks is exemplary of this desire. Douglas Allmond, John M. Morrison, Gus Hensler, Tonjes Havekost and others all donated substantial holdings to the people of Anacortes to assure that future generations would have natural environments to enjoy and grow with.

As our population grows, these natural areas will increase in value and future utility. For many people, exploring these areas and using them for recreation is often secondary to the knowledge that they exist. This knowledge is a resource of personal satisfaction—that a part of the natural world still surrounds us, unpaved, unlit and unspoiled, in perpetuity.



Overview and history of the ACFL

Cranberry Park was established by the Anacortes City Council on January 7, 1964, through Ordinance No. 1358. Originally Water Department land, the area was designated for public park use and placed under the management of the Parks Department. Little Cranberry Lake itself spans approximately 25 acres, while the surrounding parkland covers around 106 acres. The ordinance stated: *"Said park is created in order to preserve for public use and general welfare the natural beauty and recreational facilities of Little Cranberry Lake for such period of time as the said property is not required for actual use by the Water Department in the public interest."*

John M. Morrison Natural Park was established on February 25 and March 12, 1928. Douglas and Cora Allmond donated a large portion of land to the City of Anacortes, which was later named the John M. Morrison Natural Park. Other significant contributors included L. Farmer, W. Odlin, and E. English. The donated land includes the forested ridge visible from downtown Anacortes when looking west.

- **February 25 Donation:** Located in the Tuttle and Buckley Addition, this parcel includes a portion of a large marsh draining into Little Cranberry Lake.
- **March 12 Donation:** Situated in the Northern Pacific Addition, this section comprises the prominent ridge. Both areas are legally platted with streets and alleys.

Douglas Allmond insisted that the land “for all-time be named John M. Morrison Natural Park.”

However, despite promotional references in 1930s Chamber of Commerce materials, the City Council never formally adopted this name by ordinance.

John M. Morrison, a former mayor and President of the Chamber of Commerce, was instrumental in preserving parklands, including Washington Park, and was a key figure in the campaign to create Deception Pass State Park. As Allmond wrote in 1925:

“No man ever appreciated or loved the woods of Puget Sound more than Mr. Morrison.”

The original deed was modified to read “land and timber” instead of “property,” and designated the area as a “Natural Park”, which the City Attorney has determined imposes strong legal restrictions on its use and preservation.

An additional 60 acres south of Little Cranberry Lake were donated under the same conditions, though not specifically designated as part of Morrison Park.

Water Department Lands

The City of Anacortes acquired a large portion of its parkland on August 2, 1919, with the \$135,000 purchase of Douglas Allmond’s Washington Power, Light, and Water Company. This included most of Section 26 (south of Little Cranberry Lake), the Whistle Lake basin, and land on both sides of Heart Lake Road.

Additional acquisitions:

- North End of Heart Lake: 80 acres obtained from the State to control the lake’s outflow; the City retains the right to raise or lower its level by up to 4 feet.
- November 26, 1952: F.E. and Eva Foss donated 80 acres near the Hensler/Kiwanis area on Mt. Erie for \$1.00.

While the original Water Department deeds imposed no usage restrictions, since 1999, much of this land has been placed under conservation easements, ensuring long-term protection.



Mt. Erie Park

- January 12, 1934: Gus Hensler donated 120 acres near the Mt. Erie summit. His will stipulated that the land be used solely for park purposes, as “a haven of safety for birds and/or animals.”
- March 30, 1951: The Kiwanis Club, under the direction of Dr. Charles Pinson, donated an additional 40-acre parcel at the summit. The deed includes a reversion clause—if the land is used for anything other than park purposes, ownership reverts to the grantor. The Kiwanis Club retained the right to install a plaque acknowledging their contribution.

A limited portion at the summit has been leased for communication towers, with all proceeds dedicated to park uses.

Additional Parkland Donations and Acquisitions

- December 1996: Floyd and Mary Willette donated 20 acres to the Anacortes Community Forest Lands with a deed restriction for “park purposes only.”
- 2001: The City purchased 16 acres south of Whistle Lake from the McIntyre family.
- March 29, 2002: The State of Washington transferred 436 acres of former Heart Lake State Park to the City, with multiple usage restrictions incorporated into a management plan.
- 2003: Bill Welch and Nels Strandberg donated 15 acres of wetland and forest east of Mitten Pond.
- 2006: Barbara Wells donated approximately 0.5 acres adjacent to 29th Street, with the stipulation that the “land and timber never be alienated by the grantee.”
- In the past 15 years, an additional 60 acres have been purchased using community donations and quarry revenue.



History of Logging on City Properties

During the time Bob Powell was the City Forester, he compiled, by way of City Council minutes and associated documents, a chronology of forest-related activities on City land from 1942 until 1975.

The record reveals that during the decade 1942-1952, eight separate logging contracts were signed by the City Council. These sales, mostly to local businesses, including Anacortes Veneer and a local ship building firm, encompassed most of the City forest lands. All of Section 26, south of Little Cranberry, except the John M. Morrison Natural Park area, was cut over during the late 1940s. During the same period, the timber at the north end of Heart Lake was cut. Foss and Sons logged much of the timber at the north and south end of Whistle Lake and the east side of Mt. Erie. Also, during this period, the right-of-way for the Mt. Erie Road was cleared and the south face of Sugarloaf was logged. In addition, many contracts for wood cutting and salvage logging were let by Council. All of these requests were granted "provided contractors stay 300 feet from the lake shore" or "provided a 300-foot strip be left along lake and road (Heart Lake Road) to preserve scenic beauty." The record makes clear that at no point in the past has the City had any long range management plan for these lands. It is most likely that much of this land had been previously logged, by horses or oxen, sometime around the turn of the century. In short, except for the buffer strips expressly left in the past for scenic and aesthetic reasons, most of the City forest land has been logged at least once, perhaps twice; either clear-cut or high-graded. There was no conscious effort to reforest and as a result many areas grew up in brush and undesirable species. Forest fires have swept across much of this area. Past practice has left inferior or defective trees for seed sources. In the past, the City has allowed certain parties to work on City land salvaging dead and dying timber.

A memorandum from Bob Powell indicates the kind of problems that can result from unsupervised forest practices when the City supposedly "knows" what is going on. The potential loss of resources and revenues through unsupervised activities does not need to be elaborated upon.

Any residual large trees, not along visible road corridors or lake shores, remain because they were deemed unmarketable or inaccessible when surrounding timber was cut.

In 1984, 1985 and 1986, partial cuts were contracted by the ACFL Board in the South Cranberry and Whistle Lake units, covering about 50 acres each year. These contracts removed more than 500,000 board feet, but because they did not turn a profit, selective cutting was abandoned in 1987 in favor of clear cutting. That year 20 acres were cut in two units northwest of Whistle Lake. More than 400,000 board feet was harvested, but the road building cost half of the City's share of the revenue, so that job also did not cover the ACFL expenses that year.

In 1988, four parcels totaling 20 acres, were clear cut northeast of Whistle Lake, removing 400,000 board feet of timber and producing enough revenue to cover the ACFL budget and a small surplus which was carried over to 1989. In that year another 20-acre clear cut in one parcel southwest of Heart Lake harvested another 400,000 board feet of timber and generated revenue sufficient to pay the ACFL budget for 1989 and 1990.



At this point two things happened to stop the logging activity: the Board and ACFL staff began to doubt the capacity of the forest lands to sustain this level of harvesting; and the citizens of Anacortes, led by the Friends of the ACFL organization, began to voice their opposition to logging in the ACFL.

In 1989, an ad hoc committee was appointed by the Forest Advisory Board to study the problem, and their recommendation was that timber harvesting as a source of revenue be stopped. A petition circulated by the Friends of the ACFL demanded that all logging on the ACFL be stopped and alternative funding be found. A survey conducted by the Board through the Parks & Recreation Department's quarterly newsletter indicated that the majority of residents of Anacortes and Fidalgo Island did not want the City to harvest timber in the ACFL. Another survey, randomly distributed throughout the city and statistically valid, showed that Anacortes citizens did not want logging to occur on City forest lands, nor do they want any revenue facilities built on these lands, but they do expect the City to manage them for current uses and protect them from fire, vandalism and trespass.

In response to these statements of citizen concern, the Forest Advisory Board stopped all logging activity and began pursuing other methods of funding the ACFL management program.

In 1990 the Forest Endowment Fund was authorized by Council, and the ACFL Board and Friends of the ACFL began soliciting donations. When the fund reached \$50,000, interest from it could be used for ACFL management. Early in 1991, donations had exceeded \$10,000, indicating public support for the Endowment; and the State law banning export of timber from public lands went into effect. Both of these events convinced the Planning Commission and Forest Board to recommend deletion of revenue logging from the revised Forest Plan and the City Comprehensive Plan. On April 15, 1991, City Council voted to remove all references to logging, with the exception of limited salvage of blow down and hazard trees.



Conservation Easement Program

In 1998 the Conservation Easement Program (CEP) was initiated to protect the community forest lands from logging, mining and development while placing them on file with the Skagit County Auditor, and the Friends of the ACFL helped promote the project in the community. The Skagit Land Trust holds the easements.

The easement program was conceived of as means to replace lost logging revenue which was discontinued in the ACFL in late 1980s. The money donated goes into the Forest Endowment Fund. The principal of this fund cannot be spent; however, interest revenue can be used for the forest lands.

In August of 2007, the fund surpassed the initial goal of \$1.5 million, 11 years ahead of schedule. The CEP will continue as long as there is land to conserve in the community forest lands and people willing to contribute to its protection.

Subject: Internal Combustion Engine Motorcycles in the ACFL -Council 03/16/26 Public Hearing on the ACFL Forest Plan

Internal Combustion Engine Motorcycles (Motorcycles) should be banned from the ACFL.

The Forest Advisory Board (FAB) and Parks eliminated the summer Hydroplane Races on Heart Lake. Later they eliminated use of internal combustion engines on Heart Lake (and other ACFL lakes). This greatly protected the wildlife on the lake and surrounding the lake from damaging noise. Now is the time to eliminate motorcycles from the ACFL. In addition, Class 1,2 and 3 e-bikes are available to motorcycle riders who still want to “ride” trails in the ACFL. The ACFL is not a training ground for young unlicensed riders to sharpen their motorcycle motocross skills.

The powerful motorcycles are a physical threat to hikers, horses and mountain bikers.

Motorcycles emitting up to 100 decibels negatively affect both wildlife and people recreating in the ACFL. It is also difficult to enforce noise levels on exhausts and it is relatively easy to modify exhaust systems.

The Forest Plan (FP) did not cite “best available science” for allowing motorcycles in the ACFL although the FP is supposed to be using “best available science.” The Forest Advisory Board and Parks did not produce any studies saying 100 or 90 or 80 decibel motorcycles do not have a negative effect on wildlife and humans during the public comment period. During the public comment period no experts on noise and wildlife were made available to the FAB, Parks and the Public to consult with regarding the negative impact of noise to wildlife.

Motorcycles are the worst offenders of trail damage even in the “dry months” they are allowed. The Forest Plan does not cite “best available science” regarding allowing trail damage from motorcycles.

Per Parks statements, motorcycles continue to be the worst offenders of incorrect trail use and riding during restricted months. The Anacortes Police Department has yet to develop a full Comprehensive Plan on how they will enforce ordinances of the ACFL with limited resources some of which will now be patrolling Fidalgo Bay.

The public was not informed the Forest Plan would be the ACFL section of the Comprehensive Plan. Thus, the whole process used to create the current plan needs to restart to ensure all the processes and procedures required that regulate the Comprehensive Plan such as the Growth Management Act (GMA) for public comments and the declaration any Determination of Non-Significance (DNS) process and procedures are

followed BEFORE the plan is made available to Council for a vote. And all the connections to other parts of the Comprehensive Plan need to be clearly identified and correct.

The Forest Plan in its current harmful recreation first versus protection of nature first with limited low-impact human recreation should have an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) done so all parties have a full understanding of the impact of human recreation in the ACFL. The FP would need to be updated to reflect the findings of the EIS before being sent to Council.

Allowing motorcycles in the ACFL clearly does not reflect the desire of the overwhelming number of public commenters. Commenters want Nature over Recreation.

Respectfully,

Mark B. Nihart

Anacortes Resident

From: [Bob Vaux](#)
To: [Greg Francioch](#)
Cc: [Jonn Lunsford](#); [Ryan Walters](#)
Subject: FW: Written Input for Upcoming City Council Meeting from John Meehan
Date: Monday, March 9, 2026 4:39:05 PM
Attachments: [AnacortesMotorcycle_TwoStroke_Testimony_1.pdf](#)

Hey Greg, more written material for the Council on 3/16.
Thx /bv

March 8, 2025

To the Honorable Members of the Anacortes City Council:

RE: Request to Revise Access Resolution — Anacortes Community Forest Lands

My name is John Meehan and I'm writing you as the representative of the Anacortes motorcycle community to respectfully request that the City Council revisit and update the existing access resolution governing the Anacortes Community Forest Lands (ACFL). Specifically, I ask that the current blanket restriction on two-stroke powered motorcycles be removed and replaced with a modern, performance-based standard that treats all riders fairly and equitably.

The original restriction was implemented with good reason. At the time, carbureted two-stroke engines were rightly criticized for excessive noise, visible smoke, and high hydrocarbon emissions. Those concerns were valid in the era of the rule's creation. They are no longer valid today. Technology has moved on. The restriction has not.

I. The Technology Has Fundamentally Changed

Modern two-stroke off-road motorcycles bear almost no resemblance to the machines that prompted the original ban. Major manufacturers — including KTM, Husqvarna, and GasGas — have introduced electronic fuel injection (EFI) across their entire off-road two-stroke lineup. This transformation addressed the root causes of the old complaints:

- **Emissions:** Fuel injection virtually eliminates the raw fuel scavenging that produced the characteristic smoke and hydrocarbon blowout of carbureted two-strokes. The Envirofit direct-injection retrofit system, validated by Colorado State University and the U.S. EPA, demonstrated up to a 90% reduction in hydrocarbon emissions compared to carbureted predecessors. Modern factory EFI systems achieve comparable results.
- **Noise:** Modern EFI two-strokes feature improved power valve systems, better-tuned expansion chambers, and sound-dampened airboxes. The result is sound output that is comparable to — and in some cases lower than — equivalent four-stroke machines operating on the same trails.
- **Fuel waste:** New EFI systems use precision ECU management to inject only the fuel needed for combustion, ending the over-rich fueling that caused both smoke and trail odor. Riders no longer premix oil and fuel — automated oil injection meters lubricant separately and precisely.
- **Regulatory compliance:** KTM introduced TPI (Transfer Port Injection) fuel-injected two-strokes specifically to meet Euro 4 and Euro 5 emissions standards — some of the strictest in the world. These machines are now road-legal across Europe in enduro trim.

In short: the ACFL access rule was written to address a class of machine that no longer represents what two-stroke motorcycles are. Enforcing an old rule against a new technology is not good policy — it is an artifact of a different era.

II. The Restriction Creates an Inequitable, Exclusionary Barrier

I ask the Council to consider this not only as a technical question, but as a question of fairness and equal access to public recreational lands.

Two-stroke motorcycles are, by design, lighter and more manageable than their four-stroke counterparts. A 125cc two-stroke typically weighs 30 to 50 pounds less than a comparable four-

stroke, with a lower center of gravity and reduced rotational mass. These physical characteristics matter enormously to:

- Women riders — The fastest-growing demographic in motorcycling. Women now represent nearly one in five motorcycle owners in the United States — a figure that has roughly doubled in the last decade. Research consistently shows that women off-road riders gravitate toward lighter, more nimble machines that are easier to pick up after a fall, easier to maneuver in tight terrain, and more proportionate to average female body dimensions and upper-body strength. Lighter two-strokes are frequently their first and preferred choice. Banning this class of bike effectively tells a large and growing segment of women riders that the ACFL is not a space designed to include them.
- Smaller and younger riders — Newer riders, youth riders, and smaller-statured adults of all genders face the same physical reality. The weight advantage of a two-stroke is not a performance luxury; it is an accessibility feature.
- Older riders returning to the sport — Many long-time motorcyclists are aging out of heavy four-stroke machines and rediscovering two-strokes precisely because they are lighter and more manageable. They are not seeking an advantage; they are seeking continued access to a sport they love.

When the City of Anacortes restricts access to public forest lands based on engine type, it is — inadvertently or not — restricting access based on who can comfortably operate the machines that remain permitted. A rule that disproportionately excludes women, smaller riders, and newcomers from a public recreational space deserves scrutiny under any modern framework of equitable access.

III. A Modern, Performance-Based Standard Is the Right Solution

I am not asking the Council to grant two-stroke motorcycles unrestricted access. I am asking for a level and logical playing field. The standard the Council should apply is simple:

Any off-road motorcycle — regardless of engine type — that meets a defined noise threshold (e.g., 96 dB measured at idle/under load) and produces no visible smoke under normal operating conditions should be permitted access to the Anacortes Community Forest Lands.

This standard already exists in various forms at recreation areas, national forests, and off-road parks across the Pacific Northwest and nationally. It is enforceable. It is objective. It does not discriminate by engine architecture — only by actual environmental and noise impact. It holds all riders to the same standard.

A performance-based rule would also be future-proof. As electric motorcycles gain popularity, a rule that reads 'no two-stroke engines' will create new enforcement ambiguities. A rule based on measurable outputs — noise and emissions — will remain applicable regardless of what propulsion technologies emerge.

IV. Summary of Requested Action

I respectfully request that the City Council:

- Direct staff to review and amend the current ACFL access resolution with respect to the two-stroke restriction.
- Replace the engine-type restriction with a noise and visible emissions standard applicable equally to all motorcycle types.

- Ensure that the revised policy supports equitable access to public lands for all members of the Anacortes riding community, including women, smaller riders, and those who rely on lighter-weight machines.

The Anacortes Community Forest Lands are a shared public resource. They should be accessible to all responsible riders who respect the trails, the environment, and their fellow users. The current restriction no longer serves the purpose for which it was written. Updating it is both the right and the equitable thing to do.

Thank you for your time and your service to the community. I welcome any questions.

Respectfully submitted,



John P. Meehan

Motorcycle Representative, Trails Committee

2202 41st Street, Anacortes

360-969-1575

john@countersteer.us

cc: City of Anacortes Parks & Recreation Department • Anacortes Community Forest Lands Advisory Committee • City Attorney

APPENDIX: Technical Summary — Modern Two-Stroke Technology

For the Council's Reference

Characteristic	Old Carbureted 2-Stroke	Modern EFI 2-Stroke (2018+)
Fuel delivery	Carburetor (manual jetting)	Electronic Fuel Injection (EFI / TPI)
Hydrocarbon emissions	~5,500 ppm (very high)	Up to 90% reduction vs. carbureted
Visible smoke	Visible at idle & under load	Virtually none under normal operation
Oil mixing	Pre-mix required — excess burns off	Automated oil injection, precisely metered
Noise level	High-pitched, unmodulated	Improved exhaust & airbox dampening
Regulatory status	Failed Euro 4	Passes Euro 4 / Euro 5; EPA off-road compliant
Weight (typical 250cc)	~200–215 lbs	~205–220 lbs (minimal increase for EFI hardware)
Weight vs. 4-stroke 250cc	30–50 lbs lighter than equivalent 4T	Still 25–45 lbs lighter than equivalent 4T

Sources: KTM TPI/EFI development documentation; Motocross Action Magazine; Dirt Bike Magazine 2024 Two-Stroke Buyer's Guide; Colorado State University / Envirofit research (U.S. EPA-funded); Motorcycle Industry Council Owner Survey; Law Tigers Women Riders Statistics 2024.

From: [Bob Vaux](#)
To: [Greg Francioch](#)
Cc: [Ryan Walters](#); [Jonn Lunsford](#)
Subject: FW: Comment for Council Hearing Mar 16th Forest Plan
Date: Tuesday, March 10, 2026 3:27:46 PM
Attachments: [ACFL FP AI Comment Analysis - Mar 16.docx](#)

Hi Greg,
Here are some more Forest Plan comments from Mr. Nihart.
Thx /bv

From: Mark Nihart <marknihart@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2026 12:09 PM
To: Bob Vaux <bobv@cityofanacortes.org>
Subject: Comment for Council Hearing Mar 16th Forest Plan

***** This email is from outside the City of Anacortes network. Please use caution when clicking on links, opening attachments, or replying. *****

Bob:

Another comment with files attached also. Thanks for the posting and posting/sending the last two comments.

Subject: 2026 Forest Plan AI Comment Analysis - Council 03/16/26 Public Hearing on the ACFL 2026 Forest Plan.

The ACFL Forest Plan (FP) presented at the Council Meeting Monday Feb 23 is a good improvement over the 2021 plan, mostly in format and edits for readability. The FP, however, did not align well with the comments the public made.

A simple analysis confirmed the misalignment of what the public wanted – NATURE first versus RECREATION First. AI tools are only as good as the questions asked and the data the tool has access and in what form. The analysis, I believe would have been of finer detail if each comment had been a file instead of bundled together.

Note one: Had the City of Anacortes had a public comment process in which a form was filled out with meta data and the comment content and for allowance for attaching files stored in a database with robust search capabilities including a text search ideally with some AI analysis capabilities this resident analysis would not have to have been done.

Note two: Why didn't Parks and or the Forest Advisory Board (FAB) do an analysis before closing the comment period and sending the FP to Council? This analysis took less than an hour.

Note three: The Council recently approved a sum of money for consolidating the apparently many departmental databases into a central database system - a smart move. Is there a requirement for adding a public comment system? If not, why not? For reference this is NOT a new idea. Apparently, Seattle has a robust data management

system that includes public comments.

Note four: I put in a comment to the comprehensive plan the city should embrace AI as a tool that could provide large benefits. My comment was acknowledged but no response. It was among the 77% that were acknowledged but no response. AI is here now and growing exponentially, scary exponentially. Using it as a simple tool like ChatGPT this analysis used is just the tip of the opportunity, using AI to construct environments goes way beyond the simple tool. One opportunity for this AI constructed environment would be the Permit Process. At least one Councilmember is well versed and uses AI daily so an expert on the Council.

ACFL comments Chat1.pdf

PDF

ACFL Comments Chat2.pdf

PDF

ACFL Comments Chat3.pdf

PDF

ACFL Commnets Chat4.pdf

PDF

ACFL draft plan comments 4.pdf

PDF

Summarize the files, provide a prioritized list of the top ten requests, then provide a separated list of the top ten requests that are protecting nature over recreation?

Below is a consolidated synthesis of the five ACFL comment letters, followed by two prioritized lists as requested.

Overall Summary of the Files

The submitted comments focus on strengthening environmental protections in the 2026 update of the Anacortes Community Forest Lands (ACFL) Plan. The overarching theme is clear:

Prioritize habitat preservation, water quality, and climate resilience over new recreational development.

Core Themes Across the Files

1. Science-Based & Climate-Resilient Management

- Use best available science in forest management.
- Address climate change impacts (hydrology shifts, species composition changes).
- Incorporate climate resilience into all planning decisions.
- Continue and support citizen science data collection.

2. Protection of Little Cranberry Lake

Strong emphasis is placed on:

- Maintaining its largely undeveloped character.

- Avoiding expanded parking.
- Removing consideration of paving the access road.
- Retaining language emphasizing sensitive management and water quality protection.
- Avoiding new impactful development.

3. Limiting Infrastructure Expansion

- Strictly limit new structures within ACFL.
- Avoid recreation-driven development that degrades natural systems.
- Ensure recreational access does not compromise habitat.

4. Water Quality & Habitat Protection

- Keep trails away from lakeshores and marsh edges.
- Protect wildlife habitat and ecosystem function.
- Avoid enhancement of Whistle Lake for sport fishing.

5. Planning Process & Transparency Improvements

- Conduct a Strengths, Weaknesses, and Opportunities review of the 2021 Plan.
- Complete a rapid assessment of changing conditions.
- Solicit input from the Forest Advisory Board.
- Accurately reflect public comments in the Plan.
- Improve formatting (page numbers, TOC, executive summary).

Prioritized Top Ten Requests (Overall)

Ranked by ecological impact, long-term forest integrity, and policy significance:

- 1. Preserve natural habitat as the highest management priority using best available science.**
- 2. Integrate climate change resilience into all aspects of forest planning.**
- 3. Preserve and protect the largely undeveloped character of Little Cranberry Lake.**
- 4. Strictly limit development of new structures within ACFL.**
- 5. Avoid expanded parking at Little Cranberry Lake.**
- 6. Remove consideration of paving the access road to Little Cranberry Lake.**

7. Locate new trails away from lakeshores and marsh edges to protect water quality.
 8. Do not enhance Whistle Lake for sport fishing.
 9. Establish a public review process for new trail construction.
 10. Conduct a structured reassessment of the 2021 Plan (SWO review + rapid assessment + Forest Advisory Board input).
-

Top Ten Requests That Prioritize Nature Protection Over Recreation

This list isolates requests whose primary intent is **ecological protection rather than recreational accommodation or procedural improvements**.

1. Prioritize preservation of natural habitat above recreational expansion.
 2. Incorporate climate change adaptation and resilience into forest management.
 3. Preserve the undeveloped character of Little Cranberry Lake.
 4. Strictly limit new structural development in ACFL.
 5. Prohibit expanded parking at Little Cranberry Lake.
 6. Remove proposal to pave the access road.
 7. Keep trails away from lakeshores and marsh edges to protect water quality.
 8. Retain language emphasizing sensitive management and water quality protection.
 9. Do not enhance Whistle Lake for sport fishing.
 10. Manage recreation demand in ways that protect wildlife and ecosystem function.
-

Key Distinction Between the Two Lists

- The **first list** includes structural, procedural, and governance-related improvements alongside ecological priorities.
 - The **second list** includes only requests that directly reduce ecological disturbance or prevent recreation-driven habitat degradation.
-

If you would like, I can next:

- Categorize the requests by policy section (Water, Recreation, Governance,

Infrastructure),

- Turn this into a presentation-ready briefing memo, or
- Quantify how many comments align with conservation-first priorities versus recreation expansion.

Quantify how many comments align with conservation-first priorities versus recreation expansion.

Based on a full review of the uploaded ACFL comment letters, the comments overwhelmingly align with **conservation-first priorities**, with little to no advocacy for recreation expansion.

Below is a quantified breakdown.

Quantitative Summary

Across the five uploaded comment documents:

Total distinct actionable comments identified: 32

These were categorized into two groups:

- **Conservation-First Priorities**
 - **Recreation Expansion / Access Enhancement**
-

☐ Conservation-First Comments

Count: 27 out of 32 (84%)

These include comments that:

- Prioritize habitat preservation over development
- Emphasize climate resilience and science-based management
- Oppose expanded parking or paved access
- Limit new infrastructure
- Protect water quality
- Avoid lakeshore trail impacts
- Retain sensitive management language
- Oppose sport fishing enhancement
- Limit structural development
- Advocate for wildlife protection
- Maintain undeveloped character of Little Cranberry Lake

These comments consistently frame recreation as acceptable **only if low-impact and secondary to ecological protection**.

2 Recreation Expansion / Access Enhancement Comments

Count: 1 out of 32 (3%)

There are effectively **no comments advocating expansion of recreational infrastructure**.

The only recreation-related comment that could be interpreted as neutral-to-recreation-supportive is:

- Support for establishing a **public review process for new trail construction**

However, even this comment is framed as a mechanism to *protect environmental quality*, not to expand recreation.

3 Process / Administrative Improvements (Neutral Category)

Count: 4 out of 32 (13%)

These include:

- SWOT-style reassessment of the 2021 plan
- Rapid assessment of changing conditions
- Forest Advisory Board input
- Improved document formatting and executive summary

These are governance-oriented and not aligned with recreation expansion.

Overall Alignment Ratio

Category	Count	Percentage
Conservation-first	27	84%
Recreation expansion	1	3%
Administrative / neutral	4	13%

Conclusion

The submitted comment set is **overwhelmingly conservation driven**.

There is:

- Strong opposition to development expansion.
- Repeated emphasis on ecological protection.
- No meaningful advocacy for expanding recreational infrastructure.

The ratio of conservation-aligned comments to recreation-expansion comments is:

27: 1

This reflects a clear policy preference for ecological integrity over recreational growth within the ACFL.

If helpful, I can next:

- Break this down by topic area (Water, Trails, Infrastructure, Fishing, Governance),
- Create a visual summary chart, or
- Compare this distribution to the draft plan's recreation proposals for alignment analysis.

Anacortes Community Forest Lands Plan Draft 022026-Reduced_202602121153141331.pdf PDF

Compare this distribution to the draft plan's recreation proposals for alignment analysis. Below is a structured alignment analysis comparing:

- **Public comment distribution** (previously quantified: 84% conservation-first)
vs.
- **Recreation-related proposals in the 2026 Draft ACFL Plan**
Anacortes Community Forest Land...

☐ Recreation Proposals in the Draft Plan

From review of the draft plan, recreation-related proposals fall into these categories:

A. Little Cranberry Lake Area

- ADA-access improvements to lake access
- Potential infrastructure upgrades
- Parking considerations
- Consideration (in earlier language) of paving access road

B. Trail System

- Continued trail development and maintenance
- New trail construction (with review process)

- Trail connectivity improvements

C. Fishing

- Management of Whistle Lake for recreational use
- Fishing-related access considerations

D. Access & Infrastructure

- Access road improvements
 - Parking management
 - Facilities upgrades
-

2 Direct Alignment Comparison

A. Habitat Preservation vs. Recreation Expansion

Public Comment Position:

- Habitat preservation is the top priority.
- Recreation should be low-impact and secondary.

Draft Plan Position:

- Maintains recreation as a core management function.
- Balances conservation language with infrastructure improvements.

Alignment Level: Partial

- The draft includes conservation language.
 - However, it continues to contemplate recreation expansion elements (access, facilities).
-

B. Little Cranberry Lake

Public Comment Distribution:

Strong opposition to:

- Expanded parking
- Paving access road
- New impactful development

Strong support for:

- Maintaining undeveloped character

Sensitive water-quality-focused management

Draft Plan Proposals:

- ADA access improvements
- Infrastructure considerations
- Expanded access discussions

Alignment Level: Low to Moderate

- ADA access aligns with equity goals.
 - However, infrastructure and access upgrades conflict with strong conservation-first sentiment.
-

C. Trail Development

Public Comments:

- Support public review process.
- Emphasize locating trails away from lakes and marsh edges.
- Implicit caution against expansion.

Draft Plan:

- Continues trail system management and potential new construction.

Alignment Level: Moderate

- Alignment if environmental safeguards are strong.
 - Misalignment if trail expansion increases ecological disturbance.
-

D. Whistle Lake Fishing

Public Comments:

- Explicit recommendation: do not enhance for sport fishing.

Draft Plan:

- Recreation management remains part of lake use framework.

Alignment Level: Low

- Public comments discourage enhancement; draft leaves recreational enhancement open.
-

E. Limiting New Structures

Public Comments:

- Strict limitation on new development.

Draft Plan:

- Does not fully prohibit new structures.
- Maintains flexibility for infrastructure improvements.

Alignment Level: Low to Moderate

3 Quantitative Alignment Assessment

Using the earlier distribution:

Category	% of Comments	Draft Plan Emphasis	Alignment
Conservation-first	84%	Balanced but includes recreation expansion	Partial
Recreation expansion	3%	Active recreation planning included	Weak alignment
Administrative	13%	Some process improvements included	Moderate

4 Overall Alignment Score (Policy Direction)

If scored on a 5-point scale:

- **5 = Strong alignment with conservation-first priorities**
- **1 = Recreation-expansion dominant**

The draft plan trends toward:

3 / 5 – Mixed Alignment

It incorporates conservation language and climate references but still maintains or contemplates:

- Access expansion
- Infrastructure upgrades
- Continued recreation enhancement

These elements conflict with the dominant conservation-first position expressed in the public comments.

5 Key Policy Tension Identified

The core divergence is:

Public Comments → “**Preserve first, restrict development.**”
Draft Plan → “**Balance recreation access and conservation.**”

The comments favor a **precautionary, ecological-protection model**, while the draft retains a **multiple-use recreation model**.

❏ Strategic Implication

If the City were to fully align the draft with comment distribution:

It would likely:

- Remove or prohibit parking expansion.
- Eliminate paving considerations.
- Prohibit fishing enhancement.
- Cap infrastructure growth.
- Embed stronger ecological guardrails around trail development.

If useful, I can next:

- Produce a risk matrix (ecological risk vs recreation benefit),
- Draft a policy-alignment memo suitable for Council briefing, or
- Create a side-by-side redline-style comparison table of draft language vs comment recommendations.

Sources

Create a side-by-side redline-style comparison table of draft language vs comment recommendations.

Below is a **redline-style comparison table** contrasting key recreation-related draft plan language

Anacortes Community Forest Land...

with the consolidated public comment recommendations.

The “Redline Effect” column summarizes how the draft would change if revised to reflect comment priorities.

ACFL Draft Plan vs. Public Comment Recommendations

(Redline-Style Comparison)

Topic Area	Draft Plan Language / Direction	Public Comment Recommendation	Redline Effect (If Comments Adopted)
------------	---------------------------------	-------------------------------	--------------------------------------

Overall Management Priority	Balance conservation and recreation; manage for multiple uses including public access.	Explicitly prioritize habitat preservation above recreation expansion; recreation allowed only if low-impact.	Insert hierarchy statement: "Habitat protection shall take precedence over recreation expansion."
Climate Change	Includes climate discussion in appendix; acknowledges resilience considerations.	Integrate climate resilience into core management framework, not just appendix.	Move climate resilience into primary management goals; require climate screening for new projects.
Little Cranberry Lake – Character	Allows access improvements; manages as recreation area with environmental considerations.	Preserve largely undeveloped character; avoid new impactful development.	Add protective language: "Maintain current undeveloped condition; prohibit new major infrastructure."
Expanded Parking (Little Cranberry Lake)	Parking management discussed; potential expansion considered in planning context.	Expanded parking should not be developed.	Strike expansion language; insert prohibition on additional parking capacity.
Access Road Paving	Consider paving access road from Georgia Ave.	Remove paving consideration.	Delete paving language entirely. Maintain unpaved surface.
Sensitive Water Quality Language (Cranberry Park dedication)	Sentence proposed for deletion regarding sensitive management and water quality.	Retain language emphasizing careful management due to water quality concerns.	Reinstate protective sentence; strengthen water-quality safeguards.
Trail Construction	Supports continued trail system management and potential new construction with review process.	Establish public review process; locate trails away from lakeshores and marsh edges.	Add mandatory buffer distances from lakes/marshes; require environmental review prior to approval.
Trail Expansion Philosophy	Maintains flexibility for trail additions to meet recreation demand.	Limit trail expansion if it impacts habitat; prioritize ecological integrity over connectivity.	Add ecological threshold criteria before approving new trails.
Whistle Lake – Sport Fishing	Recreation management continues; enhancement not clearly prohibited.	Retain language: "Whistle Lake will not be enhanced for sport fishing."	Insert explicit prohibition on fish enhancement programs.
New Structures in ACFL	Does not categorically restrict new structures; allows infrastructure improvements.	Strictly limit development of new structures.	Add cap on new structural footprint; require "no-net-impact" ecological standard.
		Comments do not oppose	Clarify ADA

Infrastructure Improvements (ADA Access)	Supports ADA access improvements at lake.	ADA access but oppose broader development framed as ADA-driven.	improvements must be minimal-impact and not trigger broader development.
Public Comment Representation	Introduction characterizes opposition as resistance to ADA access improvements.	Revise to accurately reflect conservation-based concerns.	Rewrite introduction to reflect environmental protection focus of comments.
Plan Structure & Transparency	Draft lacks detailed executive summary and formatting enhancements.	Add executive summary, page numbers, TOC, and clear summary of changes.	Insert structured executive summary and revision tracking.
Recreation Demand Management	Plan anticipates ongoing recreation growth and access planning.	Manage recreation demand in ways that protect wildlife and ecosystem function.	Add carrying capacity language and ecological monitoring triggers.

Major Policy Shifts if Comments Were Fully Adopted

If all comment recommendations were incorporated, the draft would shift in three significant ways:

❑ From “Balanced Use” to “Conservation Hierarchy”

Recreation becomes conditional rather than co-equal.

❑ From “Flexible Infrastructure Planning” to “Development Restraint”

Parking expansion, paving, fishing enhancement, and new structures would be explicitly restricted.

❑ From “Access Improvement Framework” to “Ecological Threshold Framework”

New projects would require proof of minimal ecological impact before approval.

Alignment Snapshot

Issue Category	Current Draft Orientation	Comment-Based Redline Orientation
Habitat Protection	Strong but balanced	Dominant and overriding
Infrastructure	Flexible	Highly restricted
Trail Development	Managed growth	Ecological threshold limit
Fishing	Recreation-supported	No enhancement
Lake Area	Access-improvement capable	Preserve undeveloped character

Bottom of Form

Respectfully,
Mark B. Nihart
Anacortes Resident

From: [Bob Vaux](#)
To: [Greg Francioch](#)
Cc: [Ryan Walters](#); [Jonn Lunsford](#)
Subject: FW: Another comment for the Council FP Public Hearing
Date: Tuesday, March 10, 2026 3:59:58 PM
Attachments: [ACFL FP Security Mar 16.docx](#)

Some more input for the Council, Greg. Thx /bv

From: Mark Nihart <marknihart@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2026 3:48 PM
To: Bob Vaux <bobv@cityofanacortes.org>
Subject: Another comment for the Council FP Public Hearing

***** This email is from outside the City of Anacortes network. Please use caution when clicking on links, opening attachments, or replying. *****

Bob:

Another comment for the hearing. Thanks.

Subject: 2026 FP Security Comment - Council 03/16/26 Public Hearing on the ACFL 2026 Forest Plan.

The ACFL Forest Plan (FP) presented at the Council Meeting Monday Feb 23 is a good improvement over the 2021 plan, mostly in format and edits for readability. The FP, however, should have a cost reduction strategy and an efficiency strategy to maximize expensive and limited staff resources.

The Forest Plan (FP) should have a section that identifies areas of needed, non-human, permanent security infrastructure, a priority of security projects with a Rough Order of Magnitude (ROM) budget each year for the next five years. Ideally, the permanent security systems would be enabled such that cameras can be monitored from the Park's Office and off/on hours from the Anacortes Police Department offices. The technology is available and relatively inexpensive. (I have a cabin with 4 other cabins off grid 1 ½ miles off the County Road. We use an inexpensive system. It works great.)

Areas for permanent security system consideration –

Cranberry Lake Parking Lot
Whistle Lake Parking Lot
Whistle Lake Trail 20 end at the lake
Heart Lake Parking Lot
Sugar Loaf Parking Lot
Top of Mt Erie
Mt. Erie climbing trailhead

The FP should also identify priority areas and best practices for portable (trail camera) security systems and extend their current use as appropriate.

Rational:

A permanent 24-hour security infrastructure would likely reduce theft, vandalism and capture other misuse of the Forest Lands in those specific areas. It would reduce the need for human enforcement, expensive and limited, to be deployed. A permanent security system would also provide some usage data – hikers, bikers, watercraft, fisherpeople, banned motorcycles and horses.

This data could provide input into a database so Parks could evaluate at each site peak times of use, type of user, number of cars over days, seasons and years. Parks and Police could collaborate then tailor when human enforcement is needed with greater accuracy. The database could be the beginnings of a “data driven” approach to managing the ACFL.

