

ANACORTES PLANNING COMMISSION



March 27, 2019

Municipal Building Council Chambers

6th Street and "Q" Avenue

AGENDA

5 P.M.

[VIEW PACKET MATERIALS HERE](#)

1. **Roll Call**
2. **Minutes of March 13, 2019 will be presented at a later date**
3. **Correspondence**
4. **New Business**
 - a. **Public Hearing**: Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan Amendment
 - b. **Public Hearing**: Anacortes Community Forestlands Comprehensive Plan Amendment

The City of Anacortes encourages people with disabilities to participate in public meetings. For assistance with special needs, please contact the City Clerk at 360-299-1960 in advance of the meeting.

Anacortes Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan **DRAFT**

December 2018

Introduction: Climate and Accessibility

Anacortes is situated in the Puget Trough of northwest Washington. The Trough, known in part as Puget Sound, is a lowland scoured by glacial action during the Pleistocene epoch. Many islands are scattered throughout the saltwater Sound. Puget Sound lies between two mountain ranges; the Olympic Mountains to the west and the Cascade Mountains to the east. Anacortes is part of a dramatic setting in the San Juan Islands and near the Canadian Gulf Islands and other Puget Sound islands which lie north and south of the city.

The City of Anacortes is in Skagit County, Washington, 80 miles north of Seattle and 90 miles south of Vancouver, British Columbia. Anacortes is on Fidalgo Island north of Whidbey Island and connected by bridges to the mainland across Swinomish Channel. Anacortes is reached by Highway 20, 16 miles west of Interstate 5 at Burlington. The city occupies the north portion of Fidalgo Island and is bordered on three sides by saltwater shoreline; Burrows Bay, Rosario Strait, Guemes Channel and Fidalgo Bay. The southern edge of Anacortes is mainly Anacortes Community Forest Land, a forest preserve with lakes, streams and trails crowned by Mt. Erie. Anacortes City limits range from sea level to the summit of Mt. Erie at 1,270 feet.

Anacortes has relatively mild yearly climate tempered by coastal conditions. Prevailing winds in the spring and summer provide drying and drought conditions, while in the fall and winter prevailing southwest winds bring winter storms and rain. Occasional northeast winds produce dry, cold temperatures in winter and dry warm temperatures in summer. The mean average summer temperature is 64 degrees and the mean average winter temperature is 40 degrees. Average annual rainfall is 26 inches, 10 inches less than Seattle. Snowfall averages 3 inches.

Parks/Rec service area extends beyond city limits

As part of the 2016 Anacortes Comprehensive Plan update, City Council reviewed population growth and the city population projections.

The population estimate (from the US Census Bureau) of Anacortes in 2016 was 16,681. Per the city forecast, the population of Anacortes may increase to 22,293 residents by 2036. It is important for planning purposes to know that the City of Anacortes Parks and Recreation Departments service area goes beyond the limits of the City of Anacortes. It is estimated that the service area includes an additional 25% population. It is also important to note that the City of Anacortes is not the only supplier of Parks and Recreation services in the area and those other providers are taken in-to consideration in this plan. Below are the population numbers and estimates that were used for the City of Anacortes Comprehensive Plan update in 2018. We are using those same numbers and projections to be consistent with the City Comprehensive Plan.

Table 1: Population Forecasts

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2036</u>
Anacortes City Limits	16,681	22,293

Through visionary efforts, the early citizens of Anacortes gave residents and visitors to the community a wonderful gift. Their forethought preserved many hundreds of acres of native woodland. This landscape creates a powerful legacy of respect for the natural environment and serves as a commitment of stewardship to the environment and to the community. This legacy is expressed in the volunteerism which helped build Causland Memorial Park and is manifested today in the development of Volunteer Park. The volunteer efforts of individuals and civic associations are deeply rooted in the community.

This Parks and Recreation Plan also reflects the effort of volunteers spending many hours discussing issues, researching opinions, discussing options, studying maps, preparing policies and imagining the future. There is a common thread, from early residents' land conservation, to today's efforts, a community shaping its future and offering a carefully planned Parks and Recreation vision to ensuing generations.

Park, open space, and recreation planning is an opportunity to improve the quality of life of a community and to evaluate performance. It is also an opportunity to hear from residents regarding types of facilities they need and the types of recreational programs they desire. The planning process is also an opportunity to respond to changing recreational needs, to collectively brainstorm on issues, and to introduce a new vision. The purpose of this plan is to guide public decision-making on these issues and visions.

This plan was last updated in 2009 and set goals to plan for future park and recreation needs. Within this plan, "parks" include recreational areas such as skate parks, athletic courts, multi-use pathways and trails, ball fields, playgrounds, open-spaces, public gathering spaces and critical areas for passive recreation and protection of wildlife habitat.

Chapter 1: Existing Parks & Recreation System

An inventory of the existing recreational areas, listed in alphabetical order is included below.

Ace of Hearts Rotary Park (“H” Avenue and 38th Street) is a 5-acre park featuring an off-leash fenced dog park, a Little League fast pitch/baseball field, a walking path, and a gravel parking lot. Possible future amenities could include permanent restroom facilities and a paved access road with parking.

Alice Parchman Newland Park (“R” Avenue) is a 10- acre linear park and street median developed along the “R” Avenue access road from Highway 20 into Anacortes waterfront industries and recreation areas. The park hosts some community artwork and serves as a walking corridor with views of Fidalgo Bay and Mt. Baker.

Ben Root Skate Park is a concrete skate park located on the north end of the Alice Parchman Newland Park.

Cap Sante Park (4th and “W” Avenue) is a 37-acre forested promontory at the eastern edge of Anacortes. It is primarily a viewpoint overlooking the marina, the City of Anacortes, March Point, Fidalgo Bay and the Cascades. A remnant of an amphitheater is located on the east bank of the park.

Causland Memorial Park (8th Street and “N” Avenue) was built in the 1920s by Louis LePage and is on the National Register of Historic Places. A portion of the park is dedicated to Anacortes veterans from World War I to the Vietnam War. The 2-acre park is unique in its use of decorative rock and black and white mosaic for structures and walls. Low, serpentine mosaic walls surround the park, and a bandstand, amphitheater and terraces are similarly made of colored pebble and rock mosaic. Other park features include picnic tables, mature ornamental plantings, a small grassy lawn and many terraces. The park is visited frequently by tourists enthralled by its lovingly detailed decorations.

Clearidge Park (Blakely Place) is a .8-acre partially developed park near the Anacortes Airport with one tennis court, two pickle ball courts, and a basketball court. It was given to the City as part of the subdivision process as homes were developed in the west side of Anacortes.

The Depot Arts and Community Center (7th Street and “R” Avenue) is a 5.75-acre site generally triangular in shape and located two blocks east of Downtown Anacortes. The site houses a number of historic and natural attractions including: The Depot Building, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and houses the Depot Arts Center; the W.T. Preston, a large sternwheeler, and the Snag boat Heritage Center, a facility constructed in 2005 and dedicated to presenting information on Snag boat heritage; a seasonal farmers market; the Altair-Americas Memorial; a train house; a box car; a madrone grove; community artwork; picnic tables; and two wetlands.

Grand View Cemetery was originally established on September 25th, 1897 by William and Ernestine Deutsch. The cemetery was deeded to the City of Anacortes in October of 1945 and by City Ordinance dated February 5, 1946 the City took over maintenance and operations of Grand View Cemetery (light green on map below – 6.59 acres)). The City purchased additional property from the Deutsch family in later in 1946 that became Grand View Annex (light brown on map below – 6.79 acres). The City acquired additional property to the east of Whistle Lake Road from the Brooks family in 1949 (light blue on map below – 4.78 acres). The City acquired approximately 6.06 acres to the west of the cemetery in 1966 (light purple on the map below).



Guemes Channel Trail is a walking / biking path that runs along the Guemes Channel waterfront. The trails access point is at the Edwards Way cul-de-sac and continues east towards Anacortes for approximately 1 mile. Community efforts continue to link the trail from Washington Park to the Thompson Trail.

Heart of Anacortes (1014 4th Street) an outdoor community gathering place for music and entertainment. Seating for about 200 people in chairs or on natural turf. Restrooms are located onsite.

Kiwanis Waterfront Park is a 2-acre natural park located west of the Guemes Ferry Dock. It features day parking, a paved path, beach access, three benches, and a picnic table.

Mt. Erie (South Anacortes off Heart Lake Road) is a 160-acre park. It includes the summit of Mt. Erie, the highest point of Fidalgo Island. There is a small parking area and a paved road to the top of Mt. Erie. It is a popular area for tourists, mountain climbers and hikers. Trails on the mountain connect to the surrounding Anacortes Community Forest Lands.

“N” Avenue Park (2nd Street and “N” Avenue) is .4 acres of mainly undeveloped street-end park land with views to Guemes Channel. A handful of parking spaces, community artwork, and a couple of picnic tables are also located at this park.

Pickett Park (Alleyway between 22nd and 21st on the east side of Commercial) is a planned “pocket park” that will likely be constructed by the time this plan is adopted. It will have a paver surface with tables, benches, planters and a sculpture.

Roadside Park (Kansas Avenue) is a .3-acre street end park. Also, there are a few parking spaces, picnic tables, and stairs to access the Guemes Channel trail.

Rotary Park (Market and “T” Avenue) is a 1.5-acre linear park located on the north and east edge of the Cap Sante Boat Haven at the base of Cap Sante. Rotary Park has a trail out to the Cap Sante breakwater, parking, picnic tables and a shelter. There is also a 9-hole Disc Golf course located within the park boundary.

Storvik Park (between 29th and 32nd streets) is a park of 8.7 acres. It has picnic tables, restrooms, one Little League game field which also serves as a multi-purpose youth soccer field and two basketball courts. Storvik also has children’s play equipment and is used regularly as a destination park by walkers. A recent project included building a new spray pad in the area west of newly renovated restrooms.

Ship Harbor Interpretive Preserve (between the Washington State Ferry Terminal and Edwards Way cul-de-sac) is an approximately 30 acre site that include a sandy beach, some uplands and an extensive wetland area. There is approximately 3,000 feet of interpretive trails that are a combination of at grade and boardwalks. There are 5 beach access observation platforms with interpretive signage.

Shugarts Playground is a .25-acre playground adjacent to the Public Library.

Tommy Thompson Parkway is a paved non-motorized path which stretches 3.3 miles from 9th Street and “Q” Avenue along the old railroad corridor to March Point. It provides beach access and incredible views of Fidalgo Bay and the Cascade Mountains. There is a restroom facility located at 22nd and “R” Avenue and at the Soroptimist Station, 301 30th Street, along the trail.

Volunteer Park (14th Street and “H” Avenue) has been largely a volunteer effort. There are approximately 24 acres of developable space, 15 acres of which are leased from the school district. The Marguerite and Don Daniels Field is a Little League sized baseball and fast pitch field with an artificial turf surface. Alton B. Daniels Field is a regulation sized baseball field with artificial turf. Volunteer Field regulation sized baseball field with natural turf. All three fields have lights, seating, press boxes and scoreboards. Kiwanis Meadows, also located at

Volunteer Park, has a multi-use field which is surrounded by a paved walking path, there is children's play equipment, picnic shelter, and a basketball court. There are 45 acres of wetlands and open space. An improved cross-country course is also located in this area.

Washington Park (Sunset Avenue). This 220-acre park juts into Rosario Strait on the western edge of Anacortes, offering territorial views. The park has a day use area and overnight camping facilities. At Sunset Beach, on the north shore, there is a boat launch, restrooms, picnic shelters, playground and open play area. There are 75 campsites, restrooms, showers and laundry services in the overnight area. Picnic sites and car pullouts provide beach access along Green Point, the west shoreline. A 2.3-mile loop road provides access to several shoreline areas and a viewpoint of Burrows Bay. The loop road is used by cars, cyclists, joggers and walkers.

John and Doris Tursi Park (West 12th and Pennsylvania Avenue) features a small pond and open, covered log structure, plus playground equipment including a climbing area, swings and a slide.

29th Street Playground (29th Street and "Q" Avenue) is a half-acre playground on "Q" Avenue. There is children's play equipment on the site.

Anacortes Community Forest Lands (ACFL). Anacortes owns approximately 2,800 acres of Anacortes Community Forest Lands (ACFL) in several large tracts. These include Little Cranberry, Heart Lake (the former State Park lands were acquired in 2002), Whistle Lake and Mt. Erie. The Forest Lands are within the city limits and include forests, lakes, streams, wetlands and meadows. Fifty miles of trails provide public access to and through the Forest Lands. A full-time forest manager, trail maintenance worker and seasonal maintenance crews are employed by the Parks and Recreation Department to manage the land and maintain trails and facilities. The Forest Lands Management Plan covers management units, use zones and critical habitat areas. The Forest Advisory Board, five members appointed by the Mayor and City Council, oversees the implementation of the management plan and develops policies. A trail committee representing various user groups has developed trail and user group policy and has suggested trail etiquette to encourage responsible use of the forest lands. A Conservation Easement Program was initiated in 1998 whereby one acre of land is protected in the ACFL for every \$1,000 donated. The easements protect the land from logging, mining and development. Donations are placed in the Forest Endowment Fund and interest earnings shall be used for the support and enhancement of the Forest Lands as budgeted by the City Council with the advice of the ACFL Advisory Board.

To date the ACFL contains about 2,900 acres of forest. There are three main areas of the Anacortes Community Forest Lands: Little Cranberry Lake, Whistle Lake and Heart Lake.

Little Cranberry Lake Forest Lands (off of Georgia Avenue). This area includes approximately 703 acres around Cranberry Lake. The site is largely undeveloped Anacortes Community Forest Lands maintained by the Parks Department. Five public street ends provide public access, and limited parking, to trail heads.

Whistle Lake Forest Lands and Mt. Erie include approximately 1604 acres, also part of the former City watershed. Whistle Lake has limited access, but there is a trail to it and around it.

Heart Lake Forest Lands is an 80-acre Community Forest Land holding at the north end of Heart Lake plus approximately 452 acres that were formerly Heart Lake State Park and were transferred to City ownership in 2002.

DRAFT

Chapter 2: Park Facilities under Other Ownership

There are other significant parks in and around Anacortes which are not owned or operated by the Anacortes Parks and Recreation Department. These help meet the needs of the community and we believe must be considered when looking at the overall parks and recreation needs of the community.

Fidalgo Pool and Fitness Center is owned and operated by the Fidalgo Park and Recreation District, created for this single purpose. The pool is 25 meters long, six-lanes and barrier free. In addition, showers, weight rooms, lockers and exercise rooms are available. The District has funded its operations on three-year levy cycles.

School House Park is a four-acre Skagit County Parks facility on Guemes Island that offers a youth baseball field, basketball court, playground and a tennis court.

“O” Avenue Beach is an area on the Guemes Channel at the terminus of “O” Avenue and 2nd Street between the Port of Anacortes’s former transit shed (currently used for Port offices and public events) and Curtis Wharf. The Port’s plan includes cleaning up and improving the shoreline, creating a public path to the beach, shoreline plantings, low impact storm water techniques and a viewpoint terrace next to Curtis Wharf. The adjacent Lone Tree Park improvement by the Port of Anacortes occurred in 2009. The area contains a plaza, lone tree, and picnic table.

Seafarers’ Memorial Park is a 1.5 acre park developed and owned by the Port of Anacortes. Located on Fidalgo Bay just south of the Cap Sante Boat Haven at the east end of Seafarers’ Way. It provides views of Mount Baker and the refineries on March Point, as well as an area for hand-launching small crafts.

A public building is used by the City’s youth sailing program and by the public for community events and meetings. There are several picnic tables and a large grassy area with pathways. The park is included in an environmental cleanup which took place in 2009-2011. After restoration of the park and marine area, it has a new shoreline with native landscaping, a permanent dock for hand-launched boats, permanent storage for small boat equipment, and improved public access.

Sharpe Park is a 75 acre Skagit County Park that offers trails, picnicking, portable restroom, saltwater vistas and an open grass area. Montgomery-Duban’s Headlands Park is a 37 acre park adjacent to Sharpe Park with trails and $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of shorelines. It is operated by Skagit County Parks and Recreation.

Deception Pass State Park is a 4,134-acre marine and camping park with 77,000 feet of saltwater shoreline and 33,900 feet of freshwater shoreline on three lakes. Rugged cliffs drop to meet the turbulent water of Deception Pass. The park is outstanding for breathtaking views, old-growth forests and abundant wildlife.

Lake Erie and Lake Campbell are within a few minutes of Anacortes, and although they have limited public access and facilities, they are available and used by many.

San Juan Passage, an approximate 100-house development in Ship Harbor area, has added one park that is available to the public. The park provides views of the Guemes Channel along with an access trail to the Guemes Channel Trail.

Guemes Mountain is a preserved area on Guemes Island that is made up a variety of public and private lands with the allowed uses during the allotted times the park is open.

Schools and School Grounds provide play areas and active recreation opportunities for children of Anacortes and Fidalgo Island. Though these are not managed by the Anacortes Parks Department, they are among the recreational assets of the community and can be considered park assets. Anacortes High School has two multi-use soccer/football fields and one artificial surface football/soccer field along with an all-weather running track. They also have a dedicated throwing area for track and field. This complex is referred to as Rice Field at Seahawk Stadium. The stadium includes covered seating with seating for over 2,000 spectators. It also includes restrooms, press box, concession stand, and a memorial to those who gave their life for our country. The Middle School has six tennis courts. The elementary schools contribute various multi-use fields, three of which are useable for minor league and recreational level softball play (one at Island View and two by the Middle School tennis courts). There is a little league / youth fast pitch / adult softball field at Island View School. Mt. Erie, Fidalgo, Whitney and Island View Elementary schools provide play areas for small children. The City of Anacortes has an existing Interlocal Agreement with the Anacortes School District to share indoor and outdoor athletic facilities.

Swinomish Links Golf Course is an 18-hole golf course open to the public that is owned and managed by the Swinomish Tribal Community.

Swinomish Channel Boat Launch is located on the Swinomish Channel under Highway 20 and is operated by Skagit County Parks and Recreation.

Tursi Trail connects south Fidalgo Island to access points near the ACFL. The trail starts at Pass Lake and runs north to Mt. Erie.

Young's Park is a 13-acre Skagit County waterfront park on Guemes Island that includes picnicking and saltwater access.

Chapter 3: Recreation Programs

The *Anacortes Parks and Recreation Department* offers diverse community-wide programs to fulfill the recreational needs of youth, adults and, seniors.

The *A Town is Our Town* publication has become the main communication tool for the Parks and Recreation Department. It features information about department sponsored recreation programs and special events as well as information about Washington Park; Forest Lands activities including volunteer days, information regarding forest use, safety, and upcoming meetings; and Friends of the Forest sponsored hikes and fundraising events and Anacortes Senior Activity Center programs, Anacortes Public Library events and programs.

Non-departmental organizations that have submitted information in the publication include but are not limited to: Fidalgo Pool and Fitness Center, Boys and Girls Club, The Dance Center, Soo Bahk Do, Anacortes Community Maritime Center, American Red Cross, Co-Op Preschool, After School Arts Program, Anacortes Senior College, Yoga studios, Class ACT, Community Gardens and Anacortes Arts Commission.

Youth recreational activities include an extensive offering of youth sports leagues and camps, a seasonal small boating program (sailing) and various recreational classes including but not limited to: toddler play group, pee wee sport program, bowling, golf, drum lessons, flag football clinic, youth sport leagues, youth enrichment classes and tennis.

Adult activities include several recreational drop-in sport programs as well as a Co-ed Softball League and various recreational classes including but not limited to: Tai Chi, Dog Obedience, Yoga, and tango dancing. Generally activities for the senior population are organized by the Anacortes Senior Activity Center. Special Programs and Events include seasonal parties or celebrations, school vacation activities, special youth events and family events. Examples include a Daddy Daughter Dance, a potential Mother & Son dance, Kids-R-Best Fest, Breakfast with Santa, Holiday events, Kids Fishing Derby, summer camps and special road and trail run events.

Other Program Offerings

The City of Anacortes contributes an informative newsletter to the publication *A Town is Our Town* with information on recent city projects, Library programs and Museum events as well as information about Police, Fire, Sanitation, and Public Works.

The *Anacortes Community Youth Center* that will be operated and maintained by the City is still in the planning phase, however the goal is to provide a home for the Boys and Girls Club, have a facility where youth can gather, have offices for the Anacortes Parks & Recreation Department and available space for lease to local organizations that all support youth enrichment. Gym space is going to be a part of the facility and coordination of that gym space as well as the rest of the facility with facilities in the general vicinity (Pool, Senior Activity Center, Schools, etc.) will be critical to the success of the area.

The **Anacortes Museum and Anacortes Public Library** offer many programs and events. The Museum offers regular exhibits in its Carnegie Gallery and also operates the W.T. Preston and Snag boat Heritage Center. The Library offers regular Jazz performances on Sunday afternoons as well as many special events for children and adults.

The **Fidalgo Pool and Fitness Center**, under the direction and ownership of the Fidalgo Park and Recreation District, a completely separate entity from the City of Anacortes, sponsors fitness classes for all ages. Swimming activities, exercise classes and fitness equipment are available as well. Friends of Fidalgo Pool and Fitness Center encourages public use and distributes program and pool information. The Fitness Center organizes aerobic classes, strength building, self-defense and weight training.

The **Boys and Girls Club of Anacortes** offers extensive afterschool, weekend and summer programs for children of all ages.

Privately owned health clubs also serve the fitness and weight training needs of residents on Fidalgo Island. These businesses operate on a for-profit basis and are not subsidized by any governmental agency.

A **variety of privately organized youth recreational activities** are offered locally. They include Little League baseball, American Legion baseball, youth football, wrestling, AAU Basketball, Anacortes Lacrosse Club, Mountain Bike Club, select soccer and other programs. These and other groups like these have a significant effect on the demand for facilities. It is important to keep up with what groups come and go and what their interests are.

The privately owned **Fidalgo Danceworks** provides a variety of dance classes to participants of all ages and abilities. Classes are offered year-round and at various times throughout the day.

The **Anacortes School District's After School Arts Program (ASAP)** offers sessions of art offerings three times a year for any student grades K-6. A host of ever changing classes sponsored by the Anacortes School District include such things as dance, mosaic, drawing, knitting, guitar, digital photography, yoga, theatre, jewelry, painting, and art starts for K-2.

Anacortes Arts Festival offers more than just their annual 3 days festival each year in August. They also provide a Color Run each year in April, various spring time events and supports art education.

The **Anacortes Small Boat Center** is working towards some sort of small boating programming in cooperation with the Parks and Recreation Department.

The **Anacortes Senior College** is an all-volunteer organization that offers courses to anyone aged 50 years or older. Classes are six weeks long, meeting once a week for two hours with three sessions per year. The classes generally meet in the afternoon at the Anacortes Middle School.

The ***Port of Anacortes*** also sponsors public programs, many of which relate to marine activities. An annual Waterfront Festival is co-sponsored by the Anacortes Chamber of Commerce and the Port of Anacortes. Activities include vessel tours, safety displays, music, art fair and boat show.

The Port sponsors a summer concert series as well as in-water boat shows. An annual salmon derby is held at the Cap Sante Boat Haven and the Port sponsored the annual Trawler Fest in 2008 and 2009, with future years looking likely.

Anacortes Chamber of Commerce puts on various community events, some of the larger events are Bier on the Pier, Anacortes Spring Wine Festival, Waterfront Festival, Brewgrass event and the Anacortes Boat and Light Show.

DRAFT

CHAPTER 4

PUBLIC INPUT SURVEY AND PUBLIC MEETINGS

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC INPUT

The adoption of the Anacortes Parks and Recreation Plan is an undertaking which brings past documents and current opinions into a single planning document, a process required by the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) to qualify for grant funding. The State's Growth Management Act also recommend it. This process started with three public input meetings regarding Recreation Programs and Parks and Facilities that were held at City Hall on February 12, and at the Senior Center on February 17 and 22, 2018

Eccos Design was hired to assist in the preparation of the public input component of the plan. , The two main sources of information used to quantify community desires and establish program and/or facility priorities were an online public opinion surveys and open house meetings. A detailed data table of the input from the three open house public meetings and the month long public input survey is found in appendices of this Comprehensive Plan. This chapter contains the summaries of comments obtained through this interface with the public.

A draft plan was compiled by staff based on the public meetings and the public opinion survey results. The Recreation and Conservation Plan for Washington State from the Recreation and Conservation office of Washington State was also used to determine statewide trends as well as planning from the statewide perspective. The draft plan was brought to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission in April of 2018 for review by Commissioners and to open the draft plan to public comment. The Anacortes Planning Commission and the Anacortes City Council held subsequent meetings, with the final plan formally adopted by the City Council.

SUMMARY OF THE 2018 PUBLIC INPUT SURVEY

For the 2018 Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan Update, Anacortes Parks and Recreation (APR) prepared a public input survey that was delivered via the internet. This survey was open for the entire month of February 2018. The overall goal of the opinion survey was to provide APR with estimates of residents' preferences for parks and recreation facilities development and priorities for future planning. This survey was open to all residents of the City, as well as, non-residents and was advertised in the following ways:

1. Two press-releases in the Anacortes American

2. An invitation, and multiple reminders were sent to the entire customer database of the Parks and Recreation Department
3. A link listing on the City of Anacortes web page, as well as, the Parks and Recreation Department web page
4. An invitation was sent to all City department heads
5. An invitation was sent to Parks Foundation Members for re-distribution to other user groups
6. The survey was advertised during the public meetings held in February of 2018

At the end of the public opinion survey, over 442 households completed the survey. Once a household (computer) had completed the survey, software allowed the survey to be modified but not taken a second time. This placed some sidebars on attempts to complete more than one survey. The survey was delivered in English and a printed version was made available for non-computer users.

