



ANACORTES PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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## **Anacortes Community Forest Lands Advisory Board**

**April 2nd, 2026  
6PM**

**In person and virtual meeting options.**

**In Person: City Hall Main Floor Conference Room**

**Zoom Meeting Link:**

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

### **Preliminary Agenda**

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Approve March '26 Minutes**
- 3. Public Comments for any item not on the agenda**
- 4. Lapsansky Report: The Effects of Cyanotoxins on Aquatic Invertebrate Communities**
- 5. "A" Ave Landfill Update**
- 6. Friends of the ACFL Update**
- 7. Staff Reports**
- 8. Parks Commission Update**
- 9. Other Business**

**Adjourn**

## **Minutes of the Meeting: March 5, 2026**

**Board members present:** Brian Wetcher, JoAnn York-Gilmore, Nate Schwarck

**Staff present:** Bob Vaux, Jamie Burroughs, Darby Jordan

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

**Minutes:** February minutes were unanimously approved.

### **Public Comments:**

A member of the public inquired about the status of the Heart Lake project, that will be covered in Staff Reports. There will be an Open House at the Senior Center on March 10<sup>th</sup> at 6pm for all park projects.

### **Friends of the Forest Update:**

The Annual Meeting will be held on March 11<sup>th</sup> at the Depot. Robbie Andrich will be speaking.

Youth summer camp programs have opened for registration with only 7 spots left. Hannah has completed all kindergarten field trips. The Trail Ambassador sign up will open on March 15<sup>th</sup>. There will be a work party on March 7<sup>th</sup> at 9am, meeting at Little Cranberry parking lot.

### **Staff Reports:**

City staff are working hard on new “project” webpages to give history, funding and timeline for all projects. The Forest Plan will go before Council again for a Public Hearing on March 16<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.

Staff did a preliminary walk through with Samish staff at Heart Lake to look at the planting and shoreline restoration there. There is no design or permit at this time, just initial concepts. The project will focus on the shoreline and parking improvements, including storm water control. Survey work will be done mid to late March.

Brian reminded everyone that there will be public comments taken at all steps of the Heart Lake project.

There will be no new restrooms, but anything added to the area will be ADA compliant. There will be some pull through parking spots for horse trailer parking. The parking lot will not be expanded.

Jamie spoke about the work party, looking at trail #102 turnpikes and muddy spots. Fidalgo Trail Riders also held their work party with about 44 people in attendance.

### **Parks Commission Report:**

JoAnn reported on the Parks Board. The W 6<sup>th</sup> Street project continues to look at community partnerships, this is with legal for review.

Meals on Wheels will no longer be serviced by the County beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Bids are in review for a new provider, with lots of questions still to be

answered. There will be a week of fundraising efforts at the Center later in March for the program.

The small dog park gazebo is in process with the team working on pouring footings and assembling the unit.

The team will start work on reinforcing the fence at the Clearidge pickleball courts so the noise dampening screens can be left up year round.

Staff is exploring options to expand the Community Garden. A funding source and work group will need to be found for this project.

Seasonal jobs have been posted.

Brian asked about the sand volleyball courts at Storvik. The project has been approved but there is no funding at this time.

### **Other Business:**

Evergreen Islands President, Marlene Finley, mentioned that EI is presenting an award to Eric Shen at their annual meeting on March 26<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at the library.

### **Adjourned at 6:33 pm**

Respectfully Submitted by Darby Jordan

## **MARCH 2026**

### **Assistant Director's Highlights**

#### **Parks & Recreation**

Submitted: March 25, 2026

*Bob Vaux*

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### **ACFL**

- 2/25 Jamie and I joined Jackie and Denise from the Samish Nation staff for our monthly outing in the forest lands. We looped around Big Beaver Pond, discussing a variety of past and possible future trail repair.
- Working with the Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) on a comprehensive maintenance Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA) for beaver dam notching and bridge maintenance in the ACFL.
- Forest Plan: processing written public comments in preparation for the 3/16 Council public hearing, where additional public comments were heard. Staff now preparing a public comment matrix for the April 20 Council work session. Shout out to Planning Manager Libby Grage, for her input and support.
- 3/11 Enjoyed the annual Friends of the ACFL meeting. So appreciate the decades of education and all the new programming.
- 3/19 Dogs off leash emphasis patrol first thing in the N. Heart Unit. No contacts.
- 3/23 "A" Ave Landfill: drill and sample site recon with COA Parks staff, in preparation for the contractor to begin agreed to MTCA protocol.