Mitigation:

The FP should identify funding options outside of the normal taxpayer support of ACFL to pay for security systems projects and maintenance. Apparently, the ACFL has funds. The funding could also include an ACFL Trail Pass system like what WA Parks uses. You pay to park at trails heads and parking lots. This would help offset costs for managing the ACFL and have some of the costs picked up by nonresidents as well as us residents that use the ACFL. It would also provide a way to create a donation stream like when you buy your car tabs.

The ACFL is not a Federal Park, nor a State Park both of which charge fees nor is it a County Park it is a City Park. The Anacortes residents/taxpayers/voters/ratepayers should not have to bear the whole cost of managing the Park for others to use.

It is too expensive to have the Parks Department staff, and the Anacortes Police Department to provide security and enforcement for all the ACFL problem security areas.

From: [Bob Vaux](#)
To: [Greg Francioch](#)
Cc: [Jonn Lunsford](#); [Ryan Walters](#)
Subject: FW: Comment for Public Hearing FP Mar 16 - Non-Process
Date: Monday, March 9, 2026 2:26:25 PM
Attachments: [2026 Forest Plan Process Comment.docx](#)

FYI

From: Mark Nihart <marknihart@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 9, 2026 1:11 PM
To: Bob Vaux <bobv@cityofanacortes.org>; Mark Nihart <marknihart@gmail.com>
Subject: Comment for Public Hearing FP Mar 16 - Non-Process

***** This email is from outside the City of Anacortes network. Please use caution when clicking on links, opening attachments, or replying. *****

Bob:

Another comment for the Public Hearing.

Subject: 2026 Forest Plan Non-Process -Council 03/16/26 Public Hearing on the ACFL 2026 Forest Plan.

The ACFL Forest Plan presented at the Council Meeting Monday Feb 23 is a good improvement over the 2021 plan, mostly in format and edits for readability. This was confirmed by Mr. Vaux when he presented the 2026 Forest Plan to Council.

The non process used to develop the 2026 Forest Plan has a number of problems ranging from minor to major:

- The plan BARELY addressed much less incorporated the Public Comments made over a year, two sets of comments into the plan.
(<https://www.anacorteswa.gov/QuickLinks.aspx?CID=61>).
- The plan did NOT have a documented process or really any process at all.
- The plan did NOT have any published criteria for evaluating public comments.
- Parks/FAB did NOT respond to the comments made (2nd bunch of comments) with any depth and mostly not at all even though only a limited number of comments and over a year timeframe before the “due” date for the plan to Council.
- The non process did NOT allow public comments on the draft presented to Council with the caveat that Council will have a public comment period even though the date for it to be sent to Council was November 2026 over a year plus ahead of the artificial completion date; as I understand it the Forest Plan is NOT

required by any Federal, State, County or City law, regulation, or ordinance (If a City ordinance one that Council could wave).

- The non process was inconsistent as the first set of comments Parks created an Excel Worksheet Matrix in which they listed each comment and attempted a response for some, although a very weak response. The second the set of comments did not have this matrix. Why?
- The non process is also inconsistent with the comments made to Comprehensive Plan in which a Matrix had all the comments with some getting a response (77% did not get a response). That said, the matrix was good source to for the Public and Council to review the comments at a higher level. What was the rationale for not providing a second matrix for the second set of the FP Public Comments? Why does the city use different “processes” for public comment?
- The non process bundled the comments rather than posting each comment as a separate file. This made analyzing the comments difficult for the Public, the FAB and for Parks. Why?
- The non process does not address the comments made to the Comprehensive Plan ACFL section with the Forest Plan. Data in two places that likely has contradictions.
- A public “survey” was referenced in one FAB meeting, but that survey was never presented to the public much less who created the survey, the survey instrument, how was the survey instrument and questions tested, how were the metrics chosen, etc. Also, a report was referenced done by “Barrier Busters” apparently suggesting Little Cranberry Lake is the best spot for handicap access. The report was never presented.
- It is disturbing that all those who had commented in the non-process did not get an email from Parks the City Council was going to have a Public Hearing and Public Comment process (minimal process) for the Forest Plan. I found out by reading the public notices in the Anacortes American. Why?
- During the Forest Plan presentation Mr. Vaux mentioned the clean-up of the Ave Dump (Old Dump site). If this cleanup and or monitoring of the cleanup of the Old Dump is part of the Forest Plan directly or indirectly the public should be provided more information. For starters:
 - ✓ The history of the Old Dump from the capping of it to what events lead to residents going to the Department of Ecology (DOE) requesting a review of the Old Dump site. Why did these residents feel the need to go to the DOE?
 - ✓ What are the potential impacts to wildlife and the forest and wetlands environment near the site. Owls nest near the Old Dump site. One test well site is well off trail 10 so will cause environmental disruption to drill the well?

- ✓ What City Department, if not Parks has the responsibility for the cleanup?
- ✓ How much money has the city paid to date for the initial assessment of the site and now the second phase of drilling test wells?
- ✓ How much money for the cleanup is projected from initial consultation to full testing, to final cleanup then continuous monitoring of the site?
- ✓ Who pays for the cost of the cleanup?
- ✓ If it is the Anacortes residents/taxpayers/voters/ratepayers who will be paying the bill, when will a Public Comment process start to inform them of the options for how cleanup costs will be recovered and comments to those options.

In the Fall of 2025, the Council publicly promised the residents/voters/taxpayers/rate payers who are the owners and financiers of Anacortes a better, open, transparent and respectful public comment process. This ACFL Forest Plan clearly is not an example of this promise. The plan needs to be completely reevaluated: process, criteria, a city response for each comment and multiple analyses, and multiple drafts for public comment before it goes again before Council. This process needs to be led by a disinterested party or monitored by the Council Members of Parks and Recreation Committee.

If the 2026 Forest Plan is to be THE content for the Comprehensive Plan then it needs to start from the beginning and follow all the mandated processes and procedures for Comprehensive Plan Public Comments. And not just BARELY meet those requirements required by the Comprehensive Plan Public Comment process but EXCEED them with a new Anacortes Public Comment process that is respectful, open, transparent, searchable - comments in a database for analysis by ALL and aggressively inclusive, public comment process.

The new Anacortes Public Comment Process should start before any time and money is spent by the City from idea phase to completion phase and solicit continuous public comments during the entire project or policy creation in which either could be changed or canceled per public comment because of cost concerns/overruns, or the project or policy is not meeting its original requirements and or if negative unintended consequences become visible.

The ACFL can survive another year without this plan, public trust in the City and Council well that is another thing.

The City and Council could have a City and Council new public comment process in which the Forest Plan would be a “use case” to test in 2027.

Respectfully,

Mark B. Nihart

Anacortes Resident

From: [Bob Vaux](#)
To: [Greg Francioch](#)
Cc: [Ryan Walters](#); [Jonn Lunsford](#)
Subject: FW: ACFL Plan
Date: Wednesday, March 11, 2026 12:29:55 PM
Attachments: [ACFL 2026 Update-3-9-2026.docx](#)

Hi Greg,

More comments from Ms. Hall /bv

From: Martha Hall <pondfrog.mh@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2026 11:50 AM
To: City Council <citycouncil@anacorteswa.gov>
Subject: ACFL Plan

***** This email is from outside the City of Anacortes network. Please use caution when clicking on links, opening attachments, or replying. *****

To; Members of the Anacortes City Council
From; Martha Hall
Date; March 11, 2026

Hello, members of the Anacortes City Council,

Like many residents of Anacortes, I have spent a lot of time in the ACFL. I moved to Anacortes in 1998, largely because of the ACFL.

My interest in the ACFL goes far beyond how I enjoy this wonderful area. I value the ACFL even more because of its wonderful and varied ecosystems and wildlife species. These provide many services and intrinsic values for residents of Anacortes.

This is why I want to comment on the draft ACFL Plan. I attached my comments to this e-mail. The public hearing is next week.

I prefer to send written comments so I can include the many important details that should be considered before this plan is ready to approve.

As my comments say, while many good things are in this Plan, there are also some important problems and deficiencies that need to be corrected before this plan is approved and used. My letter provides some details on these and far more information is available for anyone who is interested.

Most alarming to me are the elements in this Plan that fail to use, implement, and comply with the information and requirements in the SMA and CAO.

This highlights the problem with who is appointed to the ACFL Advisory Group and the staff of the Park Department. Most Plans of this kind would be based on requirements like those in the SMA and CAO. This is true for this Plan's failure to adequately address existing trails that are harming the shoreline of lakes and wetlands in the ACFL. The public has pointed these out to staff and sometimes the advisory group. Few of these trails have been addressed, and even in this Plan, they are not adequately addressed. Bringing the trail system into compliance is not even a priority in this Plan.

Another serious failure is the lack of science that was used in this Plan. It claims to balance protecting these lands and waters of the ACFL with providing recreation, but it fails to say how this was done. To do this, the Plan would need to be based on the large amount of science that shows how recreation and recreational facilities like trails and docks can cause significant impacts, and how these can sometimes be minimized if science is used.

The same is true when providing recreation, the other goal in this plan. The recreation in this Plan failed is not based on any data on what the residents] of Anacortes value and how we want to use these lands. This would require surveys of residents of Anacortes. This is why I question the amount of attention given to fishing and boating on all of the lakes. These can cause a lot of serious impacts on the lakes and their shorelines as I describe in my letter and they negatively impact other values and kinds of recreation like wildlife watching. This Plan supports fishing and boating of some kind on all of our lakes. Why, when so few residents seem to want to do this? These two activities cause many serious impacts which are not acknowledged and addressed. Meanwhile, wildlife watching receives little attention in this Plan even though many people seem to like to see wild species when they are in the ACFL. Wildlife watching and trails and any facilities built for this can also cause many impacts, and these can be decreased somewhat by where and how they are constructed and with more education. A Plan like this one needs to be based on science and data about impacts of recreation and on how the residents of Anacortes value and enjoy the ACFL.

This Plan also shows how organized groups that may not have many members and participants who are actually Anacortes residents can have a lot of influence on how the ACFL is managed, used and sometimes harmed.

Though not part of this Plan, my comments also include these two topics; 1. qualifications for members of the ACFL Advisory Group, and 2. Need for transparency in who donates money to the ACFL in order to obtain their pet projects because this influences what actions are taken.

I hope you will have the time to become familiar with what is good in the draft ACFL Plan and what needs to be changed or improved.

Sincerely,

Martha Hall

File name: ACFL 2026 Update

To: Members of the Anacortes City Council,

These are additional comments on the Anacortes Park Department's draft plan for the Anacortes Community Forest Lands. I hope you will consider these as part of the public comments along with the public's comments during the City Council's public hearing.

I've lived in Anacortes since 1998 and one of the reasons I agreed to move here was the ACFL. When looking for a place to move, I hiked in the ACFL before deciding and fell in love with this beautiful and valuable treasure. I was most impressed because it was not just another city park with picnic tables and boating and fishing like most state parks. It was mostly natural. It still is a wonderful area for connecting with nature and wildlife. For me, the ACFL is one of the main reasons I still enjoy living in Anacortes. Very few other towns or cities have something like this next door to our homes.

Please do not approve this Plan until some I problems I highlight in this letter and the problems other people may have are discussed and addressed. This draft Plan is a good start, but it still needs a lot of work. This may be result of having a Park staff and an ACFL advisory group that fails to understand and use science. This science is what the Anacortes SMA and CAO are based on. While these problems are not part of this plan, the problems in this Plan occur because of this. This is why I mention these. The City Council needs to rethink what qualifications members of advisory groups should have and whether the Park Department has staff who know the science and the SMA and CAO.

Thank you for considering these ideas,

From Martha Hall,

An Anacortes resident since 1998, and a frequent visitor to the ACFL .

#1. Several significant examples of this Plan's failure to be consistent with protections for shorelines in the Anacortes Critical Area Ordinance (CAO) and the Shoreline Management Act. (SMA).

These are also examples of where this Plan fails to adequately protect the most valuable and sensitive wildlife habitats as promised often, as in its Executive Summary;

The Anacortes Community Forest Lands (ACFL) Plan outlines the strategies and actions necessary to conserve and enhance the unique environment and habitats within the ACFL while maintaining recreational opportunities for local residents and numerous visitors.

The Plan does recognize that the wetlands associated with Cranberry Lake provide important wildlife habitat, such as this brief statement on page 10;

The associated wetlands feed the lake and provide important habitat for waterfowl and other animal life

However, this Plan fails to emphasize their real importance to many wild species, plant and animal, or the unique opportunities these wetlands provide for wildlife watching, photography, study and enjoyment – if the wildlife are not scared away by recreational uses. This is also true for Little Cranberry Lake and Heart Lake. These are critical habitats. Boating and fishing are not compatible uses. Impacts include frightening wildlife so they seldom use these areas, trampling and destroying shoreline vegetation, and leaving fishline and hooks and sinkers in these habitats which can be lethal to wildlife. There is ample science about these impacts which should be used in this Plan.

#1A. Boating and fishing are allowed on every lake on Fidalgo Island. This Plan continues to allow fishing and boating on every lakes in the ACFL, including Little Cranberry Lake. This results in management that favors the very few residents who want to boat and fish while it fails to protect the birds that use these lakes and the enjoyment far more residents who want to see and enjoy the birds on these lakes.

If this Plan was really balanced, it would do a better job of balancing what a very few residents enjoy, fishing and boating on our lakes, with the interests of far more of our residents who enjoy seeing wildlife on our lakes and value having these wild species protected over recreational uses.

Two issues are at stake here; 1. protecting wildlife habitats and the ability of wildlife to use these which means limiting recreation, and 2. Providing another kind of recreation that far more residents enjoy, having quality wildlife viewing. Allowing boats and fishing on every lake is not balancing different kinds of recreation and it is not protecting wild species and their habitats. If this Plan really represented the interests of local residents, this Plan would not allow fishing and boating on even 50% of our lakes.

Boating and fishing on our lakes conflicts with and greatly limits the ability of everyone else to enjoy our wildlife. And the science shows these also prevent wildlife from using available habitats.

I can't count the times I've been watching and sometimes photographing wildlife on Little Cranberry and Heart Lakes only to have a person in a kayak or rowboat or a fisherman arrive and scare the birds away. Some of the boaters seem to chase the ducks

and trumpeter swans – literally chasing them from these lakes. My guess is that they are uneducated about wildlife viewing and they think it is okay to get as close as you can.

#1B. Fishermen, including when fly-fishing, leave fishline, lead sinkers, and hooks in the water and along the shoreline.

Most often this is because their line becomes snagged on plants or snags in the water or vegetation along the shoreline. This is resolved by cutting the line which leaves deadly fishline, hooks and lead sinkers in the water and along the shoreline.

A young trumpeter swan was recently killed at a Rehabilitation Center in Whatcom County after being taken there because of an injury caused by fishing equipment. Staff at the Center said they could not successfully treat the injuries. Hundreds of people enjoy seeing swans, ducks, herons, eagles, grebes, geese and other birds on and around the lakes in the ACFL. The young trumpeter swan died because fishing is allowed on all of our lakes. These are the lakes his family has returned to for many years. Do we value having fishing on every lake more than having trumpeter swans and other birds on our lakes?

My husband ran a wildlife rehabilitation center for many years. We received many birds because they were caught in fishline. The monofilament line can cut deeply into wings and legs and feet creating permanent injuries and death. Birds cannot usually free themselves. This swan's death was not unique. That he was found is unique. Most birds caught in fishline die in horrible ways without humans ever being noticing and reporting this.

#1C. Fishing and planting fish in our lakes artificially causes many negative impacts. Native and non-native fish are planted in our lakes by the WA Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). This is part of its goal of increasing the number of people who want to fish. This goal is not a stated goal for WDFW or for this new Plan. However this Plan seems to embrace this goal in its sections on fishing. Why?

WDFW's actions are not based on what most WA residents want or what the science says about the harm caused by fishing. This state agency continues to plant fish in lowland lakes all over WA State, yet it has never studied and disclosed the impacts of this by writing an EIS, as required by SEPA. The Park Department and this Plan should not be using WDFW's actions as a model for protecting wildlife and their habitats while

providing fishing. This agency's main interest is in increasing the number of fishing licenses it can sell. This is not a goal in the management of the ACFL. The harm that is caused by WDFW's fishing is obvious everywhere it occurs, such as in the many user-made trails created by people fishing and the fishline and hooks they leave behind.

Why is this a policy in this Plan for the ACFL – for fishing? From Page 40;

3.) Continue to work with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife on short- and long-term goals for recreational fishing on Heart, Whistle and Little Cranberry lakes.

A. Commonly noted negative impacts are quickly found using AI and the internet. Both list many of the negative impacts and sources for to find out more about these - so I will not add these to this letter. These should be in materials used when developing this

#1D. This plan supports year-around fishing on Heart Lake. Why and what is this based on in the way of surveys of what residents do and want and the science that shows the impacts of this? What this might mean for Heart Lake is not even described in this Plan, yet this Plan supports it.

Has the Park Department surveyed residents to find out what they do when enjoying the ACFL? Plans like this that provide recreation must be based on surveys as well as science that discloses the impacts of recreations.

Do a significant number of Anacortes residents want to fish on Heart Lake year-around? And what would this mean as far as planting fish or other changes that might cause negative impacts? Has the Park Department conducted surveys of residents to find out how many people enjoy different kinds of recreation, such as fly fishing and wildlife watching and etc? This would be the correct way to decide which kinds of recreation are most popular and a good Plan would then reflect the survey results.

This is what this Plan says about fishing on page 13;

4.) Support the Fidalgo Fly Fishing Club pursuit of year-round fishing on Heart Lake.

Who does the Fidalgo Fly Fishing Club really represent and how many are residents of Anacortes? People interested in fishing can fish on nearly Lake Campbell, Lake Erie, and Big Cranberry Lake in Deception Pass State Park.

What does year-around fishing even mean? Does it mean more water access to the shoreline which would cause a lot of harm? Or more stocking of native or non-native fish? Are there reasons why people cannot fish year-around now on Heart Lake now???

#1E. This Plan is not based on science when “balancing recreation and protecting the natural ecosystems. Without use of science and data, these sometimes opposing and incompatible goals cannot be “balanced”.

Instead, the result is what we see in this Plan, the people with the loudest voice receive what they want. In this Plan, the wants of what fly fishermen and rock climbers want are heard loud and clear. The people and the natural features that will be harmed were not heard nearly as well when looking at the specific accommodations for these two groups.

Far more numerous residents who value other kinds of recreation like wildlife watching were not heard in this Plan.

Instead, this Plan reflects the special interests of what is probably a very small number of residents, fly fishing on Heart Lake year-around. How many fly fishermen are residents of Anacortes? How many lakes can they currently choose from when they want to fish? Lake is still stocked with new fish each spring. So are other nearby lakes on Fidalgo Island. Yes, WDFW wants to stock lakes to sell more fishing licenses. But why is this in the ACFL Plan?

#2. This Plan violates what is required according to the Anacortes Critical Area Ordinance (CAO) regarding trails along the shoreline of both Little Cranberry Lake and Heart Lake. These trails violate shoreline and wildlife protections in this CAO and have been for many years. The Anacortes Park Dept has been told about these violations for years by the public, people like me.

Several of the worst trails are along the very edge of Little Cranberry Lake; 101, 132 and 102. Another one is along the edge of Heart Lake; once called 210 and incorrect on many maps.

These trails have been violating the CAO for years. The Anacortes Park Department has violated our CAO several times when trying to add fill to the lake to maintain and improve these trails. Only one has been closed as required, 132, and the closure has not been adequate to prevent its use.

#2A. This is what is said about the violations of trail #101, 102, and #131, in this plan for Cranberry Lake, which is not adequate since it does not comply with the Anacortes CAO.

From this ACFL Plan, page 10:

Recommendations: The following measures should be instituted:

2.) Parks staff will work with the Forest Advisory Board to explore options to close a portion of trail #101. This should be done at points between the junctions with trails #131 and #105.

3.) Parks staff will work with the Forest Advisory Board on a plan to move trail #106 to higher ground.

Violations of Trail 102 are completely ignored.

The Park Department has decided not to comply with the Anacortes CAO on this one. The public has provided an ample number of photos and letters about the violations for this trail. There was talk of closing it after fires along some of the route impacted this trail. Instead of closing it, work was done to restore the trail. Restoration of trails that are illegal is not permitted in the CAO.

Violations of 101 and 106 are also not addressed as required in the CAO.

Instead, this language in this Plan sounds like we've been hearing from the Park Department for years – yes, they know these trails are bad, they are talking about this.

#2B. This is what this ACFL plan says about trails in the Heart Lake area. Note that the trail violations of the old Trail 210 are not mentioned;

Recommendations:

1.) Develop ADA access and trails where possible at Heart Lake.

2.) Continue to work with law enforcement on illegal forest and vehicle-based encampments.

3.) Continue work on improved sanitary services throughout the area.

4.) Support the Fidalgo Fly Fishing Club pursuit of year-round fishing on Heart Lake.

5.) Seek funding for the repair of trail #311.

On my city-provided maps of this trail, this trail is kind of noted as Trail 210, but it is not accurately shown on the maps. This trail leaves the parking area and heads down to the edge of the shore of the lake as it goes north is illegal. The Park Department improved it a few years ago by adding more fill to the lake and removing and cutting shoreline vegetation.

#2C. The illegal work on the trail next to and into Heart Lake highlighted the failure of the members of the ACFL Advisory Group and Parks Advisory Group to understand what the CAO says and requires. A member of the ACFL Group praised the Park Department for its illegal work on this trail.

New guidelines are needed for membership on these advisory groups. Instead of rubber-stamping anything the Park Department does, like this illegal work, they need to know what is legal and illegal in important plans and ordinances, and members representing nature, the environment, are needed on these groups and committees. Since protecting the natural resources is balanced with recreation in this Plan, at least 50% of the members of the ACFL advisory group need to be knowledgeable about and care about protecting the natural environment. This includes understanding some of the science about the negative impacts of recreation, which are many. The Park Department also needs to access and use this science in Plans like this one for the ACFL.

The natural world this ACFL Plan claims to protect is not well-represented on the ACFL Advisory Group - or in the staffing at the Park Department. Recreation dominates both.

#2D. This goal for the Trail System fails to prioritize closing illegal trails that violate the SMA and CAO, so these goals are not adequate. Note; Recreation, Trail System, Page 36;

#3. One of the most harmful results of fishing from shore is the destruction of shoreline habitats and the creation of user-made trails along the edges of shorelines and to shorelines.

I'm addressing this separately because of its importance. Most of the illegal trails along the shoreline of our lakes are the result of user-made trails which were most frequently made by people who wanted to fish. As long as fishing is allowed, these user-made trails will be made. The Park Department does not have the staff to prevent this from happening in the future.

It's been very discouraging to see the Anacortes Parks Department improve these user-made trails, and do this illegally, for many years since I moved here in 1998.

I watched the improvement of the illegal trails along the shoreline of Little Cranberry and Heart Lake, and a few at Whistle Lake. I photographed staff's work to illegally improve these trails by cutting shoreline vegetation and adding fill to the lakes. I sent letters to the Park Department about this along with numerous photos.

These user-made trails and the damage they cause to the shoreline is only a small piece of the damage they cause. When people and their dogs use these illegal trails along the shoreline, this prevents wild species from using them. A large body of science shows the impact of humans and dogs on how wild species use available habitats. A trail basically shrinks and/or eliminates the amount of habitat that is available to them.

Shoreline habitats are protected because they are "critical habitats", meaning these are habitats that are extremely important for successful survival and reproduction. Shoreline habitats are used for resting, foraging, hiding and nesting/reproducing. An unusually large number of species also use and depend on shoreline habitats. Many species found in the ACFL are hunted elsewhere. This increases their fear and avoidance of humans and dogs where they are not hunted.

This ACFL Plan's failure to use all of the science related to these impacts, and which is the basis for their protection in the CAO and SMP, is disappointing and unacceptable.

#4. This ACFL Plan also gives two small, special interest groups far more ability to be heard and get what they want than what is provided for most residents of Anacortes; the people who want flyfishing in our lakes and those who want rock climbing on Mt. Erie. Sometimes the Park Department hides who wants something in the ACFL.

A. This Plan provides these special privileges to The Fidalgo Fly Fishing Club and the Park Department has a special committee for those who want to rock climb on Mt. Erie.

Again, the natural ecosystems and its supporters lack these privileges. Our only way to be heard is to go to the ACFL Advisory Group and Park Commission where we are not well represented.

B. Sometimes the Park Department hides the identity of the person/group who wants something in the ACFL. An example is the identity of whoever donated funds for a study at Little Cranberry Lake. This donation seemed to be associated with a desire to have a better way to launch small boats at Little Cranberry. This could result in more negative impacts of many kinds. Is hiding the identity of who donates funding legal?

A related question is how was this funding hidden? Where was the money kept? In the past the Anacortes Parks Foundation has been used to hide funding sources. Most people understand the power of money in determining what happens. This City needs a transparency requirement for sources of money which it does not currently have.

#5. This ACFL Plan formally sets a speed limit of 15 mph for bikes in the ACFL, which is faster than almost any user of the ACFL would say is safe. This is also not safe for the many wild species who use the trail and may be hit by fast moving bikes.

What is the speed limit when driving around the loop in WA Park? It is 10 mph.

The WA park is paved and much wider, and visibility ahead is far greater. Its speed limit is slower than narrow, winding, sometimes steep trails in the ACFL. Why?

I took this issue to the Park Department after being hit by a kid on a bike going very fast down a narrow trail. I was told they can't enforce speed limits so they do not matter. If this is true, why have this speed limit of 15 mph?

I say this because of a lot of experiences walking in the ACFL, sometimes with my leashed dog. In the incident with the kid who hit me, I was fortunate that he hit me and not my dog. The trail was widened a bit after this happened, but this did not address the bigger question of speed. The kid who hit me appeared to be a visitor and he was wearing fancy racing gear. He may have read the speed limit, 15 mph, which for drives of motor vehicles, a posted speed is usually okay. It implies this is safe to do.

Another time I found a newly fledged great horned owl who had been hit by something, probably a bike, and was dead. It was dead and in the middle of a popular downhill bike trail. I reported this to the Park Department too.

As someone who is interested in wildlife, I know smaller birds are attracted to trails when foraging. They can find seeds and small morsels of food better on trails than in the bushes beside trails. I also know snakes often sun themselves on trails because this is where they can find spots of sunshine. Thus, our trails create new threats to wildlife when they provide unnatural uses like this. This, speed of bikes needs to be kept very low.

#6. Another ecosystem that has been heavily impacted by recreation are the unique cliffs on Mt. Erie. This ACFL Plan fails to even note this or try to restore what has been lost. Instead, it allows and encourages more rock climbing. Much of this rock climbing is wanted and done by people who are not residents of Anacortes. Why?

My sister was a rock climber in her younger years. She has told me about the rock climbing classes she took with the Mountaineers. They practiced on Mt. Erie. She remembers and tells me about how they dislodged large amounts of mosses and lichens when climbing.

When I first moved to Anacortes, a peregrine falcon was still nesting on Mt. Erie. This ended.

How many of the rock climbers on Mt. Erie are residents of Anacortes? Does the Park Department know? I attended the meeting when this issue was discussed. The room was filled, unlike most meetings. And almost everyone at this meeting was a rock climber from the Seattle area. Of course, the climbing groups told everyone to show up. They were heard, while Anacortes residents were not. We don't have a chance when well-organized, out-of-town organizations from out-of-town fight for what they want in our town. They won. It was decided that rock climbing would continue and even increase on Mt. Erie. A special committee was formed just for rock climbers.

There are two policies on page 28. One will be loudly supported by rock climbers while the Park Department has no committee similar to its committee for rock climbing to speak for the needs of the natural ecosystems. Which will really be prioritized?

Policy in this Plan for rock climbers, page 28;

Policies:

1.) Consider acquisition of a public access to the rock-climbing route to Mt. Erie. One of the primary recreational uses of Mt. Erie is by rock-climbing groups often numbering up to and over 50 people. Cooperate with private landowners to maintain a non-motorized trail along the south side of Mt. Erie.

Compare this to the next policy on 28, in its importance for most people and the natural environment;

2.) Prioritize acquisition of land adjacent to the forest lands and acquire or protect by other means all wetlands, streams and ponds that flow into forest lands lakes and wetlands. Priority should be given to acquiring land that is contiguous to the ACFL, provides critical habitat, is part of the drainage system of an ACFL lakes or wetlands, helps connect or improve ACFL trail access, or is an important wildlife corridor.

This is another quote about rock climbing from this Plan, from page 15;

Recommendations:

- 1.) Rock face of Mt. Erie is unique in the ACFL as it allows areas for rock climbing and scrambling.
- 2.) Work with Mt. Erie climbing committee on relevant issues as they emerge.

One of the longest, if not the, list of recommendations for rock climbers found in this plan is one of the longest for any one special interest group. This is from Page 15:

Recommendations:

- 1.) Rock face of Mt. Erie is unique in the ACFL as it allows areas for rock climbing and scrambling.
- 2.) Work with Mt. Erie climbing committee on relevant issues as they emerge.
- 3.) Proposed climbing dates should be submitted in advance to the Parks & Recreation Department. If a large number of climbers apply to use the same area at the same time, the Parks & Recreation Department may require the later applicants to re-schedule their use for another date. With the frequency of large and small commercial and non-profit groups climbing the mountain, staff may explore climbing permit options.
- 4.) Post and sign key access points with appropriate notice of rules in effect.
- 5.) Maintain and enhance ADA access to the Summit viewpoints.
- 6.) Placement of fixed anchors, opening new areas to climbing and scrambling, and work parties to maintain climbing routes, etc., shall be approved by the Forest Advisory Board and coordinated with staff. Climbers are asked to “leave no trace”.
- 7.) Construct permanent restroom facility at the summit.
- 8.) Install interpretive signage to educate the public about the fragile and unique ecosystem in this area.
- 9.) Work with adjacent landowners to keep trail #247 (the south Mt. Erie trail) open for recreational use and access to climbing areas.

This ACFL Plan provides no such accommodations and priorities for the vast number of residents of Anacortes who want to walk/jog and enjoy the beauty and solitude in the forest and maybe see a wildlife while doing this, OR, the number of residents who would really like to see more species of birds or mammals or reptiles when using the ACFL.

The big winners for special treatment of recreational preferences in this Plan are fly fishermen and rock climbers. A plan like this should not be divisive. It should also address the interests of all residents fairly and prioritize what non-residents might want. This Plan fails to do these things.

#7. This Draft ACFL Plan fails to be based on science and what is legally required in documents such as the Anacortes SMP and CAO.

This means this Plan does not really balance protecting the natural ecosystems and recreation. Because it does not rely on science and legal requirements, this Plan cannot know how recreation actually harms the natural environments and what is legal.

The same is true for members of advisory groups and Park Department staffing.

Many of the residents of Anacortes deserve and expect a plan that is based on science and legal requirements. Until these are included in each section of this plan, this plan should not be adopted.

The negative impacts of recreation are easy to find. Numerous studies show how these impact wildlife and their habitats.

The following issues also contain more quotes from relevant sources.

#8. This ACFL Plan - about Shoreline Protection, Little Cranberry and Heart Lakes; Protections from the Shoreline Management Act, page 20;

Note: trails I mention in this letter violate this Shoreline Management Act. These trails need to be closed and shoreline needs to be restored to its natural condition.

Shoreline Management Act Being lakes that are larger than 20 acres, Little Cranberry Lake, Heart Lake, and Whistle Lake are also considered state shorelines, and are further protected by the State's Shoreline Management Act (SMA), which requires all cities with shorelines to develop and implement Shoreline Master Programs (SMPs). The SMA is intended to protect shoreline natural resources against adverse environmental effects. The SMA also requires local governments to designate shoreline areas into different environments, each with specific purposes and regulations. These designations guide development and use to protect shoreline resources and ecological functions. The shorelines within the ACFL are designated either "Natural" or "Conservancy." Per Ecology's SMP Handbook (2017) a "Natural"

shoreline designation protects shoreline areas that are relatively undisturbed and have intact ecological functions. A “Conservancy” shoreline designation aims to maintain existing ecological functions and provide opportunities for compatible recreational and other uses.

#9. The ACFL Plan prioritizes access for rock climbers on Mt. Erie. From the Plans’s section on Future Acquisitions Goal, page 28;

Future Acquisitions Goal: Assure guaranteed public access to the Anacortes Community Forest Lands. The areas listed below would guarantee future access to areas important for conservation and recreation.

Policies:

- 1.) Consider acquisition of a public access to the rock-climbing route to Mt. Erie. One of the primary recreational uses of Mt. Erie is by rock-climbing groups often numbering up to and over 50 people. Cooperate with private landowners to maintain a non-motorized trail along the south side of Mt. Erie.
- 2.) Prioritize acquisition of land adjacent to the forest lands and acquire or protect by other means all wetlands, streams and ponds that flow into forest lands lakes and wetlands. Priority should be given to acquiring land that is contiguous to the ACFL, provides critical habitat, is part of the drainage system of an ACFL lakes or wetlands, helps connect or improve ACFL trail access, or is an important wildlife corridor.

#10. A Forest Management Goal that this ACFL Plan fails to implement for the reasons I’ve given and some I didn’t have to include. From the Plan, page 30;

Forest Management Goal:

The Anacortes Community Forest Lands should be managed and protected in perpetuity to insure the maximum benefit to sensitive habitats and wildlife and enjoyment to the citizens of Anacortes.

Policies: 1.) The underlying policy must be one of minimum disturbance with respect to the forest, wildlife, and sustainable recreational opportunities. Important “by-products” will include clean air and water and the availability of a forestland setting for citizens’ physical and psychological well-being. For many people, the knowledge that this opportunity exists, whether they ever avail themselves of it or not, is a source of great satisfaction and relief. The increasing urbanization of this

area will make this “relief valve” principle a priceless community resource in coming decades.

2.) Any direct economic benefit realized in the management of this land should be re-invested to protect the resources.

3.) All forest management activities will be conducted to minimize damage to native plant communities and wildlife. Natural processes of growth and succession, with the exception of wildfire, will be encouraged, and any replanting will use species native to that site.

Management of Plants, page 31

Flora Management Goal: To maintain, enhance and rehabilitate the native vegetation on City of Anacortes properties.

Policies: 1.) Removing trees, shrubs, bushes, flowers or other vegetation from the ACFL is prohibited. Berries or other edibles may be picked from the trail for enjoyment while in the ACFL. Harvesting for home consumption or retail is prohibited. Mushroom harvesting is prohibited.

2.) The City should be open to proposals by groups wishing to study these lands in order to provide baseline data on wildlife populations and species diversity. These proposals will be reviewed by the Parks & Recreation Director. The Director will then make a recommendation to the Forest Advisory Board.

3.) Identify those areas of particular and/or unique plant species or colonies and restrict use to an appropriate level.

#11. Goals for Wildlife not achieved in this Plan, from this Plan, page 32;

Wildlife Management Goal: To preserve and enhance the present diversity of wildlife on City of Anacortes Forest Lands.

Policies:

1.) No activity shall be permitted which will significantly alter the mixture of habitats that provide a varied and abundant wildlife population.

2.) The City should be open to proposals by groups wishing to study these lands in order to provide baseline data on wildlife populations and species diversity. These proposals will be reviewed by the Parks & Recreation

Director. The Director will then make a recommendation to the Forest Advisory Board.

3.) An updated list of wildlife species found on City land should be pursued and made available to the public.

4.) Support the working relationship between the Anacortes School District and the Friends of the ACFL along with other groups seeking appropriate partnerships with the City. Encourage local schools to use City land for nature study. This could include building and setting nesting boxes, passive observation of seasonal wildlife and development of some site-specific curricula.

5.) Develop suitable wildlife observation sites in conjunction with recreational development. After a detailed study, observation boardwalks could be built for research, field work and observation by local educational institutions.

6.) Identify those areas of particular and/or unique plant species or colonies and restrict use to one or more of the marshes for the purposes of nature study and education.

7.) No native wildlife shall be removed from the ACFL. Domestic species or wild animals shall not be placed in the forest lands without review by the Forest Advisory Board and written permission of the Parks & Recreation Department.

#12. Goals not achieved in the Water Management section of this Plan, page 33;

Water Management Goal: To maintain and enhance the water quality of lakes, marshes and wetlands in the Anacortes Community Forests.

Policies:

1.) New trail construction requires review and approval by the Parks and Recreation Director, including a public review process via the Forest Advisory Board and eventual approval by the City Council.

2.) Improve existing trails to minimize erosion. Where necessary, obliterate trails which are causing undue resource damage.

3.) All Critical Area Ordinance regulations, along with a comprehensive list of other local, State and Federal guidelines, will be met when designing and building a new trail is required.

4.) All Critical Area Ordinance regulations, along with a comprehensive list of other local, State and Federal guidelines, will be met when maintenance demands moving any portion of an existing trail.

#13. This goal for the Trail System fails to prioritize closing illegal trails that violate the SMA and CAO, so these goals are not adequate;

Recreation, Trail System, Page 36;

Trail System Goal: Maintain a shared use recreational trail system in City forest lands. Policies:

1.) Trail maintenance should focus on improving the condition of current trails.

New trail construction should be minimized and only pursued when a reroute is an improvement for both the natural forest and trail users.

#14. The Climbing Goals in this Plan fail to adequately protect Mt. Erie, page 36;

Climbing Goals: Maintain and enhance climbing areas on Mt. Erie while conserving the unique environment and habitat on the summit and South and West faces; Continue to explore options for a reservation system for all commercial climbing groups; Work with the Mt Erie Climbing Committee to establish a climber capacity for the mountain.

Policies:

1.) Climbing and scrambling shall be restricted to the Mt. Erie summit and South and West Face Management Area.

2.) Maintain a Mt. Erie Climbing Committee consisting of five members including: three members representing climbers and/or scramblers, one naturalist and one at large Anacortes citizen.

At least two of the climbers shall be residents of Anacortes. At least one of the climbers shall be a climbing instructor. All climber members of the committee shall have substantial experience climbing on Mt. Erie. Each representative shall be appointed by the Forest Advisory Board and the Parks & Recreation Director.

The duties of the Mt. Erie Climbing Committee are:

A.) Assist staff and the Forest Advisory Board with regulation of fixed bolting, creation of new belay platforms, opening new climbing areas and other relevant issues.

B.) Be available to represent their user group at Forest Advisory Board meetings when issues affecting climbing and scrambling arise.

C.) Be available to organize volunteer work parties with this user group when needed on Mt. Erie. All maintenance projects must be approved in advance by the Parks & Recreation Director.

D.) User restrictions and methods to appeal decisions should follow the outline and applicable guidelines discussed in the Anacortes Community Forest Lands Comprehensive Trail Plan.

#15. The Plan on E-bikes fails to consider these bikes to be motorized, which fails to be true. These bikes allow folks to go faster and farther than they ordinarily could.

The E-bikes allowed as not motorized stop assisting at 20 mph. Plan on Page 39;

From this Plan, E-bikes Goals:

To ensure the safety of all trail users, preserve trail conditions and natural resources, and provide clear guidance on the appropriate use of electric bicycles (e-bikes) and electric motorcycles.

Definitions

Class 1 E-Bike: Pedal-assist only; motor ceases to assist at 20 mph.

Class 2 E-Bike: Throttle-assisted; motor ceases to assist at 20 mph.