It is acknowledged that the public input survey is limited as use for representative data because participation was self-selecting. This sampling of self-chosen participating households was just another tool utilized for obtaining input from the public. It is an augmentation of all other means of obtaining the public's recreational needs.

Participant Demographics:

Most people who participated in the opinion survey were from Anacortes. As is often the case with public input, the senior population participated in a greater proportion than the general population. It is interesting to note that 49% of respondents were age 50 or older. See the demographic summary below.

Table 2.1
Demographics
N= 442 HOUSEHOLDS

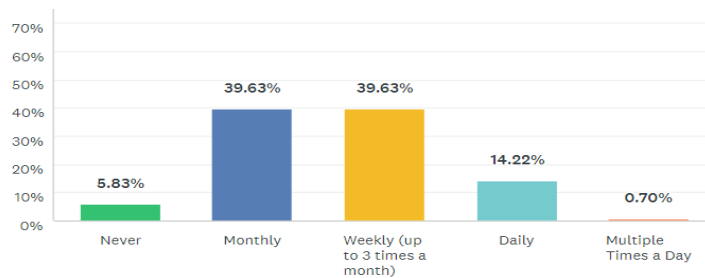
Age		Children at home	
17 or younger	2%	Yes	53%
18-20	1%	No	47%
21-29	2%		
30-39	23%	Residency	
40-49	23%	Resident of Anacortes	78 %
50-59	16%		
60 or older	20%		
70 or older	13%		

Park Usage and Importance:

Nearly all (90%) of the respondents reported their household had used a park facility in the past 12 months. Of those, almost half (44%) reported that they use the park on a daily or weekly basis. (Figure 2.1)

Figure 2.1
Frequency of Park Use

Answered: 429 Skipped: 13



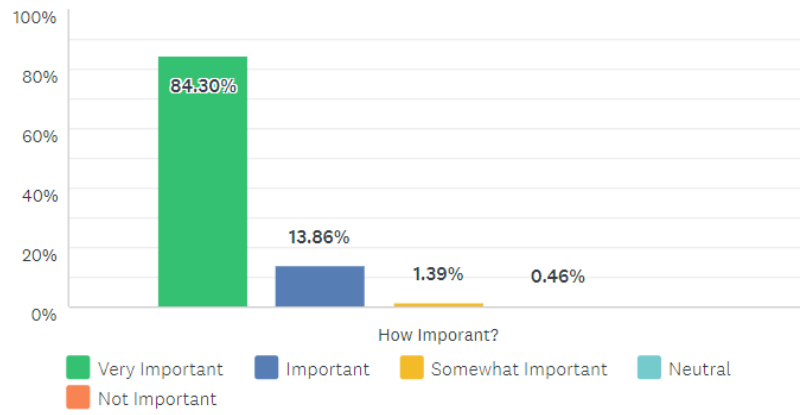
Of those who do not use Parks and Recreation Services (6%), the most prevalent reasons were (1) busy, (2) other interests. (See Comments in Appendix 3).

Nearly all respondents (98%) ranked Parks and Recreation Services as Important or Very Important to maintaining the quality of life in Anacortes (Figure 2.2).

Figure 2.2

Importance of Parks and Recreation Services

Answered: 433 Skipped: 9



Ranked Priorities

Respondents were asked to rate the importance or un-importance of different programs and facilities to determine what was perceived as important. The table below reports the percentage of respondents that said the following activities or facilities were very important or somewhat important.

Table 2.2
Importance of Facilities and Programs

Facilities/Programs	Very or Somewhat Important
Parks (General)	95%
Trails and Pathways	95 %
Public Beach / Water Access	94 %
Open Space or Natural Areas	90 %
Swimming Pool or Aquatic Center	79%
Children's Play Equipment / Playground	78 %
Community Events	77 %
Sports Fields	76 %
Sports Courts	70 %
Exercise/Fitness	67 %
Gym Space	65 %
Boat Launch Area	63 %
Small Boat Facility	55 %
Mountain Bike Skills Area	46 %
Dog Parks	49 %
Spray Parks	49 %
Skate Park	38 %
Bike Pump Track	36 %
Disc Golf	25 %

Residents were then asked to rank the top three priorities from the list of facilities and programs above. These results are summarized in Table 2.3.

Table 2.3
RANKED Importance of Facilities and Programs

Facilities/Programs	
1. Trails and Pathways	HIGHEST
2. Open Space or Natural Areas	
3. Public Beach / Water Access	
4. Swimming Pool or Aquatic Center	
5. Sports Fields	
6. Parks (general)	
7. Children's Play Equipment / Playground	
8. Mountain Bike Skills Area	
9. Community Events	
10. Bike Pump Track	
11. Small Boat Facility	
12. Sports Court	
13. Boat Launch Area	
14. Exercise Fitness	
15. Dog Parks	
16. Disc Golf	
17. Other	
18. Spray parks	
19. Skate Park	LOWEST

It was anticipated that trails, sports fields/courts, and mountain biking would be important to the community so each of these areas had a follow up question regarding prioritized preferences in each of those categories.

Trail Type Priorities

Table 2.4
RANKED Trail Type Priorities
N=278 Households

Facilities/Programs	Number of respondents listing as top category
1. Paved Linear Trails (IE Tommy Thompson / Guemes Channel Trail	299
2. Nature Trails	291
3. Waterfront Trails	268
4. Soft Surface Walking Trails	143
5. Mountain Bike Trails	121
6. Sidewalks	80
7. Other	7

Sports Fields Priorities

Table 2.5
RANKED Sports Field Priorities
N=260 Households

Facilities/Programs	Number of respondents listing as top category
1. Soccer	222
2. General Open Field Space	222
3. Baseball	124
4. Lacrosse	61
5. Softball	57
6. Football	44
7. Other	22

Sports Court Priorities

Table 2.6
RANKED Sports Court Priorities
N=260 Households

Facilities/Programs	Number of respondents listing as top category
1. Basketball	194
2. General Open Gym Space	194
3. Tennis	144
4. Volleyball	98
5. Pickle Ball	69
6. Other	16

Mountain Bike Priorities

Table 2.7
RANKED Sports Court Priorities
N=219 Households

Facilities/Programs	Number of respondents listing as top category
1. Single Track Trails	177
2. Skills Areas with Structures	160
3. Wider Cross-Country Trails	138
4. Pump Track	103
5. Other	17

Community satisfaction:

Another important factor queried in the survey was satisfaction with the current parks system. In general, the community appears satisfied with the conditions and activities of the city parks in Anacortes. The Tommy Thompson Trail, which is heavily used, is at the top. At the bottom is Volunteer Park, but which still has more people reporting high levels of satisfaction than not.

This area of the public input survey garnered a lot of individual comments that are summarized in Appendix A3

Table 2.8
Existing Park Satisfaction
N=345-404 Households

Location	Very Satisfied/Satisfied with <i>Activities</i>	Very Satisfied/Satisfied with <i>Condition</i>
Tommy Thompson Trail	84%	87%
Washington Park	81%	85%
Storvik Park	77%	73%
Guemes Channel Trail	69%	67%
Volunteer Park	67%	64%

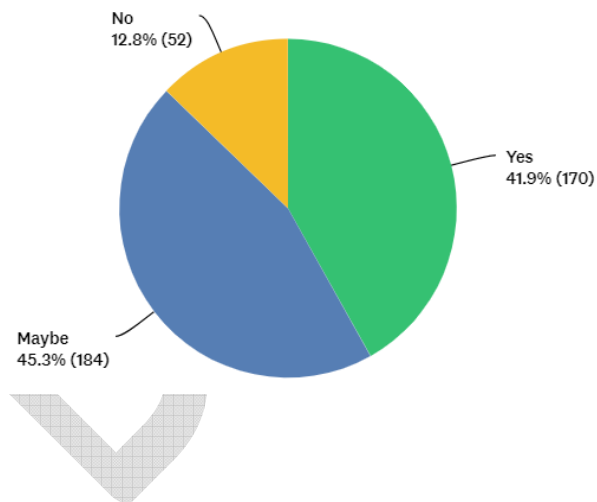
Park Funding:

Understanding how to pay for any increase in level of service is an important component in considering any desire for more park facilities. This survey asked respondents to consider a tax increase in the form of a levy. In other words, are people willing to “back their respective responses with their money?” The data may have significant value if Anacortes residents ever decided to form a taxing district to support parks.

Figure 2.3
Park Funding

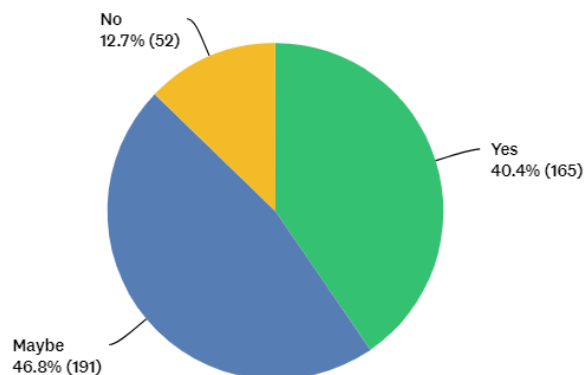
Some communities have chosen to tax themselves to increase the number of parks and recreation in their community such as the Bellingham Greenways Levy and the 2013 Seattle Parks Levy. Would you support increased taxes or levies to support expanded or enhanced recreational opportunities in Anacortes?

Answered: 406 Skipped: 36



Would you support increased taxes or levies to support long term maintenance / replacement of infrastructure (playground equipment, utilities to campground at Washington Park, backstops, artificial turf, etc.) in parks and park facilities around Anacortes?

Answered: 408 Skipped: 34



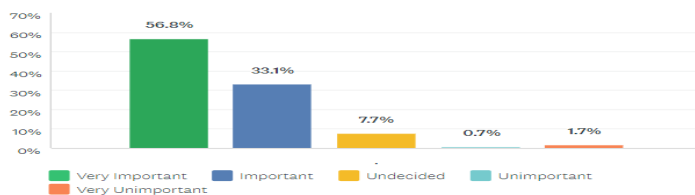
Recreation Programs:

Beyond facilities and sports programs, interest in community enrichment and recreation programs was surveyed. Most residents (90%) feel these programs are important.

Figure 2.4
Recreation Programs

How important do you feel community events, classes, sports programs, and enrichment activities are to quality of life

Answered: 405 Skipped: 37

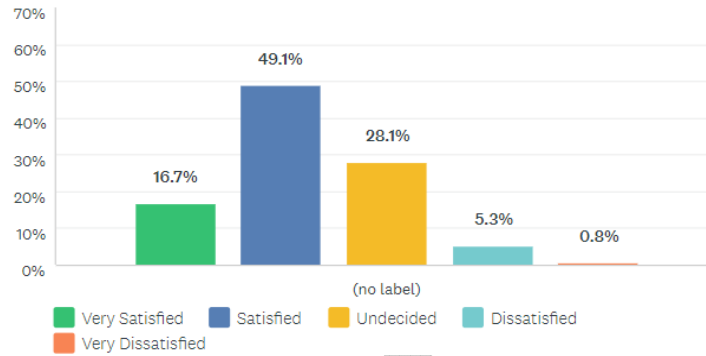


The follow-up question related to satisfaction with the selection of recreation activities offered by APR. There is greater satisfaction than not, but the greatest response is neutral or undecided.

Figure 2.5
Recreation Programs Satisfaction

How satisfied are you with the selection of classes, sports programs, and enrichment activities currently offered by APR

Answered: 395 Skipped: 47



There was an open-ended text follow-up question asking people what types of classes, sport programs and enrichment activities they would like to see more of. Following in Table 2.9 are the most requested program offerings.

Table 2.9
Open Ended Requested Offerings
Only suggestions with 5 or greater responses are listed

classes, sport programs and enrichment activities	Number of times requested
Sailing and small boating	38
Adult Classes and activities (not sports)	16
Adult Sports	14
Youth sports	13
Youth Club activities (not sports)	11
Mountain Biking events and classes	8
Yoga	8
Adult Tennis	7
Dancing Classes	7

There was an open-ended text follow-up question asking people what types of community events they would like to see more of. Following in Table 2.10 are the most requested program offerings.

Table 2.10
Open Ended Requested Offerings
Only suggestions with 5 or greater responses are listed

Community Event	Number of times requested
Youth Club activities (not sports)	11
Regattas, boat races	6
Mt Bike races and organized rides /days	5
Park Volunteer days to assist in maintenance or projects	5
Music Festivals (adults and kids)	5
Movie Nights	5
Mother / Son and Father / Daughter dance	5

2018 PUBLIC MEETINGS/PUBLIC COMMENT

Three public meetings were held in the City during the Plan Update process. These meetings were multi-purpose; to inform people of the comprehensive plan update process, advertise the public opinion survey, inform participants about the existing system and to hear issues, concerns and feedback on the services provided.

The meetings were held “open house” style with a series of boards placed around the room where participants could see a listing of facilities within a various ‘park type’ (IE community events OR trails OR sports fields, etc.). At each of these stations, participants were given the chance to ask any specific questions and comment about the type of facilities they preferred. Prompts were given in different ways to allow participants to talk both about their “likes” and “dislikes”. For example, such prompts included: “What I like about ‘Athletic Fields’ in the parks system is....” Or “What I would like to see different about ‘Athletic Fields’ in the park system is...”. Participants were welcome to register their open comments and most people contributed with suggestions and comments.

Table 2.11
Open House Comment Summary on Facilities

Facility or Use	What I like most...	What I would like to see different...
Open Space/Natural Areas	Strong appreciation of Washington Park. Appreciation of all natural areas and open spaces.	Erosion, noise, lighting, garbage, dogs, and trails in wetlands are concerns. Open space for just open space desired, IE limit access to these areas. Comments centered on issues at Smiley's, cap Sante, Kiwanis, and Washington Park
Linear Parks and Trails	Strong appreciation of multi-use Trails and Linear Parks. Trails seen as quality of life issue. Appreciation of SHIP, GCT, TT.	Strong concern about GCT in wetland buffer and being too close to shoreline. Some stated preference for soft vs hard trails.
Community Enrichment (Special events, leagues, camps, etc.)	Strong appreciation of major community events	More movies, add adult age programs, wildlife centered programs, and water-based activities.
Day Use and Neighborhood Parks	Appreciation of Wash Park, Storvik and Tursi. Like multi-use in these types of parks.	Concerns about dog, cars on WA Park Loop road and light spill from Volunteer Park. Maintenance is perceived as overdue at Rotary, non-field area of Volunteer Park and Storvik Park. More zip lines.
Special Use Parks	The Depot and Wash Park are strongly appreciated.	Several comments about Wash Park needing an updated boat launch and more restrooms.
Athletic Fields / Courts	Appreciation of fields at Volunteer park and the quality of the condition and maintenance of that facility.	Concern about Smiley's bottom being impacted by ballfields. Request for maintenance upgrades.

In addition to existing facility-oriented questions, one station was dedicated to gauging people's interest in funding strategies. People were asked their interest in supporting increased taxes or levies for either expanding parks or increased taxes and levies for supporting maintenance and replacement of park infrastructure. There was an approximate 3:2 ratio of support to non-support for increasing taxes or levies, or stated another way, there was slightly more support than not for these potential increases.

Table 2.12
Funding Strategies

Funding Strategy	Would Support...	Would not support...
	General support for both expansion and maintenance taxes and levies, slight preference for maintenance.	No new taxes were documented by many participants. Request for more transparency in current funding and spending was noted.

Finally, one station was set up to ask participants what they might like to see or not see in a possible future community center.

Table 2.13
Funding Strategies

Future Community Center	Would like to see included...	Would NOT like to see included...
	Multi use space, meeting space racquet court space, gym space, teen focus was noted	Nothing specific was listed as not desirable, but comments were noted that the expansion of current be considered

It is noted that a number of those attending were there to promote a specific concern or recommend a specific interest be met. The complete list of comments can be found in Appendix One.

Chapter 5: Park Needs & Standards

Developing standards / guidelines for the type and quantity of park and recreation facilities needed is approached in a variety of ways by each community. These standards are meant to serve as a guide for local planning agencies to best serve the needs and desires of their communities.

The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) developed a standards and guidelines publication years ago that defines the standards in the following way:

- a national expression of minimum acceptable facilities for the citizens of urban and rural communities.
- a guideline to determine land requirements for various kinds of park and recreation areas and facilities.
- a basis for relating recreational needs to spatial analysis within a community-wide system of parks and open space areas.
- one of the major structuring elements that can be used to guide and assist regional development.
- a means to justify the need for parks and open space within the overall land use pattern of a region or community.

NRPA standards were developed to address average recreation service based on population (e.g. one facility/5,000 residents) or service radius (recommended distance from the park or facility). Suburban or rural cities generally use the population related standards, while dense cities may use the service radius method.

In the development of this plan it was determined that Anacortes is a unique community with significant resources that do not fit into existing NRPA park classifications. The emphasis of this plan is the integration of all public resources, not just those owned or operated by the city, so we will use the standards of specific needed facilities. We limited that list to quantifiable items (ball fields, play equipment, etc.) rather than general park references (neighborhood parks, waterfront parks, etc.). These facilities will at times make up a park, but they may also be on school grounds or some other piece of property. We feel that if we meet specific facility needs, the location, size, etc. of the parks that house them will fall into place. For these planning purposes then it is generally assumed that additional park amenities may be needed for any of the listed elements (for example ball fields may need parking lots, drinking fountains, benches, picnic tables, restroom facilities, etc.)

The following charts show what the Anacortes recreation demand is and how it is being/will be met now and in the future. Population estimates (from Table 1) are used for the analysis. These firmly established Anacortes Level of Service Standards consider the historical provision of facilities in the community adjusted by public input.

Chapter 6: Facility Standards

The following summary of facility types and their counterparts in the Anacortes Park system summarizes the recommended improvements or the approach to further development consistent with public input and staff direction. Elements of the recommendations for improvements can be found in the Action Plan within Chapter 7.

Regulation baseball

NRPA Standard:	1 Field per 5,000 Population
Existing Facility Ratio:	1 Field per 4,766 Population (Anacortes)
Facility Ration 2036:	1 Field per 6,369 Population
Recommended Standard:	1 Field per 7,500 Population

Recommendation: The regulation size baseball fields are Alton Daniels and Volunteer. Alton Daniels is a lit artificial turf field that counts as 2 fields in our system and Volunteer Field is a lit field and counts as 1.5 fields for a total of 3.5 fields. No additional regulation baseball fields are needed at this time or in the future unless demand changes.

Youth league baseball fields

NRPA Standard:	1 Field per 5,000 Population
Existing Facility Ratio:	1 Field per 4,766 Population (Anacortes)
Facility Ration 2036:	1 Field per 6,369 Population
Recommended Standard:	1 Field per 5,000 Population

Recommendation: There are 3.5 Little League fields (Storvik, Island View and Ace of Hearts / Rotary Park) in Anacortes. Storvik has lights and is counted as 1.5 fields. The demand for Little League Fields is met for now but expansion may be needed as the population grows.

Fast pitch fields

NRPA Standard:	1 Field per 5,000 Population
Existing Facility Ratio:	1 Field per 8,340 Population (Anacortes)
Facility Ration 2036:	1 Field per 11,146 Population
Recommended Standard:	1 Field per 7,500 Population

Recommendation: There are 2 Fast pitch fields in Anacortes. Margarete and Don Daniels field is lit and has artificial turf so counts as two fields in our system. There is a need for a portion of a field to be added to the park system now which may be combined with another type of field to meet the growing need in the future.

Football fields

NRPA Standard:	1 Field per 20,000 Population
Existing Facility Ratio:	1 Field per 8,340 Population (Anacortes)
Facility Ration 2036:	1 Field per 11,146 Population
Recommended Standard:	1 Field per 10,000 Population

Recommendation: There are currently 2 football fields (Rice Field is lit and an artificial surface so counts as 2 fields in our system) in Anacortes. No new football fields are needed at this time, although improving or adding practice fields is needed. If a cooperative arrangement with the Anacortes School District to help those improvements occur were possible, it should be explored.

Soccer fields

NRPA Standard:	1 Field per 10,000 Population
Existing Facility Ratio:	1 Field per 4,170 Population (Anacortes)
Facility Ration 2036:	1 Field per 5,573 Population
Recommended Standard:	1 Field per 5,000 Population

Recommendation: There are four soccer fields available in Anacortes (two at Smiley's bottom, one at Storvik Park, and newly constructed Kiwanis Meadows at Volunteer Park). Both Storvik and Kiwanis Meadows have amenities. None of these fields are regulation sized or have full amenities. There has been an expressed desire for a regulation soccer "pitch" in Anacortes which was supported by the public input we received during this master planning process. With the growing popularity of soccer and lacrosse additional field space will be needed in the future.

Tennis courts

NRPA Standard:	1 court per 2,000 Population
Existing Facility Ratio:	1 court per 1,853 Population (Anacortes)
Facility Ration 2036:	1 court per 2,477 Population
Recommended Standard:	1 court per 2,000 Population

Recommendation: There are currently six courts at the Middle School (Anacortes School District owned and maintained), one court at Clearidge (city owned and maintained), and two courts at Fidalgo School (Anacortes School District owned and maintained). The City should do what they can to maintain the existing inventory, improve access to courts and amenities and locate two courts with lights at some future location.

Outdoor Basketball courts

NRPA Standard:	1 Court per 5,000 Population
Existing Facility Ratio:	1 Court per 3,336 Population (Anacortes)
Facility Ration 2036:	1 Court per 4,458 Population
Recommended Standard:	1 Court per 4,000 Population

Recommendation: Anacortes currently has five courts (two at Storvik Park, one at Whitney School, one at Volunteer Park and one at Tursi Park). The City should maintain its existing inventory and explore the possibility of a covered outdoor facility. The City should work with the School District to improve their outdoor facilities and add courts as opportunities present themselves.

Play Structures

NRPA Standard:	No standard
Existing Facility Ratio:	1 Structure per 1,668 Population (Anacortes)
Facility Ration 2036:	1 Structure per 2,229 Population
Recommended Standard:	1 Structure per 1,500 Population

Recommendation: There are currently ten publicly available play structures in and around Anacortes (29th Street Playground, Storvik Park, Washington Park, Shugarts Playground, Guemes Island, Island View School, Whitney School, Mt. Erie School, Fidalgo School and Tursi Park). Play structures are needed in the Northern Pacific Addition. The City should maintain/improve its existing inventory and add structures as opportunities arise and population growth continues.

Smooth Surfaced Walking Paths

NRPA Standard:	No standard
Existing Facility Ratio:	1 mile per 2,174 Population (Anacortes)
Facility Ration 2036:	1 mile per 2,906 Population
Recommended Standard:	1 mile per 2,000 Population

Recommendation: There are currently 7.67 miles of Smooth Surfaced Walking Paths in and around Anacortes (Thompson Trail 3.92, Washington Park 2.2, Storvik Park .25, Rotary Park .3, Guemes Channel Trail 1). A multi-use trail connecting the Marches Point Park and ride with Washington Park should remain a high priority project.

Covered Picnic Shelters

NRPA Standard:	No standard
Existing Facility Ratio:	1 Shelter per 2,780 Population (Anacortes)
Facility Ration 2036:	1 Shelter per 3,715 Population
Recommended Standard:	1 Shelter per 3,000 Population

Recommendation: There are currently six covered picnic shelters in and around Anacortes (Washington Park upper beach, Washington Park lower beach, Rotary Park, Bowman's Bay, Rosario Beach and Torsi Park). There remains a need for one additional reserveable picnic shelter that needs to be located where there is parking and a restroom. This could fit in as part of any development of the Heart Lake area.

Chapter 7: Parks & Recreation Big Issues

This section of the plan is arguably the most important chapter in that it lays out the large scale issues and projects that need to be addressed in the coming years. It highlights the most common priorities, along with some recommended actions. Following is a list of items as identified through our public participation process and staffs understanding of needs.

FUNDING: It has become clear that one of the major issues facing the Parks system in Anacortes is the long term funding of infrastructure and expansion. If the City wants to keep its existing Parks and Open Spaces adequately maintained and continue to expand to meet the growing needs it is going to have to find the financial resources to do that. All the planning will be for naught and go unrealized if the funding issue is not addressed. After the adoption of this plan it is imperative that the City seriously look at the various mechanisms for the long term funding of the Park system (REET, LTAC, General Fund Revenues, Bonds, Levies, alternate taxing districts, Grants, Donations, etc.) to come up with a system to address the long term needs that exist.

GUEMES CHANNEL TRAIL: For more than a decade, the City's elected leaders have been urging various City Departments to plan, build and maintain this extraordinary trail route connecting the Tommy Thompson Parkway with Washington Park, and many points in between. APRD staff have taken the lead, and the mile + route from the Edwards Way cul-de-sac east to Roadside Park has been built and is well used on a daily basis. Advocates of non-motorized travel continue to strongly support trail construction efforts, as do many recreational users, ranging from walker to bicyclists.

