



**ANACORTES PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT**  
P.O. BOX 547, ANACORTES, WA 98221  
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## Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission

**June 9th, 2026 at 6pm**

**This meeting will be held BOTH virtually and  
in person at City Hall  
(904 6th Street)**

Access to the meeting via Zoom through this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86782645955>

### Preliminary Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Approve May Minutes
3. Public Comments
4. Correspondence/Communication
5. Department Reports
6. Other Business

If reasonable accommodation due to a disability are needed, please contact Brandon Krause at least 48 hours prior to the meeting date (360-299-1961).

**May 12, 2026**

**Parks Commission in Attendance:** JoAnn, Brad, and Chris

**Staff in Attendance:** Jonn, Bob, Nicole, and Darby

Call to order: 6:00pm

**Minutes:** March minutes passed unanimously.

**Pickleball Conversation:**

Jonn gave an introduction of the history of the courts and efforts that have been done to help with the sound. He shared that this will go before Council for their decision, inviting written comments to be submitted via email by Friday at 5pm.

There have been numerous meetings to discuss this, hours have been reduced, and the Parks Foundation has funded the sound dampening curtains.

Numerous members of the public spoke, none of whom provided their name. Major topics and questions included:

- What data has been collected to support the neighbor's complaints of being too loud?
- Have other parks been limited on their hours or use?
- Concern that this is a popular park for people of all ages, limiting hours will eliminate opportunities for families or people that work.
- Argument that the airport is much louder than the courts.
- Hopes of not limiting play on the only public courts in town.
- Desire for looking to build more courts at a new location.
- Opinions that fewer hours will concentrate the noise when they are open.

The Board discussed moving forward with their opinions only advisory and Council will ultimately make the decision. They decided to advise that a reduction in hours be implemented up to possibly days closed.

**Public Comments:**

There was concern expressed about Storvik park and the litter, lack of mowing and people sleeping in the restrooms. The neighbors have called the police on multiple occasions but are requesting help from the Parks department. Nicole responded that the seasonal garbage can will be placed back their soon and with seasonal staff starting, that will help with the mowing and trimming.

Someone else was inquiring about the U Ave park status. Jonn stated that for now staff is just doing erosion control until the FEMA money comes through.

**Correspondence and Communication:**

JoAnn reported on the Forest Board. The Discovery Center will be opening again for the season, Tue-Thur from 10-2. There will be some Trail Ambassadors out on the trails hiking this year, not just at the trail heads. The Forest Plan has finally been approved and some elements have been put into an ordinance for enforcement support.

Chris mentioned that the Anacortes Walk Fest went really well.

**Department Reports:**

Nicole reported that the team is trying to keep up with mowing and garbage.

Bob shared that the parks are getting busy with the time of year and nice weather. Staff has met with the APD about enforcement concerns.

Darby announced that the columbariums and green burials are now available for sale.

Jon reported that the new Maritime Plaza is complete and being used. He gave a thank you to staff for all the work on the Forest Plan.

**Other Business:**

None

Adjourned at 7:35pm

Respectfully submitted by Darby Jordan

## Parks and Recreation Update: June 2026

Recreation Report: Dustin South, Recreation Manager & Eli Moore, Recreation Coordinator

**Youth Volleyball League:** Our annual recreational league for 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders concluded this month. Thank you to all our volunteers and student recreation assistants for helping make this season a success.

**Youth Track & Field Program:** Our track meet on the 18<sup>th</sup> concluded this annual program with several kids earning ribbons in a variety of events. The weather cooperated for the entirety of the program and again thanks to the AHS Track and Field teams for their assistance with this year's program.

**Pee Wee Baseball:** Approximately 40 kids signed up for the annual spring program. Participants learn the very basic fundamentals of the games in a safe and fun atmosphere. Our Student Recreational Assistant's help coach the kids and participants look up to their leadership. For many of the participants this is their first exposure to organized sports.

**Kids Art Studio:** Instructor Vickie offered some after school art classes again for Preschool ages kids. This has become a popular program as parents of kids this age are always looking for programs for them to participate in. We are working on adding another class for August.

**Kids Fishing Event:** The annual event was held on Saturday, May 30 at Heart Lake. Kids started fishing at 7 am. A big THANK YOU to Puget Sound Anglers for their help with getting kids to catch fish. Eli does a great job coordinating the event and participation numbers doubled from last year.

**Drop-in Sports:** Adult Volleyball takes place at Fidalgo Elementary on Wednesday and Friday evenings. Adult drop-in Basketball takes place on Sunday evenings in the Middle School and Tuesday evenings at Fidalgo Elementary. Pickle Ball is on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Friday (and Family Pickle Ball Sundays) at Mt. Erie Elementary. To see the latest on the drop-in sports schedule visit: <https://www.anacorteswa.gov/971/Drop-In-Programs>

**Other Items of Interest/Upcoming Events:** Bark in the Park Annual Event is Saturday, June 13 from 10am-2pm and Kids R Best Fest is Saturday, July 11 from 10am – 2pm. Both events take place at Storvik Park. Youth Soccer Registration is currently open and the **registration deadline is Monday, July 13** for the fall recreational soccer season. Volunteer coaches are needed please contact the recreation team for more info.