Class 3 E-Bike: Pedal-assist only; motor ceases to assist at 28 mph.

Electric Motorcycle: Motorized two-wheeled vehicle powered by electricity; not classified as an e-bike.

Policies:

- 1.) Class 1 E-bikes allowed on bicycle designated trails with year-round access.
- 2.) Class 2 and 3 E-bikes allowed only on motorcycle approved trails and during the open season only: April 1-October 31.
- 3.) Electric motorcycles allowed only on motorcycle approved trails and during the open season only: April 1-October 31.
- 4.) All riders must obey posted signage and trail regulations.

#16. The Plan on Fishing advocates for more fishing and more influence from those who want to promote fly fishing – without mentioning and disclosing the negative impacts of fishing. This is true for all kinds of recreation in this plan. Many of these policies will increase the negative impacts of fishing. This plan fails to note this.

This is from the Plan, Fishing Goals, page 40;

Fishing Goals:

Provide access to fishing in Little Cranberry, Heart and Whistle Lakes;
Continue to support the efforts of the Fidalgo Fly Fishing club to make Heart Lake open year-round for fishing, as Little Cranberry and Whistle lakes are.

Policies:

- 1.) Develop or improve limited access points for fishing City-owned lakes.
- 2.) Prohibit use of any combustion engines on Whistle Lake, Little Cranberry Lake and Heart Lake.
- 3.) Continue to work with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife on short- and long-term goals for recreational fishing on Heart, Whistle and Little Cranberry lakes.
- 4.) Monitor fish population in conjunction with water-quality monitoring program. There are seven major lakes on Fidalgo Island. Each has a particular recreational and fisheries value. Heart Lake is a well-known trout-fishing lake. Campbell Lake and Lake Erie both have boat launch facilities and are managed for spiny-ray and trout. Pass Lake is a fly-fishing only lake adjacent to Highway 20. Trafton Lake (Crater Lake) is surrounded by private property. Little Cranberry Lake is accessible by automobile and is

actively used for fishing. Whistle Lake is the only lake not impacted by automobile access. Whistle Lake will be reserved for a more “primitive” recreational experience.

#17. Why does this plan propose creating walk-in picnic areas?

From the Plan on Picnicking, page 41;

Picnicking Goal: To allow picnicking at designated walk-in areas.

Policies:

- 1.) Provide garbage, recycling and sanitary facilities where appropriate. Fires and barbeques are prohibited.
- 2.) Prohibit camping throughout the ACFL.
- 3.) Develop at least one walk in picnic site for local use.
- 4.) There are a few picnic tables in the ACFL and they may be used on a first come, first served basis.
- 5.) Any new picnic tables in the ACFL shall require the recommendation of the Forest Advisory Board and the approval of the Parks & Recreation Director.
- 6.) Off trail picnicking is prohibited.
- 7.) There are a few informal clearings in the ACFL where a picnic will be easier to execute.

#18. The group size of 25 is far too large for the trails and size of the ACFL. Special permits could be issued for school and educational programs that have larger groups than 12, but otherwise, a group of more than 12 will probably cause far more significant impacts than one or two people.

We all meet school groups and we want these to be in the ACFL. Impacts can be reduced by limiting their use to trails that are wider and can accommodate larger groups or these can be divided into smaller groups when using narrow trails through highly sensitive critical areas. Smaller group sizes likely increase the student’s paying attention and hearing what is being said.

As a former teacher and someone who has helped with school groups, I understand what happens when groups are too large. Encouraging strategies that encourage the use of small groups by those using the ACFL would benefit the ACFL and the students.

#19. The group size in this list of policies is far too large, far larger than even the USFS uses on its vast public lands; groups of 25 or more need permits We all know groups this size do not work on many ACFL trails that are narrow. Many of us have noticed how much wider many trails in the ACFL have become from too many uses and by larger groups. From page 43;

Other Activities

Goal: To use the Anacortes Community Forest Lands for dispersed low-intensity recreational activities.

Policies:

- 1.) Developed parks sites in Anacortes allow the opportunity for group games and activities such as baseball, soccer, basketball, tennis and other sports. There is no need to develop these sorts of facilities on City Forest lands.
- 2.) Deception Pass State Park and Washington Park offer an opportunity for overnight recreational camping. It is not appropriate to develop any facilities of this sort in the ACFL.
- 3.) Possession or consumption of alcohol is prohibited in the ACFL.
- 4.) Recreational groups in excess of 25 participants shall apply for a permit from the Anacortes Parks & Recreation Department under the Special Events section of the Anacortes Municipal Code. City staff will review all requests with the Forest Advisory Board.
- 5.) Commercial activities in the ACFL that do not violate existing policies may be permitted by the Parks & Recreation Director in consultation with the ACFL Advisory

#20. The goals of the Trail Plan Limitations are not achieved by what is in this Plan.

Amending this plan later is not the answer. This Plan needs to get these right.

From Plan, Page 53;

Trail Plan Limitations

Environmental Limitations If wildlife, flora or water quality are being adversely impacted at certain locations by trail users, the trail plan may be amended in those areas to protect environmental quality.

The trail use plan must always ensure that these goals are not hindered. The procedure for amending the trail plan due to environmental impacts is as follows:

- 1.) Environmental impact must be documented
- 2.) Environmental impact documentation must be made available to the Parks & Recreation Director, the Forest Advisory Board and interested citizens.
- 3.) The Trail Committee and/or Mt. Erie Climbing Committee shall review the proposed amendment and make a recommendation to the Forest Advisory Board.
- 4.) User-group representatives must be notified of any potential trail plan changes and must have the chance to be present and make comment during the decision-making process.
- 5.) Amendment to the trail plan must be passed by the Forest Advisory Board in cooperation with the Parks & Recreation Director.

Safety Limitations

Multiple use trails have the potential to create safety problems for all user groups. The trail user rules and regulations, if followed, should prevent safety problems; however, if it is found that the trail use plan must be changed to alleviate trail user collisions, or a number of near-collisions, the following procedure for amending the trail plan must be followed:

- 1.) The safety hazard must be documented.
- 2.) Safety hazard documentation must be made available to the Parks & Recreation Director, the Forest Advisory Board and interested citizens.
- 3.) The Trail Committee and/or Mt. Erie Climbing Committee shall review the proposed amendment and make a recommendation to the Forest Advisory Board.

4.) User-group representatives must be notified of any potential trail plan changes and must have the chance to be present and make comment during the decision-making process.

5.) Amendment to the trail plan must be passed by the Forest Advisory Board in cooperation with the Parks & Recreation Director.

#21. Bike rules; the speed limit is 15 mph. These rules may sound nice, but many bike riders are not following them now. The speed limit is obviously unsafe if bike riders try to use it.

Rules for bikes; speed limit is 15 mph, Page 57.

Mountain Bike Rules and Regulations

1.) Mountain bikes must remain on trails designated for mountain bikes in the ACFL Trail Plan.

2.) Bikes must be handled in such a way that they will have little or no adverse impact. It is unlawful to cause the following impacts: Severe erosion Damage to vegetation bordering the trail Damage to vegetation in meadows or mossy outcrops Damage to trails such that trail use by other users is hindered

3.) When stopping along the trail, bikers should move over to the right or uphill trail edge to be out of the way of others. Ideally, a biker should wait for a widening in the trail before stopping.

4.) Upon meeting a hiker, horse, motorcycle or other mountain bike from the front, a biker must slow or stop, move to the right (unless meeting a horse when one should let the rider use the uphill side even if it is on the right), and allow passage to the other trail user(s).

5.) Upon meeting a hiker, horse, motorcycle, or other mountain bike from behind, a biker should slow or stop, announce his/her presence and ask that the other user move to the right (or uphill grade in the case of a horse). Only when the other trail user is safely out of the way may the mountain biker proceed.

6.) Maintain at least one bicycle length between bikes when travelling in groups.

7.) Mountain bikes shall not exceed 15 mph on the trails designated for their use.

#22. The many relevant parts of the Anacortes Critical Area Ordinance. This Plan fails to acknowledge and follow all of these, especially for trails.

Page 19.70.025 Protection of critical areas.

A. Critical areas and their required buffers may not be altered except as allowed by this chapter.

B. Any action taken pursuant to this chapter must result in equivalent or greater functions and values of the critical areas associated with the proposed action, as determined by the best available science.

C. All actions and development must be designed and constructed in accordance with mitigation sequencing per AMC 19.70.125 to achieve no net loss of critical area functions and values.

D. Applicants must first demonstrate an actual inability to avoid or reduce impacts before restoration and compensation of impacts will be allowed.

E. No activity or use may be allowed that results in a net loss of the functions or value of critical areas.

F. Any individual critical area adjoined by another type of critical area must have the buffer and meet the requirements that provide the most protection to the critical areas involved.

G. Violations of this chapter are subject to AMC Title 20, Civil Enforcement and Penalties. Where a violation occurs within a suspected protected critical area or as depicted on city mapping, the property owner must provide an appropriate critical area report to determine impacts. The report may be subject to third party review at the property owner's expense. (Ord. 4025 § 2 (Att. A), 2022; Ord. 3064 § 2 (Att. A), 2021)

19.70.035 Critical areas review.

A. *When Required.* A proposal to modify any critical area and/or required buffer including, but not limited to, clearing, grading, draining, removal or alteration of vegetation, construction of structures, utilities and related infrastructure,

must require a critical area permit unless it qualifies as an exemption, as provided in AMC 19.70.040. Except that, for within shoreline jurisdiction, administration of this chapter shall be through the Shoreline Master Program and appropriate shoreline permit administration process.

B. Best Management Practices. All activities, including those allowed without critical areas review, must be conducted using the best management practices appropriate for that activity that result in the least amount of impact to the critical areas. Best management practices must be used for tree and vegetation protection, construction management, erosion and sedimentation control, water quality protection, and regulation of chemical applications. The use of best management practices is required to ensure that the activity does not result in degradation to the critical area. Appropriate BMP sources include Ecology's Construction Stormwater General Permit and NRCS Conservation Practices. Any incidental damage to, or alteration of, a critical area and/or buffer must be restored, rehabilitated, or replaced at the responsible party's expense.

C. Modifications to Existing Nonconforming Structures and Uses. In these provisions the burden of proof is on the applicant to bring evidence in support of their position. Existing structures, activities, and uses that were established legally but do not meet the current critical area, buffer, or buffer setback requirements may continue in accordance with AMC 19.49, Nonconforming Uses and Structures, and may be modified as follows:

1. Routine maintenance and repairs;
2. Structural modifications or additions that do not intensify the nonconformity of the structure or increase the area of hardscape lying within the critical area or buffer. The Director may require an updated critical area report to confirm location of buffers and that the addition is located entirely outside the critical area or buffer;
3. Vertical additions above the ground floor that do not encroach further into the critical area or buffer beyond the existing exterior walls, except that critical areas review is required for additions in landslide hazard areas or buffers;
4. Restoration or replacement of a structure that is damaged by fire, natural disaster or other calamity when:
 - a. A complete application for reconstruction or replacement is submitted within one year of the damage; and
 - b. The restoration or replacement is made to conform to the current critical areas regulations, or if such regulations cannot be physically met without reducing the size of the building, the restoration or replacement may not intensify any nonconformity that existed prior to the damage;

c. Except that critical areas review is required for restoration and replacement in landslide hazard areas or buffers;

19.70.040Exempt activities.

A. *General Requirements for All Exempt Activities.* Activities listed in this section are exempt from the rest of the provisions of this chapter only if they meet the specific terms of this section.

B. To be exempt from this chapter does not give permission to degrade a critical area or buffer or to ignore risk from natural hazards. All exempt activities must use reasonable methods to avoid potential impacts to critical areas and buffers. In every case, disturbance to the critical area must be minimized through best management practices and the use of low-impact equipment.

C. Any incidental damage to, or alteration of, a critical area or buffer that is not a necessary outcome of the exempted activity must be restored, rehabilitated, or replaced at the responsible party's expense.

D. This chapter may not exempt an activity from the provisions of other city permits such as clearing and grading for vegetation removal and ground disturbing activities, or agency permit requirements such as Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife hydraulic permit, or Army Corps of Engineers regulatory requirements.

E. *Burden of Proof.* The burden of proof is on the applicant to bring forth evidence that the activity meets the precise description of the exemption.

F. Table 19.70.040(A) describes activities that must meet the precise description to be allowed without following a critical area process. Activities are divided into the categories of permitted in the critical area and permitted in the buffer, marked by a yes or no in the appropriate column.

19.70.165Unauthorized critical area alterations.

A. When a critical area or its buffer has been altered in violation of this chapter, all work must stop and the critical area and buffer must be restored. The Director may issue a stop work order to cease all work, and order restoration measures at the owner's or other responsible party's expense to remediate the impacts of the violation of the provisions of this chapter. The city may take formal enforcement action under AMC Title 20, Civil Enforcement and Penalties, to ensure the violation is abated.

B. *Requirement for Restoration Plan.*

1. All work must remain stopped until a restoration plan is provided by the responsible party and approved by the city. Such a plan must be prepared by a qualified professional using the best available science and must describe how the actions proposed meet the minimum requirements described in subsection (C) of this section.
2. The Director may, at the responsible party's expense, seek expert advice, including but not limited to third party review by a qualified professional under contract with or employed by the city, in determining if the plan meets the minimum performance standards for restoration.
3. Submittal, review, and approval of required restoration plans for remediation of violations of this chapter must be completed through a site development permit application process, either after the fact for regulated activities, or as a restoration permit for activities not allowed under these provisions.

C. Minimum Performance Standards for Restoration.

1. For alterations to critical aquifer recharge areas, wetlands, and fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas, the following minimum performance standards must be met for the restoration:
 - a. The pre-violation function and values of the affected critical areas and buffers must be restored, including but not limited to hydrologic, water quality and habitat functions;
 - b. The previolation soil types and configuration must be replicated;
 - c. The critical area and buffers must be replanted with a native vegetation community that reproduces the structure, species content and condition of the previolation vegetation community. Based on the historical or previolation vegetation community, native plant species must be replaced at minimum of a five-to-one ratio or installed at a density of five-feet-on-center unless approved by the decision-maker. The previolation functions and values should be replicated at the location of the alteration; and
 - d. Information demonstrating compliance with the requirements in AMC 19.70.130, Mitigation plan requirements, and the applicable mitigation sections for the affected type(s) of critical area(s) and their buffer(s) must be submitted to the decision-maker with a complete site development permit application.
 - e. These standards may be modified by the decision-maker when it can be demonstrated that greater functional and habitat values can be obtained.

19.70.315 Designation.

- A. Fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas (FWHCAs) are designated as follows:

1. Critical saltwater habitats, which include all kelp beds, eelgrass beds, spawning and holding areas for forage fish, such as herring, smelt and sand lance; subsistence, commercial and recreational shellfish beds; mudflats, intertidal habitats with vascular plants, and areas with which priority species have a primary association;
2. Naturally occurring ponds under 20 acres with submerged aquatic beds that provide fish or wildlife habitat as further defined in WAC 365-190-130(4)(e);
3. Riparian management zones as defined in AMC 19.70.330 and waters of the state, including but not limited to Whistle Creek, Happy Valley Stream, Ace of Hearts Creek, Beaver Brook, Cranberry Creek, Clyde Creek, Anaco Bourn, Morrison Run, Cedar Springs, Weaverling Rill, Miller Creek, Aqua Creek, Howard Creek, Summit Creek, and March's Run;
4. Lakes, ponds, streams, and rivers planted with game fish by a governmental or tribal entity;
5. Areas with which anadromous fish species have a primary association;
6. State natural area preserves, natural resource conservation areas, and state wildlife areas as established by Washington State Department of Natural Resources;
7. Areas of rare plant species and high-quality ecosystems as identified by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources through the Natural Heritage Program in Chapter 79.70 RCW;
8. State priority habitats and areas associated with state priority species defined and listed by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife in the Priority Habitats and Species List, most recently updated edition. Priority habitats and species known to be identified and mapped by WDFW (<https://geodataservices.wdfw.wa.gov/hp/phs/>) in Anacortes include, but may not be limited to, the following:
 - a. Biodiversity areas;
 - b. Bald eagle habitat protected pursuant to the Federal Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act;
 - c. Chinook/fall chinook salmon;
 - d. Coho salmon;
 - e. Great blue heron nest sites and breeding areas;
 - f. Osprey nest sites;

g. Peregrine falcon nest sites and breeding areas;

h. Purple martin breeding areas;

i. Resident coastal cutthroat trout;

j. Winter steelhead trout;

k. Water fowl concentrations.

9. The following habitats and species of local importance have been designated by the city:

a. The Anacortes Community Forestlands.

b. The March Point Heronry.

c. The one and one-half acre “Park Reserve” at Cap Sante bounded by Third Street, East Park Drive, and Curtis Drive.

d. Ship Harbor Wetland.

e. Cannery Pond Wetland.

f. Category II wetlands within the watersheds of Little Cranberry Lake, Whistle Lake, and Hearth Lake and with seasonal surface water connections.

g. Smiley’s Bottom Wetland.

B. In addition to the FWHCAs identified in subsection (A)(9) of this section, additional habitats and species of local importance may be designated by the city using the following process:

1. *Designation Process*. The city may consider nominations for habitat areas and species to be designated as locally important on an annual basis as part of the annual comprehensive plan and development regulation update process, based on the following criteria:

a. Local populations of native species that are in danger of extirpation based on existing trends, likely to become endangered, or are vulnerable or declining;

b. The habitat represents either a high-quality native habitat, or the habitat has a high potential to recover to a suitable condition and which is of limited availability, is highly vulnerable to alteration, or provides landscape connectivity which contributes to the integrity of the surrounding landscape;

- c. The species or habitat has recreation, commercial, game, tribal, or other intrinsic value;
 - d. Long-term persistence of a species is dependent on protection, maintenance, and/or restoration of the nominated habitat;
 - e. Protection by other county, state, or federal policies, laws, regulations, or nonregulatory tools is not adequate to prevent degradation of the species or habitat; and
 - f. Without protection, there is a likelihood that the species or habitat will be diminished.
2. The nomination must indicate whether specific habitat features are to be protected (for example, nest sites, breeding areas, and nurseries) or whether the habitat or ecosystem is being nominated in its entirety.
3. The nomination may include management strategies for the species or habitats, which must be supported by best available science. Where restoration of habitat is proposed, a specific plan for restoration must be provided.
- C. All areas within the city meeting one or more of these criteria, regardless of any formal identification, are hereby designated critical areas and are subject to the provisions of this chapter. (Ord. 4025 § 2 (Att. A), 2022; Ord. 3064 § 2 (Att. A), 2021)

19.70.325 General development standards for all FWHCAs.

- A. All new development activities and uses are prohibited from fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas and their buffers except in accordance with this chapter unless within shoreline jurisdiction and hereby regulated by AMC Chapter 19.72, Shorelines. Alteration of FWHCAs or their buffers is prohibited except as otherwise allowed by this chapter and may occur only if the proposed alteration of the habitat and any associated mitigation proposed does not degrade the functions and values of the habitat.
- B. *Exemptions.* Exemptions to this chapter are listed in the provisions established in AMC 19.70.040, Exempt activities.
- C. *Approvals and the Best Available Science.* Any approval of alterations or impacts to an FWHCA area must be supported by the best available science as described in the required critical area report.
- D. *Approvals of Activities May Be Conditioned.* The decision-maker may condition approvals of activities allowed within or adjacent to a fish and wildlife habitat conservation area as necessary to minimize or mitigate any potential adverse impacts.

Conditions will be based on the best available science and may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Establishment of buffers;
2. Preservation of important vegetation and/or habitat features such as snags and downed wood specific to the priority wildlife species in the fish and wildlife habitat conservation area;
3. Limitation of access to the habitat area, including fencing to deter unauthorized access;
4. Seasonal restriction of construction activities;
5. Establishment of a duration and timetable for periodic review of mitigation activities; and
6. Requirement of a performance bond, when necessary, to ensure completion and success of proposed mitigation.

From: [Bob Vaux](#)
To: [Greg Francioch](#)
Cc: [Jonn Lunsford](#); [Ryan Walters](#); [Darby Jordan](#)
Subject: FW: Public comments for Forest Plan Council Public Meeting March 16th
Date: Friday, March 13, 2026 2:21:16 PM

[One more for Council, Greg...thx /bv](#)

From: Ray Lewis <raylewis@mac.com>
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2026 1:24 PM
To: Bob Vaux <bobv@anacorteswa.gov>
Subject: Public comments for Forest Plan Council Public Meeting March 16th

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The Introduction to the Forest Plan document includes "Staff worked hard to balance the public testimony with practical experience on the ground when writing this draft."

I didn't get that sense from the public testimony process. I don't get involved in civics often, but I have been told by officials that they have a much better idea of what they need to do in their service when the people give them input. Well we did that, but in this instance it seems as though public comments are welcome unless they are not aligned with the interests of those writing the plan, in which case the comments are discounted as belonging to a "small but vocal group" or a "core group," as opposed to, say, "the clear consensus of the members of the public who showed enough interest in the issue to participate."

I understand that government needs to take into account that only some residents have the time or the devotion to follow a particular issue, and that the community at large needs to be considered, but this process didn't have that sense of balancing or considering. Humans have an innate sense of when the other person is listening to them. This felt more like carrying out an obligation, with the "core group" being an obstacle for government to wait out and work around.

The Introduction also says that in the comments there was "an emphasis put on support for ADA projects in the ACFL at locations other than Little Cranberry." It was worded in a similar way earlier in the process, with the implication that the lack of support for increased access was about depriving those with ADA requirements at Little Cranberry. Many of the comments indicated a desire to reduce access to Little Cranberry for all humans, whatever their needs or abilities.

I might have missed it, but I didn't see in any of the presentations by Parks or the Board the reasons ADA needs are better served at Little Cranberry than at Heart Lake, considering the more environmentally sensitive nature of the former.

In general there seemed to be a lack of information about why choices were made or preferences taken. That also contributed to the sense that our input was mostly for show. There didn't seem to be a need to advocate for or even explain to the public why one choice might be better, or more in the public interest, than another option. Instead we get statements such as "practical experience on the ground," which is both vague and not in evidence by what was shared with the public in the process.

I attended a number of the meetings remotely, and each time I join I notice and appreciate that the members show up and provide their service for this special part of the Anacortes community and land. It doesn't look like a fun assignment.

You can get an outcome you don't want on an issue and still have a positive feeling about it if you also have the experience of being considered, that all participants were listened to, and that decisions were made in the public interest. The response to the public's input here unfortunately produces the feeling that "what's the point in getting involved, they're going to do whatever they want anyway, hopefully it's what I want as well" which perhaps for a few might have been the objective.

So far, on balance an unsatisfying experience in civics, and one that promotes a little cynicism.

Ray Lewis

From: [Bob Vaux](#)
To: [Greg Francioch](#)
Cc: [Jonn Lunsford](#); [Darby Jordan](#)
Subject: FW: comments on ACFL Management Plan
Date: Friday, March 13, 2026 1:02:56 PM
Attachments: [Comments on FMP - March 16, 2026 city council meeting - Bob Jepperson.pdf](#)

Hi Greg,

Making sure you received these.

Thx /bv

From: Bob Jepperson <jeppers@frontier.com>
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2026 12:45 PM
To: City Council <citycouncil@anacorteswa.gov>; Ryan Walters <ryanw@anacorteswa.gov>; Bob Vaux <Bobv@cityofanacortes.org>
Subject: comments on ACFL Management Plan

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See my attached suggestions for changes to the current version of the ACFL Management Plan. Bob Jepperson

Comments on FMP - March 16, 2026 city council meeting – Bob Jepperson

Before I make comments on the proposed Forest Management plan, let me point out that the Anacortes Parks and Recreation Department faces a philosophical challenge when managing the ACFL; they manage parks, but they also have been given the task of managing the ACFL. The difference between managing a park and managing the ACFL is significant.

The ACFL has no picnic tables, no picnic shelters, no disc golf courses, no soccer fields, no tennis courts, no basketball hoops, etc. Parks are developments designed to provide forms of recreation for people, and many of those types of recreation require physical facilities. Natural areas also provide recreation, and the kinds of recreation appropriate for natural areas require little more than trails. The ACFL is an “undevelopment” and must be managed to prioritize the health of the wild residents and the health of the habitats they depend upon. ACFL trail users appreciate time in the natural world, away from pavement, cars, and the noise of humans and their machines. Now for some suggestions.

Deception Pass example: Habitat restoration projects, such as we see in progress at Deception Pass State Park, need to be part of the forest management plan. Walk south from the parking area at Bowman Bay to Deception Pass to see examples of split rail barriers and signage that keep visitors on established trails and allow footworn ground to heal.

Trail 123 – A few years ago, a beaver dropped a willow tree, and night after night the beaver returned to chew off the tree’s bark from one end to the other; willow bark is candy to beavers! In doing so, the beaver created a trail through salal ground cover. The beaver no longer uses the trail, but a few people not only use the trail but once they reach the shore of the Big Beaver Pond, they have created trails in both directions along the shoreline, a practice that degrades habitat and keeps wild residents away from the area. To discourage further damage between Trail 123 and the shoreline of the BBP, the former beaver trail needs signage, a barrier to discourage use of the trail, and replanting the bare ground with salal.

Trail 106 – In 2017, I met with one of the PNW’s best-known trail experts at Trail 106. I showed him the 100 feet of trail that crowds the edge of the waterway that connects the Big Beaver Pond (BBP) to Little Cranberry Lake. Horse manure, dog manure, and mud all wash into the waterway.

When fall and winter rains fall, the BBP rises over part of the trail. Trail 106 crowds the shoreline so closely that no vegetation grows between the trail and the water. The expert trail builder, whose crew at the time was moving 14 miles of trails in the North Cascades, said his volunteers could move the trail a few feet uphill in half a day. I personally showed the situation to a park employee and to an APRD director, but eight years later, nothing has been accomplished. I am encouraged to see mention of Trail 106 in the new management plan. Projects like this are not expensive. Habitat restoration needs to be a priority in future management plans.

Little Cranberry Lake – Previous management plans included the goal of protecting the “pristine” condition of the lake. For some reason, the term “pristine” has been eliminated from the currently proposed plan. I suppose that describing the LCL area as “pristine” sets the bar too high, but LCL is a gem, a treasure in the midst of Anacortes. The lake is alive, healthy and needs better management to keep it that way. Some examples below.

LCL critical habitats/watercraft – The primary instrument of LCL habitat degradation is watercraft. Anyone who regularly visits LCL and pays attention to watercraft/waterfowl interactions sees the problem. Waterfowl feed, rest and nest on the lake. All three behaviors are impacted by approaching watercraft. Currently, there are no guidelines for those who launch boats on LCL; they can go anywhere anytime. I and many other regular visitors to LCL can recite accounts of witnessing harassment of wildlife by people in watercraft. Banning watercraft from LCL is not necessary, but less degradation of habitat would occur if the management plan addressed critical habitats such as the area near the beaver lodge, the waterfowl and terrestrial bird nesting areas along the borders of both islands in the lake, the few remaining perches available on the lake where cormorants can rest and dry their wings, and the turtle basking areas at the south and northeast areas of the lake. If the APRD needs ideas for effective ways to protect those areas, let them ask the public.

LCL critical habitats/trail changes – Little Cranberry Lake is relatively small and elongate. Many waterfowl species feed in shallows near shorelines. Anyone who walks Trail 102 along the east shore of LCL notices that waterfowl must leave the area as people approach. The same is true when visitors walk the trail following the western shoreline. If people happen to be present on both shorelines, waterfowl have nowhere to feed.

When the circum-lake trails were established years ago, builders thought it was a good idea. Nowadays, we know better; the shallows on one side of lakes and ponds must be free of water's edge trails or waterfowl have no place to feed. Closure of Trail 132 at the south end of the lake improved habitat in that area greatly, and people who walk around LCL for exercise continue to do so by taking Trails 105 and 11 instead of Trail 132. Plans by APRD to close a portion of the trail on the west shore of the lake will accomplish many things, including habitat improvement. Another opportunity for habitat improvement exists at the north end of Trail 102 where the trail should be moved uphill a few feet to reduce visitor impact on wildlife.

LCL critical habitats/self-sustaining fishery – WA Fish and Wildlife Department plants trout in Heart Lake. The trout fishery attracts many fishing boats to Heart Lake, and unwanted seeds and fragments of invasive plants arrive with the fishing boats and have infested Heart Lake with invasive plants. Dealing with the infestations has proved to be expensive for the City of Anacortes. Because Heart Lake has elevated levels of phosphorous and invasive plants, the city spent considerable sums of money contracting application of chemicals between 2017 and 2022.

By contrast, consider LCL, a lake with a self-sustaining fishery. Populations of bluegill, large mouth bass, crappie, and yellow perch reproduce on their own and provide recreational fishing from shore for children and young adults, and the fishery feeds at least 9 species of fish eaters (river otter, osprey, bald eagle, kingfisher, common and hooded merganser, pied-billed grebe, great blue heron, and double-crested cormorant). LCL's self-sustaining fishery not only costs the City of Anacortes no money to maintain, but it also represents a productive wildlife feeding system. The self-sustaining fishery needs to be recognized and protected as a specified goal in the Forest Management Plan.

LCL water quality – chemicals – Maintaining LCL's water quality depends on keeping harmful chemicals from entering the water. Examples include avoiding contact between the lake's water and treated wood, avoiding use of chemicals on the vegetation on the earthen dam at the north end of the lake, and avoiding water contact with plastics whose surfaces degrade with exposure to UV/oxygen and shed microplastics which end up in the lake's food chain.

LCL water quality – feces and lake closures – Little Cranberry Lake was closed to all human usage during part of 2022 due to elevated levels of coliform bacteria at the north end of LCL. Although species-specific tests were not conducted, the logical source was Canada Goose feces. Approximately 97% of LCL shorelines are natural and populated with native species of plants. Only the park-like north end of the lake was seeded with lawn grass. Canada Geese graze extensively on lawn grass. As a result of their spending much of their day along 3% of the lake's shoreline, most of their feces fell onto 3% of the land that borders the lake. Rain washed fecal bacteria into the water, and that area of the lake failed the health department's tests for coliform bacteria. The APRD has talked about new landscaping for the small area on the north shore of the lake, and they need to follow Department of Ecology standards for earthen dams. Hopefully, the new plantings will not be a magnet for Canada Geese.

Another factor contributes to fecal contamination at that location: Hikers and bikers who travel across the earthen dam do not feed the geese, not based on what I have seen, but a few people arrive by car with bread scraps, goldfish crackers, and other leftovers. They feed the geese. The geese loiter on the dam waiting for the next handout, and of course they deposit more feces on the grassy area. Even the trail itself requires hikers' attention to avoid stepping in the poop. The game department had to euthanize a Trumpeter Swan two years ago that had become habituated to people who fed the swan. Habituated wild animals can develop aggressive behaviors. Uneducated citizens contributed to the swan's death. I favor a minimum of signage in the ACFL, but at the park-like area at the north end of LCL, I believe that the right signage may discourage feeding wildlife.

LCL water quality – sources of phosphorus and nutrients - To maintain water quality in LCL, management faces the challenge of increasingly frequent outbreaks of blue-green algae (cyanobacteria). When blooms are reported, Skagit Health performs tests to determine levels of toxicity in the water. Outbreaks were reported in Little Cranberry Lake in 2014, 2015, 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025. What sources are supplying the chemicals and nutrients that stimulate the outbreaks of cyanobacteria in LCL? The two main tributaries to the lake enter at the SE and SW corners of the lake. Water entering the SE corner comes from the Big Beaver Pond. Water entering from the SW corner comes from what has historically been

forested watershed, but in recent years developers constructed houses on the LCL-side of the ridge. Now that housing has entered the LCL watershed, runoff can include chemicals used on lawns, landscaping, roofs and roads in the development. Examples include fertilizers, vermicides, herbicides, moss killing agents, and insecticides. Fertilizers can stimulate the growth of toxic algae. Products ending in the suffix “-cide” target and kill various life forms.

Sophisticated tests that go beyond simple tests for pH or dissolved oxygen can be done by Skagit Health or by the lab at the Anacortes Water Treatment Plant. Tests should be regularly performed to establish a baseline for concentrations in the lake. Less expense will be incurred by the City of Anacortes if potential problems are discovered early. The goal is to ensure that chemicals and nutrients are not flowing into LCL via the unnamed creek that flows under the footbridge on Trial 105.

LCL water quality – lead toxicity – One lead pellet the size of a green pea can kill a large waterfowl if ingested. Fishing lures or fishing sinkers are common sources of lead in lakes. We had a bald eagle take a fish from the shoreline of Heart Lake, and the fish still had fishing tackle attached to its mouth. Another time, again at Heart Lake, an eagle grabbed a trout that a man had hooked and flew away with it. The small gauge leader line broke, so the eagle’s prize included the hook and sinker.

The euthanized trumpeter swan (which had a large fishing hook in the main joint of its left leg) that I mentioned earlier was tested for lead, and testing revealed lead in its blood.

Lead-bearing lures and lead sinkers remain in bottom sediments for years, and as the lead erodes and oxidizes, lead compounds move through the food chain of lakes. The lethal effects of lead are not easily witnessed by the public in small life forms; we mostly see news of the death of large species of birds, such swans and loons. Lead toxicity affects both bottom feeders who inadvertently pick up small lead sinkers with their food or when gathering grit for their gizzard, and it affects fish eaters that ingest fish that have swallowed lead tackle or that are attached by hook to lead tackle.

We now have 13 lakes in the State of Washington that require lead-free fishing tackle. New regulations have been based mostly on research carried out on the high percentage of loons that die due to lead toxicosis, but loons

are not the only species affected. Researchers have documented a long list of species that have died from ingesting lead.

Note: Brevity needs to guide my comments on any of these subjects, but lead toxicity is an important issue to understand. I am willing to share my digitized files on the subject. Little Cranberry Lake is a good candidate for lead-free fishing. Usually, implementation strategies have volunteers visit lakeside trails during fishing season where they offer to exchange lead tackle for lead-free fishing tackle at no charge.

Instead of writing more here about lead toxicity's effects on our wild neighbors, let me recommend an excellent video on the subject. Tiffany Grade (pronounced graw' day) teaches you the basics on the subject. Simply go to YouTube, and on the search line enter: "March 18th: Lead and New Hampshire's Loons." The channel is named Loon Preservation Committee. Let me save you a bit of your precious time: Move the slider to the 4 minute 10 second point. That's where Tiffany begins her presentation. Watch the video with someone else in your household; they will find it interesting, too.

And one more item: We have in Washington State one of the nation's primary advocates for lead-free fishing. He and others are responsible for our state already having many lakes where only lead-free fishing is allowed.

Believe it or not, I have tried to keep these comments brief, but a few words are needed to explain each of the impacts that human activity can have on natural areas. My writing tends to focus on subjects in the Cranberry Lake section of the ACFL. There is a reason for that; after years of exploring the entire ACFL, I now limit most of my visits to areas that include beaver lodges. Most of our bodies of water have lodges with families of beavers that supply full-time crews of unpaid workers who build habitats that are rich in life. No other habitats in the ACFL match our beaver ponds for number and diversity of species. Most of our wild neighbors live in, at, or near the beaver ponds. The beaver ponds are my magnets, too. My goal is always the same, to find and follow stories and to share the stories with others.

Future managers of the ACFL must view our lakes and ponds not as sterile tanks of water. Our beaver ponds and lakes are alive with microorganisms and large life forms that deserve a future in healthy, self-sustaining ecosystems.

See you on the trails, Bob Jepperson jeppers@frontier.com

From: [Bob Vaux](#)
To: [Greg Francioch](#)
Cc: [Jonn Lunsford](#); [Darby Jordan](#)
Subject: FW: FW: Please forward comment to Bob Vaux
Date: Friday, March 13, 2026 12:22:05 PM

Hi Greg,

Another comment for FP Monday.

Thank You /bv

From: Carolyn Suryan <csuryan2@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2026 12:00 PM
To: Bob Vaux <bobv@anacorteswa.gov>
Subject: Re: FW: Please forward comment to Bob Vaux

Sure.

Carolyn

On Fri, Mar 13, 2026, 10:02 AM Bob Vaux <bobv@anacorteswa.gov> wrote:

Carolyn,

Comments received. Did you want them shared with the City Council?

Regards /bv

From: Carolyn Suryan <csuryan2@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2026 9:55 AM
To: Darby Jordan <darbyj@anacorteswa.gov>
Subject: Please forward comment to Bob Vaux

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Darby,

As I indicated earlier, Bob Vaux email link is not working.

Bob,

I previously commented on the forest lands plan and noticed that my comments and many others were summarily dismissed by the people in your department reviewing the comments. Further, the Board rubber stamped the plan without making changes or providing reasons for why they ignored comments from citizens.

I was particularly disappointed to see that comments pertaining to motorcycle noise raised by myself and others were ignored. Despite the fact the decibel level from motorbikes causes hearing loss at the levels allowed. Further, allowing motorbikes in the forest lands is against the mission statement for the forest land, which is to protect wildlife and plants. If the noise level allowed causes hearing loss in humans it surely causes hearing loss in wildlife. Further, the noise ruins enjoying the peace of the forest lands for most citizens. The Process is clearly broken.

--

Carolyn

From: [Bob Vaux](#)
To: [Greg Francioch](#)
Cc: [Ryan Walters](#); [Jonn Lunsford](#); [Darby Jordan](#)
Subject: FW: Comment for Forest Plan Public Hearing Mar 16
Date: Friday, March 13, 2026 3:13:46 PM
Attachments: [ACFL FP Climate Change Mar 16.docx](#)

...another one for you, Greg. Thx /bv

From: Mark Nihart <marknihart@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2026 3:05 PM
To: Bob Vaux <bobv@cityofanacortes.org>
Subject: Comment for Forest Plan Public Hearing Mar 16

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Bob:

Another comment for Monday's council meeting. Thanks

Subject: 2026 FP Climate Change & Comprehensive Plan Integration - Council 03/16/26
Public Hearing on the ACFL 2026 Forest Plan.

The 2026 Forest Plan (FP) has a section regarding Climate Change. It is a start but not sufficient. The FP should have a plan on how it plans to mitigate the effects of Climate Change, such as wildfire damage, invasive species and trail washouts for starters. A budget and a Rough Order of Magnitude (ROM) budget should be a part of the Climate Change Plan. A plan without budget is not actionable: it is just shelfware.

Also, the Forest Plan should address appropriate goals and issues identified in the Anacortes 2025 Comprehensive Plan & Climate Element. Obvious goals and issues of the that require addressing are:

Requirement 1: Address natural hazards created or aggravated by climate change, including sea level rise, landslides, flooding, drought, heat, smoke, wildfire, and other effects of changes to temperature and precipitation patterns • Requirement 2: Identify, protect, and enhance natural areas to foster climate resilience, as well as areas of vital habitat for safe species migration • Requirement 3: Identify, protect, and enhance community resilience to climate impacts, including social, economic, and built environment factors, which support adaptation to climate impacts consistent with environmental justice.

Anacortes Community Forest Lands • Important local resource – provides many ecosystem service benefits • Also provides a local sink for GHG emissions • In 2024 forest is in stable condition, but ongoing monitoring is key • Some areas around ACFL are considered WUI – potential increased wildfire risk.

Here in lies the rub: The required 2025 Comprehensive Plan (ComPlan) thus the primary document, should be the only document for the City's management of the ACFL.