Concerns have recently been raised regarding the SHIP wetland, and the potential for the trail to be routed thru its buffer. City staff will continue to manage transparent planning processes, and follow all required permitting actions associated with the construction of the trail. In order to protect the environment and provide lasting enjoyment for future generations the City should work hard to find the balance that allows the all of the public access to some of its special places while protecting and enhancing the environment.

Staff will also continue to work closely with elected officials throughout the completion of the trail.

APRD staff has received some input regarding the multiple use nature of the trail. A small number of walkers have asked that bicycles not be allowed on the trail. Staff have heard a larger voice asking for multiple use, as the vast majority of the City's trails now are. APRD staff plans to continue to plan for and develop the Guemes Channel Trail as a multiple use facility.

COMMUNITY CENTER: The City, along with the School District and the Port of Anacortes, is taking a long look at the kinds of indoor facilities available to the public. The City has been asked to provide space for a variety of groups and activities ranging from Boys and Girls Club

to meeting rooms, in door gym space to a Teen Center. APRD staff will continue to work with the community and elected leaders in the pursuit of a firm plan and funding package for the development and management of a community center.

STORVIK PARK: This long time hub of community recreation has undergone many positive upgrades over the last decade, including our town our park, the construction of a spray pad, new restrooms installed and the transition from a dirt to a grass infield at the baseball/softball facility. Additional improvements to the general condition of the multiuse field area are still needed. The northwest corner of the park emerges as the next most likely area to upgrade. Public input for this site has included desires for a bicycle pump track, parking lot, picnic area and a licensed daycare facility. APRD staff will continue to ask the public for input on further improvements to the park. A development plan for the northwest corner is hoped for within the next two years. The Our Town Our Park playground has a separate funding source set up by the original Our Town Our Park committee that can fund maintenance and improvements to the playground. That fund needs to be put to use to help with that piece of infrastructure.

WASHINGTON PARK: While primarily funded by guests using the campground and boat launch, day use visits continue to increase by large numbers every year. Washington Park has recently upgraded its campground restrooms with a significant remodel, and hopes to improve the restrooms at the entrance of the Loop Road as well. However, the most frequently asked about park amenity is the Sunset Beach boat launch. Requests from park visitors range from double the size of the launch to increase the parking. Either one of these options would produce significant impact to the existing park and beach. Parks & Recreation Department (APRD) staff will prioritize a master planning process for the Sunset Beach area, and hope to commence such a process by the year 2020.

In addition to the boat launch, the discussion of motorized use of the Loop Road is an on-going topic for APRD staff and park visitors. Many regular walkers would prefer to see an increase in restrictions of Loop Road use by motorized traffic. However, the motorized user groups have been vocal, not wanting any more time constraints put on their enjoyment of the Loop Road. APRD staff will continue to ask the question of potential changes to the motorized/non-motorized use restrictions of the Loop Road. At this time, however, there is no plan to deviate from the 10:00AM Loop gates opening seven days a week.

NATURAL AREAS AND OPEN SPACE: The City of Anacortes is blessed with many acres of natural features within its parks system. APRD staff will continue to place a high value on the care of this land, while working to help residents and visitors enjoy them. The Parks Department will look into the possibility of giving special designations to certain areas with specific limitations on what can and cannot be done in those spaces in an effort to provide better protections for them while having them be available to the public as appropriate.

THE DEPOT ARTS AND COMMUNITY CENTER: The old train depot, now managed by APRD, has become a popular event center for the city over the last decade. Both indoor and outdoor events now fill the calendar, and the growing Farmer's Market has become a fixture for the community. APRD will continue to improve the facility, with a focus on upgrades to

the plaza and madrone grove. This will largely be accomplished by continued work on the Depot Master Plan.

PUBLIC ART: Anacortes enjoys a healthy arts community, and APRD staff have worked to enhance this along with the Anacortes Arts Commission. This has been done through a variety of public art installations, art shows at City Hall, and many other diverse events and projects. APRD staff will continue to reach out to the arts community and artists, striving for further community enrichment.

HEART LAKE MASTER PLAN: While this resource is a part of the extensive Anacortes Community Forest Lands (ACFL), much support has been heard to implement the master plan, which the community produced in 2010. The master plan includes a variety of modifications including making significant revisions to the existing gravel areas reducing the overall impervious surface and improving water runoff treatment, making a day use area with covered picnic shelter, improvements to the boat launch and swim areas, installing a restroom facility, looking into a connecting trail around the lake, etc.

VOLUNTEER PARK AND SMILEY'S BOTTOM: APRD will continue to work with the Anacortes School District, with the shared goals being directed by improved accessibility to all facilities for teams, groups and individuals interested in both organized and solo recreation activities.

OFF LEASH DOGS: Pets and their owners continue to be a passionate topic for the citizens of Anacortes, and the many thousands of park visitors we receive every year. While some would prefer no leashes required, ever, many others would like an increase in legal, off leash opportunities for the dogs. Volunteer and Washington Parks have been suggested as options for this. Other requests have come in that the City of Anacortes should do a more heavy handed enforcement of the leash law. APRD will continue to work with its citizens, visitors and the Police Department in order to provide safe play areas for dogs, their owners and those without pets.

AGING POPULATION: APRD staff will continue to develop programs and facilities that reflect and meet the needs and desires of the City' aging population.

DEVELOP MORE ATHLETIC FIELDS: APRD staff will remain vigilant for opportunities to develop and/or acquire outdoor athletic field space. Athletic fields are a big concern in all Parks and Recreation Departments and Anacortes is no exception. Field development, improvement and need needs to be closely monitored and coordinated with other entities like the Anacortes School District to make sure the demand is met in as efficient a way as possible.

COMMUNITY EVENTS: APRD is one prominent partner in the offering of annual events. While there is typically strong support for these, staff will remain open to new ideas and opportunities for change in the annual planning of community events.

PORT OF ANACORTES NORTH BASIN DEVELOPMENT: The Port of Anacortes appears likely to being moving forward with its planning for the North Basin which may

include a community events center. It will be important to work with them closely as that will impact the Depot area and that effect should be a positive one.

WALKING PATHS AND CORRIDOR CONNECTIONS: APRD continues to follow the '09 Comp Plan Recommendation: The Parks Department should work closely with other City Departments to do all it can to secure walking paths and connecting corridors with the City and around the County. A particular emphasis should be the pursuit of a waterfront trail connecting the Depot Arts Center to Washington Park. The Parks Department should also work to get bike racks installed where appropriate to assist those interested in non-motorized forms of transportation. Whenever possible, level routes and curb cuts should be incorporated to assist people with disabilities.

SMALL BOAT CENTER: APRD continues to follow the '09 Comp Plan Recommendation: APRD should work closely with other City Departments, the Port of Anacortes and the Anacortes Waterfront Alliance community group to do all it can to assist local efforts to create a small boating facility or facilities on Fidalgo Bay. Rotary Park or other park property may be able to accommodate a small boat center. This center could in turn serve as a downtown stop for kayakers traveling "water trails" in the Puget Sound.

SHIP HARBOR INTERPRETIVE PRESERVE: APRD continues to follow the '09 Comp Plan Recommendation: Continue to move forward with detailed construction drawings and bid package to get the interpretive structure to be known as the Jim Falk Interpretive Pavilion out to bid. Continue efforts with Washington State Ferries and adjacent development to secure access on either end of the trail. Ensure that any improvements made to the area are very sensitive to this Critical Area and are of the highest quality possible. Adopt a policy statement that recognizes the purpose of SHIP as to protect the wetland and marine ecosystems and to provide appropriate public access to the shoreline and natural areas at Ship Harbor. Develop a management plan for SHIP.

ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS: APRD continues to follow the '09 Comp Plan: APRD should continue its efforts to make facilities and areas accessible to as many individuals as reasonably possible whenever it can, and work with groups representing citizens with disabilities.

Chapter 8: Goals and Policies

Goal PR-1. Park & Recreational Facilities. Provide a range of high quality and easily accessible park and recreational areas, facilities and opportunities that will serve a wide range of age groups, recreational interests and ability levels.

Policy PR-1.1. Provide park areas that are convenient to and accessible for the residents of Anacortes.

Policy PR-1.2. Provide programs for as many people of diverse abilities, ages, and genders as our resources allow.

Policy PR-1.3. Provide facilities and activities that are accessible per ADA standards and are sensitive to issues of universal accessibility in spirit. Increase awareness of accessible features via signage, publicity, and other means.

Policy PR-1.4. Provide a balance of both active and passive recreation opportunities that encourage active lifestyles, facilitate lifelong participation and generate a respect for the natural environment.

Policy PR-1.5. Develop a comprehensive multi-purpose trail system to serve recreational and non-motorized transportation functions for a variety of users, including handicapped-accessible routes where feasible.

Policy PR-1.6. Improve the arterial and neighborhood street system in the City to make provision for bicycle and pedestrian connections.

Policy PR-1.7. Support and encourage the Anacortes Community Forest Lands Management Plan's provisions for the maintenance of a trail system for recreational users.

Policy PR-1.8. Develop a long range master plan for the provision of recreational programs and services.

Policy PR-1.9. Include neighborhood pocket parks when appropriate to allow for community connections.

Policy PR-1.10. In cooperation with community partners (e.g. Anacortes School District, the Boys & Girls Club, etc.) explore options for potential development of a community center as a place where people can gather and recreate.

Goal PR-2. Shoreline Access. Increase the opportunities for public access to and enjoyment of the shorelines of Anacortes, including both physical and visual access.

Policy PR-2.1. Place a high priority on completing the multi-use trail along Guemes Channel from the Depot Arts Center to Washington Park with links to other natural areas including the ACFL and Ship Harbor Interpretive Preserve.

Policy PR-2.2. Pursue public-private and other agency partnerships in developing conveniently-spaced public access points to the Guemes Channel trail that include parking and other facilities that are designed to be compatible with their surroundings.

Policy PR-2.3. Work with the Port of Anacortes to develop and interconnect Cap Sante Marina and surrounding areas including:

- A. Continuing to support transient moorage facilities.
- B. Developing a public fishing pier.
- C. Enhancing landscaping, roadways, signage and pedestrian walkways.
- D. Developing a small boating facility and associated parking.

Policy PR-2.4. Develop a public trailered boat launch adjacent to the downtown area.

Policy PR-2.5. City owned rights-of-way or street ends that afford access to, or views of, marine shorelines should be evaluated for suitability as street end parks and/or wildlife corridors and developed as such if appropriate.

Goal PR-3. Efficient Parks Program Management. Provide parks, open space, recreation facilities, and a comprehensive recreation services program to the citizens of Anacortes in a well-run, economical and cost-effective manner.

Policy PR-3.1. Develop safe, high quality facilities that serve multiple purposes and functions whenever appropriate.

Policy PR-3.2. Avoid duplication of recreational programming with non-departmental organizations unless the demand for additional programs exceeds the supply.

Policy PR-3.3. Manage recreation on an economically sound basis, evaluating the need for fees on a case-by-case basis.

Policy PR-3.4. Provide leadership for all park and recreation activities in Anacortes by assisting other agencies, groups and individuals in their efforts to improve their quality of life. Act as a catalyst to help special interest groups organize and run their own programs, especially when for the benefit of local residents.

Policy PR-3.5. Foster and promote stewardship of the Anacortes Park and open space system.

Policy PR-3.6. Place planning emphasis on the development of a linked system of parks and open spaces.

Policy PR-3.7. Broaden the public understanding of parks to include sidewalks, boulevards, street ends and open space on other public properties.

Policy PR-3.8. When developing acquisition plans for new parks consider and provide for maintenance and operations costs.

Policy PR-3.9. Prepare master plans for development or improvement of existing parks based upon real needs.

Policy PR-3.10. Recruit, involve, and utilize volunteers in the planning and delivery of park and recreation programs.

Policy PR-3.11. Develop and implement parks and maintenance procedures that enhance the quality and durability of our park facilities.

Policy PR-3.12. Maintain adequate funding sources for parks and recreation planning, development, management and maintenance and maintain a plan for capital improvements to guide capital expenditures, utilizing City funding, grants, and fees for programs.

Policy PR-3.13. Continue to promote close working relationships with the Anacortes School District, Skagit County, the Port of Anacortes, citizen groups, volunteers and others who provide recreation programs and services including jointly funded projects where applicable.

Goal PR-4. Community Engagement. Engage the public in decisions about planning, acquisition, development and management of the park and recreation facilities and programs.

Policy PR-4.1. Maintain community engagement and a public feedback system to increase the community's awareness of and involvement in such issues as changes in recreation interests, park maintenance, city operations and services, etc. through the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee and Forest Advisory Board.

Policy PR-4.2. Utilize the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee and Forest Advisory Board's monthly meetings to hear public comments and take feedback on community interests and concerns.

Policy PR-4.3. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission will advise the City Council regarding the management of the Ship Harbor Interpretive Preserve. The Commission shall receive input from a subcommittee made up of interested community members who should have representation from environmental educators, the Shannon Point Marine Research Center, Evergreen Islands, Friends of the Forest, Anacortes School District, Samish Nation, Washington State Ferry System and others as appropriate.

Policy PR-4.4. The ACFL Advisory Board will advise City Council on management of all the lands that formerly comprised Heart Lake State Park, as well as Mt. Erie including the summit; and the area around Little Cranberry Lake dedicated in 1964 by City Council as Little Cranberry Lake Park.

Policy PR-4.5. Use a variety of modalities to communicate with the public including direct mailings, the City of Anacortes website, the government access television channel, e-mail lists, local popular press, local radio station, etc.

Goal PR-5. Parks Facilities Maintenance. Develop and implement parks and maintenance procedures that enhance the quality and durability of our park facilities.

Policy PR-5.1. Provide a high level of maintenance for all City facilities appropriate to the needs of the park.

Policy PR-5.2. Develop specific maintenance plans for some areas of the park system that address staffing priorities, equipment needs, etc.

Goal PR-6. Parks Funding. Ensure adequate funding sources for parks and recreation planning, development, management and maintenance and maintain a plan for capital improvements to guide capital expenditures.

Policy PR-6.1. Prepare, maintain and implement a comprehensive park, recreation and open space plan that fulfills the requirements of state and local granting agencies.

Policy PR-6.2. Pursue grant funding as appropriate to acquire and develop parks facilities and recreation programs.

Policy PR-6.3. Establish an operating budget that addresses the public demand, needs and interests as expressed in public opinion surveys.

Policy PR-6.4. Develop a fees and charges policy for residents of the City of Anacortes that is based on the ability to pay with costs shared between the City and the user.

Policy PR-6.5. Work with Skagit County to develop a specific approach to meeting the needs of those people living outside the City limits but likely to utilize City park and recreation services.

Policy PR-6.6. Require new residential development to provide impact fee payments to the City.

Policy PR-6.7. Adjust park impact fees to keep park facilities current with growth.

Policy PR-6.8. Foster partnerships and cooperative efforts with other agencies, jurisdictions, citizen groups and volunteers in planning for parks, recreation and open space opportunities.

Policy PR-6.9. Continue to promote close working relationships with the Anacortes School District, Skagit County, the Port of Anacortes and others who provide recreation programs and services including jointly funded projects where applicable.

Goal PR-7. Environmental Stewardship. Design, construct and manage parks facilities and programs with sensitivity to the protection and restoration of environmental resources and natural habitats.

Policy PR-7.1. Design and operate all park projects to comply with the City's Critical Areas, Tree Preservation, Storm water and Shoreline Regulations.

Policy PR-7.2. Include greenbelts in new park development or park redevelopment where appropriate; these greenbelts should include pedestrian connections, wildlife corridors and park / forestland buffers wherever practicable and reasonable.

Policy PR-7.3. Provide recreational opportunities while preserving and enhancing the resource value of each site (natural, cultural, historic, and recreational, etc.).

Policy PR-7.4. Promote stewardship of native habitat for wildlife and native vegetation where the choice contributes to habitat value in parks or areas of parks with natural lands, especially for sensitive habitats and habitats that are in decline.

Policy PR-7.5. Maintain or improve the functional integrity of water-courses, wetlands, bodies of water and their shores by keeping them in their existing natural condition where appropriate or restoring them as appropriate.

Policy PR-7.6. Continue to reduce the use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides and to test the use of less toxic alternatives, particularly in areas immediately adjacent to waterways and wetlands.

Policy PR-7.7. Continue program to remove non-native invasive plant species from parks, the ACFL and city green spaces.

Policy PR-7.8. Increase recycling collection, purchase recycled products and promote energy conservation in parks facilities.

Policy PR-7.9. Purchase alternative fuel vehicles and requirement when appropriate for parks maintenance needs.

Policy PR-7.10. Take measures to minimize storm water runoff from park grounds using Low Impact Development (LID) when appropriate.

Policy PR-7.11. For storm water discharge from Anacortes Parks, provide treatment that effectively reduces or eliminates trash, oil, toxicants and fecal bacteria being discharged to marine water of the Puget Sound when appropriate.

Policy PR-7.12. Review and implement environmentally sound practices. This could include looking at water consumption, electrical power consumption, paper use, fertilizer use, herbicide use, gas consumption, etc.

Goal PR-8. Forestlands Management. Manage the Anacortes Community Forestlands (ACFL) with the principal goals of maintaining and enhancing habitat, aesthetic, and recreational values.

Policy PR-8.1. The Anacortes Community Forestlands (ACFL) are critical areas having the designation as a Wildlife Habitat Conservation Area.

Policy PR-8.2. Acquisition and habitat restoration funding for the ACFL, shoreline areas, and wildlife corridors will remain a high priority.

Policy PR-8.3. The Anacortes Community Forestlands should be managed to maintain their pristine and/or fragile environmental and to preserve watersheds, wildlife habitats, wetlands, and aesthetic values, while providing for appropriate low-impact recreational uses with priority for residents.

Policy PR-8.4. Continue to work towards the placement of conservation easements on all lands either currently in or added to the ACFL.

Policy PR-8.5. Continue to support the basic operation of the ACFL with General Fund dollars and augment that with interest from the Forest Endowment Fund.

Policy PR-8.6. Continue to work to find ways to fund the Forest Endowment fund either with the Conservation Easement Program or some other program that can be as successful as the CEP.

Goal PR-9. Open space connectivity. Establish and acquire a network of open space and public access corridors.

Policy PR-9.1. Develop an integrated open space network plan that identifies connection opportunities between historical, cultural, aesthetic, archaeological, biological, natural, recreational and educational sites.

Policy PR-9.2. Maintain and periodically update the “Open Space Connectivity Map” to identify greenbelt and open space areas within the urban growth area and between urban growth areas, generally consistent with the Skagit Countywide UGA Open Space Concept Plan (2009). This includes connections that link the Tommy Thompson Trail, Cap Sante, Washington Park, the downtown, marinas, city trails, schools and other assets; and links between the Community Forestlands and Deception Pass State Park.

Policy PR-9.3. Funding the protection of open space required for habitat, wildlife movement, public access, non-motorized recreational corridors, and similar purposes shall continue to be a City priority.

Policy PR-9.4. Unopened or under-developed rights-of-way shall be evaluated for use as non-motorized public and community access and wildlife corridors prior to granting any vacation or encroachment easement.

Policy PR-9.5. Consider methods to preserve areas with open space value adjacent to Anacortes Community Forestlands, including native growth protection easements and building setbacks.

Chapter 9: Park Funding Options

Funding and Financing Park and Recreation Facilities and Programs

Without a strategy for funding its development, the vision of a park and recreation system remains only in the imagination.

Often park and recreation facilities and programs are viewed as nonessential when compared with public safety, transportation and utility needs. In a household budget, parks may compare with vacation and entertainment funds, while the police and fire services may compare with the mortgage payment and weekly food budgets. Some things are essential, others can be thought of as optional. However, the health of a community often is reflected in its quality of life. The quality of life is often related to the community's environment, parks, open space, trails systems and recreational opportunities.

When designing a park, an apartment complex or a single family residence, we look at the surrounding properties to gain an appreciation for the setting. Often, we “borrow” elements of the adjacent landscape in the development of the site plan. Off-site trees, for example, can influence the placement and species selection for trees on our property. This “landscape borrowing” mirrors the use of non-park improvements to further the goals of the Parks and Recreation Plan.

Every public project should be perceived as an opportunity to implement a component of the plan. Therefore, funding for park and recreation improvements can be seen as originating from any of the budgets of the many City departments.

The committee putting this plan together wants to send a strong message that the Parks Department should do all it can to maximize every dollar spent on park and recreation improvements. The City must work with the other governmental agencies and private groups in the area to make sure there is not a duplication of services. The committee wants to see the City work with the County to come up with a funding mechanism to meet the needs of those not within the City limits but likely to utilize park and recreation services from the City.

There are many options and alternatives for funding park land acquisition, development and maintenance. These include a variety of bond and levy measures, state and federal grants, utility taxes and user fees, private donations and volunteer efforts, impact assessment fees or any other creative solution. Many of these options and alternatives typically utilized are described in the following table. The City has typically relied upon general tax revenues, LTAC and REET funds for these activities with limited success in being able to allocate the funds needed for that jobs. There is a strong need to come up with a systematic approach that makes the funding available for the long term needs of the Parks and Recreation Department.

Table 3: Funding Opportunities

Funding Type	Funding Source
City General Fund	City funds from the annual operating budget.
Capital Improvement Fund	City funds allocated to major capital projects.
One Year Special Levy	A property tax for construction and/or operation levied for only one year. Requires a 60% majority approval of 40% of the voters who voted at the last election.
Bond Measure	A property tax for the sale of construction bonds. The tax assessment can be levied up to 30 years. Requires a 60% majority approval of 40% of the voters who voted at the last general election.
Councilmatic Bonds	A tax assessment initiated by the City Council. The limit is based in a percent of the total assessed valuation of the city. Seldom used.
Revenue Bonds	Revenue from the operation of the facility pays for the capital cost and debt service. Does not require a vote of the people.
Recreation and Conservation Office	The RCO manages a number of grant sources for state and federal agencies that should be monitored closely to see if there are funding opportunities to be had.
State Legislative Funding	The City can ask its Legislators to make appropriations out of the State budget for projects in Anacortes that could include Park and Recreation facilities, etc.
Other State and Federal Granting Agencies	There are a variety of State and Federal agencies that provide grants for all kinds of programs. The City should constantly monitor those and apply as opportunities arise.
Park Revenues	Revenue from park operations is used to pay for capital projects. Washington Park and Mt. Erie Park are both facilities in the Anacortes park system that generate this type of revenue.

Volunteer Efforts	Volunteers can contribute a great deal in terms of cash, materials, and labor to park improvements.
Park Impact Fees	Development fees imposed by a county or city for park land acquisitions and development. Fees charged to developers are typically based upon a set amount per residential unit. This amount is calculated to represent the development's share of public improvements necessitated by growth.
User Fees	Cities, counties, and special purpose districts can charge fees for use of facilities or participating in programs. They are often entrance fees or registration fees. A certain level of service or development may be required to assess park and recreation fees.
Donation / Foundations	Private donations and foundations are also possible sources of assets and funding.
Special Taxing District	Some communities have chosen to fund parks and recreation through a special taxing district similar to the Fidalgo Pools taxing authority.

Anacortes Parks Foundation

The Anacortes Parks Foundation, formed in 1995, offers private support to the Parks Department in soliciting and coordinating private contributions as well as assisting with various development projects.

The Foundation has been an invaluable asset to the Parks and Recreation since its inception and the Parks Department needs to do all necessary to maintain and improve that valuable working relationship as appropriate.

Recreation and Conservation Office

For 40 years, Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), formerly known as the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation, has contributed to the state's recreational qualities and habitat conservation and interpretation through its investment of public funds in parks, trails, water access sites, wildlife habitat, and natural areas.

The RCO administers several grant programs for outdoor recreation and habitat conservation purposes. The RCO grant program requires that funds be spent for specific types of projects. To

be considered for funding assistance, most grant programs require that RCO be given assurance that the proposed project will be operated and maintained in perpetuity for the purposes for which funding is sought. Most grant programs also require that sponsors complete a systematic planning process prior to seeking RCO funding.

RCO has grant limits on most of its programs and encourages and often requires sponsors to share in the project's cost. Grants are awarded by the Committee based on a public, competitive process which weighs the merits of proposed projects against established program criteria.

There are five major RCO grant programs: Boating Facilities Program, Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP), Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), Firearms Range Program, and the Non-highway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities (NOVA).

The RCO funding programs require specific information to be gathered and presented in a planning document. This document reflects agency requirements for recreation planning. To apply in the Urban Wildlife Habitat category of the WWRP, a companion document or insert can be prepared to address habitat and wildlife issues.

Impact Fees

Impact fees are charges assessed on new development as a condition of approval to pay for public facilities needed to serve new growth.

The purpose and size of the fees must be reasonably related to the new development which creates the additional demand for public facilities. Impact fees should contribute a proportionate share of the cost and should be used for public facilities.

The state Growth Management Act (GMA) addresses “project improvements” and “system improvements” when describing impact fees. Project improvements refer to improvements as a part of the development itself. Other capital improvements generated by the development which go beyond its borders, such as the local road system linked to the development, are termed system improvements. Impact fees for system improvements need to be spent in conformance with the capital facilities plan included in the comprehensive plan.

The objective of impact fees is not to raise revenue, but to ensure that adequate capital facilities are built. An advantage of an impact fee program is that it distributes the burden of paying for growth-generated public facility costs to those most benefiting. Another advantage is that it allows developers to proceed with projects instead of waiting for public facilities to be constructed at a future date. Finally, an impact fee program allows local government to commit to constructing public facilities in a planned and systematic manner.