***Total Volunteers Hours for May***



Drop-in Sports  
4 X 16 hrs. = 64



Youth Volleyball  
4 X 9 hrs. = 36



Youth Track and Field  
30 X 6 hrs. = 180



Kids Fishing Event  
8 X 5 hrs. = 40

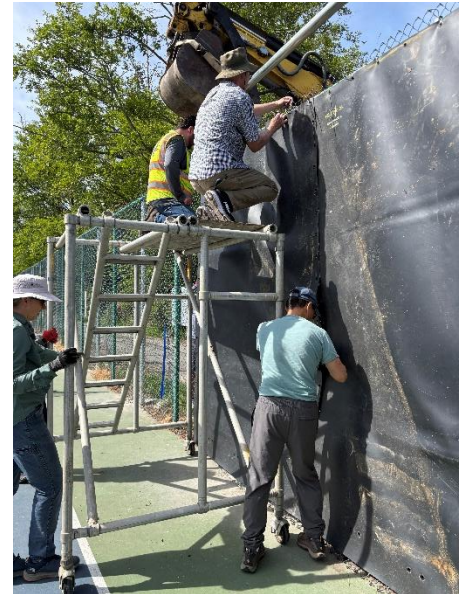
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Total for Month 320

Park Manager's Report: Nicole Johnston

Below are a few highlights from the month of May.

- Clearidge Noise Reducing curtains were installed. Thanks to all the volunteers who worked along with Jonn and the crew to get this done.
- VFW Young McCool had a work party at Causland Park on May 2<sup>nd</sup>.



- We hosted district and state baseball games at Daniels on multiple days throughout the month. Thanks to AJ and the crew for keeping the park ready and groomed for all the games.
- The entire crew along with seasonal staff Josh worked hard to get all the markers trimmed in preparation for Mother's Day weekend. Braydn also took time to spruce up the new columbarium flower beds. Sales for the columbarium niches have been steady.

- Spray pad was turned on before Memorial Day weekend. Always an exciting day for the community. We had a few calls about a slippery surface, so in real time Braydn went out with a pressure washing brush to improve the surface. All seems well now. This was a reminder that there is never a dull moment in parks.



- Washington Park boat lot and campground was full over the Memorial Day weekend.

- Hanging baskets are up and the pressure is on to keep those alive!
- I did my two practice technical review presentations to the RCO board for the Ship Harbor ALEA and WWRP grants. Felt good, but need to make some improvements to my presentation. I have until mid-July to make those changes and then I have my final presentation at the end of August.



- Thanks to Jack Hartt and to Steve for spending some time down at Ship Harbor on May 26<sup>th</sup> cleaning up the split rail fence situation along the gravel pathway leading out to the boardwalk.

Next up is getting ready for the grads, dads, and all the June events at the parks! As always, we'll continue to do our best and aim to please!

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Assistant Director Report: Bob Vaux

### **ACFL**

Worked with Arborist Steve and ACFL Jamie on a multiple hazard tree project just south of Forest Ridge on trail #100. Thanks to both for another successful and safe project in the woods.

Continued with dogs off leash emphasis patrol when possible.

The City Council unanimously passed the 2026 Forest Plan update on May 4<sup>th</sup>. Thank you so much to the Forest Advisory Board, the Friends of the ACFL, all the members of the public who participated directly and indirectly, and special thanks to Parks Admin All Star, Darby Jordan!! Now, we can move our focus back to the day-to-day ACFL operations as summertime quickly approaches.

Council also codified the ACFL Plan at its 5/11 meeting. This will greatly improve the Police enforcement capacity as tickets may now be written against City Code.

Have been working with DOE Dam Safety Section staff on updating our administrative documents for both the Whistle and Little Cranberry Lakes dams. Still no word on the WL dam grant.

Working with COA staff on permitting common maintenance in our woods.

5/27: welcomed ACFL seasonal Will aboard. Did some quick orientation at city hall before he and Jamie headed out to the wilds.

### **HEART LAKE SHORELINE RESTORATION PROJECT**

5/27: good critical area and shoreline buffer review with GeoEngineers and COA Planning Staff. Shout out to Grace for helping us find the permitting path forward.

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

Working with COA and MacKay Sposito staff now, fine tuning the design and bid specs.

### **ANACORTES WALK FEST**

From all reports it sounds like this first ever special event in town went really well. Weather could not have been more perfect. Enjoyed the trip to Sharpe Park/Montgomery-Duban Headlands that I helped lead.

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

Working with COA staff on big picture permitting questions.

### **POLICE IN THE PARKS AND WOODS**

Parks Nicole and I met with Capt. Fuller at APD, re: summer fun and safety enforcement. With increased staffing, APD is planning on Student Resource Officer (SRO) Jordan K. working with us for much of the summer.

### **WASHINGTON PARK**

Helped Parks Mgr Nicole and Planning Anna on a proposed private fence recon along the park's eastern border. I have no concerns after meeting with the homeowner.

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Director's Report: Jonn Lunsford

Pickleball: We have held a couple of meetings recently focused on the Clearidge Pickleball courts. One was our last Parks and Recreation Commission meeting on May 11 and then at a City Council meeting on May 26. Thank you to the many people who came on both nights to share their comments and ideas. City Council members seemed to want to see an emphasis on enforcement and the possibility of more options for outdoor pickleball. Staff met with interested pickleball players to investigate possibilities for new locations in city limits.