(I learned just recently that the 2026 Forest Plan does not take the place of the ComPlan.)

This is good news but does brings up several serious issues:

- The city has two plans to “manage” the ACFL. One required and one not. Thus, which one takes precedent? It is like having two set of financial books. How does the public know which plan is being used to make decisions?
- Data Management – having data in two places is the worst of the worst data management practice. It is difficult to keep the data in sync and expensive and inefficient. Why have data in two places when only one place is required, and one place is the primary source for how the city operates – The Comprehensive Plan.
- Process Management - having two processes to create two different plans is expensive and inefficient. Particularly when the Forest Plan uses an undocumented non-process while the ComPlan uses a Growth Management Act (GMA) required process? If the City is truly in a financial cost cutting mode why have two process that uses staff time and resources and that confuses the public and inefficiently uses public resources and time. Why?
- Inconsistencies - Apparently, the GMA requires consistent process, especially internal consistent process. Having two “process” violates the GMA if not to the letter of the law at least in spirit. Add in the Forest Plan non-process has internal inconsistencies and was not consistent with the ComPlan processes, creates a real problem. A problem that doesn't have to be a problem. Why create a problem?
- Data Reliability – To have data reliability the process must be repeatable and the data collection method consistent. Having two different “processes” does not produce reliable data. How come the city and the Council is comfortable with not having reliable data?
- Data Validity – To ensure the accuracy and reliability of data, consider the following aspects of data validity:
 - ✓ Define the purpose of the data collection clearly.
 - ✓ Use appropriate measurement tools and techniques.
 - ✓ Ensure data is collected from reliable and relevant sources.
 - ✓ Check for consistency in data collection methods.
 - ✓ Validate data against established standards or benchmarks.
 - ✓ Regularly review and update data to maintain its relevance.
- This was not done in the Forest Plan, nor do I believe in the Complan. Why. This is

not a new concept. How come the city and the Council are comfortable with not having reliable and valid data?

- Complan integration – I am not aware of any attempt to analyze then ensure the Forest Plan was in complete agreement with all the appropriate and required elements of the ComPlan. One reason to have all the elements including the management of the ACFL in one place is it is easier to manage all the elements and ensure appropriate and required connections are made amongst the elements to create a comprehensive integrated plan.

It is clear the city should have only one place to manage the ACFL and that place in the Comprehensive Plan for the reasons listed above and likely more.

I request the Council to set aside the Forest Plan:

- It should use the rest of 2026 to create a new public comment / public involvement process.
- It should send that public comment data collected during the FP non-process and the draft FP to the Planning commission recognizing the effort of the public in making the comments and all the effort Parks and the Forest Advisory Board put forward in creating the FP.
- It should have the Planning Commission, after serious analysis of the data – checking reliability and validity, use it as the basis to update the ACFL section of the Complan together with the public comments from this public hearing and comments in the current Complan to update the ACFL section of the Complan in 2027.
- The updating of the Complan in 2027 would follow all the required GMA public comment processes and meeting processes and add the requirements of the new Anacortes Public Comment and Public Involvement Process.

In the Fall of 2025, the Council publicly promised the residents/votes, the owners of Anacortes a better, open, transparent and respectful and aggressively inclusive public comment process. This ACFL Forest Plan clearly is not an example of this promise.

The ACFL can survive another year without this plan, public trust in the City and Council well that is another thing.

Promise Made Promise Kept, or NOT.

Respectfully,

Mark B. Nihart

Anacortes Resident

From: [debndan Call](#)
To: [Greg Francioch](#); [City Council](#); [Bob Vaux](#); [Jonn Lunsford](#); [Ryan Walters](#)
Cc: [marknihart@gmail.com](#); [csuryan2@gmail.com](#); [raylewis@mac.com](#); [Bob Jepperson](#); [Martha Hall](#)
Subject: ACFL Plan- Council 03/16/26 Public Hearing on the ACFL 2026 Forest Plan.
Date: Friday, March 13, 2026 9:48:39 PM

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I totally agree with the comments from Ray Lewis. Those of us who take the time and energy to express our concerns are few, though our concerns are vital. I've always witnessed how a few in the COC have already discussed and decide what THEY want, ignoring the public and the other city council members. Not a good strategy for running the government or anything for that matter.

I thought the idea of making LCL "accessible" was done and gone. I see it mentioned again.

It came down to ONE person who wanted it. As a disabled person myself, I find alternatives. And the alternative for this one person is to go to Heart Lake, great access all along the shore/parking lot there. There is no need to spend money (COC loves to do) and disturb the area with plastic shoots (or whatever) for one person to use once in a while. It would also be an eyesore, along with cost and pollution of constructing any such device. We love this place for the flora and fauna in natural forested surroundings. Adding unnecessary 'improvements' takes away from nature.

I also agree with Martha Hall's comments. And totally agree with Mark Nihart's comments too.

I do hope you will take another look at this plan and adhere to the letters from Ray Lewis, Martha Hall, Mark Nihart, Carolyn Suryan and Bob Jepperson. They cover many folks' sentiments. And I applaud them for taking the time to write to you. So many folks aren't able to do so. Or know how. Like me, trying to sign in to your formal site to make comments is very difficult for me, so I'm sending you this regular email showing my support for all of the comments made to you by these few. Thank you, Deb Call, Anacortes Nature Lover, yup

From: [jack hartt](#)
To: [CityClerk](#)
Subject: Comments on ACFL plan
Date: Monday, March 16, 2026 6:24:39 AM

***** This email is from outside the City of Anacortes network. Please use caution when clicking on links, opening attachments, or replying. *****

Greetings!

I would like to add a couple of comments to the Forest Lands Plan Update 2026.

First of all, let me congratulate ALL who worked on this plan. It shows a broad range of thoughtful policy that considers so many far reaching topics, including a section written on actual studies taking place in the ACFL for the past seven years, and the implications of those studies. I commend the decision to base management recommendations on scientific data. The plan considers biodiversity and ongoing climate changes, along with encouraging sustainable recreation.

I also commend the city for allowing such a large investment in the ideas of citizens at large, and the fact that every one of these ideas have had a bearing on this plan.

And I would also be remiss to not commend all of the groups that have contributed to this plan and its review, people who show that they are invested in the future of our ACFL, including Transition Fidalgo, the Friends of the ACFL, Evergreen Islands, and many others.

And lastly I would like to commend city planners for remaining true to the intent of the ACFL's founding guidelines. I particularly marvel at the wisdom contained in the summary at the very end of the plan:

"As our population grows, these natural areas will increase in value and future utility. For many people, exploring these areas and using them for recreation is often secondary to the knowledge that they exist. This knowledge is a resource of personal satisfaction -- that a part of the natural world still surrounds us, unpaved, unlit, and unspoiled, in perpetuity."

My suggestion for your consideration refers to the trails around Little Cranberry Lake. Trail 105 was closed several years ago, eliminating a trail that was clearly detrimental to wildlife habitat, and also a maintenance and safety concern. Trails around three quarters of the lake were plenty, with a short side trail still allowing a reasonable loop at the south end.

I am concerned about a recommendation in the plan to consider closing the southern end of Trail 101 on the west side of the lake. The trail does hug the lakeshore here. There is a minor impact on wildlife any time that a trail comes right down to the shoreline. However, this part of the lake's habitat is mostly rock, with little habitat suitable for wildlife until you get near the wetland at the far southern end of the lake, which is where the trail climbs away from the lake to give some buffer to the natural habitats.

Rerouting the portion that is close to the lake is mostly impossible, as the terrain is not suitable and would cause considerable additional habitat damage. The alternative to have hikers climb the big rock up to the ridge line a quarter mile away adds a considerable amount to the loop route around the lake, not only in distance but in elevation gain. I suggest that the

corresponding improvement to the lakeshore habitat would be minimal, while considerably reducing the current recreational value of the hike.

But further study would benefit this question.

I recommend leaving Trail 101 as it is, and as time and resources allow, conduct scientific studies into the actual impacts of current hiker traffic along the trail compared to the gains that could be achieved for wildlife. Then the decision can be based on a true weighing of the factors. Is sustainable recreation possible while also considering the values of biodiversity? We should study this question before making significant changes such as this.

I close with the originating documents that created the Little Cranberry area for public use, general welfare, natural beauty and recreational facilities of the lake:

"Cranberry Park was established by the Anacortes City Council on January 7, 1964, through Ordinance No. 1358. Originally Water Department land, the area was designated for public park use and placed under the management of the Parks Department. Little Cranberry Lake itself spans approximately 25 acres, while the surrounding parkland covers around 106 acres. The ordinance stated: "Said park is created in order to preserve for public use and general welfare the natural beauty and recreational facilities of Little Cranberry Lake for such period of time as the said property is not required for actual use by the Water Department in the public interest."

Thank you for your consideration, and for all of the work that you do for the benefit of our wonderful ACFL and our entire city.

jack hartt

From: [Bob Vaux](#)
To: [Greg Francioch](#)
Subject: FW: ACFL plan
Date: Monday, March 16, 2026 11:45:13 AM

From: Bob Vaux <bobv@cityofanacortes.org>
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2026 11:39 AM
To: 'Robbie Hutton' <rahutton5@msn.com>
Subject: RE: ACFL plan

Hi Robbie,

Your comments have been received and forwarded to the City Clerk for public record/Council review inclusion /bv

From: Robbie Hutton <rahutton5@msn.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 14, 2026 4:31 PM
To: City Council <citycouncil@anacorteswa.gov>
Cc: Bob Vaux <bobv@cityofanacortes.org>
Subject: ACFL plan

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I've lived next to and hiked the forest lands for 30 years. I love it dearly. In the last few years, there has been an increase in motorcycle traffic on non-allowed trails and throughout the winter. Now they are driving electric non- pedaled bikes with a throttle that they're calling bicycles. This is blatant abuse. Motorcycles and non-pedaled "bicycles " have no place any more in our precious forests. They should be banned altogether.

Thank you

Robbie Hutton

Rahutton5@msn.com

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From: [Bob Vaux](#)
To: [Greg Francioch](#)
Subject: FW: ACFL plan draft comments
Date: Monday, March 16, 2026 11:44:41 AM

From: Todd Board <toddwboard@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 14, 2026 6:03 PM
To: City Council <citycouncil@anacorteswa.gov>; Ryan Walters <ryanw@anacorteswa.gov>; Bob Vaux <Bobv@cityofanacortes.org>
Subject: ACFL plan draft comments

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Hello

These comments are provided re: the current ACFL plan update draft.

They're intentionally focused on key themes, priorities, and values. That's because (1) I'm fairly new to Anacortes (almost four years), with plenty of listening and learning ongoing; (2) no need to reiterate detail already covered in this and earlier rounds of comments by others; and (3) likewise, no need to regurgitate details from my own comments on prior draft iterations.

So: echoing some other commenters, a few themes, priorities, and values...

(1) I agree with Bob Jepperson (and many others) that habitat preservation needs to be an apex value for the forestlands as we face a dynamic and daunting climate shift. While new to Anacortes, I spent many years in volunteer stewardship roles in Northern California state and regional parks. While Fidalgo Island has fortunately avoided the bracing wildfires seen in Sonoma County, CA, in recent years, those events brought home to me the reality that when environmental degradation happens – “slowly, or all at once” – you can't un-ring that bell. The best strategy for sustaining our forest resource (including for human benefit) is to take a long-view, whole-system perspective in caring for it.

(2) Related, I agree with Martha Hall (and again, many others) who prioritize the criticality of science in the forest plan. I appreciate the draft highlighting of this element, and Transition Fidalgo's role in the Forest Monitoring Program, as recapped by Robbie Andrus in the recent FoACFL annual meeting. Based on my past involvement in similar activities in Sonoma, I suspect more/other community members may be interested in helping scientific experts as their important work evolves.

(3) Echoing comments by myself and others re: prior drafts, I encourage a renewed assessment of different options for funding an APD-based dedicated forest ranger. We all know if it was a financial and procedural slam dunk, with a silver bullet solution, it would have happened already. That said, a fresh investigation of various alternatives for funding a LEO position, involving the community, may be useful in surfacing and assessing plausible options and tradeoffs. As circumstances, priorities, and tradeoffs evolve over time, new ideas can emerge, and old (and maybe previously dismissed) ideas can be viewed in a new light. Taking the long view, a dedicated park ranger can also serve as an investment in wildfire prevention insurance.

(4) I agree with Mark Nihart's suggestion for focused camera placement at strategic points within the forestland (of course, these can be deployed for wildlife monitoring purposes, at least in some cases). (This also may sharpen focus and bolster public support for investing in a ranger role.) Again, based on my past-life experience, having publicly promoted use of reasonable security resources can help ensure we're all on our best behavior. To be explicit about this: in a cultural moment where we're all sensitized to monitoring in various guises, the intent here is not to "big brother" any of us – it's simply to underscore the value of protecting the forest for its human and non-human inhabitants.

(5) Overall I think the process has been fairly transparent, given the inevitably finite nature of people resources, calendar, and clock. (My benchmark isn't perfection that assumes infinite resources, it's past dealings with governance entities in California.) I shared Ray Lewis' frustration when valid concerns about a boat ramp at LCL were framed earlier as anti-ADA. I choose to believe that was an ill-considered assertion rather than deeply held conviction by city staff. Either way, we can and must do better than "strawman" in a process like this. Otherwise, I'll just echo prior comments from others and myself that it will bolster public trust when external advocates/beneficiaries/funders behind specific topics (like the LCL boat ramp notion) are transparently identified (just as commenters identify themselves here).

Those are my current comments. Thanks for reading. Please let me know if I can clarify anything here. Thanks to all involved for their attention and work on behalf of the ACFL.

Todd Board

Anacortes

From: [No Reply](#)
To: [CityClerk](#)
Subject: Public Comment Submission
Date: Monday, March 16, 2026 2:49:50 PM

***** This email is from outside the City of Anacortes network. Please use caution when clicking on links, opening attachments, or replying. *****

Submitted by: Tarn Ohana
Email Address: tarn.ohana@gmail.com

Commented on event: <https://anacorteswa.portal.civicclerk.com/event/1427/overview>
If you are having trouble viewing the URL above, cut and paste the string into your browser window.

User comment: Re: Agenda Item 7(a) - Public Hearing for Anacortes Public Forest Land Management Plan To the members of the City Council, staff, and the forest advisory board: Thank you for holding this public hearing tonight on the draft Anacortes Public Forerst Land Management Plan. After reviewing some of the comments we have seen attached to this meeting agenda, I 1. Motorcycles A certain proposal before you asks to allow 2-stroke motorcycles. I urge you all to disregard this request. While modern 2-stroke engines may be different than their previous versions, most 2-stroke motorcycles sitting in people's garages are *not* modern. The proposal creates an impossibility of enforcement - now enforcement will have to carry a rated, calibrated noise meter? Or emissions testing equipment? Also - the proposed noise threshold of 96 dB is far to high. I take noise measurements of transportation impacts around our region. I have captured 96 decibels when standing 15 feet from a set of freight locomotives passing by at 70 mph. 2. ADA access at Little Cranberry Lake I fully support adding ADA accessibility at Little Cranberry Lake. This lake is one we visit most, walking on foot from our home. Little Cranberry Lake is special place. We should not, under any circumstances, continue to cut off the ability of people with physical handicaps to visit this location *that already has a parking lot and driveway.* This is a premier location. People in our community may not feel that people with physical disabilities deserve to be able to visit this area, but I disagree with my full chest. Adding ADA accessibility to a parking lot does not detract from nature, but rather adds to our community and adds to the ability of nature to be part of all of our lives. Thank you, Tarn Ohana Anacortes

From: [No Reply](#)
To: [CityClerk](#)
Subject: Public Comment Submission
Date: Monday, March 16, 2026 12:56:19 PM

***** This email is from outside the City of Anacortes network. Please use caution when clicking on links, opening attachments, or replying. *****

Submitted by: Chris LeBoutillier
Email Address: fastflashllc@gmail.com

Commented on event: <https://anacorteswa.portal.civicclerk.com/event/1427/overview>
If you are having trouble viewing the URL above, cut and paste the string into your browser window.

User comment: Subject: Formal Endorsement of Bob Jepperson's Comments on the ACFL Management Plan Dear Anacortes City Council and Parks and Recreation Department, I am writing to formally endorse the comments and findings submitted by Bob Jepperson regarding the Anacortes Community Forest Lands (ACFL) Management Plan. Having spent time with Bob in the ACFL, I have personally witnessed Bob's commitment to the ACFL. He is a constant, educational presence on the trails, frequently taking the time to speak with hikers and share his deep knowledge of the local ecosystem. His knowledge comes not just from theory, but from years spent hiking countless trails in the ACFL, always observing his surroundings. In addition to supporting Bob's findings, I would like to specifically advocate for the prohibition of motorcycles within the ACFL. Motorized use has a profound impact on both wildlife and the experience of hikers seeking the quiet "undevelopment" that Bob describes. With the rise of high-quality e-bikes, riders now have a fantastic, low-impact alternative that allows for trail exploration without the noise and environmental degradation associated with internal combustion engines. I strongly support his recommendations for the following reasons: • Habitat Restoration (Trails 123 & 106): I agree with his findings that certain trails and shoreline-hugging paths need to be blocked, moved or restored to protect the sensitive zones of the Big Beaver Pond and Little Cranberry Lake. • Fishery Protection: Bob is correct in highlighting the value of our self-sustaining fishery. It is a unique resource that provides both recreation and a vital food source for local wildlife without requiring city funding. • Water Quality Advocacy: I endorse his call for lead-free fishing tackle and stricter monitoring of chemical runoff. Protecting wildlife, and overall water health from lead toxicosis and nutrient-driven algae blooms must be a priority. • Management Philosophy: I echo Bob's sentiment that the ACFL should be managed as an "undevelopment"—prioritizing habitat health and the quiet, natural experience that makes these lands so special. Bob Jepperson's dedication to educating the community and protecting the ACFL is invaluable. I urge the Council to incorporate his specific suggestions into the final Management Plan. Respectfully, Chris LeBoutillier Wildlife Photographer Anacortes

From: [Bob Vaux](#)
To: [Greg Francioch](#)
Cc: [Jonn Lunsford](#); [Darby Jordan](#)
Subject: FW: ACFL Plan
Date: Monday, March 16, 2026 3:19:55 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: Peggy Woods <peggywoodsart@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2026 9:17 AM
To: Ryan Walters <ryanw@cityofanacortes.org>; Bob Vaux <bobv@anacorteswa.gov>
Subject: ACFL Plan

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The comments and suggestions I'm reading are excellent. It seems the common theme running through nearly all of them is to make sure the needs of habitat and wildlife are first and foremost, and humans and recreation only after that. Let's make sure all of our choices and decisions put the environment first. Let's make sure the habitat is protected, and the humans are only visitors. All recreation is a privilege, not a right. We've done pretty well so far, but I'm seeing the trails being torn up by motorcycles more and more.

I'm also concerned about the risk of wildfire. With our dry and hot summers increasing, we need to be prepared and be thinking ahead for early detection and suppression.

We are stewards of such a precious jewel, a rare haven for wildlife and we want to make sure it's taken care of and in good shape long after we're gone.

Thank you!
Peggy Woods

From: [Bob Vaux](#)
To: [Greg Francioch](#)
Cc: [Jonn Lunsford](#); [Darby Jordan](#)
Subject: FW: ACFL Comments
Date: Monday, March 16, 2026 3:16:33 PM

From: tomjohnson <tomjohnson3649@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2026 12:03 AM
To: Bob Vaux <Bobv@cityofanacortes.org>
Subject: ACFL Comments

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Dear Mr. Vaux, I will be out of town during the March 16 city council meeting so I won't be able to attend.

My opinion has not changed since I first set foot into to the ACFL 5 years ago. **Keep it Wild and Natural !**

Tom C. Johnson, Anacortes WA

From: [Bob Vaux](#)
To: [Greg Francioch](#)
Subject: FW: Comments on the ACFL Plan
Date: Monday, March 16, 2026 3:14:03 PM
Attachments: [.Comments on the March 2026 Draft ACFL Plan.docx](#)

From: William Kennedy <BillKennedy722@outlook.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2026 7:36 PM
To: Ryan Walters <ryanw@anacorteswa.gov>; City Council <citycouncil@anacorteswa.gov>; Bob Vaux <Bobv@cityofanacortes.org>
Subject: Comments on the ACFL Plan

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important plan!

William E. Kennedy, Jr. Anacortes Resident

**Comments on the 2026 draft
ANACORTES COMMUNITY FOREST LANDS (ACFL) PLAN
By William E, Kennedy, Jr. – Anacortes Resident**

General: Thank you all for understanding the significance of this plan for our community. A measure of the success of community can be the overall satisfaction of its citizens. There are many components related to satisfaction, such as employment, financial, family, and social. But some components of satisfaction are related to community services provided by the city government, including schools, infrastructure (roads, utilities, safety), and leisure. While leisure typically includes parks and recreation, Anacortes is blessed with 3,000 acres of unique forest lands, which are a natural resource that is the envy of other communities. The forest lands are not a typical park and should not be treated as a typical park. The focus should be on preservation of the habitat and conservation of the land (water, soil, and fragile ecosystems), not expansion of typical park facilities. With that background, I have carefully read this draft and have provided my comments, questions, and suggestions below.

General: This draft has been improved over earlier review drafts (see my comments from 2025). The sections summarizing the seven ACFL management areas are well organized and consistent. However, because they contain recommendations, it is difficult to determine if those recommendations are consistent with the stated purpose, scope, and key objectives of the plan. Perhaps a table of recommendations should be compiled to allow a side-by-side comparison with the stated basis of the plan.

General: I suggest a better organization to this Plan. I expected to see an Executive Summary that contained the highlights of the Plan: Purpose, Need, Scope, Objectives, and most significant Recommendations. The Introduction would then establish Purpose, Need, Scope and objectives with some brief discussion. Then, the overall goal of the plan should be stated. Because subordinate goals appear in each of the Plan sections that follow, the Introduction could simply state that additional goals for each topic have been identified that are consistent with the overall goal of the Plan. This is, of course, if those subordinate goals are in fact are consistent with the overall goal of the Plan.

Page 2 The key objectives contain several words or phrases that require definition since they may mean different things to different audiences. A glossary of terms and phrases should be provided to make sure that all readers, and those implementing the plan, have a common understanding. For example: enhance habitat quality, sustainable recreation, recreational facilities, and mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change on the forest ecosystem

all beg for specific definitions. Does sustainable recreation mean recreation that does not impact habitat quality, or simply recreation that continues as a priority? What constitutes a *recreational facility*? In addition to a glossary, perhaps a list of abbreviations should be included.

- Page 2 The scope of the plan: *includes detailed management strategies for different areas within the ACFL, stakeholder engagement processes, and methods for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the implemented actions*. In the sections describing the recommendations for each of the seven management areas within ACFL, the recommendations include reference to considerations that seem to exceed the scope provided in the Executive Summary. These include selective mention of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and mention of consideration of specific community groups (the Fidalgo Fly Fishing Club) for Heart Lake. I noticed that the ADA is not mentioned in the Management Authority section. If ADA is a legal requirement, the scope should outline how legal requirements are met and explain if they are selective, how enforcement is considered. The scope should also define the stakeholder engagement process related to developing specific recommendations for the management areas.
- Page 2 The Executive Summary cites: *Implementation and Monitoring: The plan outlines a structured approach to implementing the management strategies, including timelines, responsible parties, and required resources. It also includes methods for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the strategies, ensuring adaptive management based on ongoing data collection and analysis*. I did not find this level of detail in this Plan unless it refers to the section on Transition Fidalgo. If it is located elsewhere, please describe where and how it is documented, or clarify or delete this statement.
- Page 4 I noticed that in each of the major sections, goals are set. The goals of this plan should be consistent with legal requirements and protect and preserve a healthy forest, while reflecting the values and priorities of the citizens of Anacortes to enhance the quality of life.
- Page 4 Cross reference to the later sections of this report (beyond the seven ACFL Management Areas) is needed. Specifically, the sections on Management Authority, Forest Lands Stewardship, Recreation, and perhaps others. Without cross references to establish their importance, I wonder why the full sections are included.
- Page 6 I was not sure of why page 6, the map of "Conservation Easement Program," was included. While this is listed as a Map in the Table of Contents, I did not see a callout to map from the text. This map seems incomplete. For example, it is a bit out of focus (hard to read), it uses abbreviations (i.e., DY, TBID, and CEP) that are not defined, the legend shows various undefined characters,

and it contains undefined blue zones. Perhaps a more complete map is needed.

Page 7 I was not sure why page 7, “AFCL Management Areas” was included. It is out of focus (hard to read), shows areas in various (undefined) highlighted colors, and has spelling/symbol errors (Mt&ie Conse,anc:y Area). Perhaps a more complete map is needed.

Page 9 The first paragraph seems a bit confusing because it states that *A primary goal of this plan is to provide these for local residents, but the regional draw of the ACFL must be acknowledged as we look to future impacts*. Goals of this plan should be defined or described in the Introduction and consistently used throughout the Plan.

Page 9 The second paragraph cites multiple layers of protection and concludes that *these regulations provide a guarantee to the public that the ACFL is protected for generations*. However, the citations (apart from the City’s Ordinance) are defined programs or State recognized areas. Please cite the relevant specific regulations, or state that the relevant regulations are described in the section on Management Authority.

Page 9 The second paragraph states: *The various requirements of these protections greatly assist City staff in continuing to find the balance between recreation and conservation*. This should be revised to state: *find the balance between enhanced habitat quality and recreation*, consistent with the priorities defined in the Introduction. Are the *City staff* mentioned the Mayor and City Council, or employees of the Anacortes Parks & Recreation Department? Please clarify who has the authority to interpret the plan and take actions to balance conservation and recreational activities.

Page 10 Little Cranberry Lake. The discussion describes gravel road access, with no discussion of road improvements. Yet the first recommendation is to provide a permanent restroom at the lake parking lot if permitting allows. Wouldn’t the construction of a permanent restroom require access road improvements and increased parking. How would the resulting increased accessibility negatively impact conservation efforts?

Page 10 Little Cranberry Lake. The fifth recommendation seeks to explore options to improve ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) access as opportunities arise. As far as I can tell, this is the first mention of ADA in this plan, and the Plan has not mentioned it as a goal or priority. If so, it should be stated in the introduction as a goal and any attempt to improve access should consider negative impacts on conservation. If not, delete this goal since it would be selected enforcement.

Page 11 South Cranberry Lake. Recommendation #4 indicates: *The City of Anacortes will continue to work through the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) protocol at the Old City Dump as per the Department of Ecology.* Will there be disruptions to the land, such as access roads, which will require remediation or is this covered as part of MTCA requirements? The potential impacts and return of the land to a conservation site should be discussed. It seems that the recommendations should reflect the need to protect the area from long-term disturbance, especially during recovery from remediation.

Page 12 Whistle Lake/Fidalgo Ridge. The primary issue associated with this management area is overuse during hot summer days. A variety of problems have previously been identified – lack of parking, drinking, campfires, theft of items in parked cars – yet there are no recommendations to address these problems. At a minimum, coordination with Anacortes and possibly County Police and emergency services should be addressed or the reader should be referred to the discussions in later sections of this plan (i.e., pages 23, 24, and 25).

Page 12 Whistle Lake/Fidalgo Ridge Area. Because of the seasonal surge of usage, should the plan consider a possible permitting system, either for access or parking, or both to help control crowd size? It would be unfortunate if a tragedy occurred because of overuse and lack of ability to respond. This would be similar to consideration of a permit system for Mt. Erie Summit South/West Faces.

Page 13 Heart Lake. As for Little Cranberry Lake, ADA is given priority status in the recommendations. This has not been established as a goal of this Plan, and if it is, it should be stated in the introduction as a goal and any attempt to improve facilities or access should consider negative impacts on conservation.

Page 13 Heart Lake. Mention of a homeless encampment at Heart Lake may require additional emphasis on local law enforcement as a recommendation.

Page 19 This discussion states: *The Forest Plan provides the goals, policies, and desired management direction for the ACFL. However, it is not the only regulatory authority over the ACFL. The forest lands are additionally protected at the federal, state, and local level.* This discussion should be included in the scope statement in the Executive Summary (or Introduction).

Page 61 Transition Fidalgo Report. The ACFL Forest Health Monitoring Plan uses Transition Fidalgo and citizen-scientists to collect environmental data. Yet this section is written without citations to scientific literature. Having citizen-scientists is a laudable goal, but to support scientific decisions, their efforts must be directed by scientific principles and methods. From their website, *Transition Fidalgo's mission is to spur local responses to climate change that strengthen our community and help heal the planet,* through moving away from

fossil fuels and moving to renewable energy sources. Are they following environmental data collection protocols established by Universities or State Agencies? Otherwise, the data they collect may not be useful in making scientific or even management decisions. I have several questions: *what is the scientific basis of the data collected by the Transition Fidalgo citizen scientists, how are their data collection, retention, and analysis methods developed, and what are their environmental and forest management scientific qualifications to provide comments to the city, especially for climate change?* They are collecting data, but how are their data relevant to this plan? Are their data and findings scientifically peer-reviewed? Are any of the data consistent with or substantially different from regional scientific data on the impacts of the recent drought and the stress on fir, cedars, and other vegetation? Tracking air or water quality data may reflect the impacts from the expansion of nearby neighborhoods and not be related to climate. Are the data collected over a long enough time to adequately reflect trends – it cites data since 2019? How can it be determined if the effects shown in the data are consistent with regional climate change and not just normal variations (especially for measurements related to temperature and rainfall). Are the comments from this group to be considered preferentially to the comments from Anacortes residents or other State sponsored climate studies? This makes a scientific review of their impartial qualifications, their data collection and analysis methods, and their conclusions most important.

Page 61A comment on data. As a semi-retired scientist, I've frequently been faced with a conundrum: if you collect data, the good news is that you have data. But the bad news is also that you have data. Now you must determine the meaning and significance of the data. To help ensure that data are useful, data must be collected using well-defined procedures, using documented data collection protocols, designed to test scientific hypotheses, and using defined statistical data quality objectives. If data can't be replicated, reproduced, or analyzed they are worthless. Also, data collected in the short term may not be representative of long-term trends.

From: [Bob Vaux](#)
To: [Greg Francioch](#)
Subject: FW: Comments on "Anacortes Community Forest Lands Plan" relevant to Monday's 6pm Mtg
Date: Monday, March 16, 2026 3:13:43 PM

From: ceuthophilus@gmail.com <ceuthophilus@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2026 1:42 PM
To: City Council <citycouncil@anacorteswa.gov>; Ryan Walters <ryanw@anacorteswa.gov>; Bob Vaux <Bobv@cityofanacortes.org>
Subject: Comments on "Anacortes Community Forest Lands Plan" relevant to Monday's 6pm Mtg

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I'm using the following item in the plan to expand on some thoughts and comments, but consider my comments as indicative of how I think the trajectory of management should proceed throughout the plan and throughout the forest.

Page 11. "Projected Use: Current recreational uses will increase, and corresponding trail improvements will be required"

What is the basis for saying recreational uses will increase? That is not something which will (back to the objectives of the plan): "protect biodiversity, enhance habitat quality, and ensure the forest's resilience to climate change." Instead it sounds very counter to that. Indeed, "improved" is a vague word - do you mean improved in the goal is to make trails more available for the higher impact activities of motorcycles and horses? That certainly is the opposite of "conserving biodiversity" and protecting native species, and enhancing habitat quality. In general, higher traffic loads of high-impact uses such as motorcycles and horses are not something that should be supported. Motorcycles cause significant and greater noise pollution, disrupting wildlife and the peace and quiet enjoyed by the rest of the community who actually use and appreciate our forest. Motorcycles also cause increased damage to trails leading to more erosion, more and bigger puddles which cause people to create additional trail segments (diversions) to avoid puddles. Horses are certainly not a noise problem, but the trail damage caused by them is significantly greater than that of foot traffic, causing similar problems and consequences for erosion and encouragement of trail detours. Additionally, and even more importantly, horses introduce weeds, invasive plants, and other non-native plant species. These plant introductions are clearly and strongly in conflict with the key objective of "Conserve Biodiversity: Protect native species and enhance habitat quality."

Motorcycle use and horseback riding trail designations cannot be encouraged to grow while keeping to the objectives of the forest plan. To claim otherwise would be disingenuous. I also wonder what percentage of the horseback riders and motorcycle riders pay are residents or landowners (i.e., taxpayers) within the Anacortes city limits. This is **our** forest.

The true value of the forest lands lies in the peace, tranquility and relatively intact ecosystem that allows the community to step outside their busy lives and reconnect with nature. I would argue that this reconnection also is important in encouraging those of us who have arrived at this beautiful place later than the first human inhabitant to better understand, respect and honor the perspectives and environmental stewardship of tribes who have very gently worked with nature on our island since time immemorial.

In the context of trail "improvements," my concerns are about what such vague terms might mean: Government officials -- and community members who might be particularly influential in decision-making -- may want to leave a legacy, build something, make their mark. If "improvements" means the city is interested in developing, improving or instigating new projects that visibly change and, from their perspective, enhance recreation experiences through projects like bike trails, frisbee golf courses, soccer fields, mowed and tended fields for families to take their children, then I want none of that on ACFL lands. These things certainly have value to the city, but belong elsewhere in the city not in the ACFL - they are inconsistent with how the ACFL should be managed. None of these activities are consistent with Natural Resource Management of our forest lands. The ACFL is a unique and irreplicable gem, appreciated by many residents (but, unfortunately, often not regularly visited by politicians, department heads, or other city elders) that I see out walking or running on the trails on a daily basis. I think that the extensive Anacortes Community Forest Lands should be managed from a Natural Resource manager perspective - focusing on the stated goals of protecting biodiversity, native species recovery, forest resilience - things that are key to the long term health of the ACFL, and very spot-on to the stated purpose of management of the ACFL. The other path, the path that I get a sense there is pressure to follow, leads to more and more stuff that makes us look like a Disneyland, we loose the forest and have go-cart tracks and Ferris wheels, maybe a waterslide and rollercoasters instead? I'm exaggerating of course, but over tens of years, this would be an end point of a trajectory which sees trail "improvement" focused on activities that are not in the best interests of the natural ecosystem. This (the move towards more and more outdoor rec/entertainment activities in the forest) is not what we, the real community want - we want something much more rare and delicate in this time of plastic and cell phones and getting ahead. We want peace, and nature, natural beauty, silence except for the birds and wind, we want to

connect with what used to be everywhere in the Salish Sea - a natural world, shepherded to the near present by the much less damaging activities of the tribes who were the steward since time immemorial. Do we have the courage to respect that? To actually keep what makes Anacortes so unique and special as a unique and special place with vast areas of nature? Or are we instead going to go down a path of "development" moving towards, even if not all the way, parks and features that just turn us into another trashy place like all the others that have been degraded by modern humans.

Page 11. The Old City Dump.

This appears to be a horrendous mess, with a lot of toxic stuff potentially present and leaking into the ground, groundwater, and draining into 32nd Street Swamp. Previous failures to follow state and federal guidelines have left the city in a tight and likely expensive spot. This site is also known by The State of Washington, Department of Ecology as "A Avenue Landfill" <<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/site/1771>>. It is unclear from this website what the status of cleanup is. It also feels like perhaps the negative impacts of this site are being understated. Surface drainage (in winter at least, flowing surface water and no doubt shallow groundwater flow) enters directly into 32nd Street Swamp near its junction with Big Beaver Pond (which is just upstream of 32nd Street Swamp), which almost certainly now contains contaminated sediments. Is this being looked at? What are the expected remediation costs? How will this be funded? Where are the most recent documents related to this? In the face of such expensive remediation plans (which I'm not aware of), and compliance issues with at least one of the dams in the ACFL, is it wise for funds allocated to the ACFL for general management to be allocated to new initiatives? I think not.

Page 14 "Maintain trails and continue to enhance access for south Mt. Erie trail."

What does "enhance access" mean - this should be clarified. Making more parking more trails, and making access easier does not support the purpose of being a "haven for birds and/or animals." Birds and animals will be enhanced by maximizing the protection of natural resources, even if this means limiting access. The term enhance access could mean almost anything - if it means making roads safer, improved signage, better toilet facilities, yes maybe. Better restroom facilities would be nice. If non-Anacortes residents had to pay a fee to climb, that might moderate negative impacts of this activity.

In general, the ACFL is here for our community (i.e., Anacortes residents and landowners who pay taxes) and our guests. In my view, charging a fee for some uses by folks who are

not members of our community as I've defined it here, might well provide some much needed funds to support management in light of the heavy impacts seen in the summer months. A fee system for folks who don't pay taxes in Anacortes shouldn't be something to shy away from.

In spite of clear signage, it is still rare to see a dog actually on a leash, and it is still not that unusual to find an abandoned bag of dog poo. Ugh.

In general, I'm pleased with how the forest has been managed in the past and worry that future "improvements" will be deleterious to the native plants/animals, natural landscape, and ecosystem - instead focusing on "development," a perspective inconsistent with the goals for ACFL management. Taking a Natural Resource Management approach instead of a Parks and Recreation Development approach is critical to continuing to focus on the goals of conservation, sustainable management, and ecological integrity. Ensuring leadership in this management has appropriate background in natural resources management instead of parks and recreation would be a welcome change to support these goals, but may not be in line with the structure within the city government wherein the ACFL resides.

Steve Taylor
4014 Commercial Ave
Anacortes WA 98221

From: [Bob Vaux](#)
To: [Greg Francioch](#)
Cc: [Jonn Lunsford](#); [Darby Jordan](#)
Subject: FW: Comment for Public Hearing Mar 16 ACFL Organization/Management/Funding
Date: Monday, March 16, 2026 12:25:40 PM
Attachments: [ACFL FP Organization-Management-Funding Mar 16.docx](#)

From: Mark Nihart <marknihart@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2026 12:58 PM
To: Bob Vaux <bobv@cityofanacortes.org>
Subject: Comment for Public Hearing Mar 16 ACFL Organization/Management/Funding

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Bob:

Here is another comment for the Public Hearing on Monday.

I have not been able to find a link to where all the comments are posted on the City's website.

Would you provide that link? Thanks. Much appreciated.

Subject: ACFL Organization/Management/Funding Comment - Council 03/16/26
Public Hearing on the ACFL 2026 Forest Plan.

The City of Anacortes (CA) should rethink the Organization, Management and Funding for the ACFL

A completely different approach is needed for the organization, management and funding of the ACFL. It is a unique forest/wetland/mountain area with 3 pristine lakes, many critically protected wetlands/and dry habitats as well as old growth forest sections and a very popular rock-climbing mountain. As it is a very rare forest land in a growing population area not just in Anacortes, Fidalgo Island, Skagit County but the whole State of WA.

It should be managed with a Nature First focus – preserve and protection of the forest, the wetlands, the wildlife and native plants, limited low impact recreation second, finally very limited in currently “recreation” designated areas – Heart Lake - more infrastructure (boat launch, ADA kayak launch, horse trailer parking, swimming, pier fishing and extensive mobility impaired/handicapped accessibility infrastructure.

New innovative management techniques will be needed to support the new organizational structure of the ACFL thus a new organization structure will be need for the new management techniques to be effective.

The ACFL will need funding beyond its taxpayer funding and limited income the ACFL generates. This funding needs to be discovered, be it by looking for how similar forest lands are funded, nature-oriented nonprofits are funded and local out-of-the-box thinking.