Recommendation: Current Parks and Recreation impact fees, \$615 per new housing unit, have not been revisited since 1998. The City should look into adjusting those fees in one or all of the following ways: Updated cost estimates, calculating inflationary figures, re-visiting listed projects, including county residents in fee calculations and asking the County to make a payment for their part of the increased services required.

Chapter 10: Specific to-do lists

The following are recommended improvements for existing park facilities and services. There are details to be worked out on each one of the items listed that are not included in this long range planning document that will need to be addressed and itemized separately.

Funding of Parks and Recreation

- 1) After adoption of the Comprehensive plan work with Council on various funding options that address the long term needs of maintenance, improvements, expansion and development of the City of Anacortes parks system. Once specific funding sources and levels have been identified there needs to be a priority system established that addresses the recommended action plan and allocates resources over time to accomplish it.

Ace of Hearts Rotary Park

- 1) Complete construction of sidewalks, dugouts at fast pitch & baseball field.
- 2) Complete construction of off-leash dog park, path, plantings, parking, restroom, and other amenities.
- 3) Pursue to possibility of daylighting Ace of Hearts Creek, and improving the adjacent wetland area. The first step in this is to determine if in fact the creek can be day lighted.
- 4) Continue efforts on back berm to grow native plants.
- 5) Improve walking trail around area.

Alice Parchman Newland Park (10 acres)

- 1) Continue tree replanting efforts.

Anchor Cove Park (5,700 square feet)

- 1) No improvements planned.

Ben Root Skate Park (.5 acre)

- 1) Work with skaters to construct improvements to the park.
- 2) Find way to include constructive street art in the park

Cap Sante Park (37 acres)

- 1) Provide a low automobile curb/railing around the parking area.
- 2) Prioritize removing invasive non-native plants from the park.
- 3) Improve trail from the top parking area down eastside of the park.

Causland Park (2.8 acres)

- 1) Design and construct restroom.
- 2) Restore the bandstand.
- 3) Continue improvements to wall in keeping with historical nature of park.
- 4) Continue large tree pruning, tree maintenance and replanting efforts at the park.

Clearidge Park (.8 acres)

- 1) Continue improvements to basketball and tennis/pickle ball court amenities.

Connectors, Pathways and Trails

- 1) Complete ACFL to Guemes Channel Trail connection where opportunities exist.
- 2) Coordinate Skagit County open space/trail corridor system as to location within Anacortes UGA.
- 3) Work with Public Works Department on non-motorized and pedestrian connections around town as opportunities present themselves.

The Depot

- 1) Complete update to master plan focusing on the north end the plaza which will likely include a new restroom, stage, grove access and display building for antique fire engine.
- 2) Maintain public art in the Madrone grove
- 3) Continue maintenance to improve health and habitat for Arbutus trees.
- 4) Work with Port on their North Basin plan to enhance the Depot area and make connections to the marina and downtown easier to find and walk.

Heart Lake

- 1) A separated bike / ped pathway is recommended as a non-motorized facilities project for the City in the transportation chapter of the Comprehensive plan is an important improvement to get people to Heart Lake safely.

Horizon Heights Park

- 1) Identify current wetlands and buffer restrictions/ opportunities.
- 2) Implement plan within permit limitations.

Kiwanis Waterfront Park

- 1) Improve native plantings and lawn area.
- 2) Consider formalizing some of the internal informal trails within the park.
- 3) Plan for Guemes Channel Trail to somehow go through the park and connect to 6th Street widened sidewalk.

Mt. Erie School/Park (0.5 acres)

- 1) No improvements planned.

Mt. Erie Park (80 acres)

- 1) Construct restroom (consider innovative construction on challenging terrain).
- 2) Repair road.
- 3) Improve parking arrangements.
- 4) Improve signage.

“N” Avenue Park (18,000 square feet)

- 1) Add bench, tables and other amenities
- 2) Remove invasive weeds on site as they appear.
- 3) Improve waterfront connector trail where possible

Park at Minnesota and West 6th

- 1) Complete park improvements as preliminarily designed.

Park at Pennsylvania Avenue

- 1) Maintain all plantings to ensure success of naturally planted areas remove invasives as necessary.

Roadside Park (0.3 acres)

- 1) Improve parking area.
- 2) Continue to clean up or cover debris and remove invasive plants.
- 3) Create overlook below parking lot and above Guemes Channel Trail.

Rotary Park (1.5 acres)

- 1) Improve a secondary unpaved trail for pedestrian and other access.
- 2) Continue removing invasive non-native plants from the park.
- 3) Improve landscaping and picnic opportunities at south end of the park.
- 4) Construct a small interpretive board.

Ship Harbor Interpretive Preserve

- 1) Continue non-native plant removal.
- 2) Finalize plans, permit and build boardwalk extension to WSF terminal and interpretive station(s).
- 3) Develop a management plan for the area that could include a “special designation” for the area with specific do’s and don’ts.

Shugarts Playground (0.5 acres)

- 1) No improvements necessary.

Storvik Park (8.7 acres)

- 1) Find alternative uses for old croquet court and shuffle board area.
- 2) Get all irrigation system working
- 3) Upgrade field and lighting.
- 4) Repair and upgrade backstop and dugouts.

Tommy Thompson Trail

- 1) Plan and construct connections to other pedestrian paths created along Fidalgo Bay as area develops.
- 2) Continue tree and shrub plantings along Fidalgo Bay to enhance shade for shore spawning fish.
- 3) Plan and complete improvements to connect to March’s Point Road park and ride.
- 4) Continue efforts to install public art along the trail.
- 5) Work with other agencies to connect trail to Berentson Bridge.
- 6) Work to remove ivy and other non-native invasive plants along the corridor.
- 7) Work with other entities to enhance shoreline south of the Grimm property.
- 8) Work to find additional parking for access along the trail including racks for bicycles.
- 9) Look for ways to develop a parking lot on the Marches Point Road side of the trestle.
- 10) Work with the DNR to consider trestle / causeway replacement options.
- 11) Develop entrance parking lot and improved access at 34th Street along with improvements to Rotary Park area.

Guemes Channel Trail

- 1) Acquire land and \or easements for Guemes Channel Trail and adjacent shoreline habitats.
- 2) Work on ways to enhance the shoreline and bank along sections of the trail, including plantings, beach feedings and other means.
- 3) Work with property owners all along the route from Washington Park to Kiwanis Waterfront Park to attempt to get voluntary easements or property acquisitions for the trail.
- 4) Work with adjacent property owners to educate about the hillside and how to make / keep it healthy.

Volunteer Park (includes Alton Daniels Field, Volunteer Field, Marguerite and Don Daniels Field, and Kiwanis Meadows; 15 acres)

- 1) Investigate low impact lighting in playground area.
- 2) Work with School District to improve pathways around area and make connections between areas.
- 3) Work to improve wetlands and buffers.
- 4) Work to install interpretive signage on the shore of the wetlands and coordinate with the Anacortes School District the possible inclusion of signs on the trail around the wetlands.
- 5) Update turf fields when funds are available.

Washington Park (220 acres)

- 1) Update master plan to include improvements to the day use areas. This should include improvements to parking areas, pathways, improved picnic shelters, improved turf in wet area, improved wetland, restroom, etc.
- 2) Repair loop road and keep up on those repairs.
- 3) Improve trail system to balance recreational goals with environmental impact.
- 4) Improve Burrows Channel look out by accommodating parking and providing viewing site while protecting meadows.
- 5) Update utility service in camp ground and picnic shelters.
- 6) Seek funding for master plan improvements. Continue to build Washington Park fund balance for maintenance and capital improvements.
- 7) Clear out, install interpretive signage and maintain shoreline trail west and north of Sunset Cove.

**SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST****A. BACKGROUND** [\[help\]](#)

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable: [\[help\]](#)

City of Anacortes Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan

2. Name of applicant: [\[help\]](#)

City of Anacortes

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person: [\[help\]](#)

Nicole Johnston, Parks Manager

City of Anacortes

P.O. Box 547

Anacortes, WA 98221

360-299-1967

nicolej@cityofanacortes.org

4. Date checklist prepared: [\[help\]](#)

February 11, 2019

5. Agency requesting checklist: [\[help\]](#)

City of Anacortes

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable): [\[help\]](#)

Planning Commission public hearing on March 27, 2019. Adoption by ordinance expected by end of July 2019. If adopted, the proposed amendments would go into effect shortly thereafter.

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain. [\[help\]](#)

The City tries to update the Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan every 6 years, and at minimum every eight years (RCW 36.70A.130), as required under GMA The Parks & Recreation Comp plan was last updated in 2009.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal. [\[help\]](#)

Environmental review has been conducted for this proposal through this SEPA Expanded Environmental Checklist. These existing documents are relevant to the present proposal and are being adopted and used to help meet environmental review requirements pursuant to WAC 197-11-600. We expect a DNS determination to be issued on March, 8, 2019.

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain. [\[help\]](#)

Current projects with associated government / permit approval affecting the property covered by this proposal include the Washington Park Boat launch repair, Guemes Channel trail development, Smiley's bottom trail improvements and wetland mitigation, and the Grand View Cemetery expansion.

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known. [\[help\]](#)
City Council approval or modification of these proposed amendments (by ordinance).

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.) [\[help\]](#)

The Anacortes Parks and Recreation Department is updating its Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan (the Plan). The adoption of the Plan is an undertaking which brings past documents and current public opinions into a single planning document. This process will help the City to meet the overall parks and recreation needs of the community. This plan was last updated in 2009 and set goals to plan for future park and recreation needs. Within this plan, "parks" include recreational areas such as skate parks, athletic courts, multiuse pathways and trails, ball fields, playgrounds, open-spaces, public gathering spaces and critical areas for passive recreation and protection of wildlife habitat.

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist. [\[help\]](#)

The plan would apply city wide to the management of the many parks, facilities and recreation programs that we offer. Please see attachment for a list of parks.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS [\[help\]](#)

ITEMS 1 THROUGH 16 RESPONSES ARE GENERAL IN NATURE BECAUSE THIS IS A NON-PROJECT ACTION.

1. Earth

a. General description of the site [\[help\]](#)

(circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous,
other _____

- b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)? [\[help\]](#)
- c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any agricultural land of long-term commercial significance and whether the proposal results in removing any of these soils. [\[help\]](#)
- d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe. [\[help\]](#)
- e. Describe the purpose, type, total area, and approximate quantities and total affected area of any filling, excavation, and grading proposed. Indicate source of fill. [\[help\]](#)
- f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe. [\[help\]](#)
- g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)? [\[help\]](#)
- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any: [\[help\]](#)

The City of Anacortes, Washington is located on the northern end of Fidalgo Island. Elevations within the City vary from sea level, to 600 feet in the southwest quadrant, and to 1,270 feet at the top of Mt. Erie. Portions of Anacortes are flat, rolling, hilly, and or contain steep slopes. Soil types vary throughout City limits. Parks within the city inventory are representative of this varied terrain. Future projects may include ground disturbing activities that could temporarily increase stormwater discharge and erosion. The scope and the timing of these projects should be used as measures to limit the potential to create erosive conditions. The projects can mitigate impacts with the implementation of traditional TESC practices and BMP's.

Any future development that is proposed will be consistent with the City's development regulations and will be required to comply with City, State, and Federal requirements regarding slopes, soils, stormwater management, and erosion.

2. Air

- a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal during construction, operation, and maintenance when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known. [\[help\]](#)
- b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe. [\[help\]](#)
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any: [\[help\]](#)

This nonproject action does not propose allowing for an increase in industrial type development that may increase emissions. Air emissions in conjunction to any proposed future maintenance and expansion construction will be De Minimis and limited to gas combustion equipment usage which should be kept minimum to limit impact.

Any future development that is proposed will be consistent with the City's development regulations and will be required to comply with City, State, and Federal requirements regarding emissions to the air and other impacts to the air.

3. Water

- a. Surface Water: [\[help\]](#)

- 1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into. [\[help\]](#)
- 2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans. [\[help\]](#)
- 3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material. [\[help\]](#)
- 4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known. [\[help\]](#)
- 5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan. [\[help\]](#)
- 6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge. [\[help\]](#)

b. Ground Water:

- 1) Will groundwater be withdrawn from a well for drinking water or other purposes? If so, give a general description of the well, proposed uses and approximate quantities withdrawn from the well. Will water be discharged to groundwater? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known. [\[help\]](#)
- 2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals. . . ; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve. [\[help\]](#)

c. Water runoff (including stormwater):

- 1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe. [\[help\]](#)
- 2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe. [\[help\]](#)
- 3) Does the proposal alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site? If so, describe.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water, and drainage pattern impacts, if any:

The City is bounded on three sides by 20 miles of saltwater shoreline of Burrows Bay, Rosario Strait, Guemes Channel and Fidalgo Bay. These shorelines are "shorelines of statewide significance". There are 15 named streams flowing through the city, including 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. Many of the streams have been placed in culverts, channels, or have been otherwise altered. There are three freshwater lakes within City limits, including Whistle, Heart and Cranberry Lakes, as well as a portion of the northeast shoreline of Lake Erie. Various category wetlands are found throughout the City, with major systems located within the Anacortes Forest Lands and near Ship Harbor.

Parks by design generally encompass these culturally valuable water resources with the intent to protect and preserve shore lands, flood plains, wetlands, lakes and streams. Many of the proposed future goals of the plan include restoration and enhancement of these vital ecosystems. While any

proposed future maintenance and expansion construction has the potential to increase stormwater runoff, and loose soil erosion, it is possible to mitigate these impacts through BMP's, drainage improvements, and revegetation.

Any future development that is proposed will be consistent with the City's development regulations and will be required to comply with City, State, and Federal requirements regarding regulated critical areas, stormwater runoff, and all other potential impacts to both ground and surface water.

4. Plants [\[help\]](#)

- a. Check the types of vegetation found on the site: [\[help\]](#)
- ☐ deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other
 - ☐ evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other
 - ☐ shrubs
 - ☐ grass
 - ☐ pasture
 - ☐ crop or grain
 - ☐ Orchards, vineyards or other permanent crops.
 - ☐ wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other
 - ☐ water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
 - ☐ other types of vegetation
- b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered? [\[help\]](#)
- c. List threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site. [\[help\]](#)
- d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any: [\[help\]](#)
- e. List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site.

Anacortes is located within the Pacific Northwest, which has plentiful rainfall and mild summers. A majority of the above plants occur within Anacortes park lands. The proposal may allow for an increase in park lands and recreational facilities, which could in turn increase the amount of vegetation removal to prepare for maintenance, expansion, or new construction.

Any future development that is proposed will be consistent with the City's development regulations and will be required to comply with City, State, and Federal requirements regarding plants, including minimum landscaping and open space requirements and tree preservation standards.

5. Animals

- a. List any birds and other animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site. Examples include: [\[help\]](#)
- birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other:
 - mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:
 - fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other _____
- b. List any threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site. [\[help\]](#)
- c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain. [\[help\]](#)
- d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any: [\[help\]](#)

e. List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site.

All of the above animals occur within Anacortes. Anacortes is part of the migratory route known as the American Pacific Flyway. The City is home to many fish, shellfish and bird and mammal species, especially within the Anacortes Community Forest Lands and along the saltwater shorelines.

This nonproject action may result in a future increase to the City's park lands and recreational facilities inventory, which could in turn increase the amount of vegetation removal to prepare for construction, displacing common mammals. Additionally, noise created from construction machinery and equipment can have temporary impacts to surrounding wildlife.

Any future development that is proposed will be consistent with the City's development regulations and will be required to comply with City, State, and Federal requirements regarding animals.

6. Energy and natural resources

- a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc. [\[help\]](#)
- b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe. [\[help\]](#)
- c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)

No significant impacts are anticipated to energy and natural resources outside of normal development. Any future development that is proposed will be consistent with the City's development regulations and will be required to comply with City, State, and Federal requirements regarding energy and natural resources.

7. Environmental health

- a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe. [\[help\]](#)
 - 1) Describe any known or possible contamination at the site from present or past uses.
 - 2) Describe existing hazardous chemicals/conditions that might affect project development and design. This includes underground hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines located within the project area and in the vicinity.
 - 3) Describe any toxic or hazardous chemicals that might be stored, used, or produced during the project's development or construction, or at any time during the operating life of the project.
 - 4) Describe special emergency services that might be required.
 - 5) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

This nonproject action does not propose allowing for an increase in industrial type development that may increase risks of environmental health hazards.

Any future development that is proposed will be consistent with the City's development regulations and will be required to comply with City, State, and Federal requirements regarding environmental

health. No significant impacts are anticipated to environmental health outside of normal development.

b. Noise

- 1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)? [\[help\]](#)
- 2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site. [\[help\]](#)
- 3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)

Noises typical of urban and residential environments are currently found in the area of the City's parks. The intensity can range depending on the location and use of the park. Changes to noise levels can be expected with an anticipated increase of vehicular traffic and visitorship to the improved or expanded parks. Noise can be controlled through hours of operation, screening, and design elements.

8. Land and shoreline use

- a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties? Will the proposal affect current land uses on nearby or adjacent properties? If so, describe. [\[help\]](#)
- b. Has the project site been used as working farmlands or working forest lands? If so, describe. How much agricultural or forest land of long-term commercial significance will be converted to other uses as a result of the proposal, if any? If resource lands have not been designated, how many acres in farmland or forest land tax status will be converted to nonfarm or nonforest use? [\[help\]](#)
 - 1) Will the proposal affect or be affected by surrounding working farm or forest land normal business operations, such as oversize equipment access, the application of pesticides, tilling, and harvesting? If so, how:
- c. Describe any structures on the site. [\[help\]](#)
- d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what? [\[help\]](#)
- e. What is the current zoning classification of the site? [\[help\]](#)
- f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site? [\[help\]](#)
- g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site? [\[help\]](#)
- h. Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify. [\[help\]](#)
- i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project? [\[help\]](#)
- j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace? [\[help\]](#)
- k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)
- l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any: [\[help\]](#)
- m. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with nearby agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any:

The current land use of City properties affected by this proposal is recreational use and the majority of these properties fall under the PUBLIC zoning designation. This nonproject action does not propose a change in use at this time. The surrounding use and zoning designation of the parks vary by location and include residential, commercial, and commercial marine and are not expected to experience any affects by approval of the Plan. No specific development actions are planned at this time that would require actions to the existing structures or critical areas.

Many of the parks are located within shoreline jurisdiction and take advantage of public beach access and freshwater lake usage. The goal of the plan is to protect and preserve this resource and to improve the public access and enjoyment of these features.

Any future development that is proposed will be consistent with the City's development regulations and will be required to comply with City, State, and Federal requirements regarding land use and shoreline regulations.

9. Housing

- a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing. [\[help\]](#)
- b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing. [\[help\]](#)
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)

No significant impacts are anticipated to housing.

10. Aesthetics

- a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed? [\[help\]](#)
- b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed? [\[help\]](#)
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)

The Plan if approved will preserve existing open space and the natural character of public lands, as well as protect the scenic viewshed of Fidalgo Island.

11. Light and glare

- a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur? [\[help\]](#)
- b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views? [\[help\]](#)
- c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal? [\[help\]](#)
- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)

This nonproject action may result in a future increase to the City's park lands and recreational facilities inventory with outdoor ball fields/courts identified as one of the primary needs. Ball fields may have lighting needs which could in turn increase the amount of light and glare. To ensure compatibility with neighboring uses while preserving the overall community character of the city, appropriate standards can be applied such as: light fixtures fully shielded or oriented towards the ground, appropriate setback requirements, compliance with building height requirements for the applicable zone, as well as light trespass and glare can be mitigated through other effective methods.

Any future development that is proposed will be consistent with the City's development regulations and will be required to comply with City, State, and Federal requirements regarding light and glare.

12. Recreation

- a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity? [\[help\]](#)
- b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe. [\[help\]](#)
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any: [\[help\]](#)

The city offers various designated recreation opportunities that include the 3000 acres of designated Community Forest Lands and various play fields (baseball, soccer, and open play areas), there are tennis courts, basketball courts and racquet ball courts. We have many parks that offer various playground experiences such as a zip line, a spray pad and a skate park.

Though this action the City is working with community to develop appropriate recreation programs and facilities to include in our comprehensive plan.

Any future development that is proposed will be consistent with the City's development regulations and will be required to comply with City, State, and Federal requirements regarding recreation.

13. Historic and cultural preservation

- a. Are there any buildings, structures, or sites, located on or near the site that are over 45 years old listed in or eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers located on or near the site? If so, specifically describe. [\[help\]](#)
- b. Are there any landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation? This may include human burials or old cemeteries. Are there any material evidence, artifacts, or areas of cultural importance on or near the site? Please list any professional studies conducted at the site to identify such resources. [\[help\]](#)
- c. Describe the methods used to assess the potential impacts to cultural and historic resources on or near the project site. Examples include consultation with tribes and the department of archeology and historic preservation, archaeological surveys, historic maps, GIS data, etc. [\[help\]](#)
- d. Proposed measures to avoid, minimize, or compensate for loss, changes to, and disturbance to resources. Please include plans for the above and any permits that may be required.

While the Parks department does not have any significant historic buildings or structures in its care the City does have areas of significant historic and cultural value. Efforts to restore the Guemes Channel waterfront have been undertaken, and close coordination and communication occurs with the local tribal entities. For example, the Parks Department will coordinate a ceremony with the Samish Tribe for the renaming of N Avenue Park, which is located in the vicinity of a traditional Samish Village site, and interpretive infrastructure will display the cultural significance to the public.

Any future development that is proposed will be consistent with the City's development regulations and will be required to comply with City, State, and Federal requirements regarding cultural preservation.

14. Transportation

- a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site or affected geographic area and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any. [\[help\]](#)
- b. Is the site or affected geographic area currently served by public transit? If so, generally describe. If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop? [\[help\]](#)

- c. How many additional parking spaces would the completed project or non-project proposal have? How many would the project or proposal eliminate? [\[help\]](#)
- d. Will the proposal require any new or improvements to existing roads, streets, pedestrian, bicycle or state transportation facilities, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private). [\[help\]](#)
- e. Will the project or proposal use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe. [\[help\]](#)
- f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project or proposal? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur and what percentage of the volume would be trucks (such as commercial and nonpassenger vehicles). What data or transportation models were used to make these estimates? [\[help\]](#)
- g. Will the proposal interfere with, affect or be affected by the movement of agricultural and forest products on roads or streets in the area? If so, generally describe.
- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)

The Plan update process included a comprehensive evaluation of population projections and service radius of recreational facilities in the contributing area of the City of Anacortes. This analysis of Level of Standards considered the historical provisions of facilities in the community adjusted by public input. As a result the City found a need for increased recreation facilities within the community based on both current needs and projected population growth; these facilities would potentially increase traffic on public roads and the need for improved public access, parking, and non-motorized trails.

By reducing service radius of parks and recreation facilities we expect an increase in the accessibility of these facilities by the surrounding residents. With new recreation opportunity close by it is projected to reduce the distance needed for the travel between the user and the facility. Additionally, alternative methods of transportation can be incorporated into the planning and project design of future facilities to include non-motorized foot paths and bicycle lanes, as well as greater access by public transit.

15. Public services

- a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, public transit, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe. [\[help\]](#)
- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any. [\[help\]](#)

No significant impacts are anticipated to public services.

16. Utilities

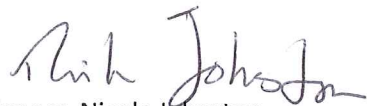
- a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: [\[help\]](#)
electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system,
other _____
- b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed. [\[help\]](#)

This nonproject action may result in a future increase to the City's park lands and recreational facilities inventory, which could in turn increase the amount of need for utility support for these facilities.

Any future development that is proposed will be consistent with the City's development regulations and will be required to comply with City, State, and Federal requirements regarding utilities.

C. SIGNATURE [\[HELP\]](#)

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury under laws of the State of Washington that the above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make a decision.

Signature: 

Name of signee: Nicole Johnston

Position and Agency/Organization: Parks Manager, City Of Anacortes

Date Submitted: February 11, 2019

D. Supplemental sheet for nonproject actions [\[help\]](#)

Because these questions are very general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment.

When answering these questions, be aware of the extent the proposal, or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal, would affect the item at a greater intensity or at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented. Respond briefly and in general terms.

1. How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise?

The plan allows for the continued recreational use of the Parks, this use is generally considered passive and is not likely to increase water discharge, emissions to air, or the release of hazardous substances. A secondary effect of the increased use of parks included the increased need for hard surfaces and travel to and from the sites may be by motor vehicle which could potentially increase air emissions, stormwater runoff, and contaminants.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

Continue to encourage our users to use non-motorized means to access the parks when possible. Comprehensive planning can help us foresee these impacts; reducing the service radius of each recreational facility can limit travel distances need by park users and design elements can provide alternative transportation methods such as pedestrian walkways, non-motorized access, and service by public transit.

2. How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish, or marine life?

The plan seeks to preserve and enhance the plants, animals, fish and/ or marine life on our island within the protection of public lands. However, future growth and expansion of these recreational assets may have an impact through maintenance and expansion development activities.

Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life are:

Our parks and recreation programs will operate with little impact to the environment, animals, fish or marine life. Our operation and maintenance activities utilize low impact methods as much as feasible including the use of organic fertilizers when the option is available and the reduced herbicide use through manual removal of weeds, mulches and other practices. Overall we believe the future impact of expansion and development will be offset by proper stewardship of public lands and the restoration and enhancement of natural environments within.

3. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources?

The proposal is not likely to significantly increase impacts to energy usage and natural resources.

Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are:

Future development under this proposal would be able to incorporate low impact design guidelines and utilize energy saving technology. All activities will continue to be subject to existing energy codes and other city, state and federal regulations and/or additional project-level environmental review.

4. How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection; such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands?

The proposal is primarily for the purpose of preservation and enhancement of public lands, existing parks and recreational facilities, therefore it is not likely to significantly increase impacts to environmentally sensitive areas. While future development and increased usage may have an impact on these areas it is expected that any impact will be offset by mitigation, enhancement, and preservation.

Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts are:

Future development under this proposal would continue to be subject to existing regulations protecting environmentally sensitive areas, and other city, state and federal regulations and/or additional project-level environmental review.

5. How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans?

The ongoing management of the Parks and Recreation and this plan stress the importance of our native shorelines. Integral to our community is public beach access and boating facilities. The proposal will preserve compatible use of our marine and freshwater resources. Potential impacts would include maintenance and expansion of parking, boat ramps, and floats.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are:

Future recreational use under this proposal would continue to be subject to existing city, state and federal regulations and/or additional project-level environmental review.

6. How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities?

New parks could use additional lighting, water and sewer demand, and require new parking services.

Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are:

Future development under this proposal would continue to be subject to existing city, state and federal regulations and/or additional project-level environmental review. We would look at energy saving options such as LED lights, low flow fixtures, and encouraging bicycle and pedestrian access.

7. Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.

The proposal directly implements local comprehensive plan policies and is consistent with the Growth Management Act and all other local, state and federal laws applicable. Future development under this proposal would continue to be subject to existing city, state and federal regulations and/or additional project-level environmental review.

City Of Anacortes Determination of Nonsignificance

Description of proposal: The City of Anacortes is considering updates to its Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan. The adoption of the Plan is an undertaking which brings past documents and current public opinions into a single planning document. This process will help the City to meet overall parks and recreation needs of the community. This plan was last updated in 2009 and set goals to plan for future park and recreation needs. Within this plan, "parks" include recreational areas such as skate parks, athletic courts, multiuse pathways and trails, ball fields, playgrounds, open-spaces, public gathering spaces and critical areas for passive recreation and protection of wildlife habitat.

Proposed amendments are available for review on the city's website:

<https://www.anacorteswa.gov/528/Comprehensive-Master-Plans>.

Project File #: PLN-2019-0004

Proponent: City of Anacortes

Location of Proposal: City limits of Anacortes

Lead Agency: City of Anacortes Planning, Community & Economic Development Department

The lead agency for this proposal has determined that it does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(C). This decision was made after review of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public on request.

This DNS is issued under WAC 197-11-340(2); the lead agency will not act on this proposal for 14 days from the date below. **Comments regarding this DNS must be submitted by March 27, 2019.**

Responsible Official: Don Measamer

Position and Title: Director of Planning, Community & Economic Development

Phone/Email: 360-299-1942; don@CityofAnacortes.org

Address: P.O. Box 547, Anacortes, WA 98221



Date of issuance: March 13, 2019

Appeals of this environmental determination may be made per the procedures outlined in AMC Ch. 18.04 and Ch. 19.20. Additional information regarding the appeal process may be obtained from the City of Anacortes PCED Department, 360-299-1984.



Planning Commission Agenda Bill

Meeting Date: 3/27/2019 **Agenda Item:** [Click here to enter text.](#)

Subject: Anacortes Community Forest Lands Comprehensive Plan Review.

Staff Contact: Jonn Lunsford

Approved for Submittal to PC by	
	Laurie Gere, Mayor
x	Don Measamer, PCED Director
	Darcy Swetnam, City Attorney

Action Type	
x	Public Hearing
	Staff Report
	Discussion

Summary Statement: The Parks and Recreation Department is submitting the draft Anacortes Community Forest Lands Comprehensive Plan and Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan for Planning Commission review and public comment.

Background: The Forest Lands Advisory Board began working on this draft of the Anacortes Community Forest Lands (ACFL) Comprehensive Plan in 2014. The Board regularly took comments at their monthly meeting and published drafts for public review. This draft was completed in October 2014. At that time, the request was to have the ACFL plan ready for review as part of the overall city Comprehensive Plan in 2015.

Draft plans can be viewed here: [Draft ACFL and Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plans](#)

Previous Council/Committee/Commission Action: None.

Competing Viewpoints Considered: Public comments have been considered and have resulted in proposed changes to the draft regulations.

Recommended Motion: Recommend approval and send to City Council for consideration.

Attachments:

- DNS and SEPA Checklist
- Draft Anacortes Community Forest Lands Comprehensive Plan

Draft

Anacortes Community Forest Lands Comprehensive Plan

October 30, 2014

ACFL Comprehensive Plan Update:

The Forest Advisory Board and staff have been holding public meetings, taking comments and revising the ACFL Comprehensive Plan for the past several months. Many changes to the document have been made. Recently some policy recommendations were made and we wanted to call this to the public's attention and invite comment. The following items were removed from the 2009 ACFL Comprehensive Plan:

Pg. 16. 5) The Forest Board should work with the Parks Board and other public entities to find places where dogs can be allowed off-leash in a trail setting and or with access to water. This process may take years of careful research and require significant input as to how best to accomplish this goal.

Pg. 32 5) Dog walkers were removed as a user group with representation on the ACFL Trail Committee.

The following items were added to the plan:

Pg. 16. 5) Commercial activities in the ACFL that do not violate existing policies may be permitted by the Parks and Recreation Director in consultation with the ACFL Advisory Board.

Pg. 37. Problems with algae and milfoil shall be addressed with this in mind but if manual removal is not effective, chemical herbicides may be used.

Table of Contents

	Page
I. Introduction	4
II. Management Areas	5
Introduction	5
Management Area Map	6
Little Cranberry Lake	7
South Cranberry	8
Whistle Lake/Fidalgo Ridge	8
Heart Lake	9
South Heart Lake Road/Ray Auld Drive	10
Mt. Erie Summit South and West Faces	10
Mt. Erie Conservancy Area	11
III. Forest Lands Stewardship	12
Forest Management	12
Flora Management	12
Wildlife Management	12
Water Resources Management	13
IV. Management of Recreational Activities	14
Picnicking	14
Trail System	14
Trail Uses	15
Climbing	15
Motor Vehicles	15
Fishing	15
Hunting and Trapping	16
Other Activities	16
Education	16
V. Management Procedures	17
Management Authority	17
Finance	17
Enforcement	18
Fire Protection	18
Access, Signs and Boundary Markers	18
Cooperation with Adjacent Property Owners and Public Agencies	18
Future Acquisition Considerations	19
VI. Appendices	20
1. History	20
a. History of Land Acquisition	20
b. History of Logging Activities	21
c. Conservation Easement Program	23
2. Comprehensive Trail Use Plan	24
3. Trail User Rules and Regulations	29
4. Heart Lake Management Plan	33
5. Management Area Maps	38

Introduction

The City of Anacortes owns more than 2,800 acres of designated forest lands within the City limits. This area includes Mt. Erie, Whistle Lake, Little Cranberry Lake, 80 acres north of Heart Lake and the former State Park lands.

These community forest lands contain 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.

This Comprehensive plan is an update to the 2009 plan. The Forest Advisory Board started discussing this update in the fall of 2013 and began taking public comments at monthly meetings in 2014.

The goal of this process was to develop a plan that works to conserve and enhance the unique environment and habitats within the Anacortes Community Forest Lands (ACFL) while maintaining recreational opportunities for local residents.

Use in the ACFL from local and regional residents has increased as people seek out its natural beauty and recreational opportunities and should be managed to accommodate this use.

In 1998 the Conservation Easement Program (CEP) was initiated to protect the community forest lands from logging, mining and development while raising money to pay for management and stewardship of the ACFL. It was created when City Council passed Resolution #1492 on December 21, 1998. The program places one acre of land under conservation easement for every \$1,000 donated. City Council reviews and approves each round of acreage that is protected.

The Skagit Land Trust and Friends of the ACFL are partners with the City in this project. The Skagit Land Trust holds the easements and places them on file with the County Auditor and the Friends of the ACFL help promote the project in the community.

The easement program was conceived of as means to replace revenue which was lost when logging was discontinued in the ACFL in late 1980's. 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.

The Friends of the Anacortes Community Forest

Lands have provided a wide variety of community forest education programs and naturalist consultation in service to the ACFL since 1988. These services are in partnership with the City and School District, with additional financial support from grants, businesses, private donors, and membership.

Over the course of 20 years of local forest education, thousands of citizens of all ages have grown in knowledge and appreciation for the ACFL leading to many tangible benefits. These include and are not limited to: an increase in nature literacy,

an increase in enjoyment of the woods, a burgeoning conservation ethic in the community, tremendous support for the creation of the Conservation Easement Program and broad financial generosity to see it through, steady stewardship participation in work parties and committees, and a demonstrated sense of respect and care for the woods among most local youth.

This plan reflects new policies and practices in the management and stewardship of the ACFL to address changes that have occurred since the plan was last updated in 2009. Our goal is to update this plan every five years to review what is and is not working to maintain the ACFL as a healthy forest, wildlife habitat and local recreational venue.



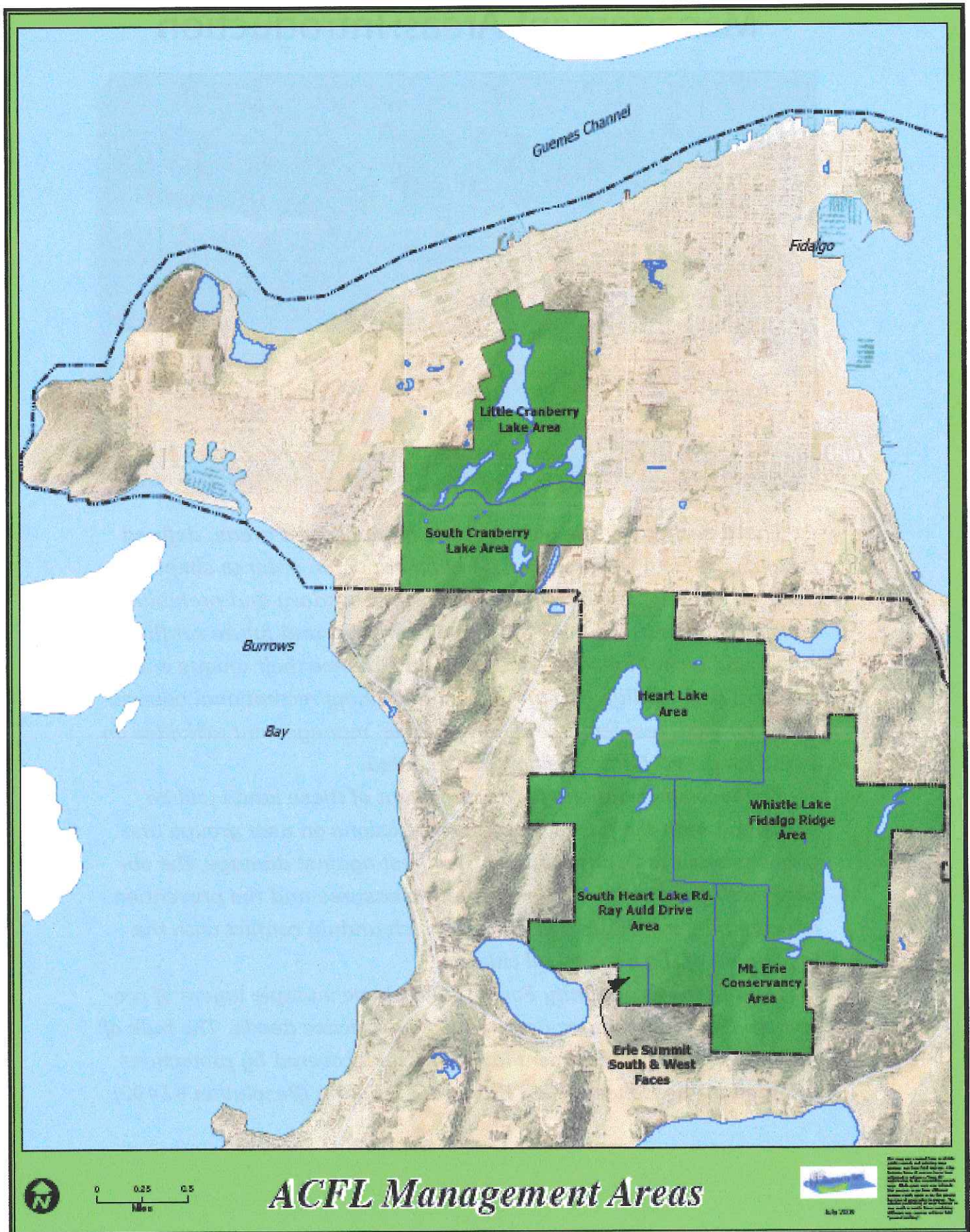
Management Areas: Introduction



These sections of the plan propose management areas, defined by topographical features and deed limitation, in order to simplify decision making. By identifying primary, secondary and prohibited uses in each unit, we hope to minimize present and future conflicts. Areas will be managed to conserve and enhance their unique environment and wildlife habitat while maintaining recreational opportunities for local residents. When applicable, management activities on lands proposed for acquisition are included.

The recommendations for management of these lands will be presented with the fewest possible restrictions on user groups and yet consistent with protection of the forest against damage, the observance of essential sanitary/safety measures and the prevention of actions by individuals or groups which unduly conflict with the enjoyment of the area by all citizens.

Most of the Community Forest Lands have multiple layers of protection. Many acres were donated with restrictive deeds. The bulk of the former water department lands are now covered by protections afforded in the Conservation Easement Program (Resolution # 1492).



Management Areas

This section of the Management Plan is governed by the following statements in the City of Anacortes 2007 Comprehensive Plan pertaining to the Anacortes Community Forest Lands:

Goal: Identify areas of environmental, educational, historic, cultural and/or biological significance, encourage their preservation, and regulate development which could cause significant deterioration of these qualities.

Policy: The Anacortes Community Forest Lands (ACFL) are critical areas having the designation as a Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Area.

Goal: Provide opportunities for residents to have access to undeveloped natural areas.

Policy: Whistle Lake, Heart Lake and Little Cranberry Lake watersheds should be managed to maintain their pristine and/or fragile environment and to preserve watersheds, wildlife habitats, wetlands, aesthetic values, and recreational uses with priority for residents.

Goal: The City's parks and forest lands (ACFL) should be managed with the principal goals of maintaining and enhancing habitat, conservation, and recreational values.

Policy: The City of Anacortes will continue to support the Conservation Easement Program until all eligible acres have conservation easements.

Little Cranberry Lake Area

(Approximately 257 acres)

Boundaries: Entire area dedicated as Little Cranberry Park (1964), John M. Morrison Natural Park and associated wetlands including dedicated parkland buffers.

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, 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 marshes which feed the lake provide an 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 horse back riders. Use is likely to increase now that neighborhoods around the lake have been developed and locals use the trails for recreation and dog walking. Fishing, from shore and small non-motorized boats, is also very popular. Swimming and picnicking are major activities in good weather. The majority of the users are local residents. The access, a gravel road from Georgia Avenue and West 4th, is open at all times. Maintenance is

shared by the Parks and Recreation Department and volunteers working with the department. The Comprehensive Trail Plan prohibits motorcycle use in this unit, north of the old city dump. 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. Current low impact uses include hiking, bicycling, horseback riding and fishing. Picnicking, nature observation and non-motorized boating and canoeing should also continue.

Recommendations: The following measures should be instituted:

- 1) Post this area for no motorcycles north of the old 32nd Street right of way.
- 2) Provide restroom facility at or near Little Cran-



berry Lake parking lot.

3) Block or obliterate trails in areas which need to be re-vegetated and remove unauthorized trails from private property.

4) Continue removing non-native invasive plants and promote planting of native or non-invasive alternatives by landowners nearby.

berry Lake parking lot.

3) Block or obliterate trails in areas which need to be re-vegetated and remove unauthorized trails from private property.

4) Continue removing non-native invasive plants and promote planting of native or non-invasive alternatives by landowners nearby. 5) Expand ADA access.

6) Consider paving access road from Georgia Avenue to the lake.

South Cranberry Lake Area

(Approximately 446 acres)

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.

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 much of the land is now protected by the Conservation Easement Program and subject to its conditions. 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 Use: This area, including the old City dump, is used extensively by motorcycles, horseback riders, mountain bikes and hikers.

Projected Use: Current recreational uses will probably increase, and improvements which would enhance those and similar uses should be considered.

Recommendations:

1) Now that the old dump (aka New City Meadows) has been capped, site could possibly be used as a fenced off-leash dog area.

2) Trails should be rehabilitated (and redesigned where necessary) to serve the ends of this plan.

3) Boundaries of adjacent private property ownerships should be posted.

4) 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.

5) Maintain trail #10 as fire/emergency access road.

Whistle Lake/Fidalgo Ridge Area

(Approximately 645 acres)

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 west line of section 6.

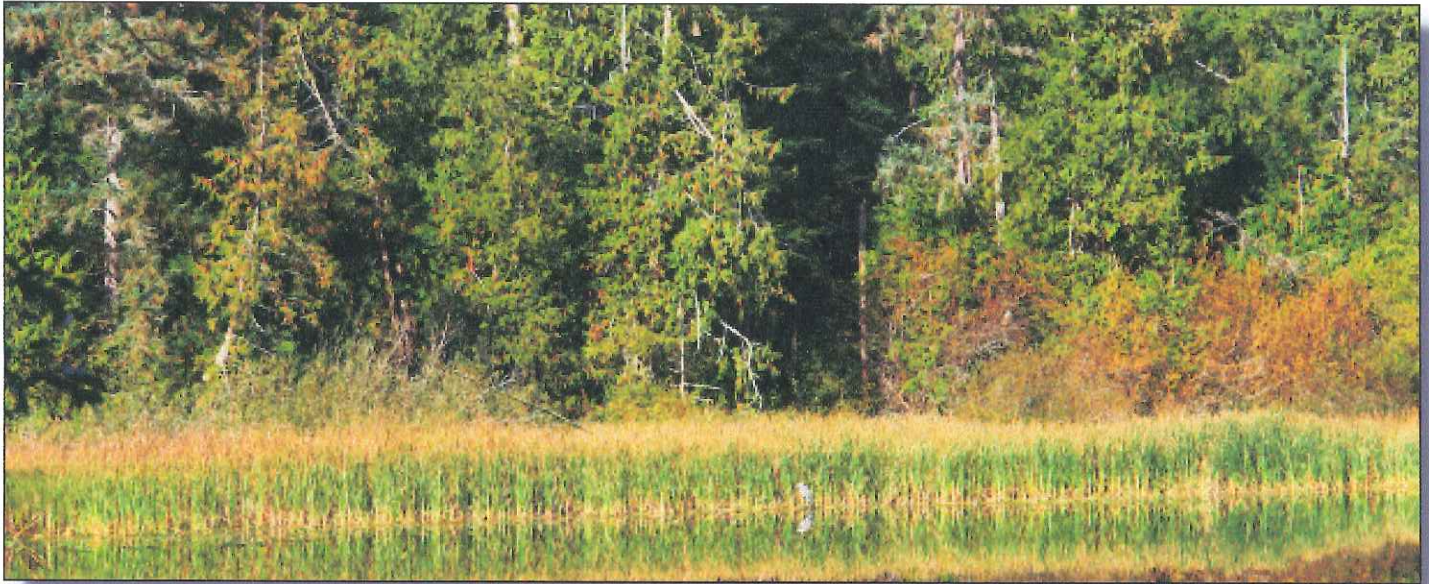
Restrictions: Whistle Lake is a former City reservoir, acquired when Douglas Allmond sold the Washington Water Company to the City in 1919. The lake was used as a storage reservoir for water pumped from the Skagit. In case of a future water emergency, it may become necessary to use this source again. 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 Ray Auld Drive. 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. The lake basin is an extraordinary echo chamber. As a result, noise, especially motorcycles, shatters an otherwise pristine quiet.

ters an otherwise pristine quiet.

Current Use: Use patterns at Whistle Lake are quite seasonal. In fall, winter, and spring, most trail



riders and hikers are local residents, and use is light and relatively low-impact. The summer season is very different. Young people from Anacortes, Whidbey Island, and Skagit County come to the lake to swim, drink beer, and in the process litter and trample the sparse vegetation on the lake edges and on the island, where they jump off the cliffs into the lake. Local families also come out to swim and fish and picnic, and there are occasional conflicts.

Campfires and cook fires are a problem, and littering is heavy and widespread. Most motorcycle, bicycle, and horse riders comply with the restrictions in the Comprehensive Trail Plan. There are some traffic problems on trail #20, where pedestrians share the road with horses, bikes, and motorcycles going to and from the lake, and to a lesser degree on trail #204. The lakeshore is rimmed with old-growth fir left from previous timber harvesting because of difficult access or by Council stipulation.

Projected Uses: Whistle Lake should be reserved

Whistle Lake should be reserved for low impact use. All efforts should be made to maintain water quality and the wildland as part of this area.

for low impact use. All efforts should be made to maintain water quality and the wildland as part of this area. Primarily, this unit should be managed for low density recreational use.

Recommendations:

1) All forest practices and recreational activities shall be designed to protect water quality.

2) Repair damage to existing areas of intensive use.

3) Encourage low impact recreational use by local residents.

4) Continue successful summer patrols by Anacortes Police Department of popular recreational areas.

Heart Lake Area

(Approximately 515 acres)

Boundaries: 80-acre ACFL at the north end of Heart Lake and approximately 435 acres that were formerly Heart Lake State Park.

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. Almost all of this area is protected through conservation easements. The land and water that formerly made up Heart Lake State Park were transferred to the City in 2002 and contain many restrictions in the deed which are outlined in detail in the Heart Lake Management Plan adopted in 2004. The State required this land to be managed as a non-motorized area with areas to the west, south and east required to remain hiker only trails.

Current Use: This area is popular for dog walkers, hikers, horse riders, mountain bikes and motorcycles. New nearby developments at Parkside and The Orchards have increased usage as these neighbors regularly recreate here.

Projected Uses: Use will increase in this area as new neighborhoods in the vicinity develop. The lake itself is a popular recreational site for fishing, swimming, and kayaking.

Recommendation: 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. New trail building and other off trail activity have increased recently and need to be monitored. Because this area is an important corridor between Little Cranberry and Whistle Lake there needs to be a continued emphasis on trail maintenance in this section.

- 1) Develop ADA access and trails where possible at Heart Lake.
- 2) Continue program to diminish illegal dumping in the area by limiting vehicle pullouts and working with law enforcement.
- 3) Improve sanitary services at summit of Mt. Erie and Heart Lake.

South Heart Lake Road/Ray Auld Drive Area (Approximately 465 acres)

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.

Restrictions: As with 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" (i.e., a wildlife sanctuary).

Current Use: 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. Ray Auld Drive climbs to the summit of Mt. Erie which is already a multiple-use park. Hundreds of people drive to the parking lot for rock climbing, picnicking, sightseeing, photography, hiking and nature study.

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

Recommendations: Maintain trails and continue to enhance access for south Mt. Erie trail.

Mt. Erie Summit South/West Faces (Approximately 35 acres)

Boundaries: Comprising the Southwest quarter of the summit including the steep slopes that are major rock climbing and scrambling areas on Mt. Erie.

Restrictions: Some of this management area includes Kiwanian and Hensler donations and inherits the restrictions that accompany that land.

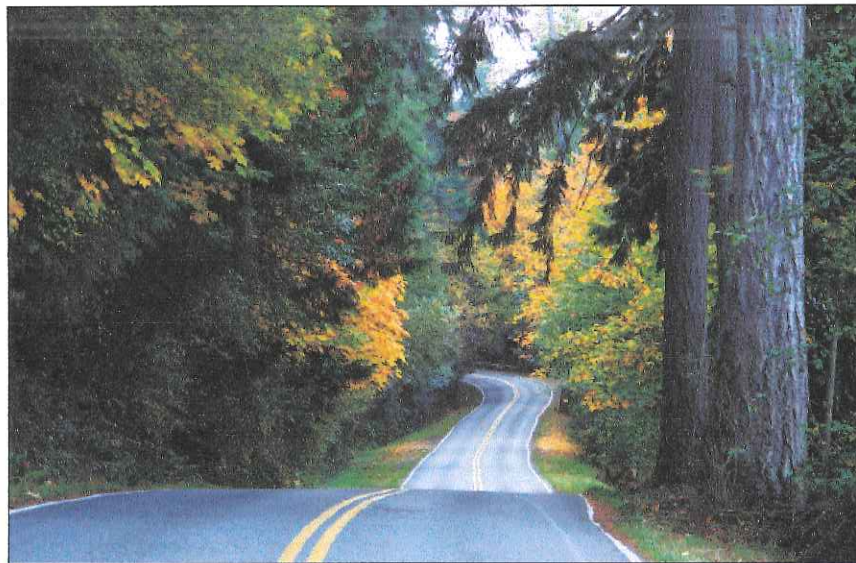
Current Use: The summit of Mt. Erie is already a multi-use park. Hundreds of people visit for rock climbing, picnicking, sightseeing, photography, hiking, nature study and hang gliding.