## **BEN ROOT SKATE PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT PH II**

- Finalized CXT restroom order and submitted purchase contract.
- Working on permits. Submitted Mar 12<sup>th</sup>.

## **TREES**

- 3/2 Lake Erie Way ACFL neighbor paid for the removal of three trees Arborist Steve identified as hazards. I was on site for the work, where STS did a nice job.
- 3/10 Helped Jamie with a hazard tree in the Vista Too neighborhood (along the 32<sup>nd</sup> Street Swamp shoreline) that the beaver fell toward a home. Jamie did a great job getting it on the ground safely.
- 3/20 Arborist Steve, ACFL Jamie and I mobilized to Forest Ridge for some hazard tree work. The HOA was unable to move their stored items so we will have to reschedule.

## **OPEN STREETS 2026**

- This very popular local event approved by Council at its 3/2 meeting.

## **HEART LAKE SHORELINE RESTORATION PROJECT**

- 3/3 Met on site with Katie and Jackie from the Samish Nation, began planning for the Cultural Resources Survey (CRS).
- 3/19 Some preliminary parking lot design review with design team.

## **W. 6<sup>TH</sup> PARK PROJECT**

- Continue to work with our Legal Dept. and potential private sector partners on a plan proposal.

## **WASHINGTON PARK ANNUAL RESIDENCE INSPECTION**

- Completed on 3/16. Chris doing a great job of Caretaking for us. Residence in good shape.

## **2026 SEASONAL HIRING**

- Working with Parks Manager Nicole on this year's applications. We have seen a decent number come in.

**James Burroughs**

**ACFL Maintenance technician**

**March 24th, 2026**

**ACFL Maintenance Report**

## **Trail Maintenance & Improvements**

- Conducted work party with Friends of the ACFL:
  - Installed turnpikes on wet and muddy sections of Trail 102 and filled in with gravel
  - Narrowed the trail where widening occurred due to foot traffic
  - Closed off shortcut areas along Trail 100
- Cleared hazardous and blowdown trees on the following trails/areas:
  - Trails 220, 209, 218, 250, 10, 113, 234
  - Disc golf course trail
  - Ray Auld Drive

## **Park Projects**

- Dog Park:
  - Assisted parks crew with construction of gazebo for small dog park
- Cemetery:
  - Assisted parks crew with columbarium paver project
- Ballfields:
  - Assisted parks crew with infield preparation work

## **Sanitation & General Maintenance**

- Completed sanitation rounds throughout town and ACFL
- Cleaned restroom facilities

## **ACFL Beaver rounds**

- Conducted regular inspection and notching of the following locations:
  - Ace of Hearts
  - Little Cranberry Spillway
  - 32nd St. Swamp
  - Mitten Pond
  - Trail 108 Bridge

## Hazard Mitigation

- Removed hazardous tree on Vista Lane:
  - Alder tree compromised in 32nd Swamp area due to beaver activity, posing risk to neighboring property, cut and removed tree with the help of Bob Vaux

## ACFL rogue signs

- Removed rogue signs on Trails 310, 313, 309 and 27
  - Someone has been putting up Trail signs in the ACFL with “Names” of Trails ex. (Heartbreak, Flo-Max, Kens, Roadies Revenge), I have reached out to many ACFL regulars about the issue and told them to keep there eyes out for more.



Work party with Friends of  
the ACFL



Before



After