The ACFL is NOT a former industrial forest once clear cut and wetlands and lakes dammed to support industry and City water needs. It was once a primal forest that has been and continues to REWILD itself. It has been and continues to change the horrific industrial scares such as the clear cutting of Little Cranberry Lake area and the damming of it to a rewilded environment that supports wide range of permanent and migratory forest residents. Protected and managed appropriately it can continue its journey of rewilding to more of what it was in its past before the Europeans arrived.

Rationale:

The ACFL is NOT a park it is a forest and extensive wet land, a unique 3000-acre Forest Land with 50 miles of trails, 3 lakes, many wetlands, many dry nature habitats, and parcels of old growth forest. ACFL management should be organized to reflect this reality. In addition, the ACFL supports a large diverse population of permanent and migratory wildlife residents. And the ACFL is not governed just by the City of Anacortes Forest Advisory Board and Parks Department, it has Federal, State Parks, WDFW, Land Trust, City Ordinances affecting how it must be cared for and protected.

Only a small section of the ACFL in the Heart Lake area is “designated” recreational. Arguably the top of Mt. Erie and the climbing face, and the Sugar Loaf parking lot at the bottom of Mt. Erie have become “recreational.”

Management practices should reflect how the ACFL is managed and protected by a new organizational structure. Ideally, ACFL management practices should follow documented “best available management practices and organizational support structure” in use by other Federal, State, County, City and private organizations managing like environments. In addition, management should seek out and use “best available science” and “Best Practices” and work within the governmental regulations and government departments to manage the ACFL and in particularly its natural habitats.

The ACFL needs more resources to be managed effectively and efficiently. Unfortunately, the City of Anacortes does not have the tax base to fund, from city taxpayers, the kind of funding the ACFL needs. Thus, new ways to fund the resources – human and material resources – needs to be developed. Also, past funding and past use and maintenance thus past budgets should not be used for what is needed in the future.

Climate Change is likely, has changed the weather on Fidalgo Island. It is supposed be drier. Skagit County is, has been in a drought for the last few years. The drier weather and likely more droughts will continue. Thus, we cannot use past weather data to plan for future planning. The long-term changes in the weather will require different maintenance, forestry practices, residential building setbacks and habitat management practices. These areas will need funding, specific funding, from scientific studies to habitat restoration and invasive species removal and capital projects and?

Mitigation:

It is not likely the Anacortes Taxpayer will agree to higher taxes to adequately fund the ACFL to have a full-time staff just for the ACFL. So, some serious out-of-the-box, creative thoughts then implemented plans are needed to do what is possible with the resources available in the most effective and efficient manner. And new innovative and different ways to fund the ACFL.

For Consideration:

User fees such as for parking at all trail heads, daily use, yearly resident pass and a yearly nonresident pass. User fees move some of the burden of funding the ACFL from the Anacortes taxpayer to Anacortes residents using the ACFL and non-residents who pay NOTHING to use this exceptional unique Forest Land. User Fees are not popular, but WA Parks uses them, WDFW uses them the Forest Service uses them, and the City of Anacortes uses them (boat launch, camping). They are a fair way of having the primary users of a park or Forest Trail or Boat Launch or.... pay some extra for their use of the facility or environment.

Leverage non-profits is another potential source to fund raise and manage donated or grant monies for the ACFL. Friends of the Forest (FF) already does Education for the Forest Lands. This relationship might be leveraged to have the FF the recognized partner for ACFL Education and to apply for grants for more education in the ACFL.

Skagit Land Trust holds the trust on parts of the ACFL and it might be able to raise money for specific projects and or a maintenance fund and be the place in which donors with "pet projects" could start the transparent process of taking the idea of a project to being approved by the City Council.

The City and Parks suffers from "the law of small numbers" trying to manage the ACFL. It needs a naturalist but not even part-time, a forester not even part-time, a wetland specialist not even part-time, a.... not even part-time. If the City could engage the many environmentally focused non-profits with existing needed expertise in Skagit County and the State (WDFW, Department of Ecology, etc.) the problem of "the law of small numbers" would be less of a problem. Also, Anacortes and Skagit County have lots of retired people who might have, do have expertise in many areas that could be used to bring in experienced experts as needed.

To accomplish the above paragraphs:

The new ACFL organization would be a new experiment – a hybrid organization – rooted in the City but financed by both taxpayer money, user fees, and multiple types of private donations – short and long term. It would have flexibility to better use private money in a transparent and accountable way for projects and large contracted maintenance projects while leveraging City resources from the AFD – for fire, APD – for enforcement, and Parks Department for regular maintenance.

The newly restructured Forest Advisory Board (FAB) renamed to Forest Management Board (FMB) would leverage both local individual and local organizations. The current FAB could evolve to being a board of scientists from different fields providing science expertise on boots on the ground experience. The local non-profit organizations would add additional expertise and boots on the ground experience. All would be the fiducial board managing the ACFL entire budget – private and taxpayer – and reviewing project plans, status of both projects in the forest and projects to raise money for the ACFL operations.

The three-member Council Parks and Rec Committee would meet with the volunteer candidate(s) who used the existing city volunteer process for membership to discuss with them their interests and the duties of the FMB. The mayor will be informed of the results of their interviews. The full Council would vote to approve the informed candidate(s) by the Council Parks and Rec Committee. If more than three or more informed candidates are applying to the position, the Council will use Rank Choice Voting to select the candidate.

Suggested participants for new renamed Forest Management Board:

Scientist(s) – Forest, Wetland, Wildlife members would provide invaluable outside knowledge and experience that could be applied to the FMB decisions and the ACFL.

Forest Managers/Forest Park Manager(s) – members would provide invaluable outside knowledge and experience that could be applied to the FMB decisions and the ACFL.

Boots on the Ground Member(s) – would provide local yearly, seasonally, monthly and daily intelligence of what's is happening in the ACFL and potentially any trends (positive or negative) of the ACFL

Non-Voting Member(s) – Two members from the AHS Green Club. Two members from the AHS would provide young people an opportunity to see how the government works and participate in discussions and bring the next generation's views to the forefront.

Partners:

Friends of the Forest – FofF already is tightly coupled to the ACFL. They are the de

facto Education partner. Also, they have boots on the ground presence in the ACFL. In addition, may bring access to non-taxpayer funding.

Transition Fidalgo – Citizen Science. Transition Fidalgo is coupled with the ACFL doing mostly Citizen Science. Also, they have boots on the ground presence in the ACFL to provide data to the FMB.

Samish Tribe – Cultural, Historical, and Science. Their potential partnership would bring a cultural component to the FMB. In addition, they may bring access to non-taxpayer funding as appropriate.

Structure of Forest Management Board:

The FMB elects its executive staff, one year term.

FAB serve a 3-year term with the option of serving another term before having to step down. The terms would be varied so later not all FAB members terms end at the same time.

Chairperson – City Policies and Procedures for Chairpersons.

Vice Chairperson – City Policies and Procedure for Vice Chairpersons.

Secretary – City Policies and Procedures for Secretaries

Development/Financial Manager - -provide knowledge and expertise for finding and getting funding – one time for projects and sustainable funding – to create a mixed funded organization, part taxpayer part, non-taxpayer funding, working towards a self-funded Anacortes asset.

Meetings:

Monthly meetings – report out of FMB, reports by non-profit originations, projects/permit schedules and updates, science reports, fund raising projects and reports, financial reports, and citizen comment and reports. Meetings in Council Chambers, Zoom enabled, YouTube available and minutes taken and published. Public Comments - verbal or written - addressed in writing 30 days from date submitted. Meetings follow State and City policy for Committee Meetings.

Executive team meetings – working meetings and meetings to collaborate with Parks Management, other City Management and Council Oversight Committee. Meetings follow State and City policy for Executive Meetings.

Special Project Meeting – meeting as needed for special projects. Meetings follow State and City Policy for special project meetings.

On another note - it just keeps happening:

With the grant win (Great job by Parks Staff) from the State to “develop” the Heart Lake current parking area an opportunity exists to put infrastructure where infrastructure belongs at Heart Lake. The old 2010 Heart Lake Master Plan is a good base to start to determine what this development could be. However, the plan is a 2010 plan and needs to have a full public review with comments and answers to the comments to ensure what was decided 15 years ago is what the community wants today.

What is the reason Parks has not held a Public Comment Period for the Heart Lake Development?

How come the project is going forward without the allowing the public to comment in the “design” phase rather than after decisions have been made, money and time spent talking with a select set of people? (An “open house” is not a public comment process.)

The Council, the Residents/Voters/Taxpayers/Ratepayers the owners and financiers of the City of Anacortes need a formal, scalable Public Comment Process that is transparent, understandable, and respectful and aggressively inclusive. And the ONLY Public Comment Process used by the city.

Comments should not be treated as annoying noise, as testimony but as real valuable data that should be respectfully responded to and then used in any decision or analysis. The earlier public comments are taken, and if a process of continuous public comment is used the less likely the city will have appeals to decisions made and if they do the city will be in a better position to defend the decisions made.

Seattle apparently is a city that is known for its Public Involvement and transparent Data Management in Seattle’s decisions and future direction.

Why can’t Anacortes have the same.

It can and it should, we Residents/Voters/Taxpayers/Ratepayers the owners and financiers of the City of Anacortes deserve it.

Promises Made Promises Kept, or NOT?

Respectfully,

Mark B. Nihart

Anacortes Resident

From: [Bob Vaux](#)
To: [Greg Francioch](#)
Cc: [Jonn Lunsford](#); [Darby Jordan](#)
Subject: FW: ACFL Plan
Date: Monday, March 16, 2026 3:30:50 PM
Attachments: [2026 0316 Comments re ACFL Plan.docx](#)

From: kathleen <tomflanagan1@comcast.net>

Sent: Monday, March 16, 2026 9:47 AM

To: TJ Fantini <thomasf@anacorteswa.gov>; Christine Cleland-McGrath <christinec@cityofanacortes.org>; Bruce McDougall <brucem@anacorteswa.gov>; Carolyn Moulton <carolynm@anacorteswa.gov>; Anthony Young <anthony@anacorteswa.gov>; Ryan Walters <ryanw@anacorteswa.gov>; Bob Vaux <bobv@anacorteswa.gov>

Subject: ACFL Plan

***** This email is from outside the City of Anacortes network. Please use caution when clicking on links, opening attachments, or replying. *****

Please find attached my comments on the ACFL Plan. I do not see an email address posted yet for Marcia Hunt. Can someone please be sure she gets this. Thank you so much. Kathleen Lorence-Flanagan

March 16, 2026

To Anacortes City Council and Mayor, Bob Vaux,

The new Updated ACFL Plan represents a tremendous amount of time and effort by Parks staff and the Forest Advisory Board. When the “final” version of the plan was presented to the Board, it was disappointing to hear there would be no “final” opportunity for public input. It had undergone significant changes, the most obvious being in terms of format. Now, with a Table of Contents, numbered pages, photos, grammatical corrections, it became easier to read. But what of other changes? Did people who offered public input believe the new document represented their input? Clearly not every single piece of feedback could be incorporated, some perhaps too broad in scope, too contentious, too impossible, too impractical. But without a “final” opportunity for feedback, who would know. With the goal of adoption not being until November 2026, I am hoping City Council will offer a more robust plan for public input than a single hearing during the March 16 City Council meeting.

Having read all the comments, I believe the public comments are mis-represented by the statement “the vast majority of the oral and written comments were focused on Little Cranberry Lake” and, later when describing the second round of comments “the focus of the comments was similar to the first round, with an emphasis put on support for ADA projects in the ACFL at locations other than Little Cranberry.” It was the City’s ill-conceived and non-transparent plan to build some kind of boat ramp on Little Cranberry Lake, with an overriding pretext of ADA access that sparked many comments, but they were certainly not representative of the range of comments. It is appreciated that other points of emphasis were ultimately listed! To me, the primary focus was simply conservation over recreation.

Some random feedback:

It is difficult (for me) to reconcile electric bicycles and motorcycles with the quiet of the forest lands. And then to be expected to distinguish all these, and/or the speed (under 15 mph) with which any are moving adds to the difficulty. Attempts at guardrails around their use are appreciated. One recommendation: an expansion on definitions, more consistent use of terms. An example: on p. 45 “pedaled bicycle use is allowed on many trails throughout the LCL area”. And the very next sentence says “Mountain bikes are permitted on the following trails....” Is there a distinction between pedaled bikes and mountain bikes? It seems to me a bicycle is a bicycle, whether mountain or road, solely pedaled or assisted with a battery.

E-bikes: *distinguished by ability to be propelled by the rider, in addition to battery propulsion.*

(Class 1 e-bikes, Class 2 e-bikes, Class 3 e-bikes are already further defined in the plan.)

Electric motorcycle (p.39): “Motorized two-wheeled vehicle powered by electricity; not classified as an e-bike.” Add, for clarification and to distinguish from a bicycle: “*cannot be pedaled*”. Also, make it clear an electric motorcycle must follow the same rules and routes as a gas-powered motorcycle. (As with “bicycles”, perhaps “motorcycles” should be ONE category.)
Electric scooters: step through frame instead of being straddled.

Long term, perhaps decibel level needs to be another consideration; noise levels can be disruptive to both humans and wildlife!

To demonstrate the challenges of balancing recreation and protection of the environment, one can look at the section on Mt. Erie Summit and under the recommendations (p. 15) one finds words like “fixed bolting, belay platforms, opening new areas, reservation system, commercial climbing groups” and at the same time “educate the public about the fragile and unique ecosystem in this area.” What will be the measure of success, or failure, in balancing these two?

ACFL Advisory Board: to strengthen the Board, active recruitment of member(s) with experience in forest and/or wildlife management is advocated.

Finance: a budget separate and independent of the annual Parks and Recreation Department Budget might help with planning and prioritizing ACFL needs/wants. What dollar amount might be incurred to implement strategies identified?

Fire Protection: “DNR will suppress any wildfires in our unimproved areas (ACFL) at no additional cost to the City”. (p.25) To be of value, where might DNR be located, how readily accessible is their help? Education of the public in regards to reducing wildfire risk and what to do if a wildfire does occur is urged as an addition to the list of “Policies.”

“Policies” (p. 43): Recreational groups in excess of 25 participants shall apply for a permit from the Anacortes Parks & Recreation Department under the Special Events section of the Anacortes Municipal Code. City staff will review all requests with the Forest Advisory Board.” This policy implies that groups up to 25 are allowed to visit the ACFL en-masse. Given the width and fragility of trails a reduction to 10 or 15 max. seems more appropriate.

Levels of Protection (p. 19): it is very much appreciated that these are cited. They speak to the complexity of managing the Forest Lands as well as to the guiding principles for planning, maintenance and/or making changes affecting streams, lakes, trails, wetland, buffers, etc. Ongoing compliance of federal, state, and local regulations as well as the use of Best Available Science (BAS) is critical to the future of the ACFL. Examples can be found of areas out-of-compliance with these regulations, e.g. trails too close to the lakes, but efforts underway to make corrections such as moving Trail #106 to higher ground are acknowledged. It is hoped these will continue.

Little Cranberry Lake: the plan to avoid expanded parking at the lake and not to pave the access road are applauded. As the most undeveloped lake in the ACFL, a high priority should be given to preserving this distinction.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide feedback on the ACFL Plan. Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Lorence-Flanagan, 2005 10th St., Anacortes, WA 98221

From: [Bob Vaux](#)
To: [Greg Francioch](#)
Cc: [Jonn Lunsford](#); [Darby Jordan](#)
Subject: FW: Evergreen Islands Comments on Draft ACFL Plan
Date: Monday, March 16, 2026 3:32:33 PM
Attachments: [ACFL Comments March2026.docx](#)

From: Marlene Finley <president@evergreenislands.org>
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2026 1:53 PM
To: Ryan Walters <ryanw@anacorteswa.gov>; City Council <citycouncil@anacorteswa.gov>; Bob Vaux <bobv@anacorteswa.gov>
Cc: Darby Jordan <darbyj@anacorteswa.gov>; Kyle Loring <kyle@loringadvising.com>
Subject: Evergreen Islands Comments on Draft ACFL Plan

***** This email is from outside the City of Anacortes network. Please use caution when clicking on links, opening attachments, or replying. *****

Please accept the attached 2 page letter submitted by the local nonprofit, Evergreen Islands regarding the draft Forest Plan. We appreciate being part of the planning process.

~ Marlene Finley
Board President



**Evergreen Islands
Board of Directors**

Marlene Finley
President

Tom Glade
Vice President

Paul Sherman
Secretary

Wim Houppermans
Treasurer

Rich Bergner
Director

Mark Nihart
Director

Kathleen Flanagan
Director

Brenda Lavender
Director

Brian Wetcher
Director

Peggy Woods
Director

mailing address
P.O. Box 223
Anacortes WA

EVERGREEN ISLANDS

March 15, 2026

To: Anacortes City Council and Mayor Walters

Bob Vaux, Assistant Director, Anacortes Parks and Recreation via email

Dear Councilmembers, Mayor Walters and Bob Vaux,

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the draft Anacortes Community Forest (ACFL) Plan and for hosting a public hearing before the City Council. Evergreen Islands participated in each step of the planning process to update the ACFL Plan. Evergreen Islands members and board directors attended Forest Advisory Board meetings, providing public comment. We submitted written comments on 4/21/2023, 3/7/2024 and a letter from our attorney, Kyle Loring on 3/4/2025. The comments provided on 3/7/2024 included a recommended outline for the plan update and a planning process for the Forest Advisory Board with meeting suggestions.

Evergreen Islands set out participating in this planning process with 3 goals:

1. The use of best available science for planning and managing the ACFL with a priority on preserving natural habitat to the greatest extent possible while allowing appropriate recreational use. This includes planning for and adjusting to the impacts of climate change.
2. That the plan reflects the community values to protect forest habitats and manage the forest for both sustainability and climate resilience.
3. That the plan addresses current and future recreation demand with management that protects the forest, wildlife and ecosystem functions.

In summary, the 2025 draft updated plan (the update) is much better organized, well written and easy to read. This is a “status quo” document, lacking an analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the 2021 plan. There is no assessment of environmental or recreational change or trends.

The update does outline strategies and actions deemed necessary to conserve the diverse habitats within the ACFL while maintaining recreational opportunities. We are pleased to see the section on citizen science, including baseline monitoring, which is something we advocated to include. Climate change is discussed in the plan, including

weather variability and how changes continue to affect environmental systems.

The enforcement strategy is described in the plan update. There needs to be more emphasis on law enforcement. In 2025, the city approved 5 new police officers. The ACFL matters and needs more law enforcement presence.

The Fire Protection section needs more work and a greater emphasis. Wildfire detection, prevention (fuel reduction) and a wildfire alert system should be included in the Fire Protection strategies.

The update needs better justification for policy statements. Anecdotal statements are used to justify policy statements. This is a weakness because it can lead to management decisions based on impressions rather than quantitative measurements and evaluations. For example on page 4 “the number of regional visitors exploded”.

The Plan needs a budget discussion. Without an understanding of the staffing and resources necessary, strategies amount to a wish list.

The draft fails to include the need for a new management structure in the future with an emphasis on natural resource management. How can the City assure that the natural systems will be protected without an ecologist or natural resource manager?

Many of our members were disappointed that there were no written responses with rationale provided to individual comments. Some felt they were not heard in the planning process with comments dismissed or ignored. This is especially true for the many community members who advocate for the wildlife and for maintaining healthy, thriving ecosystems.

For 49 years Evergreen Islands has worked to promote, protect and defend the saltwater islands of Skagit County and their environs as it relates to the built and natural environments. Evergreen Islands members worked to establish the ACFL and continue to speak up and show up to protect the ACFL.

Evergreen Islands continues to urge the city to apply best available science for planning and managing the ACFL, that development of new structures be strictly limited and that the city thoughtfully evaluate and respond to public comments before moving to approve an updated plan.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Marlene Finley

President, Evergreen Islands Board of Directors

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City Council Agenda Bill

March 16, 2026

Action Type: Public Hearing

Item: 7.b.

Title: 2026 First Quarter Budget and Capital Facilities Plan Amendments

Staff Contact(s): Steve Hoglund

Approved for Submittal to Council by:

Greg Francioch
Steve Hoglund
Darcy Swetnam

Summary: There are several items identified that were not included in the 2026 budget that city staff desire to work on in fiscal year 2026. The items include capital projects for pedestrian crossings on Q Avenue between 11th Street and 13th Street, the Tommy Thompson Trail and T Avenue, 32nd Street at Storvik Park, and D Avenue and 23rd Street. A separate line item for tracking in-house equipment repairs due to a higher insurance deductible for 2026 would also be added to the budget. These items would be provided with the requisite budget authority to be concluded in 2026 with the adoption of the proposed budget and accompanying Capital Facilities Plan (CFP) amendments. A 2-week public notice and comment period were published prior to this public hearing.

Budget Impact:

\$931,749

Previous Action: First read of the proposed budget and CFP amendments at the [March 2, 2026](#), regular meeting.

Recommended Motion: 1st motion: Adopt Ordinance 5023 amending the 2026 operating budget. 2nd motion: Adopt Ordinance 5024 amending the 2026-2031 Capital Facilities Plan.

Alternative Actions:

Attachments (listed in order presented):

1. Ordinance 5023
2. Ord 5023 Q1 Budget Amendment Presentation 2026-03-02
3. Ordinance 5024
4. Ord 5024 CFP Amendment Presentation 2026-03-02

Ordinance 5023

An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 5009 Adopted on November 24, 2025 Entitled "An Ordinance Adopting the Budget for All Municipal Purposes and Uses for the Year 2026"

Whereas Ordinance 5009 was adopted on November 24, 2025, that established the annual budget for fiscal year 2026;

Whereas The City now obtains vehicle insurance from WCIA which has lower premiums but a higher deductible, which causes more in-house shop repairs, therefore a new expense number is desired by the shop to track said repairs separately from other shop repairs;

Whereas There were a several crosswalk projects that were started in 2025 but not completed and need a rollover budget amendment to provide budget authority to complete those projects;

Whereas The Fire Station 1 remodel was started in 2025 but not completed and needs a rollover budget amendment to provide budget authority to finish out the project;

Now, therefore, the City Council does ordain as follows:

This Ordinance shall take effect from and after five (5) days after its passage and publication, as required by law.

ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Anacortes this ____ day of _____, 2026.

CITY OF ANACORTES:

Ryan Walters, Mayor

Attest:

Steven D. Hoglund, City Clerk-Treasurer

Approved as to Form:

Darcy Swetnam, City Attorney

Section 1. Ordinance No. 5009 dated November 24, 2025, adopting the Budget for all Municipal purposes and Uses for the fiscal year 2026 is hereby amended to reflect aforementioned revisions to expenditures and revenues in the following areas:

BARS #	Description	Expense (DR)	Revenue (CR)
501.790.548.31.48	Deductible / Repairs	25,000	
501.790.308.80.00	Fund Balance		25,000
105.720.595.30.63	Q Ave ped improve	267,107	
105.720.595.30.63	Ped cross @ TT Trail; and 23rd & D	162,642	
105.720.595.30.63	Ped cross 32nd @ Storvik	190,000	
105.720.334.03.80	Local Program Grant (Q Ave)		217,107
105.720.334.03.80	Local Program Grant (32nd St)		164,350
105.720.397.00.00	Transfers In (REET)		238,292
001.320.594.22.62	Fire Station 1 Remodel	312,000	
001.320.397.00.00	Impact Fees		245,000
001.000.397.00.00	REET Transfer In		67,000

Ordinance 5023

2026 Q1 Budget Amendment

March 2, 2026





Ordinance Summary

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 5009 ADOPTED ON NOVEMBER 24, 2025,
ENTITLED “AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE BUDGET FOR ALL MUNICIPAL PURPOSES
AND USES FOR THE YEAR 2026”

Increased Expenses = \$964,642

BARS #	Description	Expense (DR)	Revenue (CR)
501.790.548.31.48	Deductible / Repairs	25,000	
501.790.308.80.00	Fund Balance		25,000
105.720.595.30.63	Q Ave ped improve	267,107	
105.720.595.30.63	Ped cross @ TT Trail; and 23rd & D	162,642	
105.720.595.30.63	Ped cross 32nd @ Storvik	190,000	
105.720.334.03.80	Grant (Q Ave)		217,107
105.720.334.03.80	Grant (32nd St)		164,350
105.720.397.00.00	Transfers In (REET)		238,292
001.320.594.22.62	Fire Station 1 Remodel	312,000	
112.240.345.85.20	Impact Fees		245,000
335.240.308.10.00	REET		67,000

Ordinance 5024

An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 5010 Entitled "An Ordinance Adopting the Capital Facilities Plan (CFP) for the 6-year Period 2026-2031"

Whereas RCW 36.70A.070(3) requires jurisdictions operating under the Growth Management Act to include a capital facilities element in their comprehensive plan, which the City of Anacortes is, and so therefore needs to amend the Capital Facilities Plan (CFP) in conjunction with the City Budget;

Whereas several crosswalk projects were identified in the 2025 CFP and operating budget that were not completed in the year of budget and therefore a rollover budget amendment is needed to have budget authority for the projects to continue;

Whereas a remodel project at Fire Station 1 was identified in the 2025 CFP and operating budget that was not completed in the year of budget, and therefore a rollover budget amendment is needed to provide ongoing budget authority for the project;

Now, therefore, the City Council does ordain as follows:

Ordinance No. 5010 dated November 24, 2025, adopting the Capital Facilities Plan for the six-year period 2026 – 2031 is hereby amended to reflect the following revisions to expenditures and revenues in the following departments:

1. The Transportation section will add Q Ave Pedestrian Improvements to budget year 2026 of the CFP at \$267,107.
2. The Transportation section will add Pedestrian Crossing at Thommy Thompson Trail; and 23rd Street and D Avenue to budget year 2026 of the CFP at \$162,642.
3. The Transportation section will add Pedestrian Crossing at 32nd Street at Storvik Park to budget year 2026 of the CFP at \$190,000.
4. The Fire section will add Station 1 Remodel to budget year 2026 at \$312,000.

This Ordinance shall take effect from and after five (5) days after its passage and publication, as required by law.

ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Anacortes this ____ day of _____, 2026.

CITY OF ANACORTES:

Ryan Walters, Mayor

Attest:

Steven D. Hoglund, City Clerk-Treasurer

Approved as to Form:

Darcy Swetnam, City Attorney

Ordinance 5024

2026 Q1 CFP Amendment

March 2, 2026





Ordinance Summary

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 5010 ADOPTED ON NOVEMBER 24, 2025,
ENTITLED “AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE CAPITAL FACILITIES PLAN (CFP)
FOR THE 6-YEAR PERIOD 2026-2031”

Increased Expenses = \$931,749

BARS #	Description	Expense
105.720.595.30.63	Q Ave ped improve	267,107
105.720.595.30.63	Ped cross @ TT Trail; and 23rd & D	162,642
105.720.595.30.63	Ped cross 32nd @ Storvik	190,000
001.320.594.22.62	Fire Station 1 Remodel	312,000



Q Ave Pedestrian Crossing

Background Project was included in the amended 2025 CFP, however, was not executed as expected and excluded from the 2026 CFP

Description Design and construct a safe pedestrian crossing from the Cap Sante marina to Safeway.

Justification Improved pedestrian safety while crossing Q Ave.

Projected Costs	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	Total
Total	\$60,228	\$267,107						\$327,335

Funding Source

REET	\$16,823	\$50,000						\$66,823
Grant	\$43,405	\$217,107						\$260,512



Pedestrian Crossing Improvements

Background Projects were included in the amended 2025 CFP, however, were not executed as expected and excluded from the 2026 CFP

Description Design and construct a safe pedestrian crossing at Tommy Thompson & T Ave and 23rd & D Ave

Justification Improved pedestrian safety

Projected Costs	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	Total
Total	\$23,300	\$162,642						\$185,942

Funding Source

REET	\$23,300	\$162,642						\$185,942
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32nd & Storvik

Background Project was included in the amended 2025 CFP, however, was not executed as expected and excluded from the 2026 CFP

Description Create a safe pedestrian crossing to cross 32nd Street from Cap Sante Court Retirement Community to Storvik Park

Justification Improved pedestrian safety

Projected Costs	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	Total
Total	\$23,984	\$190,000						\$213,984

Funding Source

REET	\$23,984	\$25,650						\$49,634
Grant		\$164,350						\$164,350



Fire Station 1 Remodel

Background Project was included in the amended 2025 CFP, however, was not executed as expected and excluded from the 2026 CFP

Description Additional sleeping/living space and apparatus space at Station 1.

Justification To support planned staffing levels and refresh outdated areas.

Projected Costs	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	Total
Total	\$38,616	\$312,000						\$350,616

Funding Source

REET		\$67,000						\$67,000
Impact Fees	\$38,616	\$245,000						\$283,616



City Council Agenda Bill

March 16, 2026

Action Type: Contract Award

Item: 8.a.

Title: Contract Award: Public Safety Building HVAC Improvements – Design #25-187-FAC-001

Staff Contact(s): Logan Lee

Approved for Submittal to Council by:

Tiffany Matson

Logan Lee

Summary: City staff seeks City Council consent to award a contract in the amount of \$54,475.00 to Hargis Engineers, Inc. to perform mechanical and electrical engineering services for the Public Safety Building HVAC Improvements project.

Background:

1. **History:** The AC system in the Public Safety Building is nonfunctional and beyond repairs. Scope of work from area contractors has been very different in cost and design due to Dept. of Ecology and EPA requirements. Hiring an outside engineer can find solutions to these requirements.
2. **Key Terms:**
 - Contract is on a time and materials basis not-to-exceed \$54,475.00.
 - The period of performance under this Agreement is through October 9, 2026.
3. **Competitive Bidding:** Per RCW 39.80 this engineering consultant was selected based on qualifications from the City's MRSC Consultant Roster to provide a proposal for this scope of work.

Budget Impact:

Consultant	Hargis Engineers, Inc.
Contract Amount	\$54,475.00

Funding Source	REET
In CFP?	In 2025
Earmarked Funds	\$160,000.00
BARS #	001.713.594.53.63
Budget Amendment Required?	No
Start Date	Contract execution
End Date	10/9/2026

Previous Action: N/A

Recommended Motion: I move that City Council authorize the Mayor to sign contract 25-187-FAC-001 with Hargis Engineers, Inc. in the amount of \$54,475.00 to perform the design of the Public Safety Building HVAC Improvements project.

Alternative Actions: Not award the contract.

Attachments (listed in order presented):

1. Facilities Public Safety HVAC Presentation
2. 25-187-FAC-001



PW Facility Contract

Public Safety Building A/C Replacement Engineering & Scope

WiL Ludemann, Public Works Operations Manager

Brandon Krause, Facilities Supervisor





Public Safety Facility



- Opened in 2000
- Workplace for 43 employees
- Court and Records facility
- Emergency Operations Center
- Due to safety and security no windows open for ventilation



Background

- System put into service in 2000. Failures starting in late 2024
- A/C System components are no longer available due to EPA regulation changes.
- 2025 planned replacement ran into complications due to EPA and Washington state rule changes regarding equipment refrigerant requirements. No vendor was able to comply.
- The new restrictions may require replacing the large indoor air handler as new refrigerant requires UL rating due to flammability. Indoor unit has no roof access to replace and therefore complicates replacement.
- Past attempts of posting bids for replacement have failed due to environmental laws and questionable compliance issues.



Engineering Scope

Hargis Engineering will:

- Determine all laws and regulations that are applicable to our system.
- Develop bid scope for replacement or retrofit of the existing mechanical equipment and controls components.
- Provide drawings, specifications, cost estimates, coordination, quality control and project management.
- Coordinate with electrical and architectural design if needed.



Aerial View of Public Safety Building

- Green box represents the area of the indoor unit in the 2nd floor mechanical room.
- Red box represents outdoor condensing unit.
- Underground and exposed piping connect the two.





Outdoor Condensing Unit



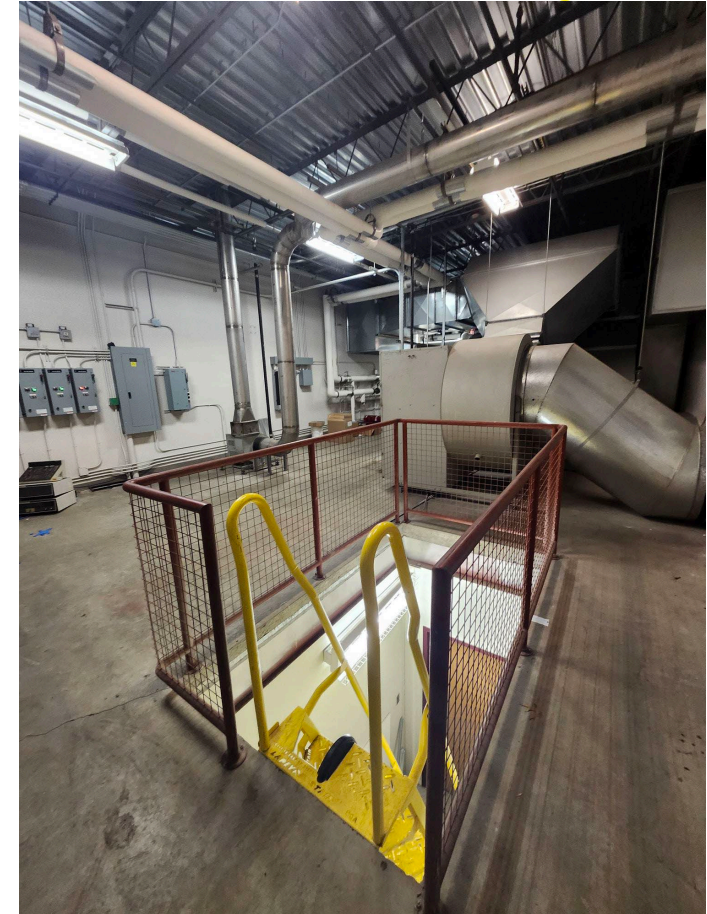
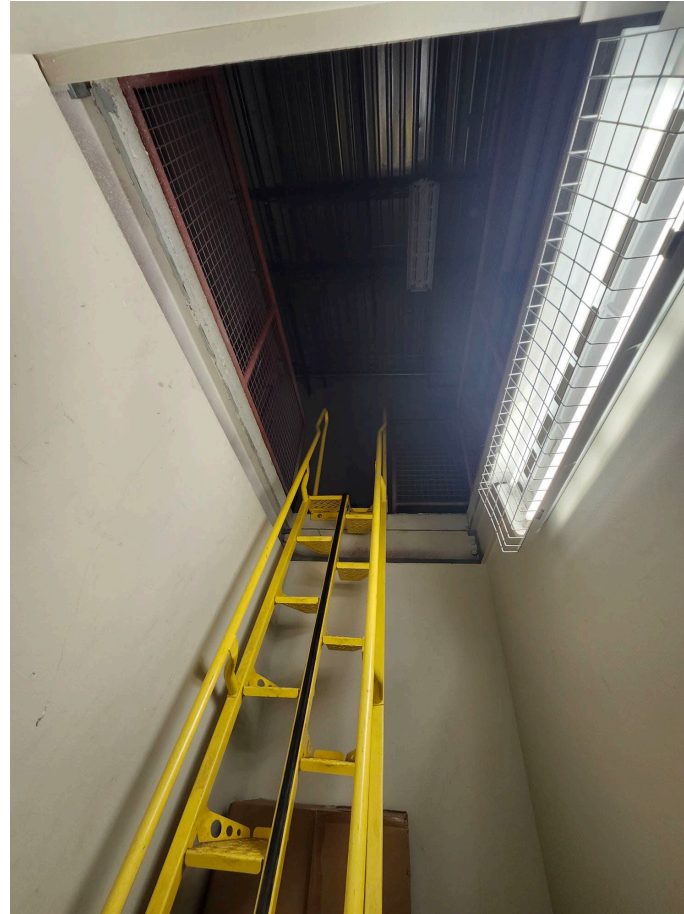


Indoor air handler





Access to mechanical room





Recommendation

Staff recommends approval of this contract with Hargis Engineering so that we can work towards restoring the air conditioning to the Public Safety building while meeting all applicable laws and regulations.

Questions?

Thank You



AGREEMENT #25-187-FAC-001

Between
THE CITY OF ANACORTES
AND
HARGIS ENGINEERS, INC.

PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING HVAC IMPROVEMENTS – DESIGN

This Agreement, hereinafter referred to as "Agreement", is made and entered into between the City of Anacortes, hereinafter referred to as the "City", and Hargis Engineers, Inc., hereinafter referred to as the "Consultant".

WHEREAS, the City requires the professional services of the Consultant;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of mutual benefits accruing, it is agreed by and between the parties hereto as follows:

1. **Scope of Work.** Under this Agreement, the Consultant shall provide mechanical and electrical engineering services for the Public Safety Building HVAC Improvements project as detailed in Exhibit A, which is attached hereto and incorporated by reference. All work shall be performed under the direction of Brandon Krause, or designee, hereinafter referred to as Project Manager.

2. **Price and Payment Terms.** The services provided under this Agreement shall be on a time and materials basis not-to-exceed **Fifty-Four Thousand Four Hundred Seventy-Five Dollars (\$54,475.00)**. The billable rates for services provided shall be in accordance with Exhibit A.

3. **Period of Performance.** The period of performance under this Agreement is from inception through October 9, 2026.

4. **Subcontracts.** The Consultant shall not subcontract the Scope of Work ("Work") unless detailed in this Agreement or the Project Manager approves in writing. If the Project Manager requests, the Consultant shall provide proof that the subcontractor has the experience, ability, and equipment the Work requires. "subcontractor" means an individual, partnership, firm, corporation, or joint venture who is sublet part of the Contract by the Consultant. Each request to subcontract shall include the following information (i) a description of the supplies or services to be subcontracted, (ii) identification of the type of subcontract to be used (iii) identification of the proposed subcontractor, (iv) proposed subcontract price, (v) identification of the percentage of work to be performed by subcontract. Approval of subcontract shall not:

- a. Relieve the Consultant of any responsibility to carry out the Contract,
- b. Relieve the Consultant of any obligations or liability under the Contract,
- c. Create any contract between the City and the subcontractor, or
- d. Convey to the subcontractor any rights against the City.

Consultant remains fully responsible for obligations, services, and functions performed by its subcontractor to the same extent as if such obligations, services, and functions were performed by Consultant's employees, and for purposes of the Agreement such work will be deemed work performed by Consultant. The Consultant shall give immediate written notice, reference Clause Notices, of any action or suit filed and prompt notice of any claim made against the Consultant by any subcontractor or vendor that, in the opinion of the Consultant, may result in litigation related in any way to this Agreement, with respect to which the Consultant may be entitled to reimbursement from the City.

If dissatisfied with any part of the subcontracted Work, the Project Manager may request in writing that the subcontractor be removed. The Consultant shall comply with this request at once and shall not employ the subcontractor for any further Work under the Contract.

5. **Taxes.** The City will pay sales and use taxes imposed on goods or services acquired hereunder as required by law. The Consultant must pay all other taxes including, but not limited to: Business and Occupation Tax, taxes based on the Consultant's gross or net income, or personal property to which the City does not hold title. The City is exempt from Federal Excise Tax. Where applicable the City shall furnish a Federal Excise Tax Exemption certificate.