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) Proposed climbing dates should be submitted in advance to the Parks and Recreation Department. If a large number of climbers apply to use the same area at the same time, the Parks and Recreation Department may require the later applicants to re-schedule their use for



another date.

3) Post and sign key access points with appropriate notice of rules in effect.

4) Construct wheelchair accessible parking and routes to a lookout on Mt. Erie summit.

5) 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."

6) Construct permanent restroom facility at the summit.

7) Install interpretive signage to educate the public about the fragile and unique ecosystem in this area.

8) 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 Area (Approximately 459 acres)

Boundaries:

This area is primarily defined by the southern bound-

ary of City property on Mt. Erie, the south shore of Whistle Lake, and the east flanks of Mt. Erie.

Restrictions: 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. Most of this area is protected through conservation easements

and is subject to their restrictions.

Current Use: 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 couple of multi-use trails. The southern section may be able to accommodate a non-motorized trail that goes along the south face of Mt. Erie. This trail was built in 2001 and was reopened after years of closure through agreements with the landowners.

Projected Use: This area should be limited to low intensity use: hiking, nature observation, mountain

biking and horse-back riding of designated trails. Sensitive habitat, difficult access and steep rocky slopes are all reasons to place this unit in a Conservancy/Forest Study designation.

Recommendations:

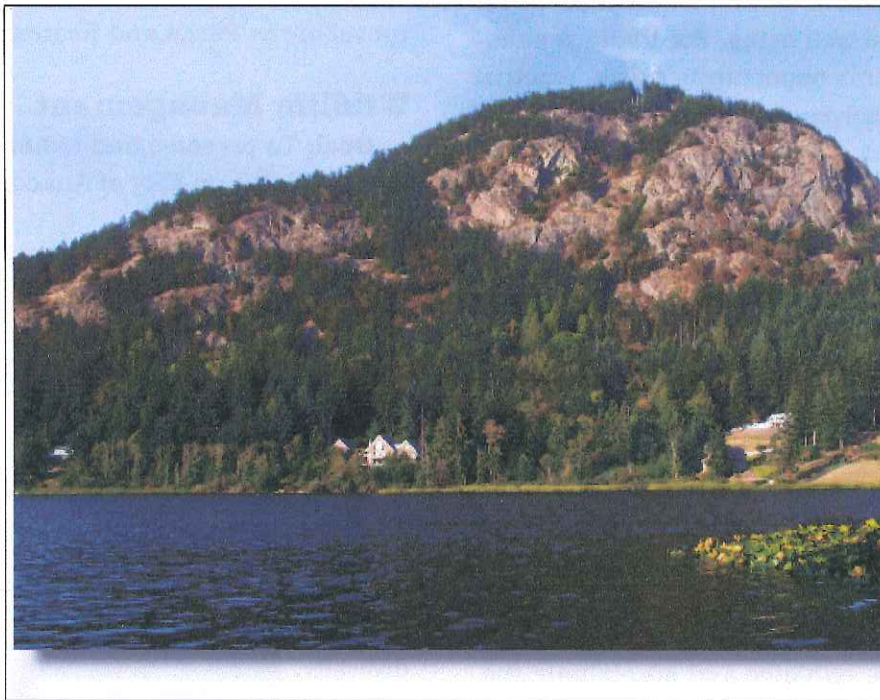
1) Post signs and erect suitable barriers to restrict intensive use of this area.

2) Work to ac-

quire trail easements or property to maintain a south Mt. Erie trail and provide a connecting route to the 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.



Forest Lands Stewardship

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 low-intensity 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 so as 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 and 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) Encourage the use of City property for botanical research, field work and observation by local educational institutions.

3) Identify those areas of particular and/or unique plant species or colonies and restrict use to an appro-

priate level.

4) A list of plant species found on city land may be 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 and 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.

3) A list of wildlife species found on

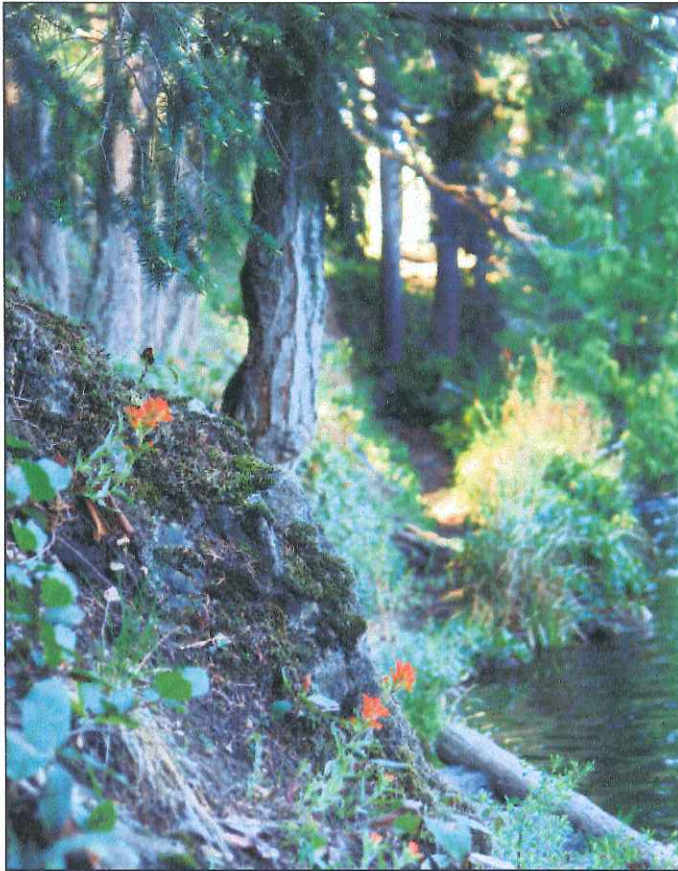
City land may be made available to the public.

4) Encourage local school districts 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 in one or more of the marshes for the purposes of nature study and education.

6) 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 and Recreation Department.

Water Resources Management

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

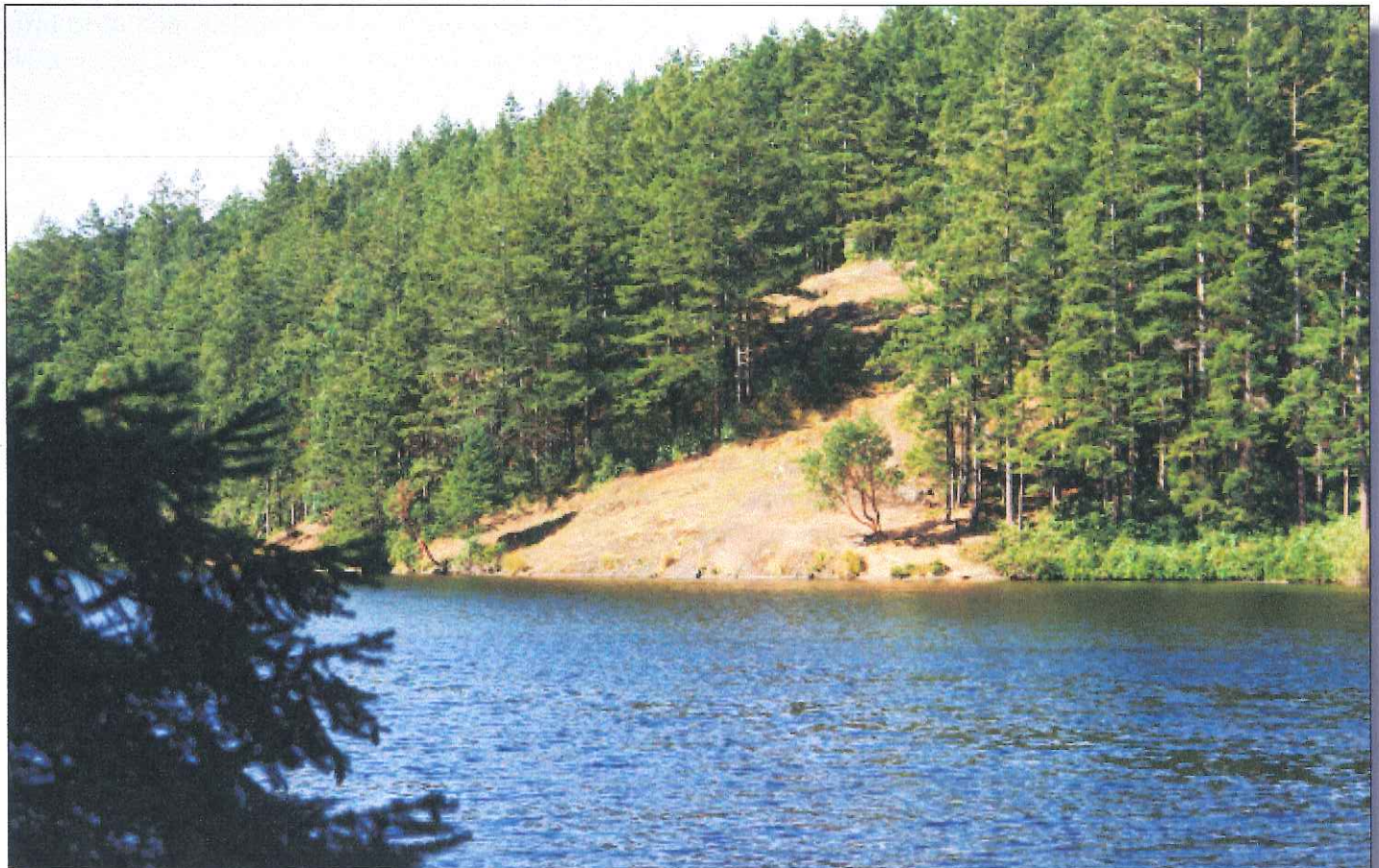
Policies:

1) Locate trails away from lakeshores and marsh edges where necessary in order to minimize impacts on water quality. Identify areas where trails perpendicular to main trails can be built to shorelines with minimal impacts.

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

3) 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.

4) Work with other City departments and neighboring developments to eliminate run off of contaminants into ACFL watersheds.



Management of Recreational Activities



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.

Trail System

Goal: Maintain an overall trail system in City forest lands.

Policies:

- 1) Make available to the public at City Hall maps of existing main trails on City of Anacortes properties. These maps should also summarize use policies outlined elsewhere in this plan.
- 2) Where necessary, rehabilitate trails where horses, motorcycles or mountain bikes have caused erosion or other problems. Seek involvement of user groups and community service organizations as much as possible.
- 3) Obtain easements for current-use trails where they cross onto private property. Work with adjacent owners to prohibit, control or allow current use. Mini-

mize conflicts by working with user groups.

- 4) Post regulatory signs at all entry points and where trails cross onto private property.

- 5) No new trail accesses will be established into the ACFL from private property without review by the Forest Advisory Board and written permission from the Parks and Recreation Department.

- 6) Design and/or renovate existing trails to serve the recreational objectives of this plan with a minimum amount of maintenance. Sign trails to serve the needs of local residents. Design loop trails and loop options as much as possible. All improvements should harmonize with the natural setting.

- 7) Interpretive trails should be developed (in conjunction with the recreational trail system) with self-guiding brochures available either at the trailhead or at City Hall.

- 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 use in the ACFL are 6am to 10pm.

- 10) To better serve senior citizens, small children and those with limited stamina or mobility, pedestrian-only trails with "easy" difficulty ratings should

be established in both forest and lakeside settings. Where appropriate, these trails should meet ADA accessibility standards.

Most use restrictions are obeyed. Overuse by all trail users is beginning to cause problems: erosion, compaction and trail spreading have increased trail maintenance needs. The publication of the trail maps and marking of trails with numbered signs has done a lot to popularize trail use and make it easier for people to get around the trail system. Trail maps should be updated and improved as new trails are identified and trail maintenance must be increased to accommodate the greater use.

Trail Uses

For specific trail uses see current Comprehensive Trail Plan.

Climbing

Goal: Maintain and enhance climbing areas on Mt. Erie while conserving the unique environment and habitat on the summit and South and West faces.

Policies:

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

2) Establish a Mt. Erie 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 and Recreation Director. The duties of the Mt. Erie Committee are:

a) Assist staff and the Forest Advisory Board with questions regarding Mt. Erie management including but not limited to climbing routes and scramble ar-

reas, 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 and Recreation Director.

3) User restrictions and methods to appeal decisions should follow the outline and applicable guidelines discussed in Anacortes Community Forest Lands Comprehensive Trail Plan; Appendix #3.

Motor Vehicles

Goal: Prohibit the use of motor vehicles in City forest lands and parks except on designated roads.

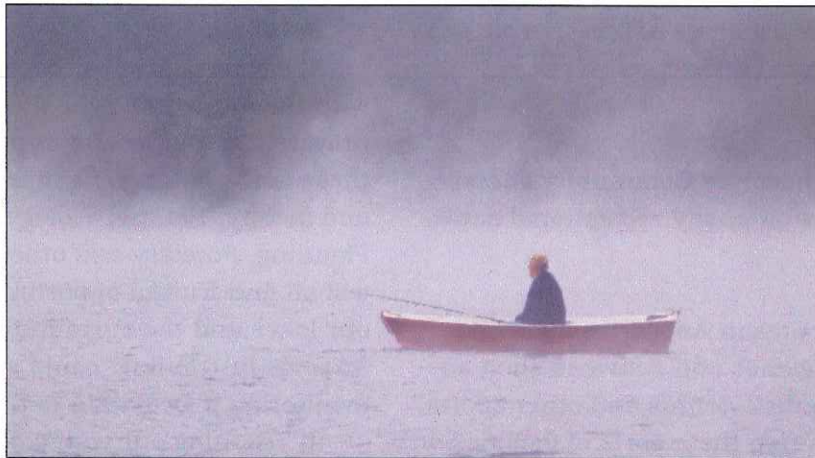
Policies:

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 ATVs) 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 250 cc are prohibited. Street legal dual sport motorcycles shall be exempt from the 250 cc size limitation. Only four cycle engines are allowed in the ACFL. For specific trail uses see current Comprehensive Trail Plan



(Appendix III).

Fishing

Goal: Provide the opportunity for local residents to fish in Little Cranberry, Heart and Whistle Lakes.

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.

Electric motors are allowed.

3) At the present time, Whistle Lake will not be enhanced for sport fishing.

4) Develop a long-range sport-fishing plan in conjunction with the State Game Department.

5) Monitor fish population in conjunction with water-quality monitoring program.

There are seven major lakes on Fidalgo Island. Each has 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.



Encourage joint cooperative arrangements with the school district, local colleges and universities and local non-profit organizations to use these lands for ongoing research projects.

Hunting and Trapping

Goal: Hunting and trapping are not allowed on City land. Resolution No. 968, adopted December 7, 1987 and amending Resolution No. 663, prohibit 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 park 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 and Recreation Department under the Special Events section of the Anacortes Municipal Code.

5) Commercial activities in the ACFL that do not violate existing policies may be permitted by the Parks and Recreation Director in consultation with the ACFL Advisory Board.

Education

Goal: 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. Support ongoing forest

education programs aimed at educating residents and visitors with guided hikes, school programs, speakers, print and web materials, and other programs.

Policies:

1) 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. Botany, Biology, Outdoor Recreation, Planning, Forestry and other academic disciplines will all find fruitful opportunity in the watersheds of our lakes and the surrounding forest lands. These "experts-in-training" could supply useful baseline and monitoring information to the managing authority.

2) Teaching our young people about the recreational and natural values of their land will develop an attitude of possession and care which can translate into less vandalism and destruction of park and forest areas in the future.

3) Provide physical infrastructure as appropriate to support environmental education efforts.

4) Continue to support the education, outreach and stewardship efforts of the Friends of the Anacortes Community Forestlands as a civic partnership.

Management Procedures

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 report. 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 the City Council. The City Council must approve all contracts, asset sales, and use policies. Within the framework of these legal restrictions, it is recommended that the Advisory Board set use policies and effectively guide management of the Anacortes Community Forest Lands.

Policy:

1) Maintain the "Anacortes Community Forest Advisory Board."

a) The Board should consist of five members, appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council.

Membership should be one member of the Parks and Recreation Commission, one member of the Planning Commission, and three citizen members.

b) Terms of the Board members should be 5 years, with the initial terms staggered to provide for reappointment of one member each year.

c) At least four members should be residents of the City of Anacortes, with it being permissible for the fifth member to reside elsewhere on Fidalgo Island.

2) The duties and responsibilities of the Anacortes Community Forest Advisory Board shall include the following:

a) Setting use policies and guidelines, under the terms outlined in this report, for the Anacortes Community Forest Lands as well as for Cranberry Lake Park, the summit of Mt. Erie, and the area that formerly comprised Heart Lake State Park. Use policies

requiring legal enforcement authority shall be confirmed by the City Council.

b) Securing additional studies, trail plans and surveys as deemed necessary by the Board.

c) Recommending an annual budget to the Mayor and the City Council for management of the Anacortes Community Forest Lands.

d) Providing policy advice to the Mayor and City Council for the long range use, enhancement and conservation of the resource.

e) Conducting periodic reviews and recommendations for required changes in this plan and providing technical advice to the Mayor and City Council for its implementation.

f) Serving in a liaison capacity with interested citizens, user groups, educational institutions and volunteer service organizations.

g) Maintaining a Trail Committee and Mt. Erie Committee for recommendations concerning trail use and climbing management.



Finance

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

Policy:

1) A Forest Land Management Fund has been created by ordinance. This ordinance specifies the uses for which these monies may be expended. The funds derived from the Conservation Easement Program and the lease of the AFCL 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.

4) Continue coordinated planning and joint funding and maintenance of facilities among the various providers of park and recreation services (State, County, School, City, private entities).

Enforcement

Goal: The policies and regulations developed in this plan will be enforced by the appropriate authority.

Policies:

1) The Community Forest Lands will be patrolled by the City of Anacortes Police Department.

2) Continue community education to help people understand the cost of vandalism and illegal dumping in the Forest Lands and damage this can do to the environment.

3) Defensively plan facilities to minimize vandalism. Build and design rugged facilities to harmonize with surroundings.

4) Maintain facilities. Rundown areas promote vandalism and destructive behavior.



Fire Protection

Goal: To protect the City forest lands from damage or destruction by fire.

Policies:

1) In conjunction with other forest management activities, improve and map the existing road system to allow fire vehicle access.

2) Maintain existing fire plan in conjunction with the Anacortes Fire Department and Department of Natural Resources.

3) Prohibit fireworks, fires and barbeques in the community forest lands. Any open flame used for cooking or lighting is prohibited in the ACFL.

4) Levy stiff fines, in addition to suppression costs, for violations.

5) Smoking is prohibited within the Community Forest Lands.

Access, Signs and Boundary Markers

Goal: The boundaries of the Anacortes Community Forest Lands shall be clearly marked to indicate that users are entering publicly owned property.

Policies:

1) Boundaries of areas likely to be impacted by recreational use or real estate development should be surveyed and posted as quickly as possible. In some cases, this should be done in cooperation with adjacent private owners.

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) A distinctive, visible boundary tag should be used to indicate Anacortes

ownership.

Cooperation with Adjacent Property Owners and Public Agencies

Goal: All land management decisions should be compatible with adjacent land owners within Anacortes and on Fidalgo Island.

Policies:

1) On land outside the City limits, efforts should be made to contact adjacent private property owners and inform them of the intended use of the City land. Every attempt should be made, as early as possible, to resolve present and potential conflicts arising from timber harvesting, trespass, garbage dumping, etc.

2) Development adjacent to City forested lands and/or watersheds should provide buffers, erosion and drainage control measures and access control. This should be part of the review by City staff, the

Planning Commission and City Council.

3) Whenever necessary, reach agreement with adjacent land owners to create, by easement, purchase or donation, buffer areas between developments and public use lands and public trail access. This recommendation depends upon the specific characteristics of the site.

4) Work with neighboring jurisdictions, Skagit Land Trust and private landowners to acquire or protect in an undeveloped state wildlife corridors between the ACFL and other undeveloped and marine habitats on Fidalgo Island including Deception Pass State Park.

Future Acquisition Considerations

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

Policy:

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 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 lake or wetlands,

helps connect or improve ACFL trail access, or is an important wildlife corridor.



Appendix 1: History

History of Land Acquisition

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.

Cranberry Park was created by City Council on January 7, 1964, by Ordinance No. 1358. These were Water Department lands which are to be used for public park purposes and managed by the Park Department. Cranberry Lake is approximately 25 acres and the park land is approximately 106 acres. “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. Douglas and Cora Allmond donated this park to the City on February 25, 1928, and on March 12, 1928. Other owners, including L. Farmer and W. Odlin and E. English, also donated substantial holdings. This area includes

the forested ridge seen from downtown Anacortes when looking west. The parcel donated on February 25th is in the Tuttle and Buckley Addition, including a portion of the large marsh which drains into Little Cranberry Lake. The parcel donated on March 12 (the ridge) is in the Northern Pacific Addition. Both areas are platted with streets and alleys.

Although Douglas Allmond stipulated that these lands “for all time be named John M. Morrison Natural Park,” the City Council of Anacortes has never ordinances these lands as Mr. Allmond wished. The Anacortes Chamber of Commerce advertisements from the 1930s state that “J.M. Morrison Natural Park is a recent gift to the City by public-spirited citizens. It is scenic and admirably adapted to park uses.”

Morrison was a former mayor of Anacortes at the beginning of the century who, with Allmond, “conceived of the idea of the peninsula forming the extreme northwesterly part of Fidalgo Island being secured to the City for park purposes (Sunset Park/ Washington Park).” Morrison was also the President of the Chamber of Commerce when that organization led the effort to make Deception Pass a State Park. In Allmond’s words, “No man ever appreciated or loved the woods of Puget Sound more than Mr. Morrison.” (August 5, 1925).

Allmond donated these lands “with the absolute condition and proviso that said land and timber be never alienated by the grantee or used or permission given to use it for any other than strictly park purposes and that the park hereby created shall for all time be named John M. Morrison Natural Park.” In the original deed “property” was the original language but was changed to read “land and timber.” The City Attorney advises that this change, coupled with the naming of the park “Natural Park,” are severely restrictive.

Another 60 acres of land was also donated to the City directly south of Little Cranberry with the same restrictions, but without the designation, “Morrison Park.”

Water Department Lands. The major portion of these extensive holdings, including most of Section 26 (south of Cranberry Lake), the Whistle Lake basin, and both sides of Heart Lake Road, were obtained by the City on August 2, 1919, when Anacortes bought Douglas Allmond’s Washington Power, Light and



July 1967

Water Company for \$135,000. The assets included all equipment and these extensive land holdings. The 80 acres at the north end of Heart Lake were acquired from the State in order to control the outflow of the lake for public water purposes. The City still has the right to drain the lake or raise its level by 4 feet.

On November 26, 1952, F.E. and Eva Foss donated 80 acres located adjacent to the Hensler/Kiwanis donation on Mt. Erie for \$1.00.

There are no restrictions on use or sale of Water Department Lands attached to the original deeds. Since 1999 and the creation of the Conservation Easement Plan, most of these former lands have been placed under conservation easement and are subject to the restrictions of that program.

Mt. Erie Park. Gus Hensler donated 120 acres around the summit of Mt. Erie to the City on January 12, 1934. His will states the following: "Said property to be deeded by my executors to the City of Anacortes for park purposes, it being my wish that same be a haven of safety for birds and/or animal."

On March 30, 1951, the Kiwanis Club, by way of Dr. Ray Pinson, deeded the City the 40-acre summit of Mt. Erie. "The property herein conveyed shall be used for public park purposes only, and any other use by the Grantee shall render this instrument void and cause title to revert to the Grantor, his successors and assigns. The Grantor hereby reserves the right to place, upon a prominent part of the property herein conveyed, a suitable plaque to inform the public that the land was donated by the Anacortes Kiwanis Club." A limited area at the top of Mt. Erie has been leased for communication towers. All revenue from these leases is used for park purposes.

Other Donations. In December of 1996, Floyd

and Mary Willette donated 20 acres to the Anacortes Community Forest Lands with a deed restriction stating "for park purposes only."

In 2001 the City of Anacortes purchased approximately 16 acres south of Whistle Lake from the McIntyre family.

On March 29, 2002, The State of Washington transferred 436 acres that formerly made up Heart Lake State Park to the City of Anacortes. The land came with a number of restrictions in place that were incorporated in a subsequent management plan.

In 2003 Bill Welch and Nels Strandberg donated 15 acres of wetlands and upland forest east of Mitten Pond to the City of Anacortes.

In 2006 Barbara Wells donated approximately .5 acre of forested land adjacent to 29th Street in the Anacortes Community Forest Lands. The land was donated to be used strictly for park purposes with the condition that the "land and timber never be alienated by the grantee."

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. F.E. Foss and Sons logged much of the timber at the north and south end of Whistle Lake and the east side of Mt. Eric. 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 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 Forest 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 Forest demanded that all logging on the ACFL be stopped and alternative funding



Whistle Lake circa 1920. Courtesy of the Anacortes Museum, Judd Collection.

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 Forest 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

raising money to pay for management and stewardship of the ACFL. It was created when City Council passed Resolution #1492 on December 21, 1998.

The program places one acre of land under conservation easement for every \$1,000 donated. City Council reviews and approves each round of acreage that is protected. The Skagit Land Trust and Friends of the ACFL are partners with the City in this project.