6. **Invoicing.** All invoices shall include a cover page that states: Company Name, Invoice Date, Due Date (30 days), Invoice Number, Invoice Period, Project Manager Name, **Agreement Number**, Agreement Price, amount requested per invoice and cumulative invoiced amount. Invoices shall include actual hours worked by Period, by Labor Category. The Consultant must invoice MONTHLY for quantities delivered during the invoice

period, and no more frequently than monthly, and allow 30 calendar days from receipt of the invoice for payment. Invoices may be sent by US mail to City of Anacortes, Accounts Payable, PO Box 547, Anacortes, WA 98221, or by email to accountspayable@anacorteswa.gov. The City shall notify the Consultant within fifteen (15) calendar days from receipt of invoice if there are any objections or disputes with the invoice. The Consultant shall then resubmit a new invoice less the disputed amount and payment shall be made within 30 calendar days. Any disputed amounts may be submitted under the Disputes clause contained herein.

7. **Withholding Payment.** In the event the City determines that the Consultant has failed to perform any obligation under this Contract within the times set forth in this Contract, then the City may withhold from amounts otherwise due and payable to Consultant the amount determined by the City as necessary to cure the default, until the Contracting Officer determines that such failure to perform has been cured. Withholding under this clause shall not be deemed a breach entitling Consultant to terminate or damages, provided that the City promptly gives notice in writing to the Consultant of the nature of the default or failure to perform, and in no case more than 8 days after it determines to withhold amounts otherwise due. A determination of the City Attorney set forth in such notice to the Consultant of the action required and/or the amount required to cure any alleged failure to perform shall be deemed conclusive, except to the extent that the Consultant acts within the times and in strict accord with the provisions of the Disputes clause of this Contract. The City may act in accordance with any determination of the City Attorney which has become conclusive under this clause, without prejudice to any other remedy under the Contract, to take all or any of the following actions: (1) cure any failure or default, (2) to pay any amount so required to be paid and to charge the same to the account of the Consultant, (3) to set off any amount so paid or incurred from amounts due to become due the Consultant. In the event the Consultant obtains relief upon a claim under the Disputes clause, no penalty or damages shall accrue to Consultant by reason of good faith withholding by the City under this clause.

8. **Final Payment: Waiver of Claim.** The Consultant's acceptance of final payment shall constitute a waiver of claims, except those previously and properly made and identified by the Consultant as unsettled at the time request for final payment is made.

9. **Ownership and Use of Documents.** All finished and unfinished documents and material prepared by the Consultant with funds paid by the City pursuant to the terms of this Agreement shall become the property of the City and shall be forwarded to the City upon its request. Documents and materials shall include but not be limited to plans, specifications, reports, electronic and non-electronic data, and other design documents prepared by the Consultant. Pursuant to RCW 42.56.70, all information and documents produced under this Agreement may be subject to public disclosure.

10. **Assistance Regarding Patent and Copyright Infringement.** In the event of any claim or suit against City on account of any alleged patent or copyright infringement arising out of the performance of this Contract or out of the use of any material furnished or work or services performed hereunder, Consultant shall defend City against any such suit or claim and hold City harmless from any and all expenses, court costs, and attorney's fees in connection with such claim or suit.

11. **Indemnification / Hold Harmless.** Consultant shall defend, indemnify and hold the City, its officers, officials, employees and volunteers harmless from any and all claims, injuries, damages, losses or suits including attorney fees, arising out of or resulting from the acts, errors or omissions of the Consultant in performance of this Agreement, except for injuries and damages caused by the sole negligence of the City. However, should a court of competent jurisdiction determine that this Agreement is subject to RCW 4.24.115, then, in the event of liability for damages arising out of bodily injury to persons or damages to property caused by or resulting from the concurrent negligence of the Consultant and the City, its officers, officials, employees, and volunteers, the Consultant's liability, including the duty and cost to defend, hereunder shall be only to the extent of the Consultant's negligence. It is further specifically and expressly understood that the indemnification provided herein constitutes the Consultant's waiver of immunity under Industrial Insurance, Title 51 RCW, solely for the purposes of this indemnification. This waiver has been mutually negotiated by the parties. The provisions of this section shall survive the expiration or termination of this Agreement.

12. **General and Professional Liability Insurance.**

A. Insurance Term: The Consultant shall procure and maintain for the duration of the Agreement, insurance against claims for injuries to persons or damage to property which may arise from or in connection with the performance of the work hereunder by the Consultant, its agents, representatives, or employees.

B. No Limitation: Consultant's maintenance of insurance as required by this Agreement shall not be construed to limit the liability of the Consultant to the coverage provided by such insurance, or otherwise limit the City's recourse to any remedy available at law or in equity.

C. Minimum Scope of Insurance: Consultant shall obtain insurance of the types and coverages described below:

1. Automobile Liability insurance covering all owned, non-owned, hired and leased vehicles when any motor vehicles are used in connection with work to be performed. Coverage shall be as least as broad as Insurance Services Office (ISO) form CA 00 01.
2. Commercial General Liability insurance shall be at least as broad as ISO occurrences form CG 00 01 and shall cover liability arising from premises, operations, stop-gap independent contractors and personal injury and advertising injury. **The City shall be named as an additional insured under the Consultant's Commercial General Liability insurance policy** with respect to the work performed for the City using an additional insured endorsement at least as broad as ISO CG 20 26.
3. Worker's Compensation coverage as required by the Industrial Insurance laws of the State of Washington.
4. Professional Liability insurance appropriate to the Consultant's profession.

D. Minimum Amounts of Insurance: Consultant shall maintain the following insurance limits:

1. Automobile Liability insurance with a minimum combined single limit for bodily injury and property damage of \$1,000,000 per accident when any motor vehicles (owned, non-owned and hired) are used in connection with work to be performed.
2. Commercial General Liability insurance shall be written with limits no less than \$2,000,000 each occurrence and \$2,000,000 general aggregate.
3. Professional Liability insurance shall be written with limits no less than \$2,000,000 per claim and \$2,000,000 policy aggregate limit.

E. Other Insurance Provision: The Consultant's Automobile Liability and Commercial General Liability insurance policies are to contain, or be endorsed to contain, that they shall be primary insurance as respect the City. Any Insurance, self-insurance, or self-insured pool coverage maintained by the City shall be excess of the Consultant's insurance and shall not contribute with it.

F. Acceptability of Insurers: Insurance is to be placed with insurers with a current A.M. Best rating of not less than A:VII.

G. Verification of Coverage: The Consultant shall furnish the City with original certificates and a copy of the amendatory endorsements, including but not necessarily limited to the additional insured endorsements, evidencing the insurance requirements of the Consultant **within 10 days of contract execution and before scheduling of the work**. Upon request by the City, the Consultant shall furnish certified copies of all required insurance policies, including endorsements, required in this contract and evidence of all subcontractor coverage. Failure of the City to demand such verification of coverage with these insurance requirements or failure of the City to identify a deficiency from the insurance documentation provided shall not be construed as a waiver of Consultant's obligation to maintain such insurance.

Verification of coverage shall include:

1. An ACORD certificate or a form determined by the City to be equivalent.
2. Copies of all endorsements naming the City as additional insured, showing the policy number. The Consultant may submit a copy of any blanket additional insured clause from its policies instead of a separate endorsement.
3. Any other amendatory endorsements to show the coverage required herein.
4. **A notation of coverage enhancements on the Certificate of Insurance shall not satisfy these requirements – actual endorsements must be submitted.**

H. Notice of Cancellation: The Consultant shall provide the City with written notice of any policy cancellation within two business days of their receipt of such notice.

I. Failure to Maintain Insurance: Failure on the part of the Consultant to maintain the insurance as required shall constitute a material breach of contract, upon which the City may, after giving five business days' notice to the Consultant to correct the breach, immediately terminate the contract, or at its discretion, procure or renew such insurance and pay any and all premiums in connection therewith, with sums so expended to be repaid to the City on demand, or at the sole discretion of the City, offset against funds due the Consultant from the City.

J. City Full Availability of Consultant Limits: If the Consultant maintains higher insurance limits than the minimums shown above, the City shall be insured for the full available limits of Commercial General and Excess or Umbrella liability maintained by the Consultant, irrespective of whether such limits maintained by the Consultant are greater than those required by this Agreement or whether any certificate of insurance furnished to the City evidences limits of liability lower than those maintained by the Consultant.

13. **Registered or Licensed.** The City is prohibited from executing an Agreement with a Consultant who is not registered or licensed as required by the applicable laws of the state for their profession. In addition, Anacortes Municipal Code requires that every business located within the city limits of Anacortes register the business with the state and include a City of Anacortes Endorsement. Businesses from outside city limits with a gross annual income of \$4,000 or more within Anacortes are also required to obtain a city endorsement. Business licenses and city endorsements can be obtained through the State of Washington Department of Revenue (DOR) Business Licensing Service (BLS) at bls.dor.wa.gov.

14. **Inspection.** The Project Manager shall have power to reject instruments of services which fail to comply with the requirements of this Agreement, but in case of dispute the Consultant may appeal to the City Attorney, whose decision shall be final. The Consultant shall comply with any and all orders and instructions given by the representative of the particular Department administering the Agreement in accordance with the terms of the Agreement. Nothing herein contained shall be taken to relieve the Consultant of their obligations or responsibilities under the Agreement. However, the Consultant shall be responsible for their own methods and conduct during the period of performance.

15. **Standard of Care.** The Consultant represents that they have the necessary knowledge, skill, and experience to perform the Services required by this Agreement. Consultant, and any persons employed by Consultant, shall use their professional skill and efforts to perform the Work in a professional manner consistent with sound practices, in accordance with the usually and customary professional care required for services of the type described in the Scope of Work herein provided at the same time and in the same locale. The City's remedy for a failure to meet the above Standard of Care shall be the re-performance of the Service or an equitable adjustment in the monies paid for the services, at the City's discretion.

16. **Standard Title VI / Non-Discrimination Assurances.** During the performance of this contract, the Consultant, for itself, its assignees, and successors in interest agrees to the clauses in "Appendix A" and "Appendix E" of the Standard Title VI Assurances (USDOT1050.2A), which are hereby incorporated by reference and made a part hereof.

17. **Consultant is an Independent Contractor.** The parties intend that an independent contractor relationship will be created by this Agreement. No agent, employee or representative of the Consultant shall be deemed to be an agent, employee or representative of the City for any purpose. Consultant shall be solely responsible for all acts of its agents, employees, representatives and subcontractors during the performance of this Agreement.

18. **Acceptance.** Consultant acknowledges and agrees that these contract terms are incorporated in, and are a part of, each purchase order or other agreement relating to the provision of goods and/or related services by Consultant. These contract terms supersede all conflicting or additional terms pre-printed on any purchase order, quote, invoice, Consultant's website, or otherwise set forth on any release, acknowledgement, confirmation, requisition, work order, shipping instruction, specification and similar document or communication.

19. **No Third Party Beneficiary Rights.** This Agreement is not intended to and shall not be construed to give any Third Party any interest or rights (including, without limitation, any Third Party beneficiary rights) with respect to or in connection with any agreement or provision contained herein or contemplated hereby, except as otherwise expressly provided for in this Agreement.

20. Right to Terminate Agreement.

A. Termination for Default: If the Consultant defaults by failing to perform any of the obligations of the Agreement or becomes insolvent or is declared bankrupt or commits any act of bankruptcy or insolvency or makes an assignment for the benefit of creditors, the City may, by depositing written notice to the Consultant in the U.S. mail, postage prepaid, terminate the Agreement, and at the City's option, obtain performance of the work elsewhere. If the Agreement is terminated for default, the Consultant shall not be entitled to receive any further payments under the Agreement until all work called for has been fully performed. Any extra cost or damage to the City resulting from such default(s) shall be deducted from any money due or coming due to the Consultant. The Consultant shall bear any extra expenses incurred by the City in completing the work, including

all increased costs for completing the work, and all damage sustained, or which may be sustained by the City by reason of such default. If a notice of termination for default has been issued and it is later determined for any reason that the Consultant was not in default, the rights and obligations of the parties shall be the same as if the notice of termination had been issued pursuant to the Termination for Public Convenience paragraph hereof.

B. Termination for Public Convenience: The City may terminate the Agreement in whole or in part whenever the City determines, in its sole discretion that such termination is in the best interests of the City. Whenever the Agreement is terminated in accordance with this paragraph, the Consultant shall be entitled to payment for actual work performed at unit Agreement prices for completed items of work through the date of termination. If the City exercises its option under this Paragraph, the City shall not be responsible for payment for loss of anticipated profit on deleted or uncompleted work. Termination of this Agreement by the City at any time during the term, whether for default or convenience, shall not constitute a breach of Agreement by the City.

21. **Changes/Additional Work**. The City may engage Consultant to perform services in addition to those listed in this Agreement, and Consultant will be entitled to additional compensation for authorized additional services or materials. The City shall not be liable for additional compensation until and unless any and all additional work and compensation is approved in advance in writing and signed by both parties to this Agreement. If conditions are encountered which are not anticipated in the Scope of Services, the City understands that a revision to the Scope of Services and fees may be required. Provided, however, that nothing in this paragraph shall be interpreted to obligate the Consultant to render or the City to pay for services rendered in excess of the Scope of Services unless or until a modification to this Agreement is approved in writing by both parties.

22. **Non-waiver**. Waiver by the City of any provision of this Agreement or any time limitation provided for in this Agreement shall not constitute a waiver of any other provision.

23. **Non-assignable**. The services to be provided by the Consultant shall not be assigned or subcontracted without the express written consent of the City.

24. **Covenant Against Contingent Fees**. The Consultant warrants that they have not employed or retained any company or person, other than a bona fide employee working solely for the Consultant, to solicit or secure this Agreement, and that they have not paid or agreed to pay any company or person, other than a bona fide employee working solely for the Consultant, any fee, commission, percentage, brokerage fee, gifts, or any other consideration contingent upon or resulting from the award of making of this Agreement. For breach or violation of this warranty, the City shall have the right to annul this Agreement without liability or, in its discretion to deduct from the Agreement price or consideration, or otherwise recover, the full amount of such fee, commission, percentage, brokerage fee, gift, or contingent fee.

25. **Disputes**

A. General: Differences between the Consultant and the City, arising under and by virtue of this Agreement shall be brought to the attention of the City at the earliest possible time in order that such matters may be settled or other appropriate action promptly taken. The provisions of this Clause shall survive the expiration or termination of this Agreement.

B. Notice of Potential Claims: The Consultant shall not be entitled to additional compensation which otherwise may be payable, or to extension of time for (1) any act or failure to act by the Contracting Agent or the City, or (2) the happening of any event or occurrence, unless the Consultant has given the City a written Notice of Potential Claim within 10 days of the commencement of the act, failure, or event giving rise to the claim, and before final payment by the City. The written Notice of Potential Claim shall set forth the reasons for which the Consultant believes additional compensation or extension of time is due, the nature of the cost involved, and insofar as possible, the amount of the potential claim. Consultant shall keep full and complete daily records of the Work performed, labor and all costs and additional time claimed to be additional.

C. Detailed Claim: The Consultant shall not be entitled to claim any such additional compensation, or extension of time, unless within 30 days of the accomplishment of the portion of the work from which the claim arose, and before final payment by the City, the Consultant has given the City a detailed written statement of each element of cost or other compensation requested and of all elements of additional time required, and copies of any supporting documents evidencing the amount or the extension of time claimed to be due.

D. Dispute Resolution: In the event of a dispute between the City and the Consultant arising of this Agreement, or any obligation hereunder the dispute shall first be referred to the representatives designated by the City and the Consultant to have oversight over the administration of this Agreement. Said representatives shall meet within thirty (30) calendar days of receipt of detailed claim, and the parties shall make a good faith effort to achieve a resolution of the dispute. In the event the parties are unable to resolve the dispute under

the procedure set forth above, then the parties hereby agree that the matter shall be referred to mediation. The parties shall mutually agree upon a mediator to assist them in resolving their differences. Any expenses incidental to mediation shall be borne equally by the parties. If either party is dissatisfied with the outcome of the mediation, that party may then pursue any available judicial remedies.

26. **Force Majeure.** Neither party shall be liable to the other or deemed in breach or default for any failure or delay in performance under this Agreement during the time and to the extent its performance is prevented by reasons of Force Majeure. For the purposes of this Agreement, Force Majeure means an occurrence that is beyond the reasonable control of and without fault or negligence of the party claiming force majeure and which, by exercise of due diligence of such party, could not have been prevented or overcome. Force Majeure shall include natural disasters, including fire, flood, earthquake, windstorm, avalanche, mudslide, and other similar events; acts of war or civil unrest when an emergency has been declared by appropriate governmental officials; acts of civil or military authority; freight embargoes; epidemics; pandemics; quarantine restrictions; labor strikes; boycotts; terrorist acts; riots; insurrections; explosions; and nuclear accidents. A party claiming suspension or termination of its obligations due to force majeure shall give the other party prompt written notice of the impediment and its effect on the ability to perform, with such notice to be provided no more than two (2) working days after the force majeure event or reasonable discovery of the event's impact on performance. Failure to provide such notice shall preclude recovery under this provision. Such delay shall cease as soon as practicable and written notification of same shall be provided. The time of completion shall be extended by Agreement modification for a period of time equal to the time that the results or effects of such delay prevented the delayed party from performing in accordance with this Agreement. Rights Reserved: The City reserves the right to cancel the Agreement and/or purchase materials, equipment or services from the best available source during the time of force majeure, and Consultant shall have no recourse against the City.

27. **Compliance with Laws.** The Consultant in the performance of this Agreement shall comply with all applicable Federal, State or local laws and ordinances, including regulations for licensing, certification and operation of facilities, programs and accreditation, executive proclamations, all applicable Washington Dept. of Labor & Industries (L&I) and Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) safety standards, and licensing of individuals, and any other standards or criteria as described in the Agreement to assure quality of services. The Consultant specifically agrees to pay any applicable business and occupation (B&O) taxes, which may be due on account of this Agreement.

28. **Severability.** If any term or condition of this Agreement or the application thereof to any person(s) or circumstances is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other terms, conditions or applications which can be given effect without the invalid term, condition or application. To this end, the terms and conditions of this Agreement are declared severable.

29. **Governing Law.** This Agreement shall be governed by and construed under the laws of the State of Washington. Any action brought under the Agreement or relating to the Project shall be brought in the Superior Court of the State of Washington in Skagit County Washington.

30. **Survival of Agreement Termination.** The articles relating to Indemnification / Hold Harmless, Taxes, Ownership and Use of Documents, Assistance Regarding Patent and Copyright Infringement, The City's Right to Terminate Agreement, Governing Law, and Disputes, shall survive completion of the services, payment in full of the compensation and termination of this Agreement.

31. **Notices.** All notices required or permitted to be given under this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be deemed to have been given and received (a) when personally delivered, or delivered by same-day courier; or (b) on the third business day after mailing by registered or certified mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested; or (c) upon delivery when sent by prepaid overnight express delivery service (e.g., FedEx, UPS); or (d) when sent by email and upon the receipt by the sending party of written confirmation by the receiving party; provided, however, that an automated email confirmation of delivery or read receipt shall not constitute such confirmation. Notices shall be sent to the following addresses:

CITY:
City of Anacortes
Tiffany Matson
904 6th Street
PO Box 547
Anacortes, WA 98221
contracts@anacorteswa.gov

CONSULTANT:
Hargis Engineers, Inc.
Brian Cawley
1201 Third Ave, Suite 600
Seattle, WA. 98101
Brian.Cawley@hargis.biz

The parties acknowledge that there has been an opportunity to negotiate the terms and conditions of this Agreement and agree to each bind itself, its partners, successors, assigns, and legal representatives to the other party hereto, in respect of all covenants, agreements, and obligations contained in the Contract Documents. Each of the persons signing below on behalf of any party hereby represents and warrants that they are signing with full and complete authority to bind the party on whose behalf of whom they are signing, to each and every term of this Agreement.

CITY OF ANACORTES

HARGIS ENGINEERS, INC.

By _____

By _____

Title _____

Title _____

Date _____

Date _____

APPENDIX A

During the performance of this contract, the contractor, for itself, its assignees, and successors in interest (hereinafter referred to as the "contractor") agrees as follows:

1. **Compliance with Regulations:** The contractor (hereinafter includes consultants) will comply with the Acts and the Regulations relative to Non-discrimination in Federally-assisted programs of the U.S. Department of Transportation, Washington State Department of Transportation, as they may be amended from time to time, which are herein incorporated by reference and made a part of this contract.
2. **Non-discrimination:** The contractor, with regard to the work performed by it during the contract, will not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in the selection and retention of subcontractors, including procurements of materials and leases of equipment. The contractor will not participate directly or indirectly in the discrimination prohibited by the Acts and the Regulations, including employment practices when the contract covers any activity, project, or program set forth in Appendix B of 49 CFR Part 21.
3. **Solicitations for Subcontracts, Including Procurements of Materials and Equipment:** In all solicitations, either by competitive bidding, or negotiation made by the contractor for work to be performed under a subcontract, including procurements of materials, or leases of equipment, each potential subcontractor or supplier will be notified by the contractor of the contractor's obligations under this contract and the Acts and the Regulations relative to Non-discrimination on the grounds of race, color, or national origin.
4. **Information and Reports:** The contractor will provide all information and reports required by the Acts, the Regulations, and directives issued pursuant thereto and will permit access to its books, records, accounts, other sources of information, and its facilities as may be determined by the Recipient or the Washington State Department of Transportation to be pertinent to ascertain compliance with such Acts, Regulations, and instructions. Where any information required of a contractor is in the exclusive possession of another who fails or refuses to furnish the information, the contractor will so certify to the Recipient or the Washington State Department of Transportation, as appropriate, and will set forth what efforts it has made to obtain the information.
5. **Sanctions for Noncompliance:** In the event of a contractor's noncompliance with the Non-discrimination provisions of this contract, the Recipient will impose such contract sanctions as it or the Washington State Department of Transportation may determine to be appropriate, including, but not limited to:
 - a. withholding payments to the contractor under the contract until the contractor complies; and/or
 - b. cancelling, terminating, or suspending a contract, in whole or in part.
6. **Incorporation of Provisions:** The contractor will include the provisions of paragraphs one through six in every subcontract, including procurements of materials and leases of equipment, unless exempt by the Acts, the Regulations and directives issued pursuant thereto. The contractor will take action with respect to any subcontract or procurement as the Recipient or the Washington State Department of Transportation may direct as a means of enforcing such provisions including sanctions for noncompliance. Provided, that if the contractor becomes involved in, or is threatened with litigation by a subcontractor, or supplier because of such direction, the contractor may request the Recipient to enter into any litigation to protect the interests of the Recipient. In addition, the contractor may request the United States to enter into the litigation to protect the interests of the United States.

APPENDIX E

During the performance of this contract, the contractor, for itself, its assignees, and successors in interest (hereinafter referred to as the "contractor") agrees to comply with the following non-discrimination statutes and authorities; including but not limited to:

Pertinent Non-Discrimination Authorities:

- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. § 2000d et seq., 78 stat. 252), (prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin); and 49 CFR Part 21.
- The Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, (42 U.S.C. § 4601), (prohibits unfair treatment of persons displaced or whose property has been acquired because of Federal or Federal-aid programs and projects);
- Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1973, (23 U.S.C. § 324 et seq.), (prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex);
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, (29 U.S.C. § 794 et seq.), as amended, (prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability); and 49 CFR Part 27;
- The Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, (42 U.S.C. § 6101 et seq.), (prohibits discrimination on the basis of age);
- Airport and Airway Improvement Act of 1982, (49 USC§ 471, Section 47123), as amended, (prohibits discrimination based on race, creed, color, national origin, or sex);
- The Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, (PL 100-209), (Broadened the scope, coverage and applicability of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, The Age Discrimination Act of 1975 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, by expanding the definition of the terms "programs or activities" to include all of the programs or activities of the Federal-aid recipients, sub-recipients and contractors, whether such programs or activities are Federally funded or not);
- Titles II and III of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability in the operation of public entities, public and private transportation systems, places of public accommodation, and certain testing entities (42 U.S.C. §§ 12131-12189) as implemented by Department of Transportation regulations at 49 C.F.R. parts 37 and 38;
- The Federal Aviation Administration's Non-discrimination statute (49 U.S.C. § 47123) (prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, and sex);
- Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations, which ensures Non-discrimination against minority populations by discouraging programs, policies, and activities with disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority and low-income populations;
- Executive Order 13166, Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency, and resulting agency guidance, national origin discrimination includes discrimination because of Limited English proficiency (LEP). To ensure compliance with Title VI, you must take reasonable steps to ensure that LEP persons have meaningful access to your programs (70 Fed. Reg. at 74087 to 74100);
- Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended, which prohibits you from discriminating because of sex in education programs or activities (20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq).

AGREEMENT #25-187-FAC-001
EXHIBIT A

September 16, 2025

City of Anacortes
Public Works Operations Department
2201A 37th St
Anacortes, WA 98221

Attention: Brandon Krause, Facilities Maintenance Supervisor

Regarding: Fee Proposal - Engineering Services
City of Anacortes, Anacortes Police Department Building
HVAC Improvements

We are pleased to provide you with this proposal for mechanical and electrical engineering services for the above referenced project. We will provide engineering services in accordance with the attached task breakdown and the following.

Scope of Work

The scope includes engineering for replacement of existing mechanical equipment and controls components at the Anacortes Police Department Building in Anacortes, Washington. The goal of the project is to replace failing mechanical cooling equipment. Scope is as follows:

- Replace existing split system outdoor condensing unit and mated direct expansion coil with new like-kind.

We understand that the Owner prefers construction will be facilitated through design bid build procurement with advertised bidding. The anticipated Maximum Allowable Construction Cost (MACC) for the project will be defined in a preliminary design phase.

Scope of services exclude architectural & structural services, and will be submitted as an additional service if needed. We have excluded any contractor or specialty services for investigative purposes. We understand that some as-built drawings and operations and maintenance data for the buildings are available and the Owner will provide some level of backgrounds (AutoCAD) for our use if available.

Project Management

- During the preliminary design phase, Hargis Engineers will provide a rough order of magnitude project cost model for the Owner's uses on establishing a project budget.
- During the design document phase Hargis Engineers will provide drawings, specifications, cost opinions, coordination and quality control. We will create AutoCAD backgrounds as required to accommodate the required system modifications. Existing drawings will be furnished by the Owner if available. We will coordinate design coordination elements with electrical engineer and architect (if needed).

- During bidding we will facilitate a pre-bid site walk.
- During bidding we will answer questions for bidding contractors and issue addendums as necessary.
- During the construction phase of the project, we will facilitate construction meetings (2 on site and 2 virtual), and review/sign monthly pay applications.
- During the construction phase of the project, we will provide in-house support, review of submittals and shop drawings and construction administration. We will provide observation reports, review of operation and maintenance manuals and as-built drawings prepared by the contractor.
- During close out we will coordinate closeout activities with the State, the contractor and other parties involved.

Documentation

- A. Preliminary Design Phase Submittal: Progress cost opinion.
- B. Design Document Phase Submittal: Progress drawings, specifications, cost opinion.
- C. Owner Review/Permit Documents Phase: Permit drawings, specifications and forms will be submitted to the City by architectural consultant and all permit fees paid by owner.
- D. Construction Documents Phase: Construction drawings, specifications, cost opinion.
- E. Bidding/Pricing and Construction Phases: Review costing and approval, review submittals and shop drawings. Includes two site visits during construction, one punch list site visit and one backpunch (mechanical will cover electrical for site visits, OSO's and back punch).

Optional Services

- A. Update as-built drawings based upon contractor markups.

Design Phase Meetings

The following meetings are proposed and included in our fee proposal:

- A. Kickoff / Scoping Meeting (already complete)
- B. Design Phase Review Meetings (2) virtual

Fee

A. Basis: Design and pricing phases are fixed and construction administration is hourly NTE.

B. Amount:

1. Mechanical Engineering

a. Design Phase	\$.....	21,110
b. Bidding Phase	\$.....	4,040
c. Construction Administration Phase	\$.....	<u>15,000</u>
<i>Subtotal</i>	\$.....	<i>40,150</i>

2. Electrical Engineering

a. Design Phase	\$.....	8,480
b. Bidding Phase	\$.....	535
c. Construction Administration Phase	\$.....	<u>2,810</u>
<i>Subtotal</i>	\$.....	<i>11,825</i>

3. Subconsultant Services (hourly NTE)

a. Architectural Services	\$.....	TBD
b. Structural Engineering Services	\$.....	TBD
c. Acoustical Consultant Services	\$.....	TBD
<i>10% subcontractor markup</i>		<i>\$TBD</i>
<i>Subtotal (including 10% subconsultant markup).....</i>		<i><u>\$TBD</u></i>

Total \$.....**51,975**

C. Reimbursable expenses: An allowance of \$2,500 is anticipated for reimbursable expenses for this project which include printing and delivery costs for Bid/Construction Set, and travel expenses. Reimbursable expenses will be invoiced at cost plus 10%. Permit expenses will be paid for directly by City of Anacortes.

Schedule

ITEM	TIME FRAME
A. Design Phase	8 weeks
B. Owner Review	1 week
C. Package bidding documents	1 weeks
D. Bidding	3 weeks
E. Construction Phase	3 months (8 weeks active construction)

F. Final Completion

Fall 2026

We understand that the project construction timing for the work in will occur when cooling load can be minimized or phased. Hargis will work with City of Anacortes to coordinate schedule of construction to achieve completion as soon as practical in the fall of 2026.

We appreciate this opportunity to provide engineering services. Please call us if you have any questions about this fee proposal.

On Behalf of HARGIS ENGINEERS, INC.



Brian Cawley, PE
Principal, Mechanical

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**Anacortes Police Department Building
HVAC Unit Replacement**

Mechanical Design and Construction Administration Task Summary

1201 third avenue, suite 600
seattle, washington 98101
t 206.448.3376 w hargis.biz

H A R G I S

mechanical
electrical
telecommunications
security
energy

	principal	project engineer	designer	
	\$230	\$190	\$155	total
design phase				
participate in project kickoff/scope confirmation meeting		2		\$ 380
project management	1	8		\$ 1,750
Coordination with Electrical		2	2	\$ 690
review of existing as-built drawings		6		\$ 1,140
drawing setup / backgrounds		2	6	\$ 1,310
hvac load calculations		1	4	\$ 810
equipment selection/vendor coord		6		\$ 1,140
site visit to verify location/configuration of equipment		5		\$ 950
coordinate existing equipment for like-kind replacement feasibility		4	4	\$ 1,380
mechanical drawings - ductwork and equipment design		6	12	\$ 3,000
details and diagrams		4	4	\$ 1,380
energy code calculations / forms		4	4	\$ 1,380
technical specifications - drawing specs	1	6	2	\$ 1,680
coordination with owner		6		\$ 1,140
design review meeting with meeting minutes		4		\$ 760
respond and incorporate owner review comments		2		\$ 380
quality control	2	2	1	\$ 995
permit submittal / coordination		2	1	\$ 535
consolidation of drawing set / 'distribution of drawings / documents			2	\$ 310
total design phase	4.0	72.0	42.0	\$21,110
bidding/pricing phase				
pre-bid site walk with contractors		6		\$ 1,140
Manage documents and communication		8	4	\$ 2,140
answer bid time questions and issue addendum		4		\$ 760
total design development phase	0.0	18.0	4.0	\$ 4,040
construction administration and project closeout				
project management	1	8		\$ 1,750
participate in pre-construction meeting		4		\$ 760
review submittals		2	4	\$ 1,000
review RFIs/questions		8	4	\$ 2,140
review PRs / COPs / pay applications		8		\$ 1,520
meetings during construction / minutes (2 site and 2 virtual meetings included)		12		\$ 2,280
field report (2 visits & reports included)		12		\$ 2,280
punchlist site visit / report		5		\$ 950
backpunch site visit / report, review functional performance with owner		5		\$ 950
review and comment on TAB report		2		\$ 380
closeout	1	2		\$ 610
review as-built documents		2		\$ 380
total construction administration and project closeout phase	2.0	70.0	8.0	\$15,000
total mechanical	6.0	160.0	54.0	\$40,150

**Anacortes Police Department Building
HVAC Unit Replacement**

Electrical Design and Construction Administration Task Summary

1201 third avenue, suite 600
seattle, washington 98101
t 206.448.3376 w hargis.biz

H A R G I S

mechanical
electrical
telecommunications
security
energy

	principal	project engineer	designer	
	\$230	\$190	\$155	total
design phase				
Project management and kickoff meeting	3	1		\$ 880
drawing setup / backgrounds		1	2	\$ 500
coordination with mechanical		2	2	\$ 690
review of existing as-built drawings		1	2	\$ 500
Electrical sequence of operations and requirements				\$ -
consulting to select lighting control system with owner				\$ -
site visit to verify existing conditions				\$ -
Owner review meetings (3) virtual		3		\$ 570
electrical drawings		4	6	\$ 1,690
Details for equipment replacement		1	4	\$ 810
Cost Opinion		2	2	\$ 690
technical specifications - drawing specs		2	2	\$ 690
respond and incorporate owner review comments		1	2	\$ 500
quality control	2	1	2	\$ 960
permit submittal / coordination		0	0	\$ -
total design phase	5.0	19.0	24.0	\$ 8,480
bidding/pricing phase				
pre-bid site walk with SWR contractors				\$ -
answer bid time questions and issue addendum		2	1	\$ 535
total bidding/pricing phase	0.0	2.0	1.0	\$ 535
construction administration and closeout				
review submittals		1	4	\$ 810
review RFIs/questions		1	4	\$ 810
review PRs / COPs / pay applications		1	2	\$ 500
punchlist site visit / report				\$ -
backpunch site visit / report				\$ -
closeout / review O&Ms		1	1	\$ 345
review as-built documents		1	1	\$ 345
total construction administration and closeout phase	0.0	5.0	12.0	\$ 2,810
total electrical	5.0	26.0	37.0	\$11,825



City Council Agenda Bill

March 16, 2026

Action Type: Presentation

Item: 8.b.

Title: Downtown Streetscapes Project Presentation

Staff Contact(s): John Coleman

Approved for Submittal to Council by:

Greg Francioch
John Coleman

Summary: The city hired the consultant First Forty Feet to perform a study and provide recommendations for possible improvements to the downtown streetscape that will improve the experience of visitors and stakeholders in the downtown area. The project information is available on the PCED website [here](#).

This is not a final presentation of the streetscape plan. In this presentation, Jason Graf, of First Forty Feet, will provide their preliminary recommendations to the council. After presenting their recommendations, the consultant will be looking for feedback. They will be asking if council is comfortable with some of the big concepts that are proposed, and some guidance on the priorities for the possible actions presented. After the meeting, the consultant will work on refining the plan, based on council feedback. The final recommendations will be presented to council at a future date.

Budget Impact:

Previous Action: Two open houses, and several stakeholder meetings have been held. Also, an online community survey was open for four weeks in March.

Recommended Motion:

Alternative Actions:

Attachments (listed in order presented):

1. Draft Streetscapes Plan Elements and Actions - Presentation



CITY OF ANACORTES DOWNTOWN STREETSCAPES PLAN

***CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION:
"DRAFT PLAN ELEMENTS AND ACTIONS"***

AGENDA

PART ONE PRESENTATION

- PROJECT PROCESS
- THE VISION AND THE BIG IDEAS FOR STRENGTHENING DOWNTOWN
- POTENTIAL ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE PLAN
- DISCUSS CITY COUNCIL ACTION PRIORITIES-

PROJECT PURPOSE & OBJECTIVES

“SHAPE A SAFE, VIBRANT, **HISTORICALLY GROUNDED, AND ECONOMICALLY STRONG** DOWNTOWN, WHILE PROVIDING THE CITY AND ITS PARTNERS WITH **CLEAR STRATEGIES AND FUNDING PATHWAYS** TO MAKE IT HAPPEN.”

1. Vision & Identity

- Shape a clear vision for Downtown.
- Reinforce a distinct “Anacortes” identity.

2. Building Presentation & Historic Assets

- Enhance storefronts and buildings.
- Ensure storefront upgrades and new development fits downtown’s character.

3. Downtown Uses & Activation

- Promote a mix of businesses to generate foot traffic.
- Activate vacant and underused spaces.
- Ensure adequate parking.

4. Safety & Mobility

- Make walking and biking safe, comfortable and direct
- Enhance crossings, improve visibility and calm traffic.

5. Streetscape Enhancements

- Enhance trees, lighting, seating, and wayfinding.
- Improve appearance, place-making and connections to downtown destinations.

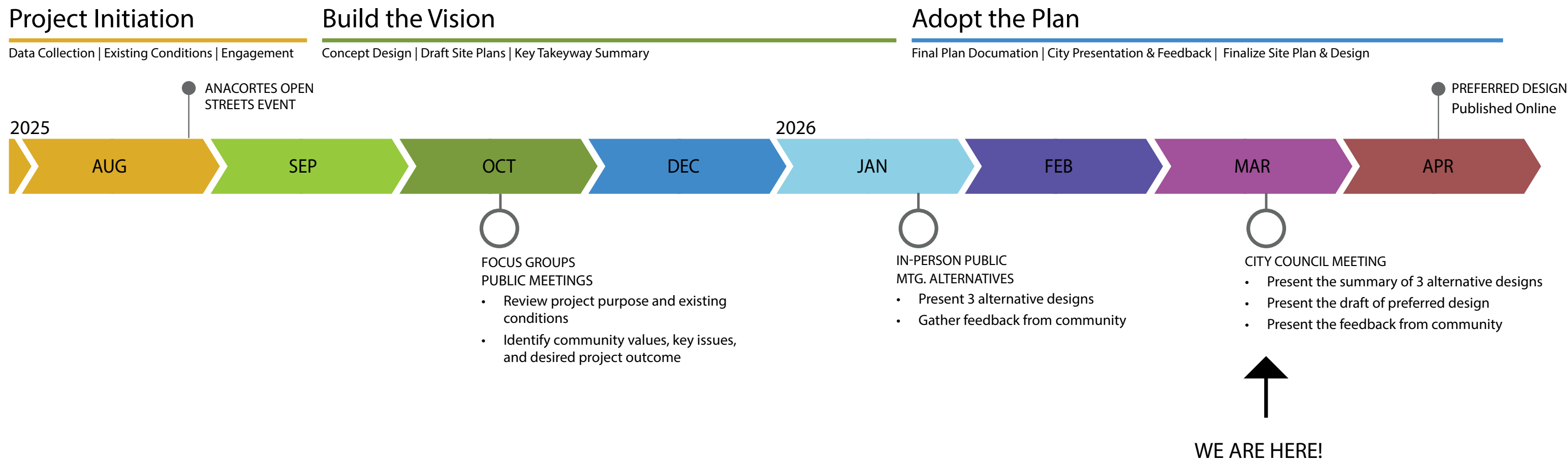
6. Gathering Spaces

- Create plazas and gathering places.
- Improve infrastructure for festivals and events.

7. Action & Implementation

- Set short- and long-term priorities.
- Provide cost strategies and funding options.

PROJECT TIMELINE



ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

PROJECT MEETINGS

- Bi-weekly PMT Meetings with City Staff (16)
- Bi-weekly Meetings with Downtown Anacortes Alliance (12)
- Kick-off Event Open Streets (1)
- Community Open House Workshops: Oct-2025 & Jan-2026 (2)
- Two Community Surveys: Oct/Nov/2025 & Jan/Feb-2026 (2)
- Focus Group Meetings: Oct-2025; Dec/Jan-2025; Feb/March-2026 (26)
- City Council Work Session (1)

60 Meetings

FOCUS GROUPS

PORT OF ANACORTES	ANACORTES MUSEUM	SKAGIT TOURISM
SAMISH COUNCIL	ABPAC	CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
CREATIVE DISTRICT	FRIENDS OF HEART OF ANACORTES	HOUSING AUTHORITY
CITY PLANNING, PUBLIC WORKS, & PARKS	DOWNTOWN ANACORTES ALLIANCE	ANACORTES HIGH SCHOOL
OPEN STREETS	DOWNTOWN BUSINESS AND PROPERTY OWNERS	SKAGIT TRANSIT



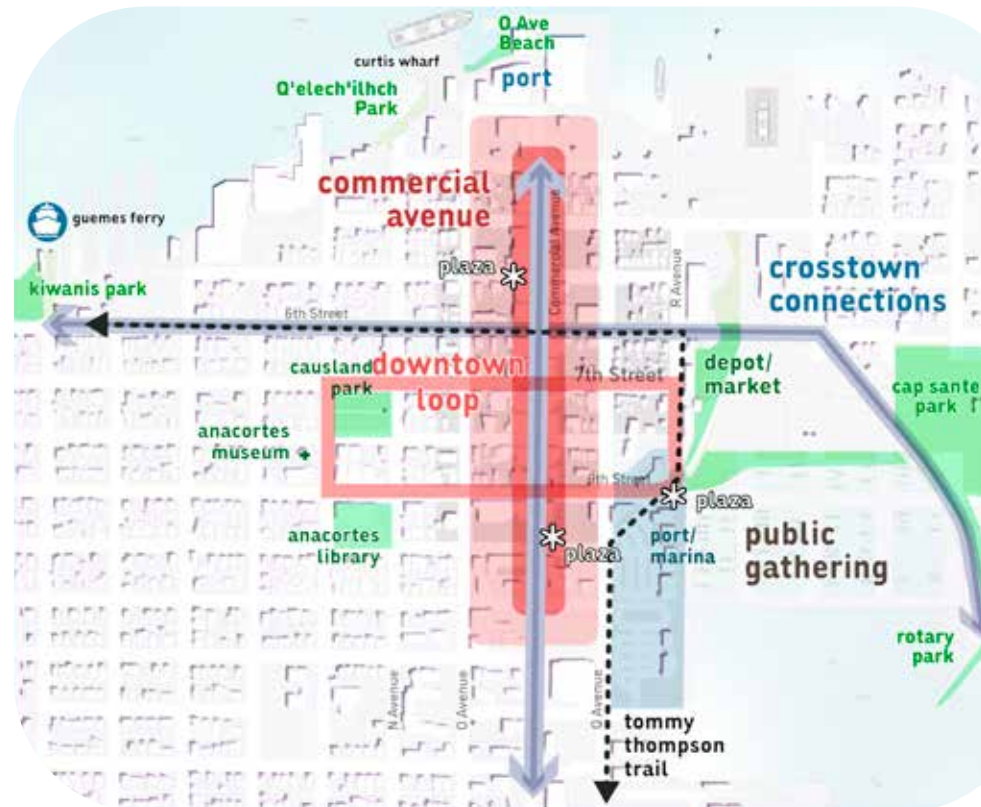
why

IDENTIFY THE CHALLENGES,
OPPORTUNITIES AND WHAT IS
VALUED— TO **ESTABLISH A VISION +
GUIDING PRINCIPLES**



what

**EXPLORE THE “BIG IDEAS” TO
ENHANCE THE DOWNTOWN
EXPERIENCE**



how

**IDENTIFY THE PROJECTS
AND PARTNERSHIPS FOR
SUCCESS**



VISION

**"A VIBRANT, CREATIVE, AND CONNECTED
DOWNTOWN THAT CELEBRATES ANACORTES'
IDENTITY — WHERE WALKABLE STREETS,
LOCAL CULTURE, AND STRONG PARTNERSHIPS
BRING COMMUNITY AND WATERFRONT LIFE
TOGETHER.**

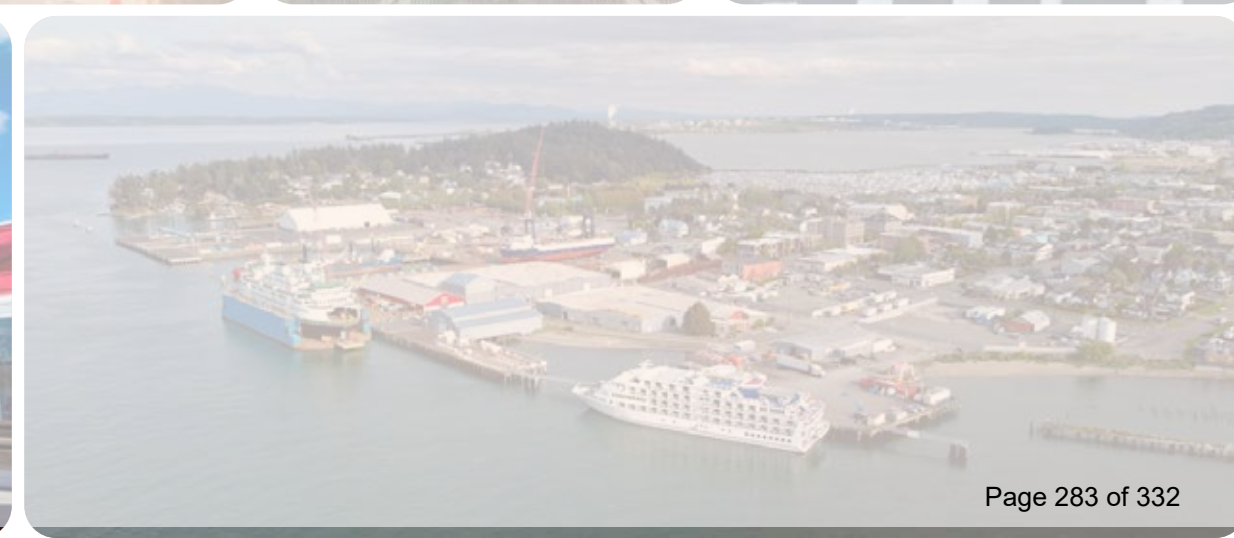
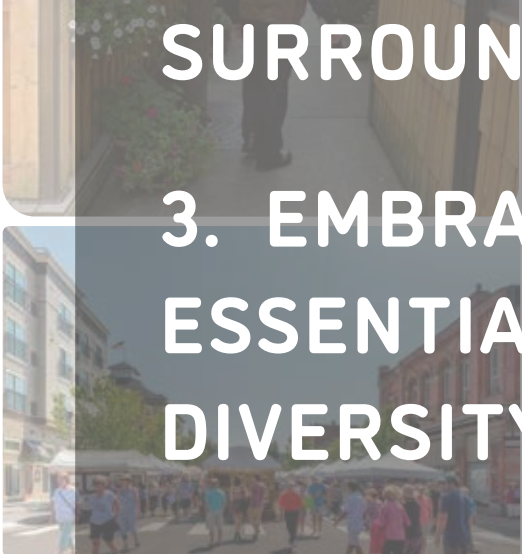
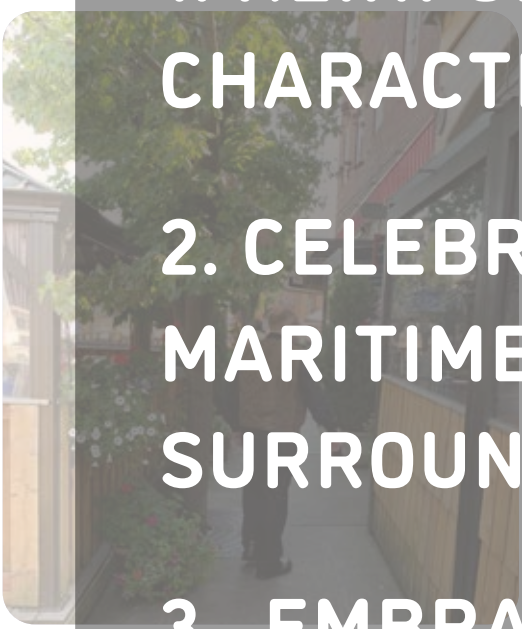
WHAT WE HEARD!



GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

IDENTITY

1. REINFORCE ANACORTES' UNIQUE CHARACTER AND VALUES
2. CELEBRATE HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE, MARITIME HERITAGE, AND NATURAL SURROUNDINGS.
3. EMBRACE ART, CULTURE, AND DESIGN AS ESSENTIAL TO EXPRESSING CREATIVITY AND DIVERSITY.



GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

CONNECTED

1. PROMOTE A COMPACT, WALKABLE DOWNTOWN WHERE DESTINATIONS ARE WITHIN EASY REACH.
2. EMPHASIZE CLEAR GATEWAYS AND A STRONG SENSE OF ARRIVAL THAT REFLECTS ANACORTES' IDENTITY.
3. CENTER ACCESSIBILITY, COMFORT, AND CLEAR WAYFINDING TO DOWNTOWN DESTINATIONS.
4. PRIORITIZE SAFE, CONVENIENT CONNECTIONS TO NEIGHBORHOODS, TRAILS, AND THE WATERFRONT.



GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

PLACE

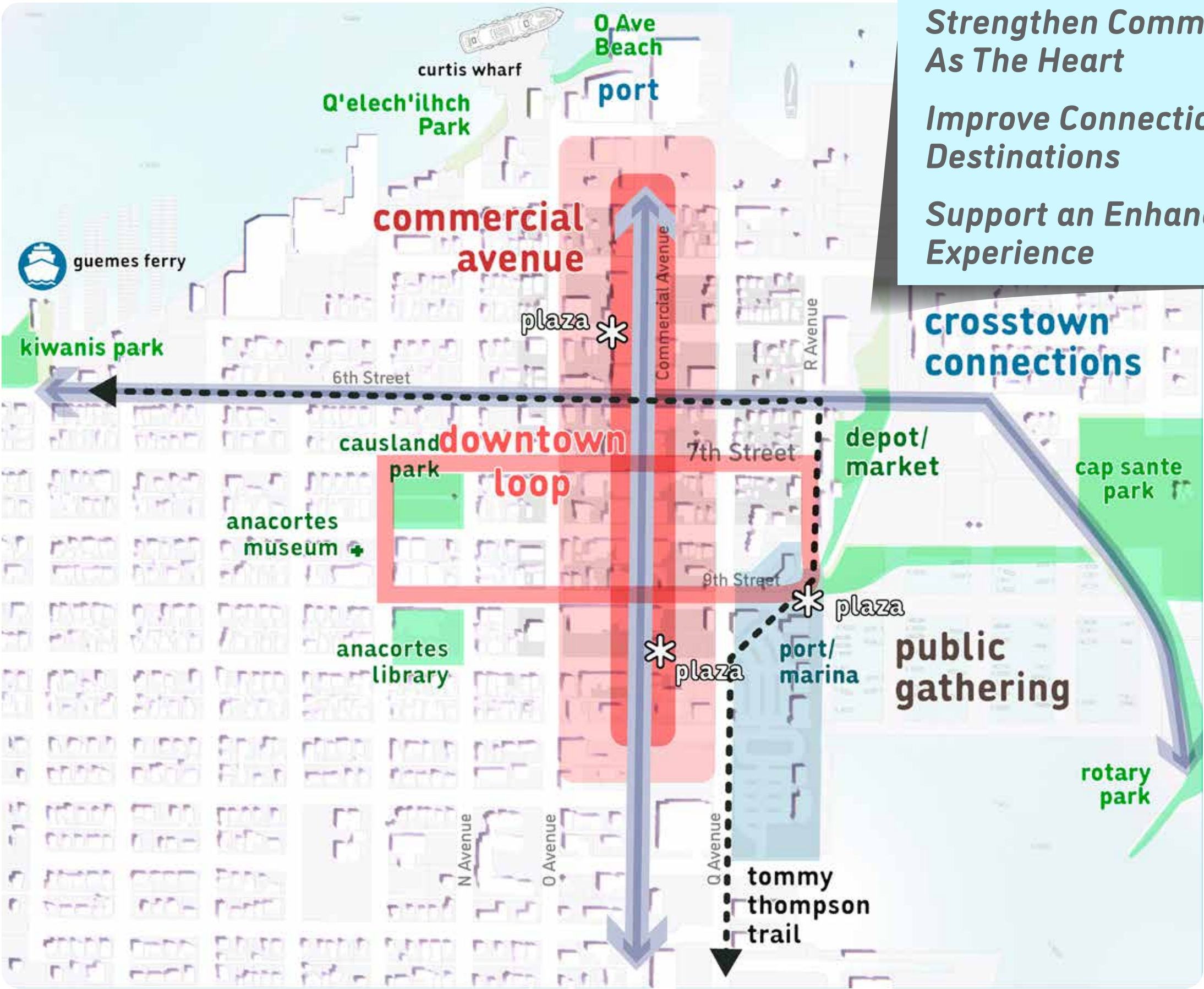
1. CELEBRATE COMMERCIAL AVENUE AND ITS SURROUNDING BLOCKS AS THE HEART OF DOWNTOWN CIVIC LIFE AND CULTURE
2. CHAMPION PEOPLE-FIRST ENVIRONMENTS THAT ENCOURAGE ACTIVITY, DIVERSITY OF USE, AND YEAR-ROUND VITALITY.
3. RECOGNIZE STREETSAPES, PLAZAS, AND WATERFRONT CONNECTIONS AS DEFINING ELEMENTS OF THE DOWNTOWN EXPERIENCE.
4. SUPPORT A DYNAMIC, DAY-TO-NIGHT EXPERIENCE THAT IS BOTH LOCALLY FOCUSED AND WELCOMING TO VISITORS.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

PARTNERSHIPS

1. APPROACH DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION AS A SHARED EFFORT BUILT ON COLLABORATION AND TRUST.
2. VALUE PARTNERSHIPS AMONG THE CITY, PUBLIC AGENCIES, BUSINESSES, PROPERTY OWNERS, AND ORGANIZATIONS.
3. ADVANCE STRATEGIES THAT ARE REALISTIC, PHASED, AND RESPONSIVE TO COMMUNITY CAPACITY.

THE BIG IDEAS: PRELIMINARY DOWNTOWN CONCEPTS



*Strengthen Commercial Ave
As The Heart*

*Improve Connections to Key
Destinations*

*Support an Enhanced Downtown
Experience*

THE BIG IDEAS: COMMERCIAL AVENUE



THE BIG IDEAS: COMMERCIAL AVENUE

Comfortable and Safe Intersections



PRECEDENTS



THE BIG IDEAS: COMMERCIAL AVENUE

Comfortable and
Safe Intersections

BEFORE...



...AFTER



TRAFFIC CIRCLE TO
REDUCE SPEED &
ROADWAY SCALE

EXTEND CURBS
FOR COMFORT
AND VISIBILITY TO
VEHICLES

ADD BIKE MARKINGS
THROUGH THE
INTERSECTION

THE BIG IDEAS: COMMERCIAL AVENUE

Comfortable and Safe Intersections

BEFORE...

...AFTER



BIKE MARKING



PAINTED CORNERS



TRAFFIC CIRCLE

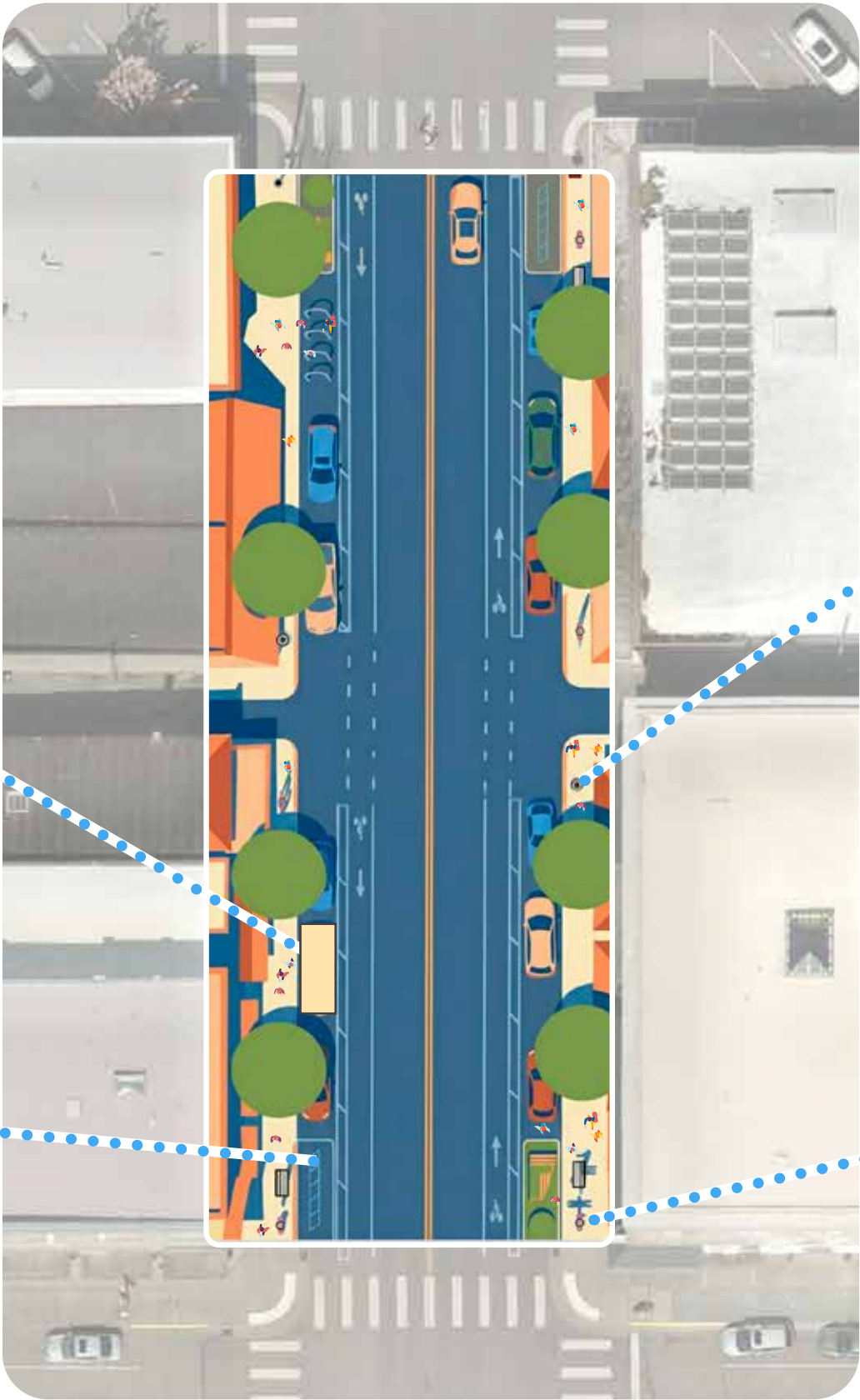
THE BIG IDEAS: COMMERCIAL AVENUE

Streetscape Furnishings

PARKLETS



BIKE
RACK



Kit of Parts to Keep!



TRASH
CAN



LIGHT
POLES

THE BIG IDEAS: COMMERCIAL AVENUE

“NEW” Kit of Parts For Consideration

Streetscape Furnishings



seating (free standing)?



signage ?



signage ?



parklet ?



seating (movable)?



seating /planter ?



planter



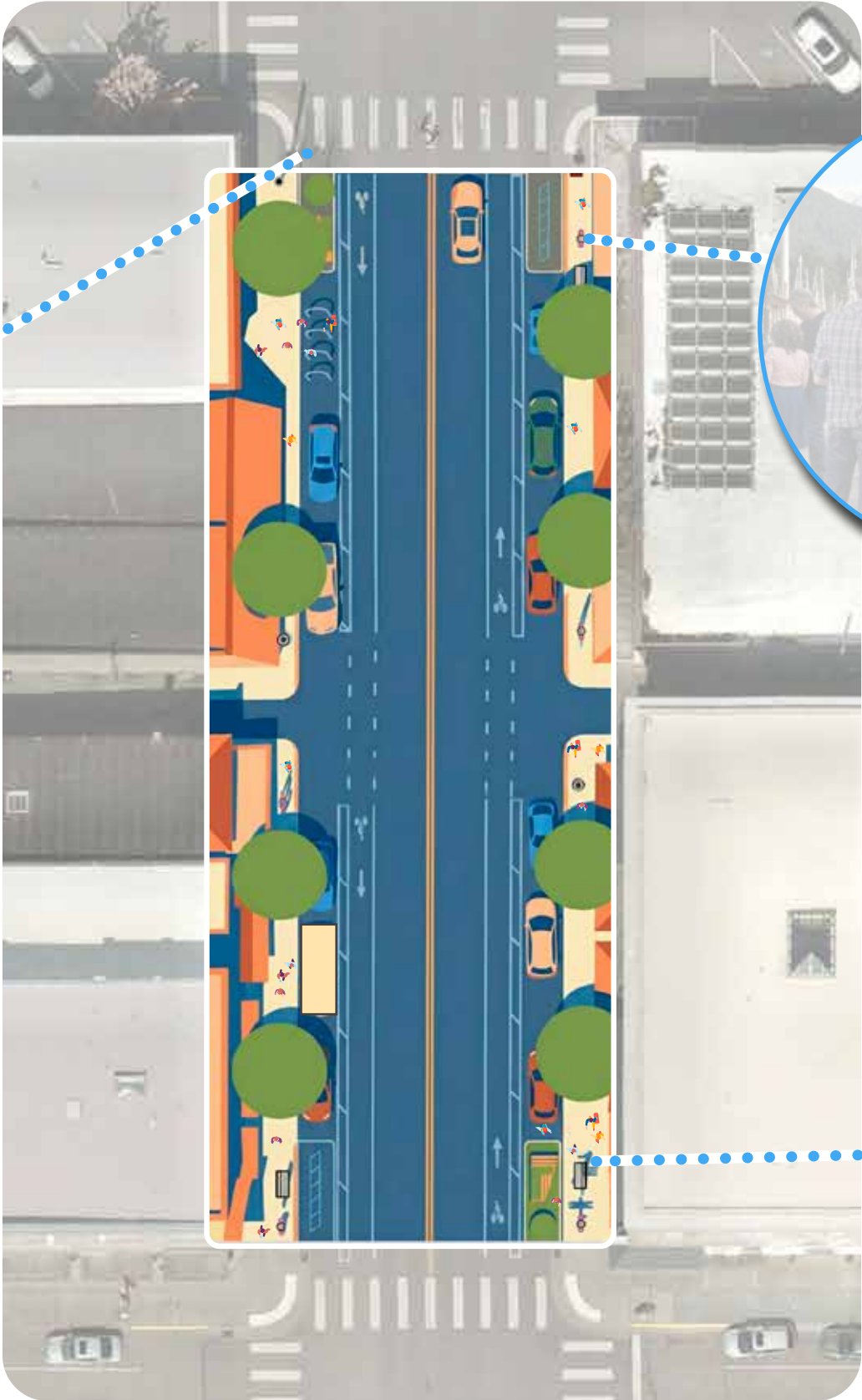
seating

THE BIG IDEAS: COMMERCIAL AVENUE



Streetscape
Furnishings

BENCH &
PLANTER



***“NEW” Kit of Parts
For Consideration***



KIOSK



CORNER
BENCH



BENCH
ASSEMBLY

THE BIG IDEAS: COMMERCIAL AVENUE

Streetscape
Furnishings



***"NEW" Kit of Parts
For Consideration***



STREET TREE &
STOREFRONT



BUILDING &
ROADWAY

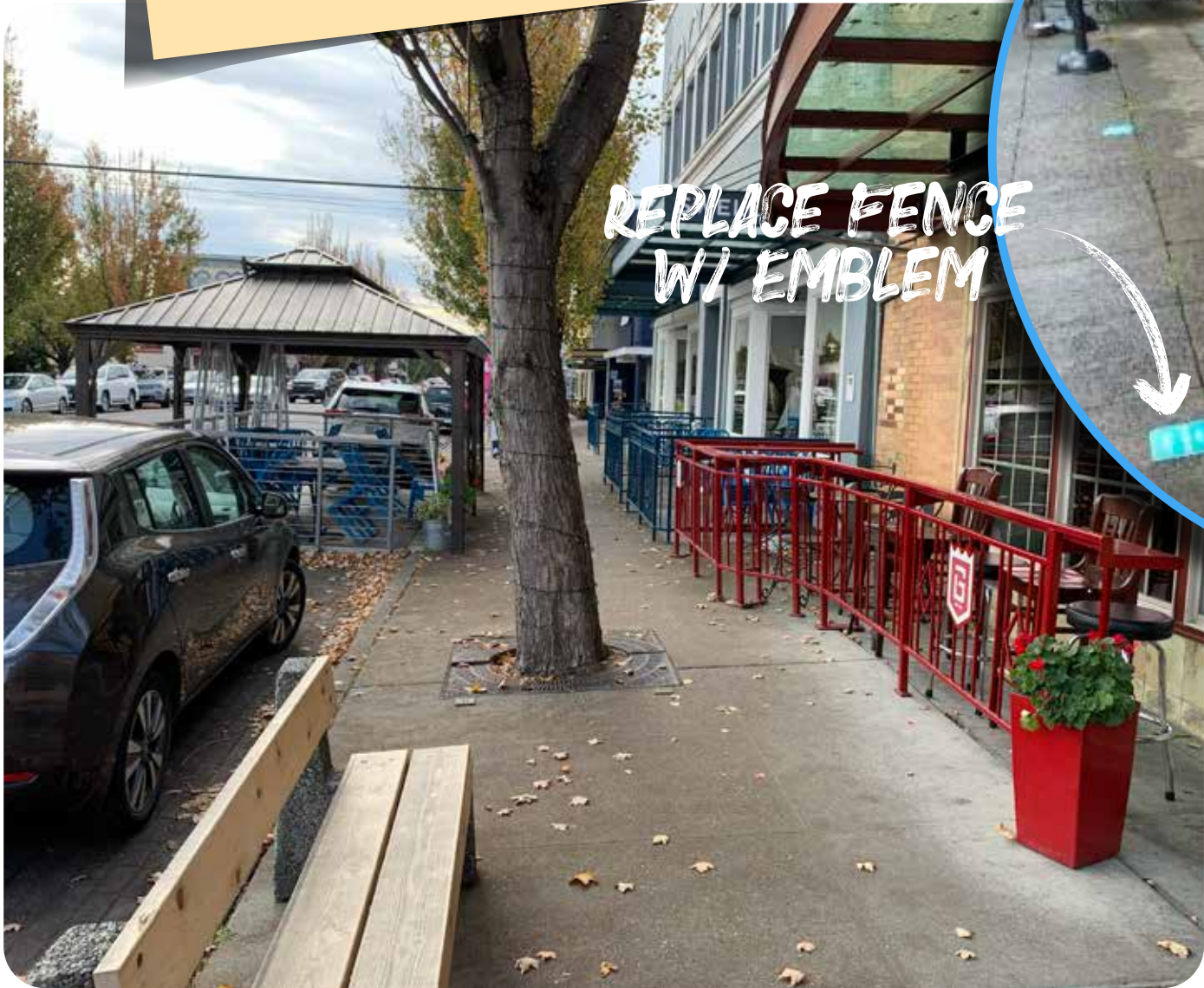


DOWNTOWN

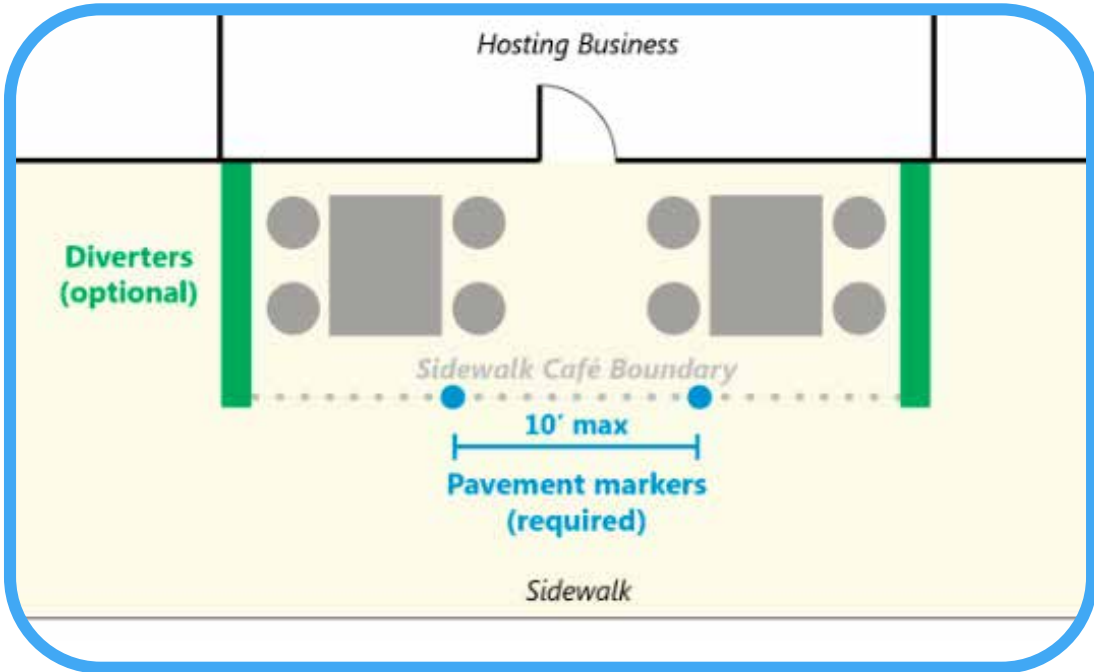
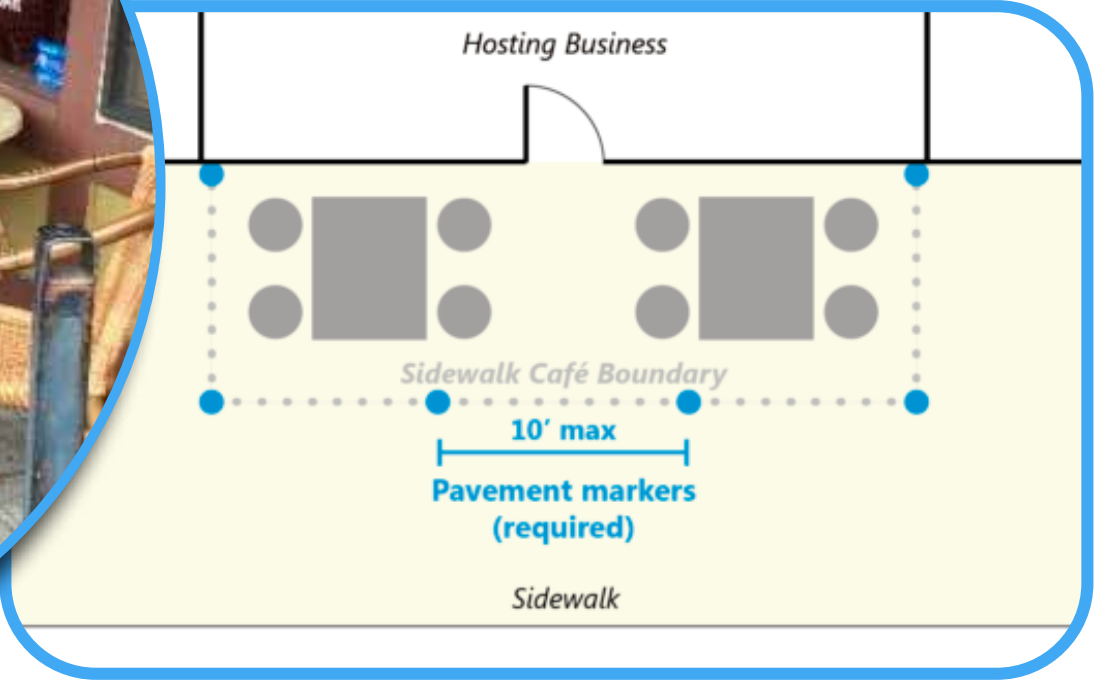


THE BIG IDEAS: COMMERCIAL AVENUE

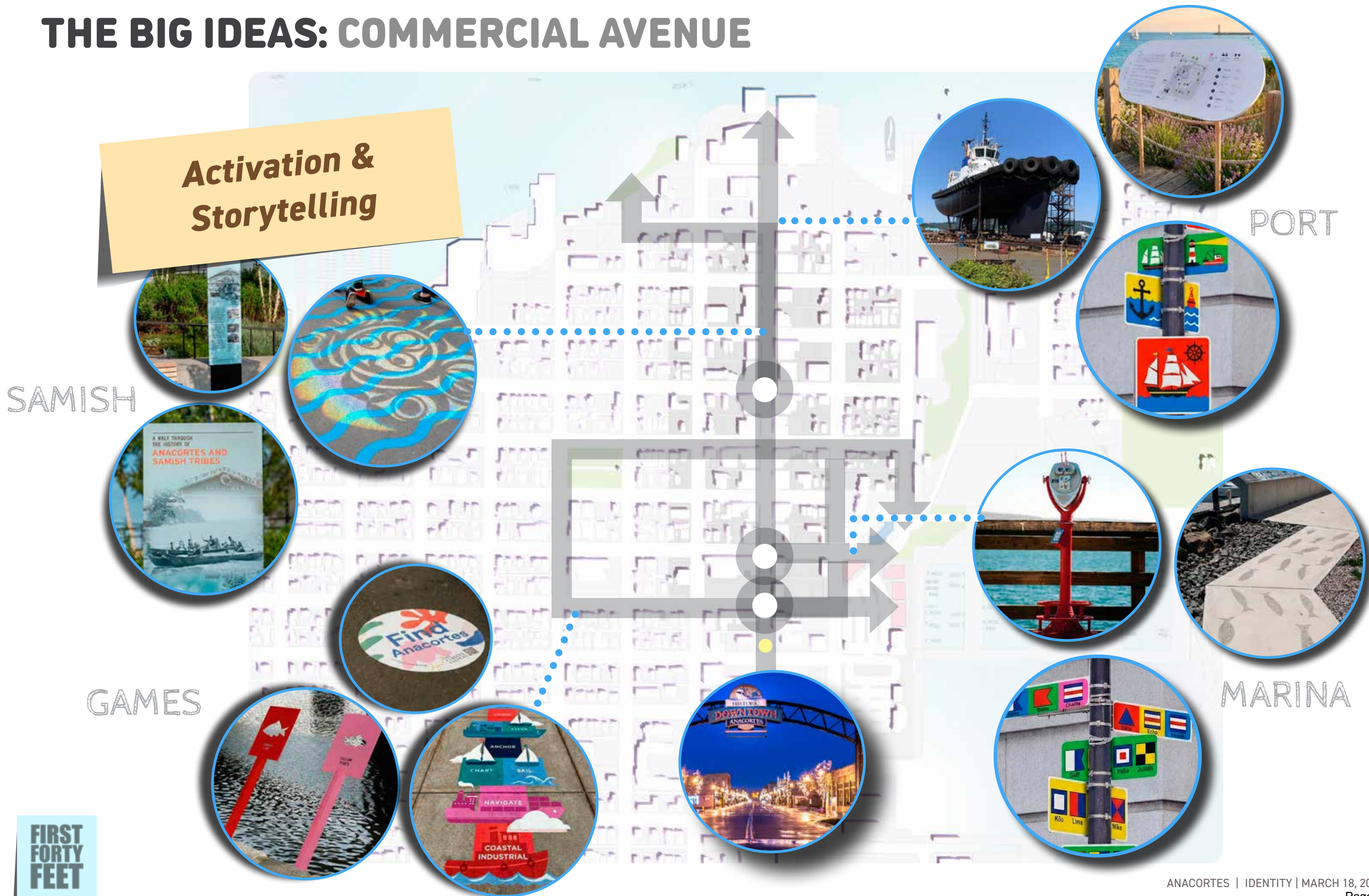
Streetscape
Furnishings



Managing the Sidewalk For Improved Access & Comfort



THE BIG IDEAS: COMMERCIAL AVENUE



THE BIG IDEAS: COMMERCIAL AVENUE

Buildings & Storefronts



add signage



replace parklet



add signage



canopy lighting



paint this segment



add signage



replace canopy



open transoms



tidy storefront



clean building

THE BIG IDEAS: COMMERCIAL AVENUE

Buildings &
Storefronts

BEFORE...



...AFTER



THE BIG IDEAS: COMMERCIAL AVENUE

Buildings & Storefronts

BEFORE...



...AFTER



THE BIG IDEAS: COMMERCIAL AVENUE

Parking:

Consider One-way Streets

Adds +/- 86 Spaces over 16 blocks

TRAFFIC STUDY NEEDED



THE BIG IDEAS: COMMERCIAL AVENUE

Parking:
Angled Only Gain up to 4 spaces
Lose bike lanes

*Commercial Avenue Diagonal Parking
(One Side)-Need Speed Bumps to Slow
Traffic Shared with Bikes*

BEFORE...

...AFTER

EXISTING
11 SPACES

PROPOSED
15 SPACES

GAIN
+4 SPACES

EXISTING
14-FOOT SIDEWALKS

NO CHANGE
14-FOOT SIDEWALKS

LOSS
BIKE LANES
EACH SIDE

ADD SPEED BUMPS TO
SLOW TRAFFIC

ADD SHARED ROADWAY
BIKE MARKINGS

THE BIG IDEAS: COMMERCIAL AVENUE

Parking:
*Consider acquisition for public
Lot/Future Development*
Add +/- 76 spaces

10TH Street Public Parking Lot Alternative - Near Term

BEFORE...