The Skagit Land Trust holds the easements and



Little Cranberry Lake viewed from the south end of the lake, circa 1920. Courtesy of the Anacortes Museum, Judd Collection.

places them on file with the Skagit County Auditor and the Friends of the ACFL help promote the project in the community.

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.

Appendix 3: Comprehensive Trail Use Plan

	Page
I. Introduction	25
II. The Trail Plan	25
A. Trail Plan Limitations	25
1. Environmental Limitations	25
2. Safety Limitations	25
3. Fire Hazard Limitations	25
4. Natural Hazard Trail Construction Limitations	25
5. Seasonal Trail Closures	25
6. Provision for Trail Plan Amendment	25
B. The Cranberry Area	25
1. Rationale for Trail Designations	25
2. Trail Designations	25
C. The Whistle Lake Area	27
1. Rationale for Trail Designations	27
2. Trail Designations	27
D. The Heart Lake Area	28
1. Rationale for Trail Designations	28
2. Trail Designation	29
III. Implementation of the Trail Plan	29
A. Enforcement and Education	29
1. Trail User Rules and Regulations	29
2. Signage	31
3. Enforcement	32
4. Brochure	32
5. ACFL Trail Committee	32
B. Trail Maintenance	32
1. Maintenance Standards	32
2. New Trails	32
3. Work Crews	32
4. Yearly Trail Maintenance Record	32

Appendix 3: Comprehensive Trail Use Plan

I. Introduction

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.

II. The Trail Plan

A. Trail Plan Limitations

1) 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:

- a) Environmental impact must be documented.
- b) Environmental impact documentation must be made available to the Parks and Recreation Director, the Forest Advisory Board, and interested citizens.
- c) The trail Committee and/or Mt. Erie Committee shall review the proposed amendment and make a recommendation to the Forest Advisory Board.
- d) 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.
- e) Amendment to the trail plan must be passed by the Forest Advisory Board in cooperation with the Parks and Recreation Director.

2) 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:

- a) The safety hazard must be documented.
- b) Safety hazard documentation must be made available to the Parks and Recreation Director, the Forest Advisory Board, and interested citizens.
- c) The Trail Committee and/or Mt. Erie Committee shall review the proposed amendment and make a recommendation to the Forest Advisory Board.
- d) 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.
- e) Amendment to the trail plan must be passed by the Forest Advisory Board in cooperation with the Parks and Recreation Director.

3) Fire Hazard 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 or can be requested by the Parks and Recreation Director in consultation with the Forest Advisory Board.

4) Natural Hazard Trail

Construction Limitations

There will be times when natural hazards may re-

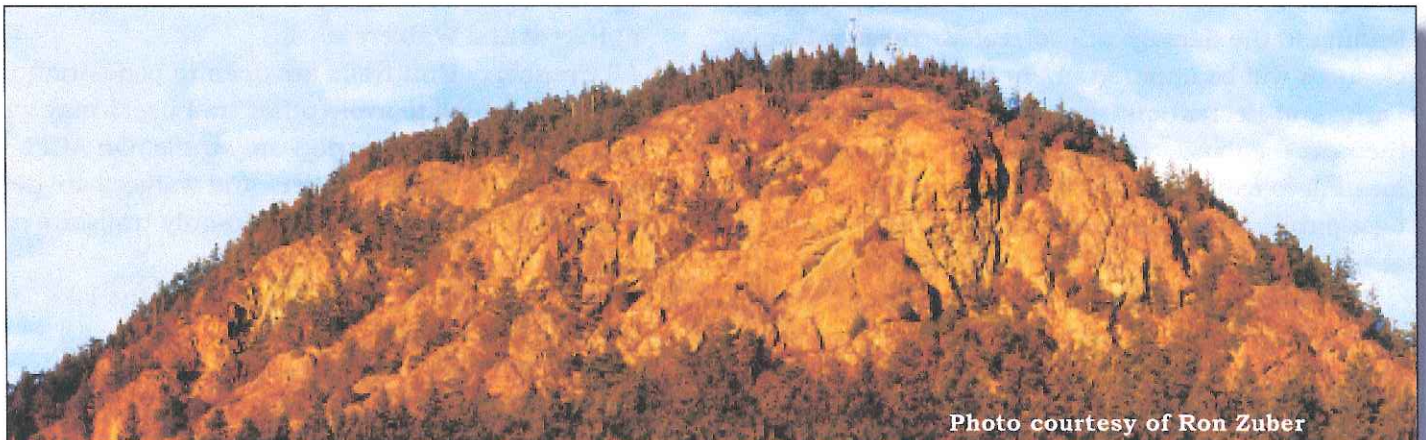
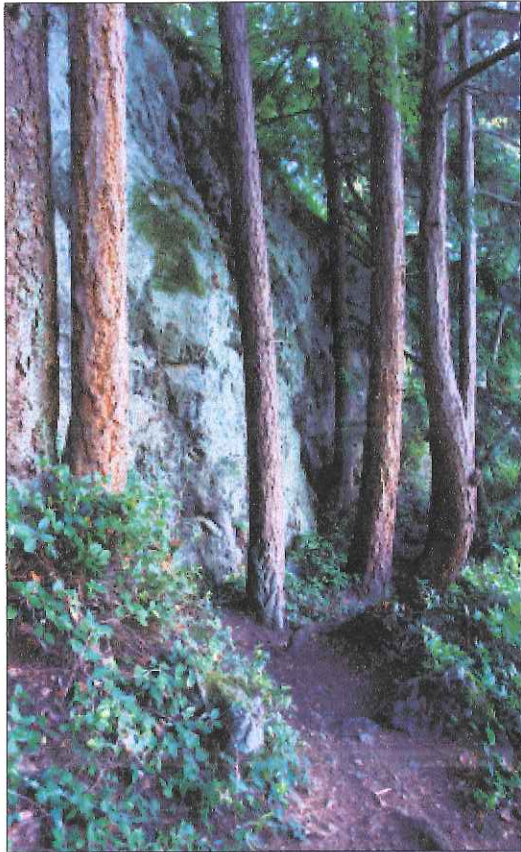


Photo courtesy of Ron Zuber

quire 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 Parks and Recreation Director, and will be posted until the trail is repaired.



5) 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 and 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.

6) 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.

a) The public and user-group representatives must be notified of any amendments proposed by the Forest Advisory Board or the Parks and Recreation Director that have not been covered under other Trail Plan Limitations.

b) 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.

c) 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.

d) 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 trail maps, and rationale for permitted usage will be available through ACFL Trail Committee minutes and/or Forest Advisory Board minutes.

B) The Cranberry Area

1) Rationale for Trail Designations

The 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 Cranberry Unit directs the heaviest usage to the South end. All terrain vehicles (ATV's) are prohibited on all Forest Lands Trails.

2) Trail Designations

a) Hikers and Walkers

All 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. On ACFL trail maps, trails open to hikers and walkers are designated with a "W." The pedestrian-only trails are as follows:

- 1) The #101, #102, #132 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.



Refer to the map for the Little Cranberry Area.

b) Horses

Horses are allowed on most 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. On ACFL maps, trails open to horses are marked with an "H." Horses are permitted on the following trails:

1) Horses are permitted on Trails #100, #127, #128, #105 and #104 around Little Cranberry Lake.

2) Horses are permitted on Trails #106, #107, #108, #109, #110, #129, #10, #11, and #12 around the Big Beaver and Little Beaver Ponds.

3) Horses are currently permitted on 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.

Refer to the map for the Little Cranberry Area.

c) Mountain Bikes

Pedaled bicycle use is allowed on many trails throughout the Little Cranberry area. On ACFL trail maps, trails open to mountain bikes are marked with a "B." Mountain bikes are permitted on the following trails:

1) Mountain bikes are permitted on 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) Mountain bikes are currently permitted on most trails in the South Cranberry area south of the beaver ponds, this includes Trails #113, #114, #115, #116, #117, #118, #120, #124, #126, #134, and #135.

Refer to the map for the Little Cranberry Area.

d) Motorcycles

Motorcycle use must remain in the South end of the 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) Motorcycles are permitted on many trails in the South Cranberry area south of the beaver ponds; this includes trails #12, #111, #115, #120, #134.

2) Motorcycles are permitted on Trail #10, south of Trail #12. Motorcycles are also permitted on sections of Trail #113 and Trail #124. Refer to the map for the Little Cranberry Area.

C) The Whistle Lake Area

1) Rationale for Trail Designations

The Whistle Lake Area includes deep forest areas, a pristine 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 (ATVs) are prohibited on all Forest Lands Trails.

2) Trail Designations

a) Hikers and 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. On ACFL trail maps, trails open to hikers and walkers are designated with a "W." 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. Refer to the map for the Whistle Lake Area.

b) 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) Horses are permitted on 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. Horses are permitted on trail #233 where it is a double track trail. Horses are permitted on Trail #204 along the West edge of Whistle Lake, to trail #203. Horses are permitted on 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 wildflowers.

4) Horses are prohibited on Trail #217 on the stretch from #245 to #205.

Refer to the map for the Whistle Lake Area.

c) Mountain Bikes

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

1) Mountain Bikes are permitted on 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. Mountain bikes are permitted on



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.

Refer to the map for the Whistle Area.

d) Motorcycles

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

1) Motorcycles are permitted on Trails #20, #21, #22, #27, #28, #29, #201, #206, #231, #232, #234, #235, #237 and #245.

2) There is no motorcycle 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.

Refer to the map for the Whistle Area.

D) The Heart Lake Area

1) Rationale for Trail Designations

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 transferred 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 Lands Trails.

2) Trail Designations

a) Hikers and Walkers

All Heart Lake Area trails are open to pedestrian use. On ACFL trail maps, trails open to hikers and walkers are designated with a "W." The following are pedestrian only trails:

1) Trails #213, #243 and #249 are hiker only.

2) Trail #210 from the Heart Lake parking lot to intersection of Trail #242 is hiker only. 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 is hiker only. Refer to map for Heart Lake Area.

b) 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.

Refer to map for the Heart Lake Area.

c) 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. Refer to map for Heart Lake Area.

d) 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, #240, 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. Refer to map for the Heart Lake Area.

III. Implementation of the Trail Plan

A) Enforcement and Education

1) Trail User Rules and Regulations

a) General Rules and Regulation

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 of Anacortes 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. Possession or consumption of alcohol is prohibited.

9) The taking of trees, shrubs, bushes, flowers or other vegetation from the ACFL land is prohibited.

10) Hunting and trapping are prohibited on ACFL property.

11) The taking of mammals, reptiles, amphibians, birds, or any other wildlife (with the exception of legal sports fishing) is prohibited.

12) Geocaching is allowed in the ACFL by permit only. Permits are available through the Parks and



Recreation Department.

b) 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.

c) Horserider 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 out-

crops

☐ damage to trails such that trail use by other users is hindered

3) When stopping for equipment adjustment or to view the scenery, horseriders 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) Upon meeting a hiker, mountain bike, motorcycle, or other horse from the front, a horse rider must slow or stop, move to the right, or uphill side, and allow safe passage to the other trail user(s). Keep the horse's head facing the trail to avoid kicking.

5) Upon meeting a hiker, mountain bike, motorcycle, or other horse from behind, a horserider should slow or stop, announce his/her presence, and ask that the other user move to the right or downhill side. Only when the other user is safely out of the way may the horse proceed. Keep the horse's head facing the trail to avoid kicking.

6) Maintain at least one horse length between horses when traveling in groups.

7) 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.

8) 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.

d) 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 traveling in groups.

7) Mountain bikes shall not exceed 15 mph on the trails designated for their use.

e) **Motorcycle Rules and Regulations**

1) A motorcycle is defined as a two-wheeled vehicle. Motorcycle engines over 250 cc are prohibited. Street legal dual sport motorcycles shall be exempt from the 250 cc 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 arrestor 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 traveling 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.

2) 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.

Trail Designation Sign Design

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.

3) 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.

4) 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 and 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.

5) 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 and Recreation Director to the ACFL Trail Committee. The ACFL Trail Committee is to:

- a) 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.
- b) be available to represent their user-group at Forest Board meetings when issues affecting the trail

plan arise.

c) 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 and Recreation Director.

B) Trail Maintenance

1) Maintenance Standards

Trail maintenance shall follow standards for Recreation Trail Maintenance as shown in the booklet available from the State of Washington Department of Natural Resources or other recognized trail manuals and staff experience. Resources will be available at the Parks and Recreation Office.

2) 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.

3) 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, by employees of the Parks and Recreation Office and contracted work crews such as the Washington Conservation Corps.

4) Yearly Trail 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.

Appendix 4: 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 noted on the attached map:

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.

This management plan is intended to become an amendment to the existing Anacortes Community

Forest Lands Management Plan drafted in 1991, and to follow the same rules expressed in that document unless otherwise noted.

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 Commission
Geri Rubin - ACFL Trail Committee
Bruce Rustad - ACFL Trail Committee
Dan Senour - ACFL Trail Committee
Buzz Bannister - Whidbey Island Roostertails Racing Club (alternate)

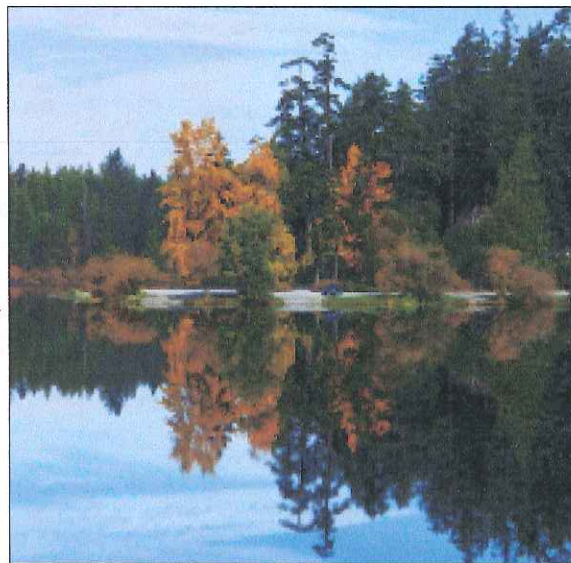
History

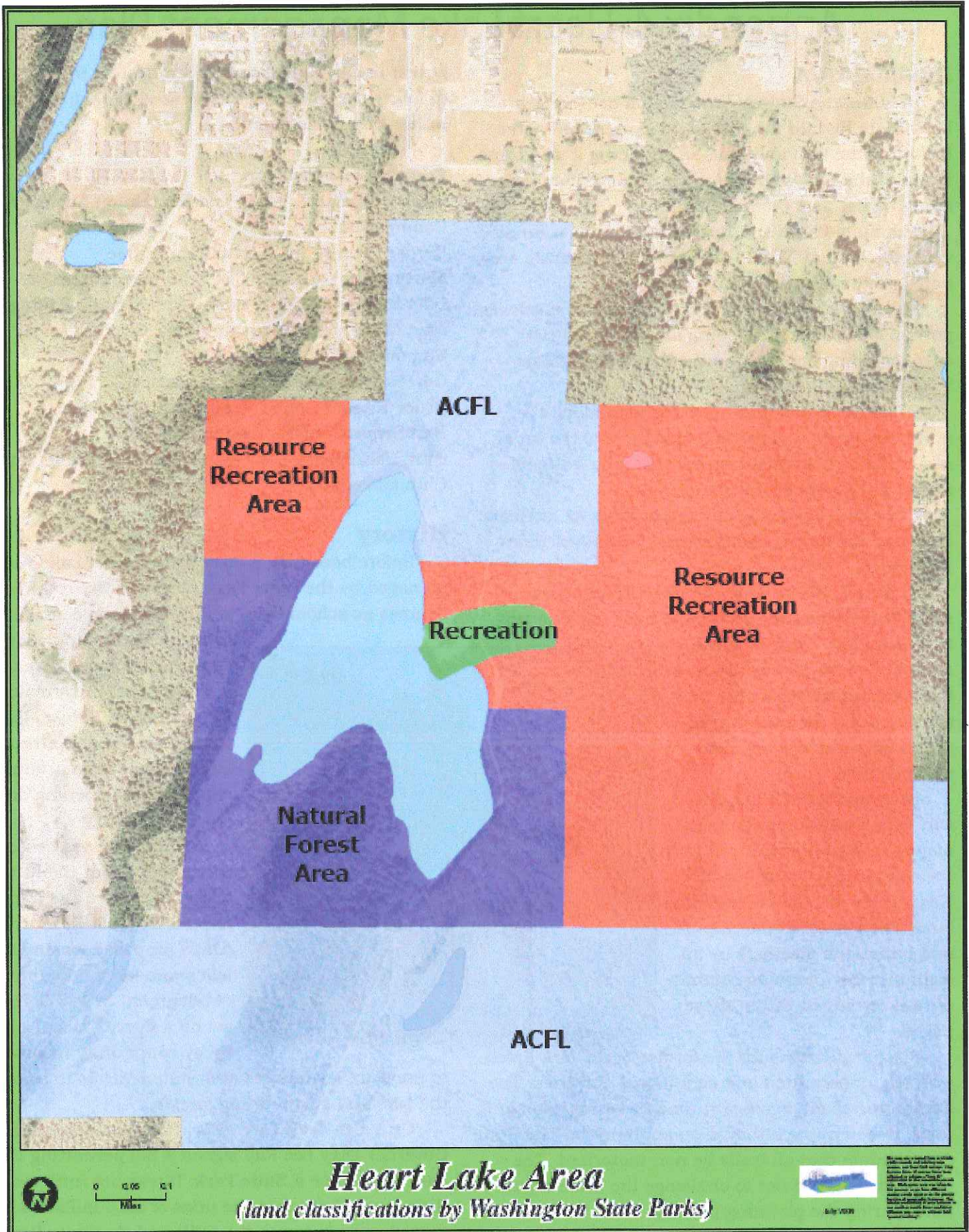
Before becoming a State Park, Heart Lake was managed by the State Department of Natural Resources as school trust land. While long considered a back up water supply for the City of Anacortes, it was also a recreational resource used year round by Fidalgo Island residents and attracted large crowds from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

Natural Forest Area

The Natural Forest Area is comprised of approximately 75 acres. It covers the old growth forest in the southwest area of the lake and extends across Heart Lake road to include a small grove of ancient forest just east of the road.

Trail Use: All trails in the Natural Forest Area are for use by hikers only. Horses, mountain bikes and 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. Cross-country skiing and snow shoeing on those trails are permitted winter recreation activities.

Conditional Uses: Interpretive Trails and signage; filming; special events; interpretive kiosks; and non-motorized paved trails for ADA access. Activities listed as "conditional uses" are those uses that need to be approved by the Anacortes Community Forest Lands Advisory Board in advance.

Future Trail Plans: The existing loop around the lake could be made more explicit on ACFL maps, and maps at trailhead kiosks could also be improved to show a clear route. This could also include renumbering the loop route or giving it a "name" to assist trail users. The trail could have interpretive signage at the trailhead to educate hikers regarding the old growth forests in the area.

A future plan on both how to best cross Heart Lake road in this loop route, or to allow non-motor-

ized users to safely transit the road corridor is encouraged. Side trails on this loop route should be reduced.

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 Anacortes Community Forest Lands Advisory Board suggest use policies and effectively guide management of the Natural Forest Area. As an amendment to the existing Anacortes Community Forest Lands Manage-



ment Plan drafted in 1991, this plan will follow the same rules expressed in that document unless otherwise noted.

Resource Recreation Area

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 Anacortes Community Forest Lands Advisory Board suggest use policies and effectively guide management of the Resource 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.

Recreation Area

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 and Recreation Advisory Commission in advance. Harvesting of shellfish, fish, and algae will be coordinated with the State Dept. of Fish and Wildlife.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Dock: A floating dock adjacent to the Recreation Area for non-commercial recreational use is approved provisionally with

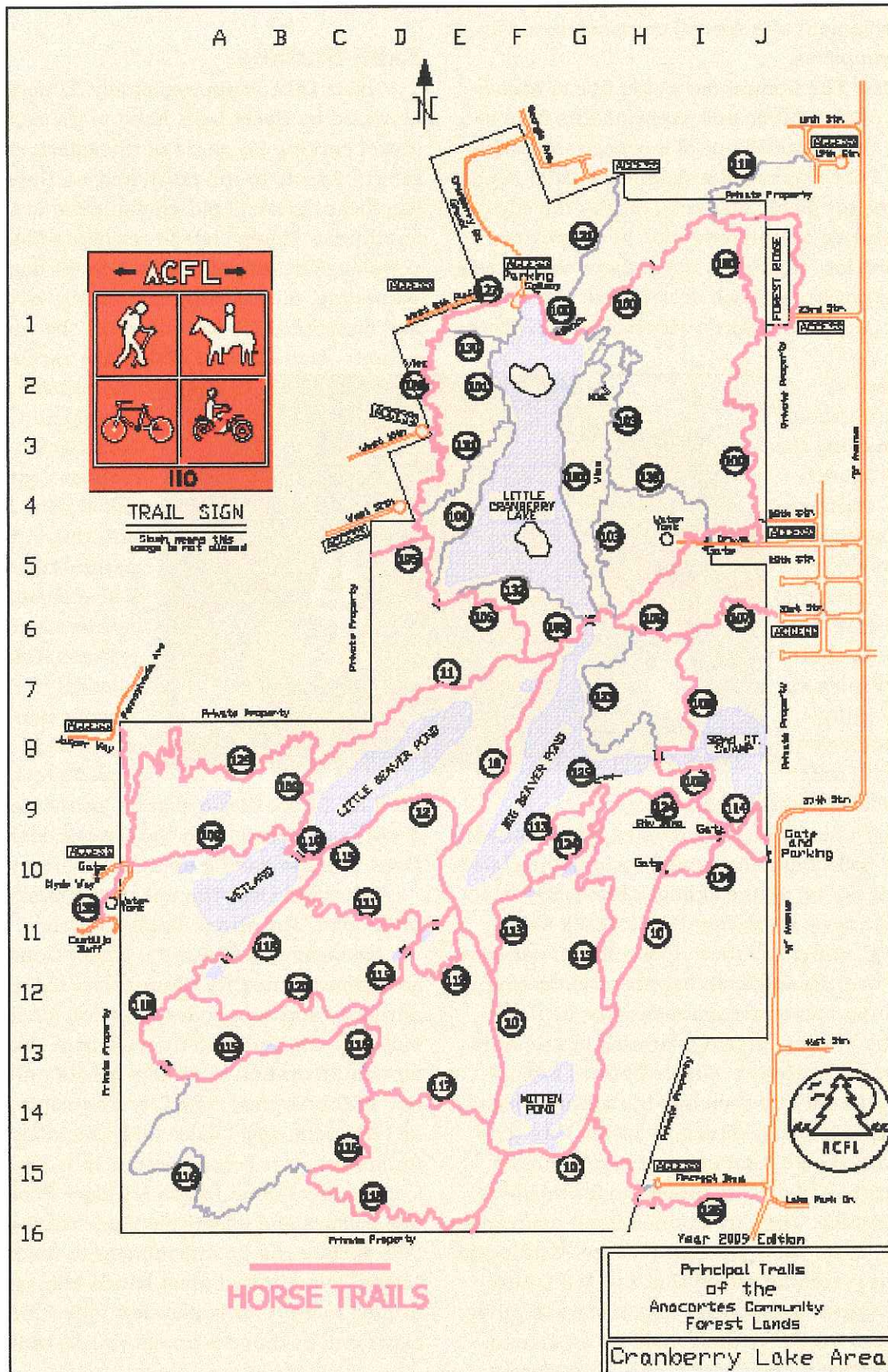
need for future discussion on location and style of dock. Consideration on the style of dock should be given to those having minimal environmental impact.