...AFTER



**PROPOSED
76 SPACES**

**GAIN
+76 SPACES**



ACQUIRE SITE FOR
PUBLIC PARKING

THE BIG IDEAS: COMMERCIAL AVENUE

Parking:
*Consider acquisition for public
Lot/Future Development*
Add +/- 76 spaces

10TH Street Redevelopment Alternative - Longer Term

Mixed-Use Infill Development

Illustration



THE BIG IDEAS: COMMERCIAL AVENUE

**Public
Gathering**



THE BIG IDEAS: COMMERCIAL AVENUE

Public Gathering



THE BIG IDEAS: COMMERCIAL AVENUE

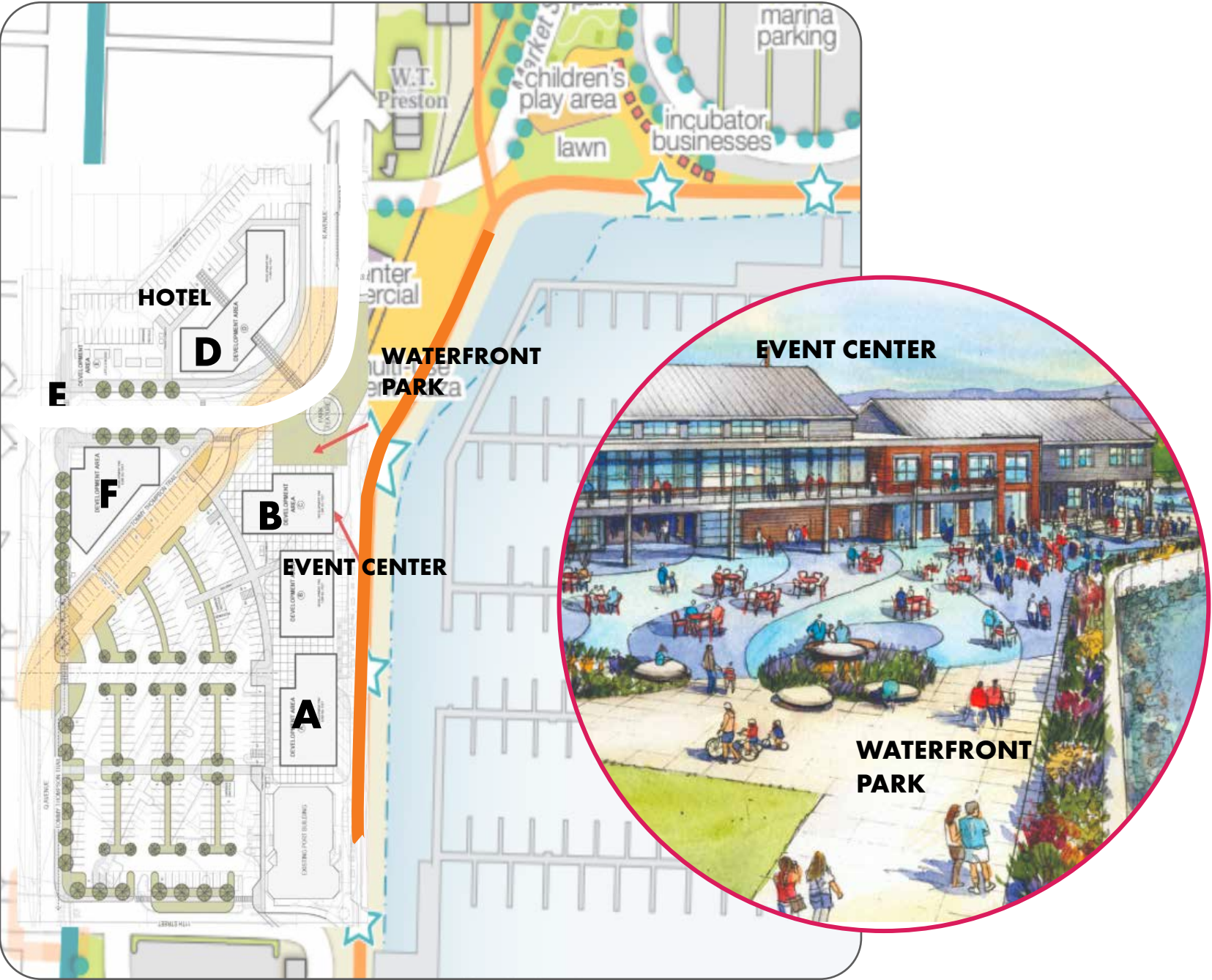
Public
Gathering

BEFORE...



Planned Marina Plaza

...AFTER



THE BIG IDEAS: COMMERCIAL AVENUE

Public
Gathering

5th Street Plaza Concept

BEFORE...



STREET PLAZA REPLACES
PORTION OF ROADWAY AND
PARKING

...AFTER



THE BIG IDEAS: COMMERCIAL AVENUE

Public
Gathering

5th Street Plaza Concept

BEFORE...



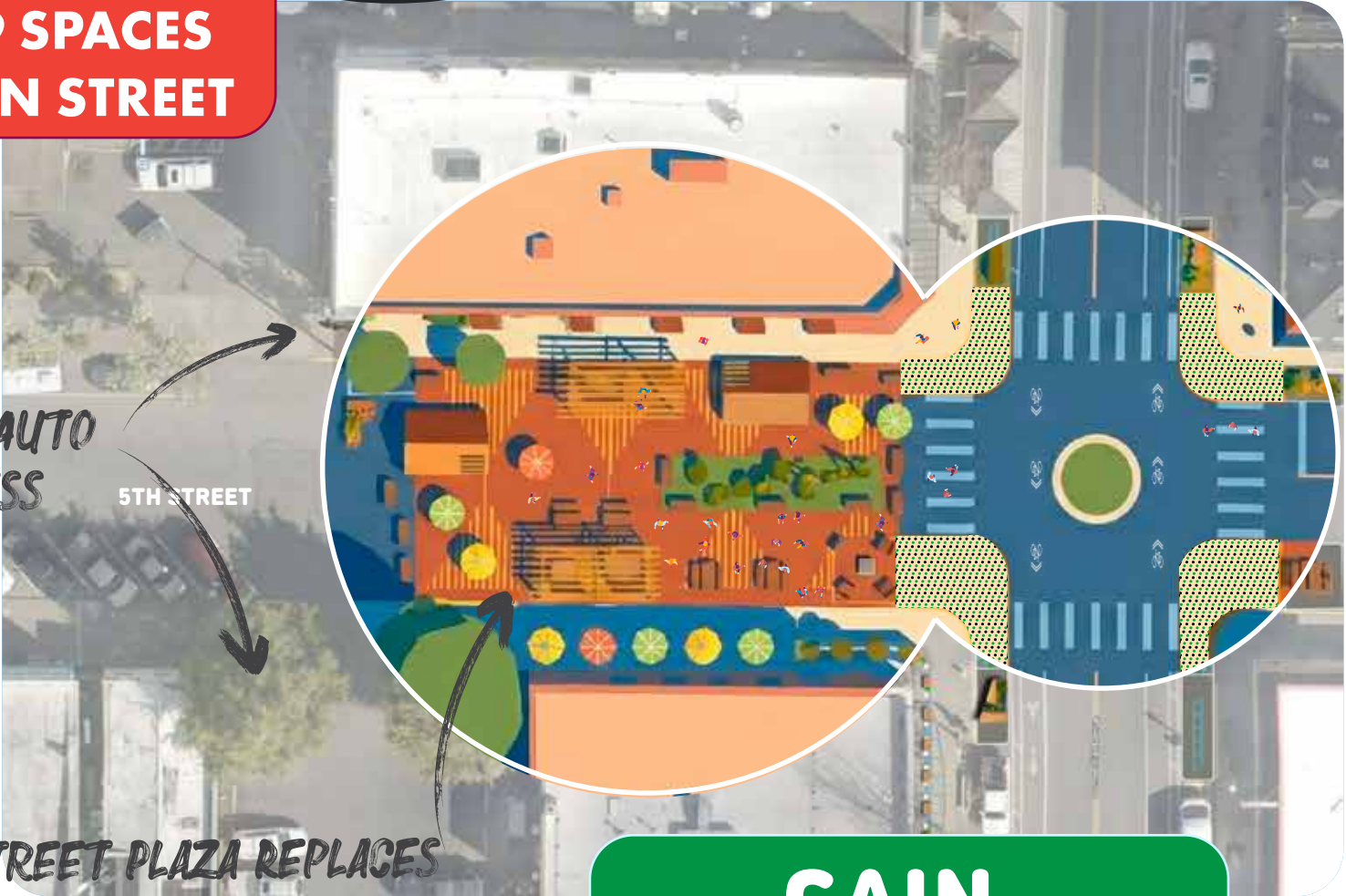
116 TOTAL SPACES EACH SIDE OF THE STREET

LOSS
9 SPACES ON STREET

13% PARKING LOSS

...AFTER

KEEPS AUTO ACCESS



GAIN
MORE PEOPLE GATHER AND SPEND LONGER TIME DOWNTOWN

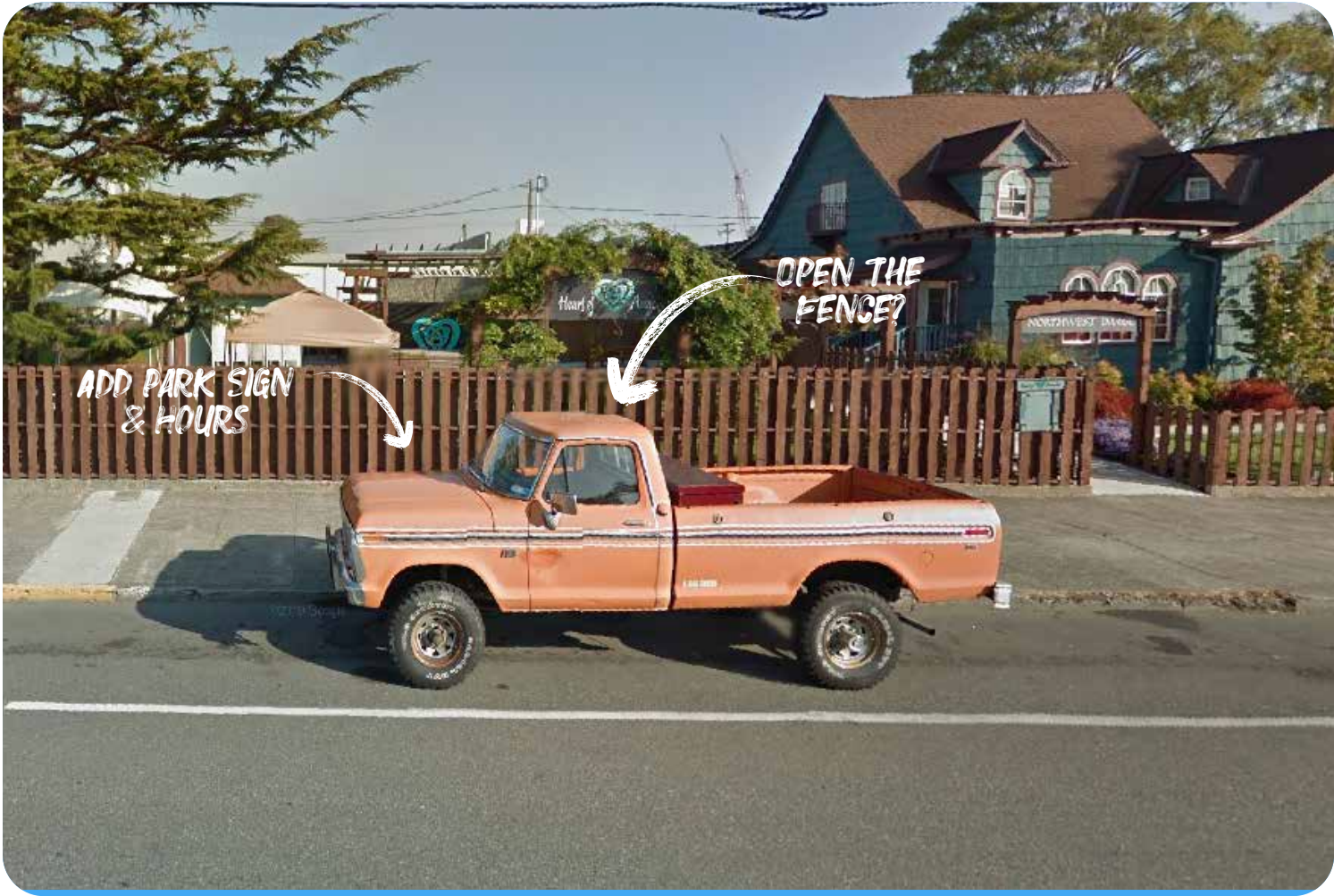
THE BIG IDEAS: COMMERCIAL AVENUE

Public
Gathering

Heart of Anacortes & 4th Street Plaza

BEFORE...

...AFTER



THE BIG IDEAS: COMMERCIAL AVENUE

Public
Gathering

Heart of Anacortes & 4th Street Plaza

BEFORE...



...AFTER



THE BIG IDEAS: COMMERCIAL AVENUE

Public
Gathering

The “Pit” - 10th Street Plaza & Redevelopment

BEFORE...

...AFTER



THE BIG IDEAS: DOWNTOWN LOOP

Downtown Loop

Improve Connections to Key Destinations

Support an Enhanced Downtown Experience



THE BIG IDEAS: PRELIMINARY DOWNTOWN CONCEPTS

Downtown Loop

Connect Commercial Avenue to the Depot, Marina, Causland Park & the Library

BEFORE...

...AFTER



EXTEND CURB

BIKE MARKINGS

THE BIG IDEAS: DOWNTOWN LOOP

Downtown Loop

Downtown Loop Streets Typical Enhancements

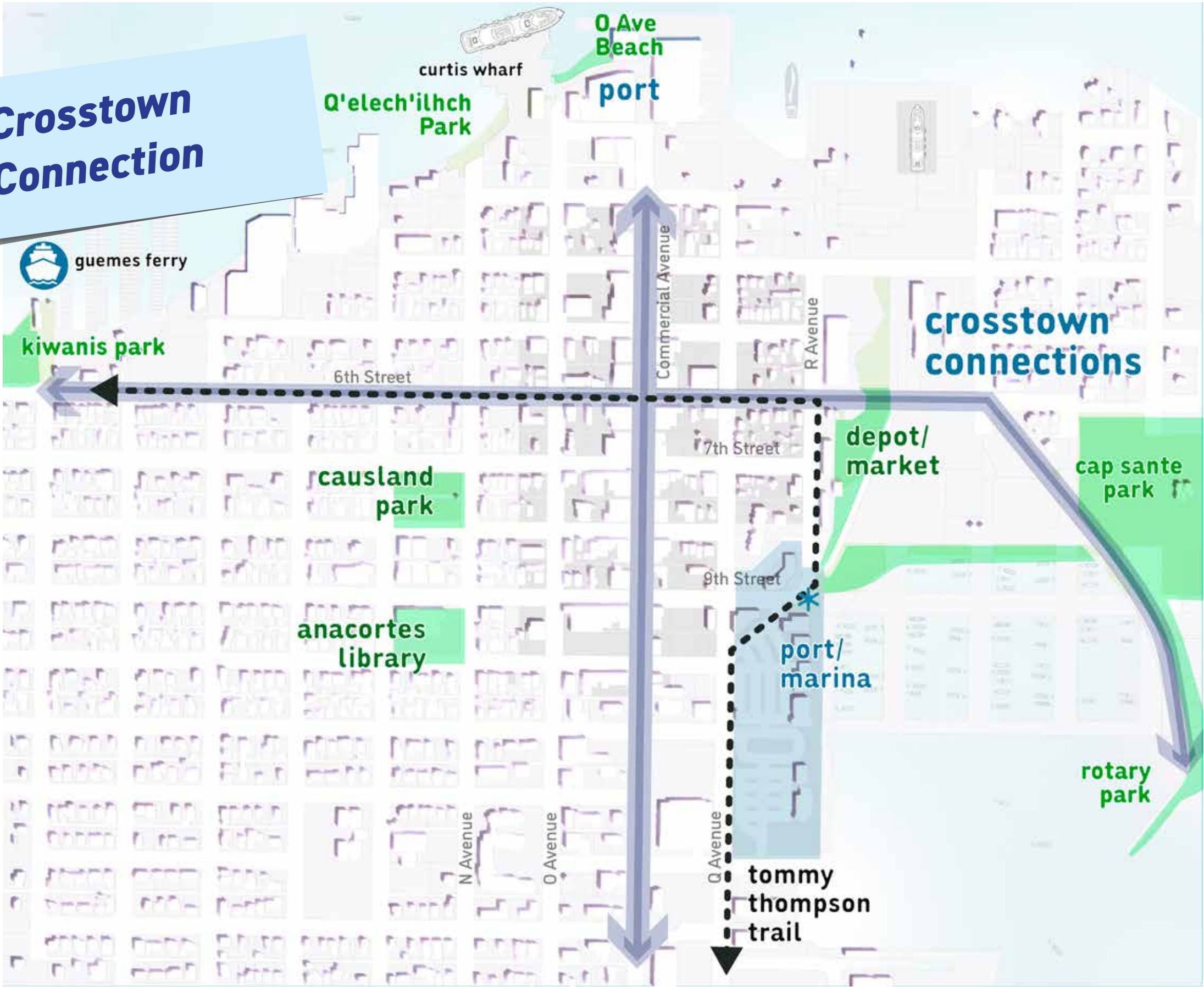
BEFORE...

...AFTER



THE BIG IDEAS: CROSSTOWN CONNECTION

Crosstown
Connection



THE BIG IDEAS: CROSSTOWN CONNECTION

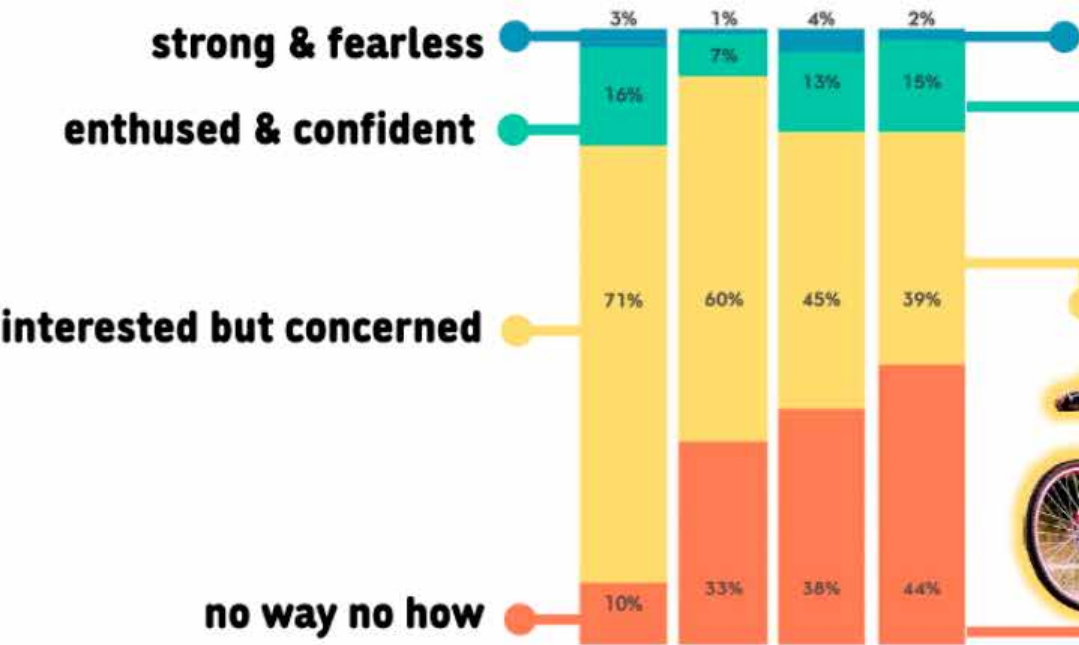
Crosstown Connection

SAFETY IS #1 CONCERN!!!



Type of Cyclist

National Survey: Most respondents are **interested** but **concerned** about riding a bike



Level of Comfort

High Comfort



Somewhat



Not really



No Comfort



FOCUS ON A FEW
KEY ROUTES
THAT CONNECT
DESTINATIONS!!!

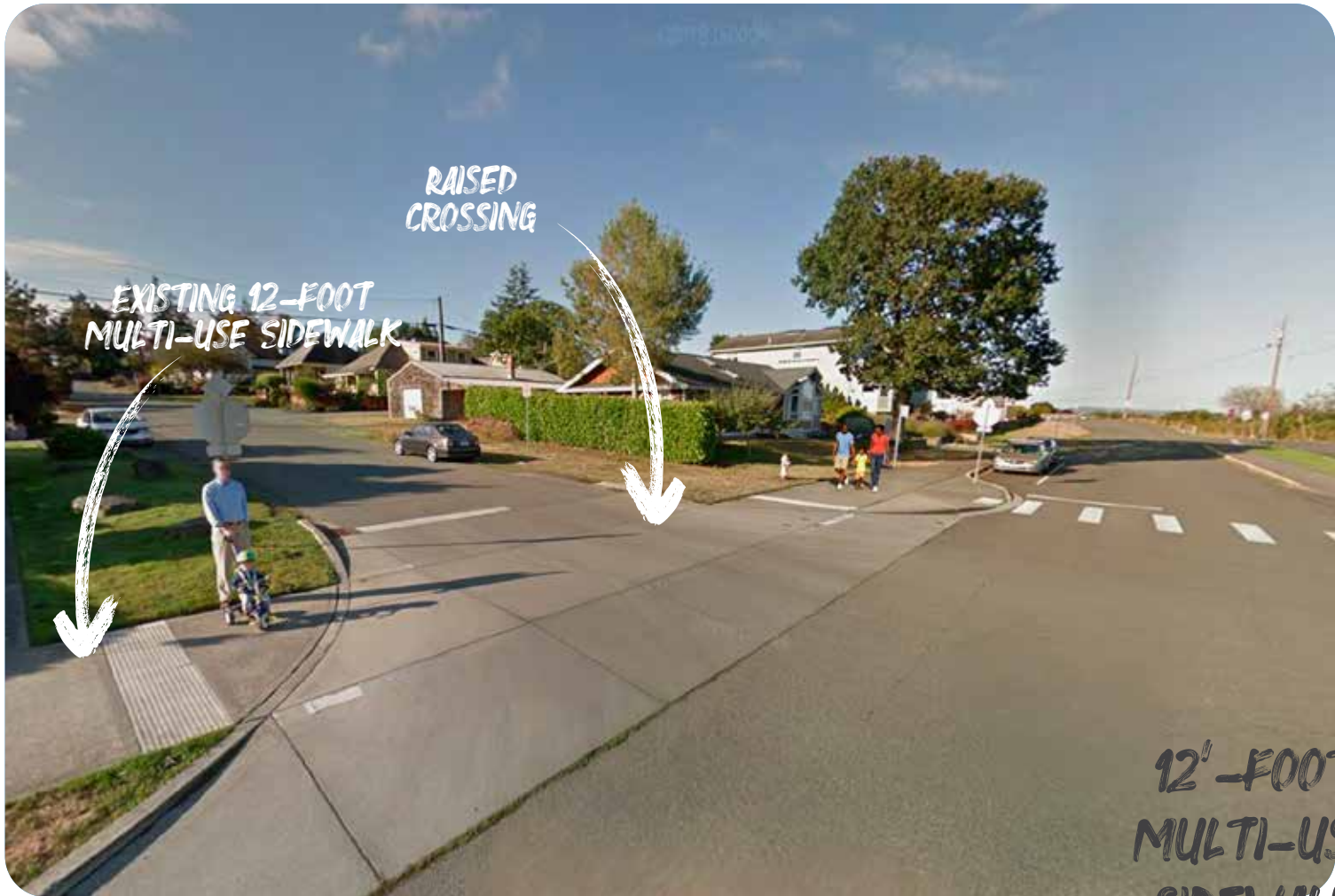
From Understanding the "Four Types of Cyclists", ALTA Planning

THE BIG IDEAS: CROSSTOWN CONNECTION

Crosstown Connection

6th Street Walk and Bike Route
Connects Kiwanis Park to
Cap Sante Park

BEFORE...



...AFTER



THE BIG IDEAS: CROSSTOWN CONNECTION

Crosstown Connection

BEFORE...



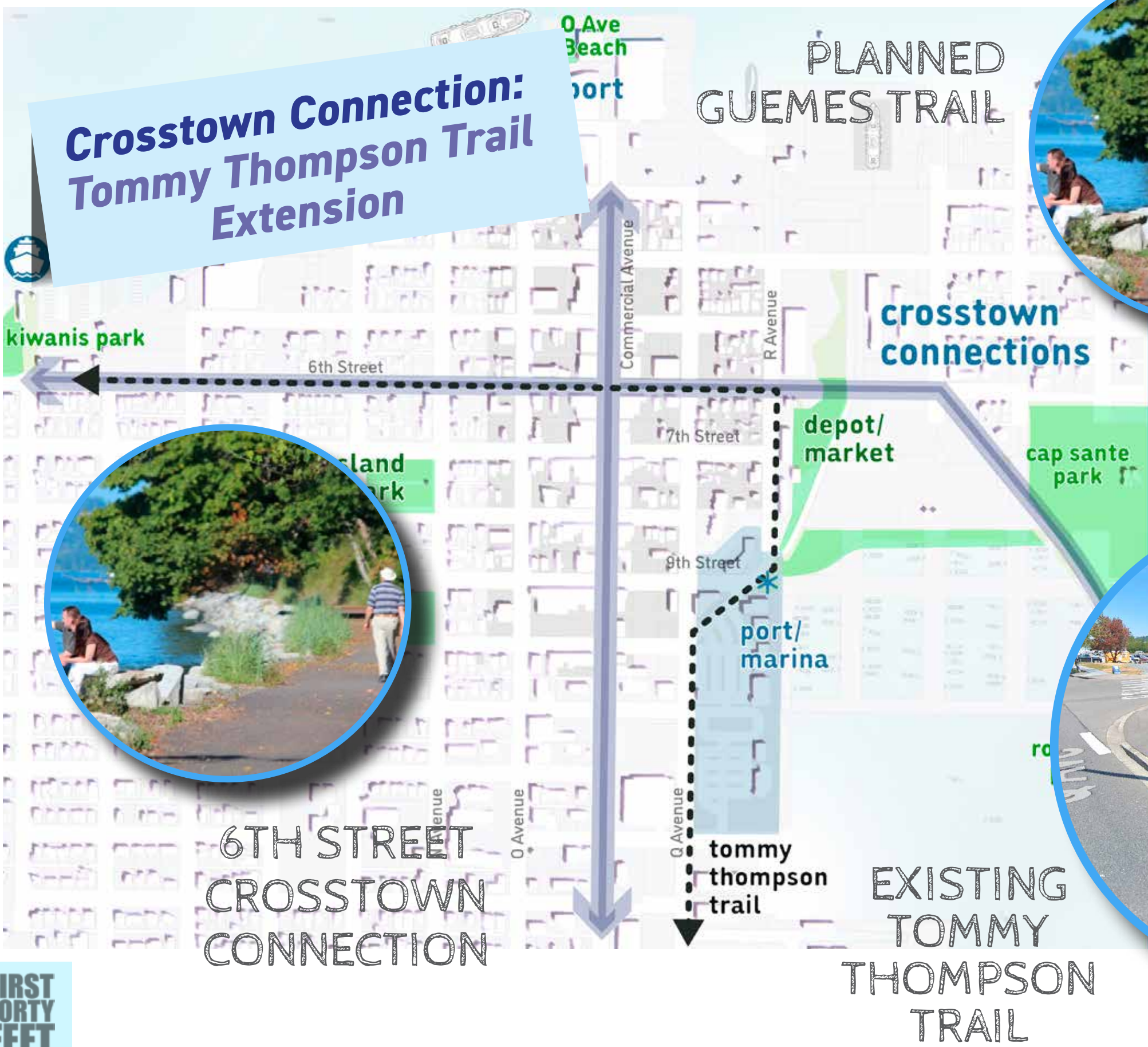
...AFTER



6th Street Walk and Bike Route Connects Kiwanis Park to Cap Sante Park



THE BIG IDEAS: TOMMY THOMPSON TRAIL EXTENSION



R STREET
MULTI USE
PATH



6TH STREET
CROSSTOWN
CONNECTION

EXISTING
TOMMY
THOMPSON
TRAIL

THE BIG IDEAS: CROSSTOWN CONNECTION

**Crosstown Connection:
Tommy Thompson Trail
Extension**

**Extend Tommy Thompson Trail
R Street to 6th Street and
over to Kiwanis Park**



THE BIG IDEAS: WHAT WE HEARD

WHO PARTICIPATED—IN PERSON COMMUNITY WORKSHOP AND ON-LINE SURVEY (1 MONTH)

WHAT
WE
HEARD!

On-Line SurveyMonkey (727 respondents)

- Residents: 73.9% (537)
- Business Owners: 6.1% (44)
- Property Owners: 10.7% (78)
- Employees: 1.9% (14)
- Visitors: 1.4% (10)
- Many respondents identified as both resident + business and/or property owner.

Community Meeting #2 (65 Respondents)

- 83% Residents
- 36% Property Owners
- 17% Employees
- 11% Business Owners

Takeaway: Similar pattern — strong resident voice, smaller but important business/property owner presence.

▶ **Observation: In-person participants were more supportive than the broader online survey sample.**

THE BIG IDEAS: WHAT WE HEARD

WHERE THERE WAS GENERAL ALIGNMENT—

In person Community Workshop and On-line Survey (1 month)

WHAT
WE
HEARD!

1. Vision and Guiding Principles

Both groups broadly supported the overall direction of the downtown plan, particularly the ideas of:

- » Strengthening Commercial Avenue as the heart of downtown
- » Improving walkability and pedestrian comfort
- » Celebrating historic character and maritime identity
- » Enhancing safety and accessibility
- » Supporting downtown businesses
- » Improving lighting, aesthetics, and public spaces

2. Streetscape Enhancements

Both groups showed support for public realm improvements such as:

- » Lighting enhancements
- » Public art (murals, sculptures)
- » Streetscape furnishings
- » Parklet improvements and outdoor activity
- » Creating gathering spaces

THE BIG IDEAS: WHAT WE HEARD

AREAS OF CLEAR NON-ALIGNMENT—

These topics revealed significant divergence between the in-person meeting and the broader online survey.



3. Intersection Design / Traffic Circles

Mentimeter (in-person)	82% supportive	9% unsupportive
SurveyMonkey (online)	47% supportive	42% unsupportive

Comments revealed consistent concerns about Traffic Circles:

- » Driver confusion
- » Conflicts with parades and events
- » Fit with historic character
- » Challenges for elderly drivers.

Observation: The online survey showed a near-even split, while the in-person meeting was strongly supportive.

4. Issues of the Broader Survey

Parking Loss

- Importance of on-street parking for businesses
- Accessibility for seniors
- Need for short-term parking near storefronts
- Concern about outdoor dining spaces replacing parking.

Cost and City Spending

- Survey respondents repeatedly referenced:
- Budget constraints
- Preference for spending on basic infrastructure
- Concerns about “waste of money.”

Bike Lanes

- Bike lanes on Commercial Avenue
- Perceived low bike usage
- Safety concerns with bikes and traffic circles.

THE BIG IDEAS: WHAT WE HEARD

OVERALL TAKEAWAY—

These topics revealed significant divergence between the in-person meeting and the broader online survey.

WHAT
WE
HEARD!

5. Strong Community Consensus On

- » The vision for a more vibrant downtown
- » Improving walkability and pedestrian comfort
- » Strengthening Commercial Avenue
- » Streetscape improvements (lighting, art, activation, furnishings)
- » Creating public gathering spaces

6. Community Divided On

- » Traffic circles
- » Removing or reducing parking
- » Bike lane expansion
- » Permanent roadway redesigns
- » Closing streets to cars

7. Businesses Divided on Street Plazas

The primary Issue Is parking and access

- » 7th Street Not in support
- » 5th Street Willing to do Demonstration

DOWNTOWN STREETSCAPES: ACTION PLAN

- 1. Streetscape Enhancements**— Improve safety, pedestrian comfort, and the visual character of Commercial Avenue and surrounding streets.
- 2. Streetscape Management**— Ensure sidewalks remain accessible while supporting outdoor dining, parklets, and storefront improvements.
- 3. Parking Strategy**— Improve parking management and plan for future parking needs while supporting walkability and downtown vitality.
- 4. Public Gathering and Activation**— Create vibrant public spaces that support events, community gatherings, and downtown activity.
- 5. Downtown Loop**— Expand the downtown experience beyond Commercial Avenue and connect key destinations through surrounding streets.
- 6. Crosstown Connection and Tommy Thompson Trail**— Strengthen walking and biking connections linking parks, trails, and downtown destinations



SIX CORE ELEMENTS AND
TWENTY-ONE ACTIONS GUIDE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
DOWNTOWN STREETSCAPE PLAN.

Preliminary Action items are not in order of priority

DOWNTOWN STREETSCAPES: ACTION PLAN

1. Streetscape Enhancements— Improve safety, pedestrian comfort, and the visual character of Commercial Avenue and surrounding streets.

Key Actions

1. Comfortable and Intersections Demonstration
2. Establish a Downtown Streetscape Kit of Parts
3. Downtown Kiosk and Information Hub Design
4. Downtown Lighting Strategy
5. Public Restroom Planning

City and Partners Role

City of Anacortes- lead demonstration project permitting, traffic, and outcomes evaluation; partner with DAA on kit of parts; initiate public restroom planning

Downtown Anacortes Alliance (DAA) and Creative Arts District- coordinate and support demonstration design & volunteer effort; partner with City on kit of parts and funding; coordinate with the City on lighting implementation and outreach



DOWNTOWN STREETSCAPES: ACTION PLAN

2. Streetscape Management— Ensure sidewalks remain accessible while supporting outdoor dining, parklets, and storefront improvements.

Key Actions

- 6. Monitor and Enforce Accessible Sidewalks
- 7. Update Sidewalk Café Regulations
- 8. Establish Parklet Design and Management Standards
- 9. Storefront Improvement Program
- 10. Wayfinding and Signage Plan

City and Partners Role

City of Anacortes-lead sidewalk, parklet and sidewalk cafe monitoring and regulations/standards; study potential funding & support for storefronts; support partners in Downtown wayfinding and signage

Downtown Anacortes Alliance (DAA)-support sidewalk, parklet and sidewalk cafe monitoring; lead outreach for potential funding & support for storefronts; lead outreach for wayfinding and signage planning partners & funding



DOWNTOWN STREETSCAPES: ACTION PLAN

3. Parking Strategy— Improve parking management and plan for future parking needs while supporting walkability and downtown vitality.

Key Actions

- 11. Conduct Two -Way Traffic Study and Prepare a Parking Management Plan
- 12. Identify Opportunities for Land Acquisition for Public Parking

City and Partners Role

City of Anacortes-lead parking/traffic study or RFP process; study potential property acquisitions for off-street public parking.

Downtown Anacortes Alliance (DAA) and Chamber of Commerce-assist with outreach and communication to businesses.

Downtown Partners and Property Owners- participate in shared parking agreements



DOWNTOWN STREETSCAPES: ACTION PLAN

4. Public Gathering and Activation—

Create vibrant public spaces that support events, community gatherings, and downtown activity.

Key Actions

- 13. Street Plaza Demonstration Project
- 14. The Pit Temporary Demonstration Project
- 15. Expand Use of the Heart of Anacortes Event Space
- 16. Downtown Activation and Storytelling

City and Partners Role

City of Anacortes—lead demonstration and activation project permitting, traffic, and outcomes evaluation;

Downtown Anacortes Alliance (DAA), Downtown Business & Creative Arts Distr. coordinate and support demonstration design & volunteer effort

Downtown Anacortes Alliance (DAA), Port of Anacortes, Anacortes Museum, and Samish Council—lead activation study or RFP process; identify potential funding



DOWNTOWN STREETSCAPES: ACTION PLAN

5. Downtown Loop— Expand the downtown experience beyond Commercial Avenue and connect key destinations through surrounding streets.

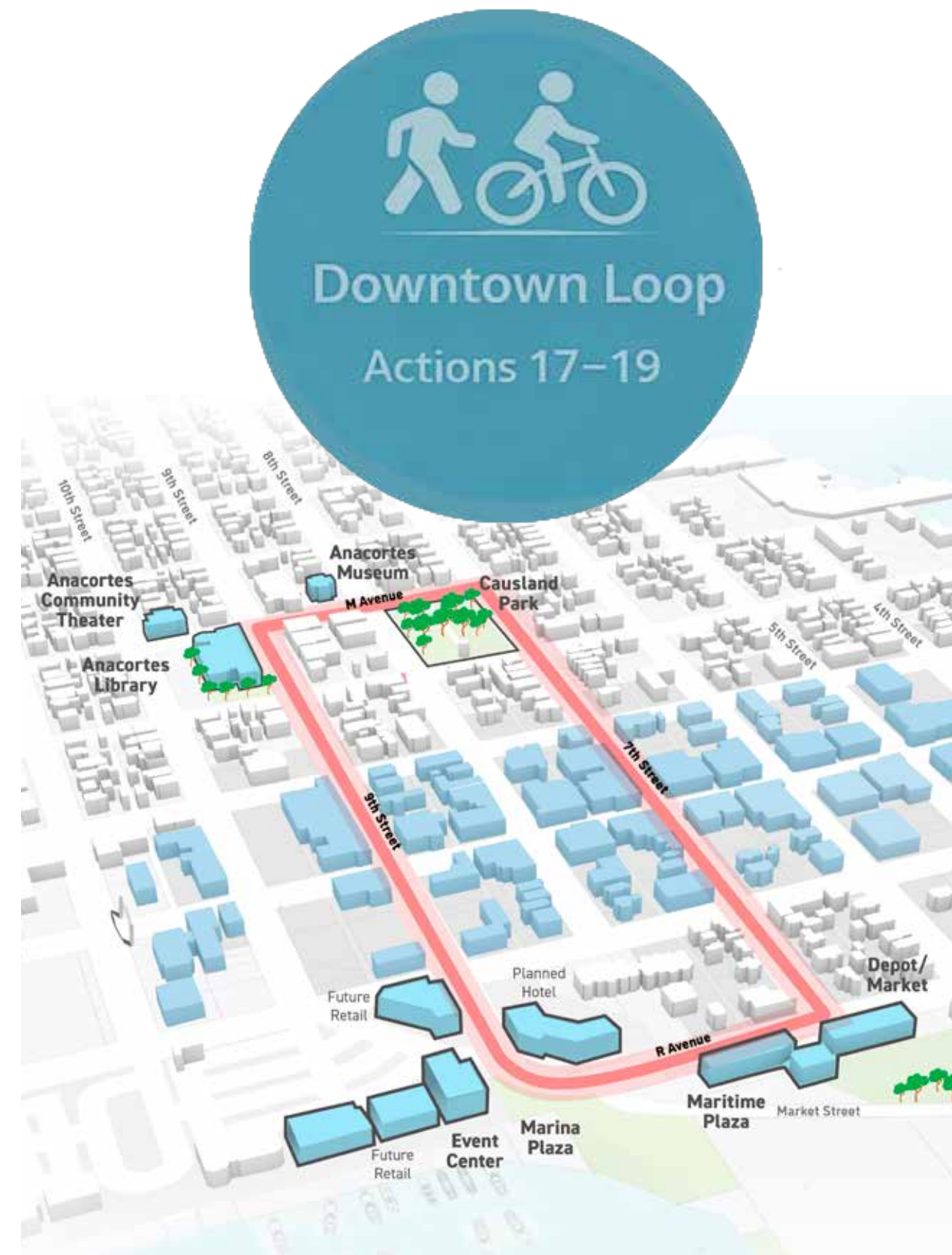
Key Actions

- 17. Downtown Loop Intersection Demonstration
- 18. Downtown Mural Program
- 19. Expand Streetscape Furnishings and Lighting

City and Partners Role

City of Anacortes-lead demonstration project permitting, traffic, and outcomes evaluation; coordinate design of 9th Street with the Port and establish City standard for future improvements

Downtown Anacortes Alliance (DAA), Downtown Business & Creative Arts Distr.- coordinate and support demonstration design & volunteer effort; lead outreach efforts to businesses and community; CAD lead mural program, design, outreach and implementation; DAA lead funding for sidewalk furnishings; DAA and Chamber lead on lighting implementation and outreach.



DOWNTOWN STREETSCAPES: ACTION PLAN

6. Crosstown Connection and Tommy Thompson Trail—Strengthen walking and biking connections linking parks, trails, and downtown destinations

Key Actions

- 20. 6th Street Crosstown Connection
- 21. Extend the Tommy Thompson Trail into Downtown

City and Partners Role

City of Anacortes—lead Crosstown Connection and Tommy Thompson Trail extension alignment, design and potential funding strategy; update Active Transportation Plan

ABPAC, Downtown Anacortes Alliance (DAA), and Port of Anacortes DAA support outreach and collaboration with project partners; Port and ABPAC advise on alignment and design.