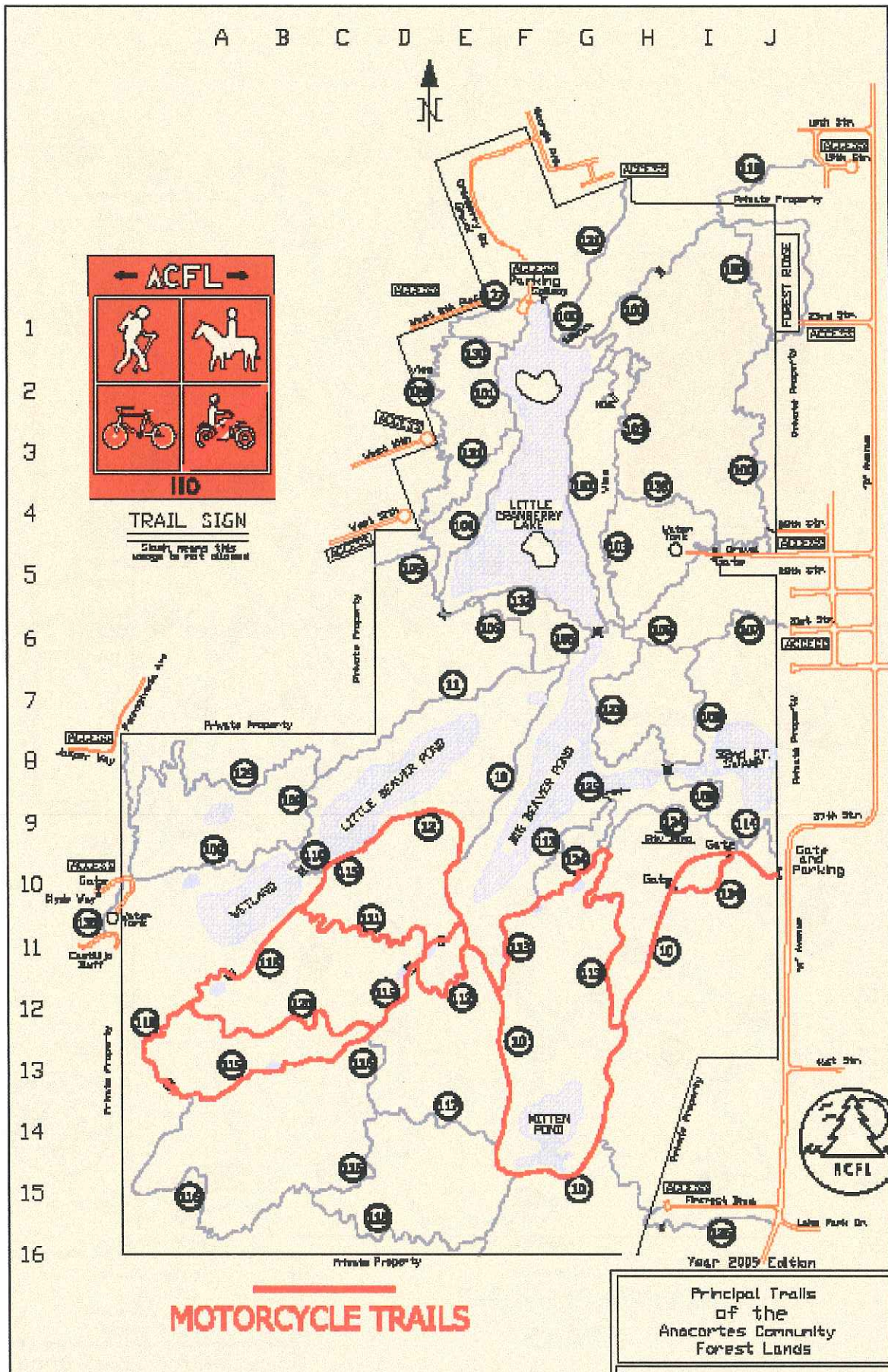
Motorized Use: The use of combustion engines is prohibited. The speed limit is 5 mph.

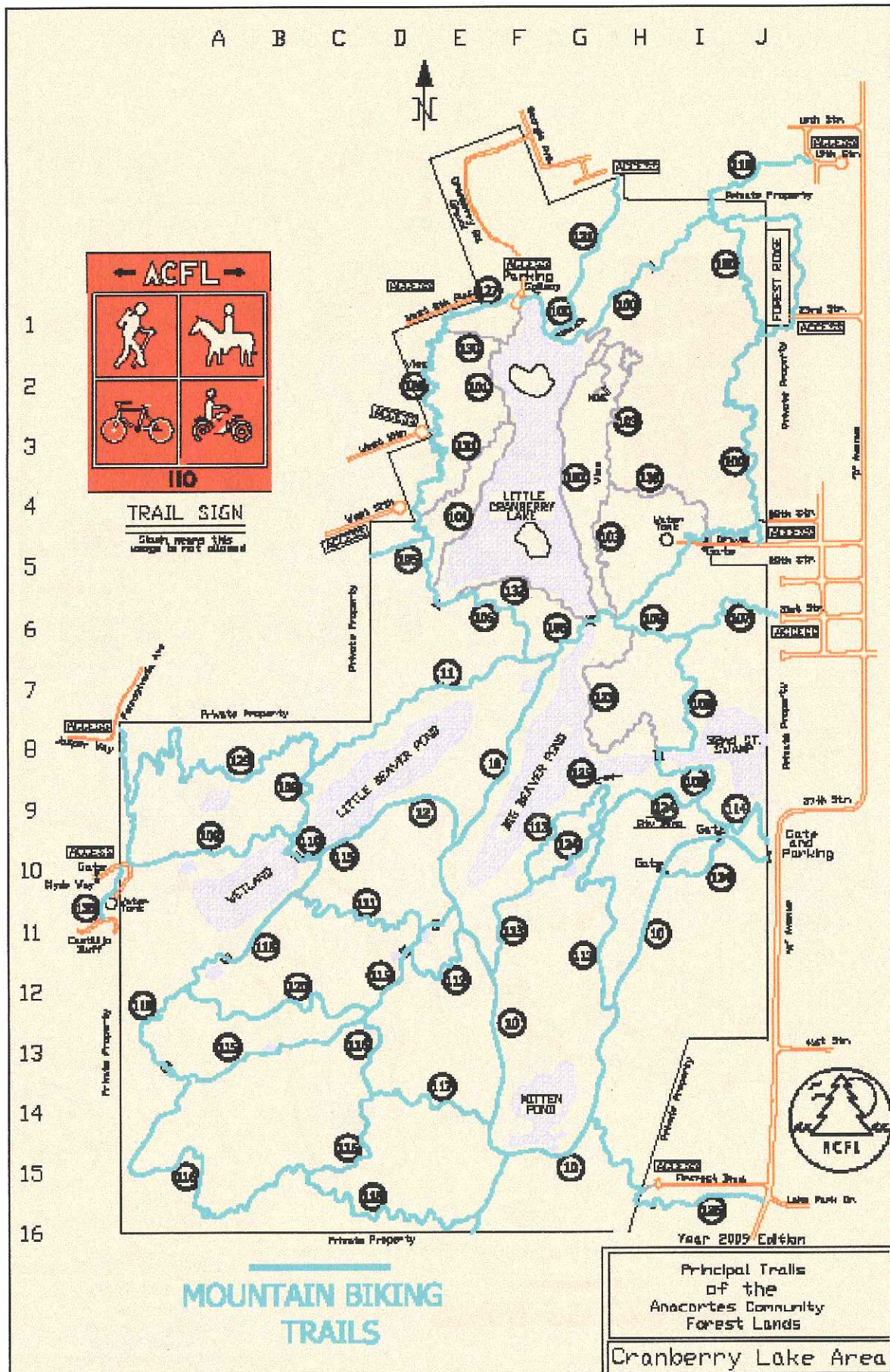
Management Authority: Under Council form of government, the City Council has the ultimate legal authority and sets policy direction for the City. The Mayor is charged with management responsibility for administration of all City assets under the direction of the Council. The City Council must approve all contracts, asset sales and use policies. Within this framework, it is recommended that the Anacortes Community Forest Lands 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.

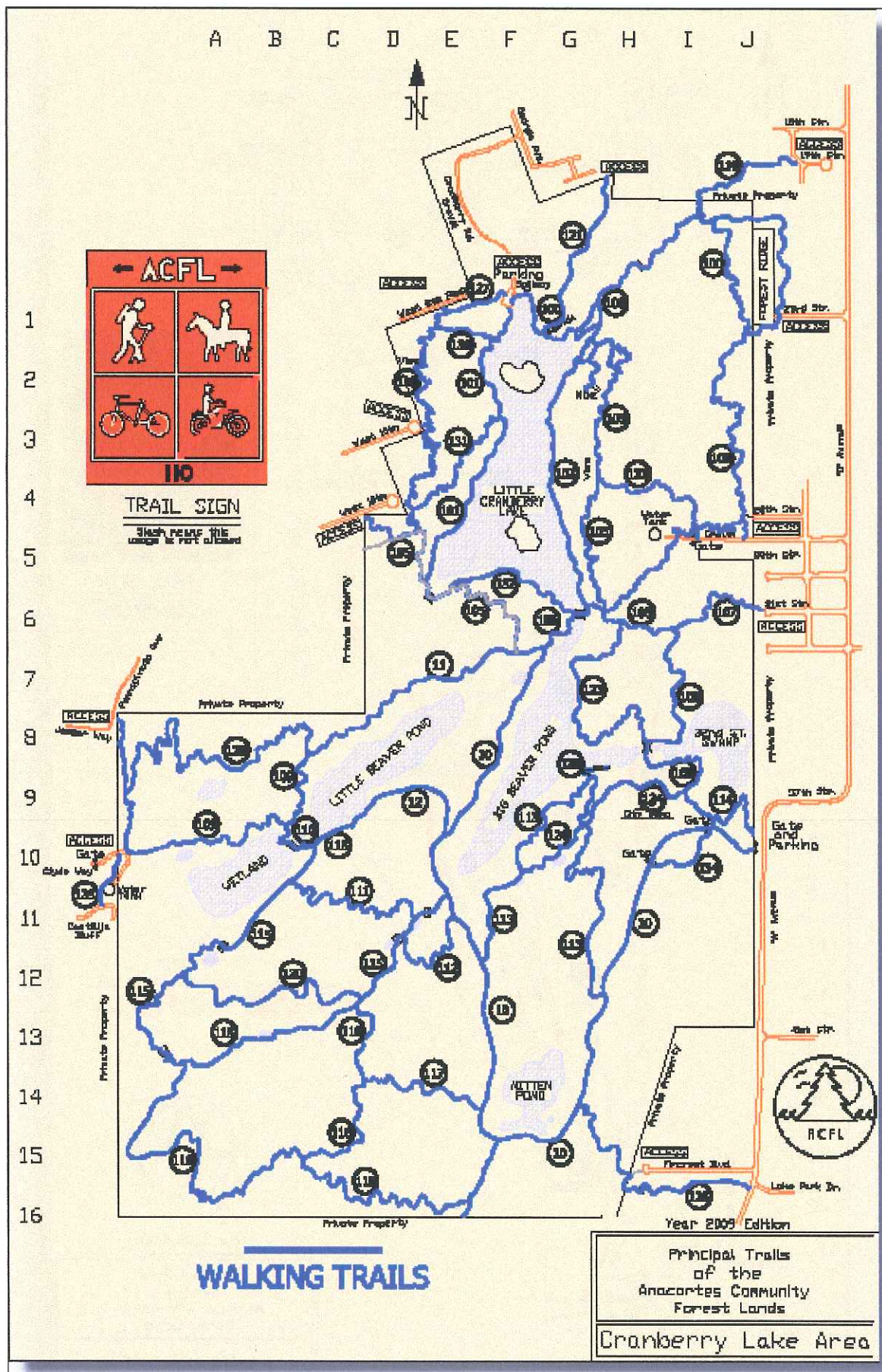


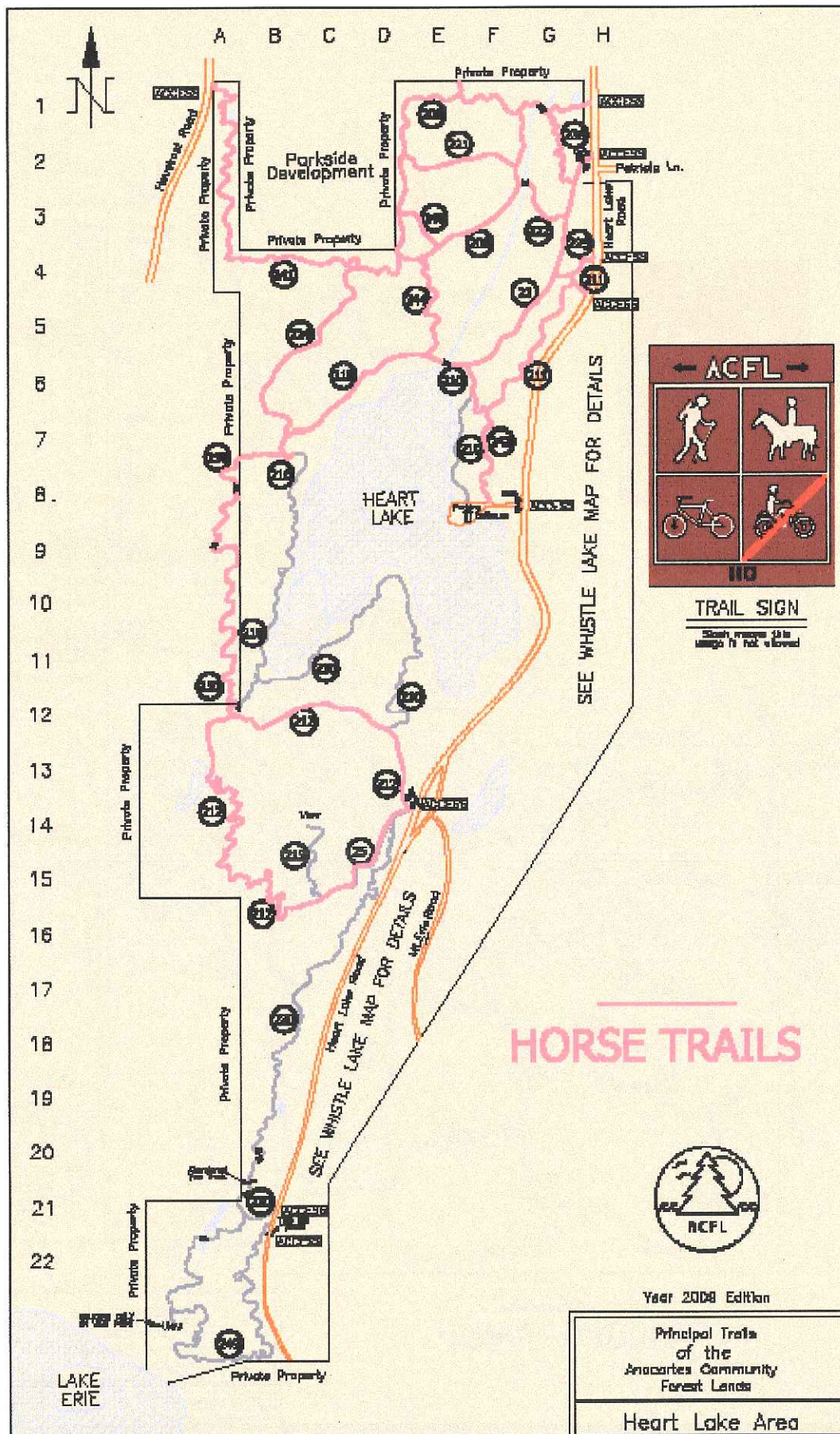
Appendix 5: Maps

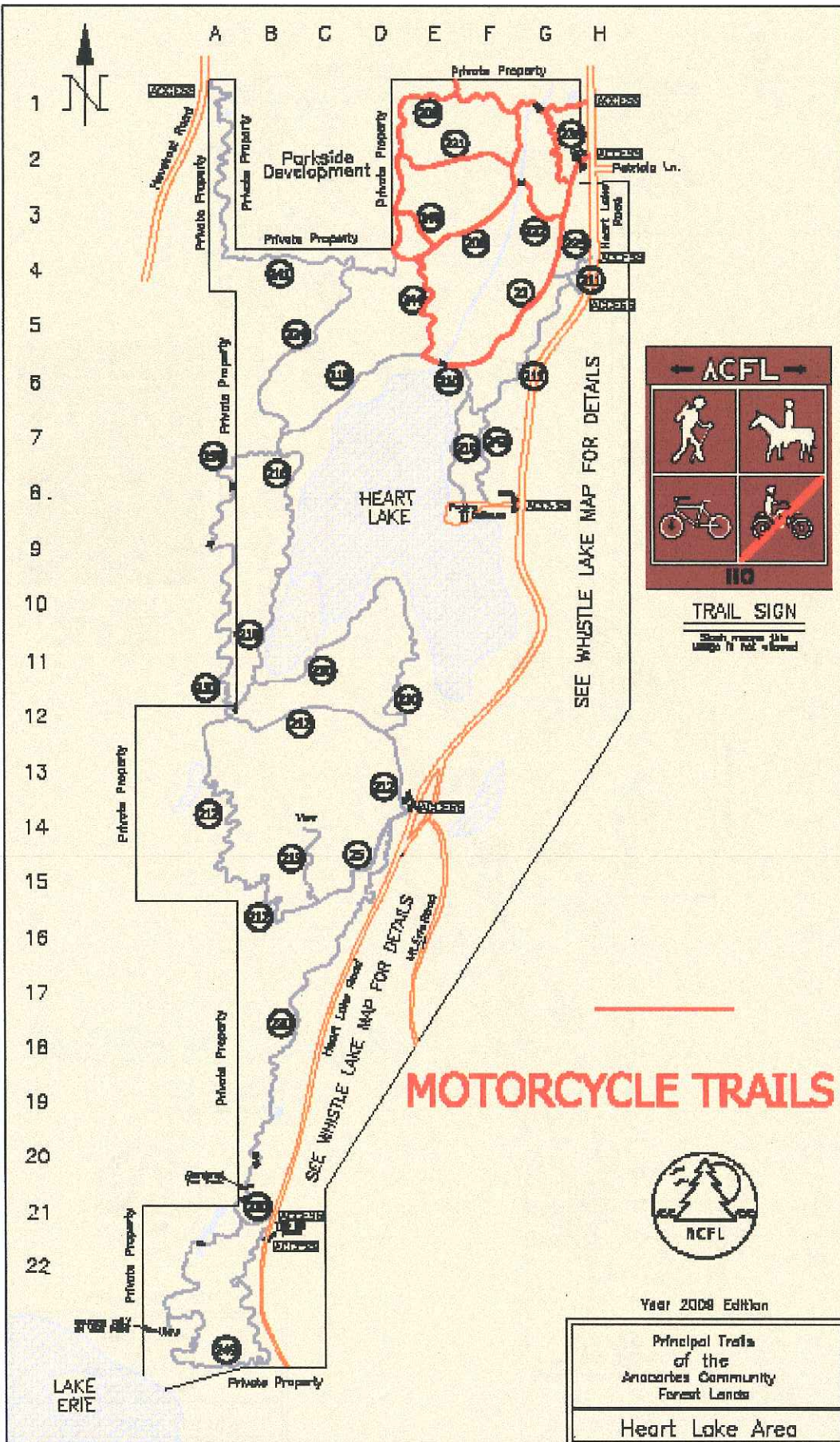


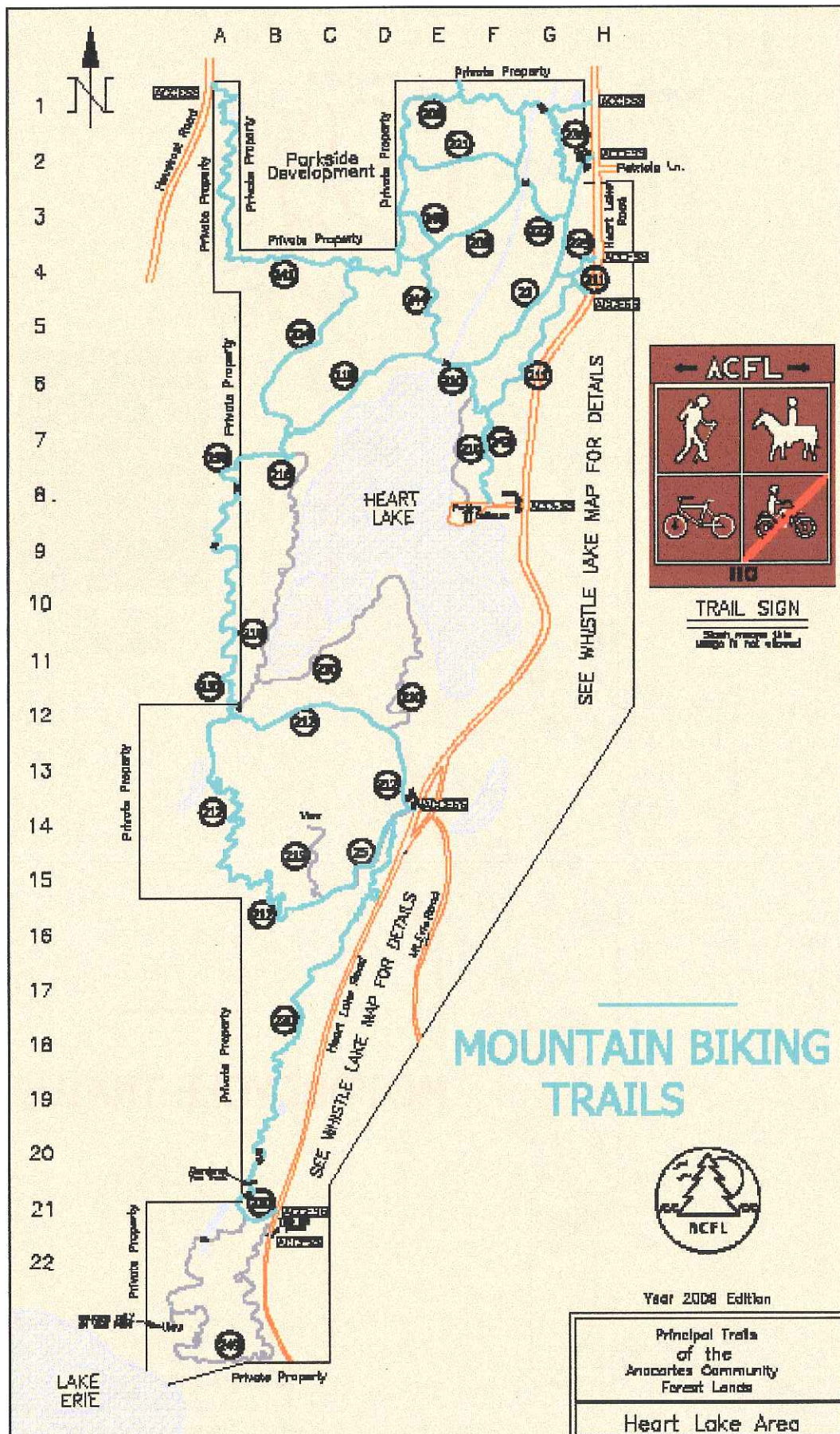


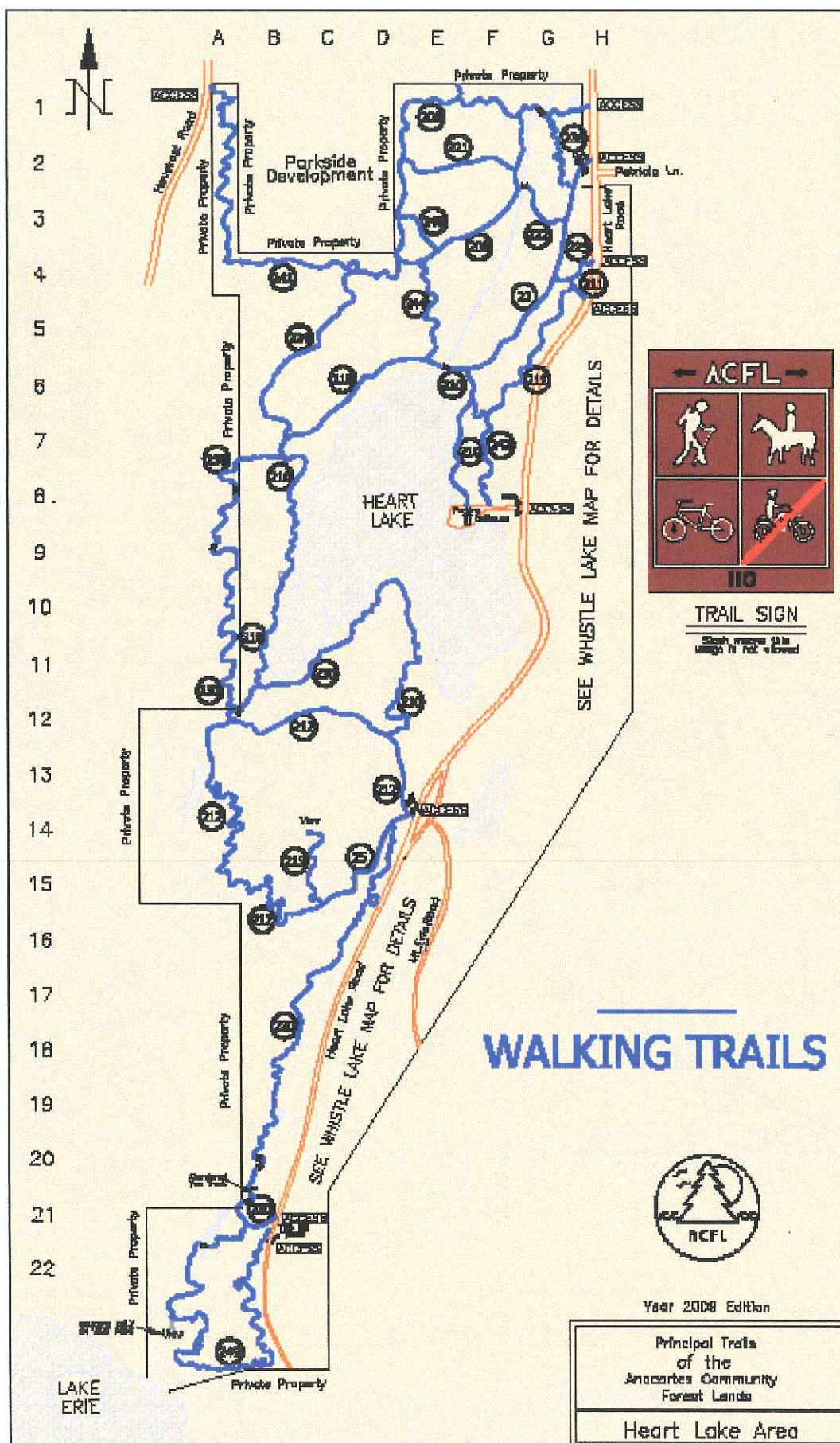


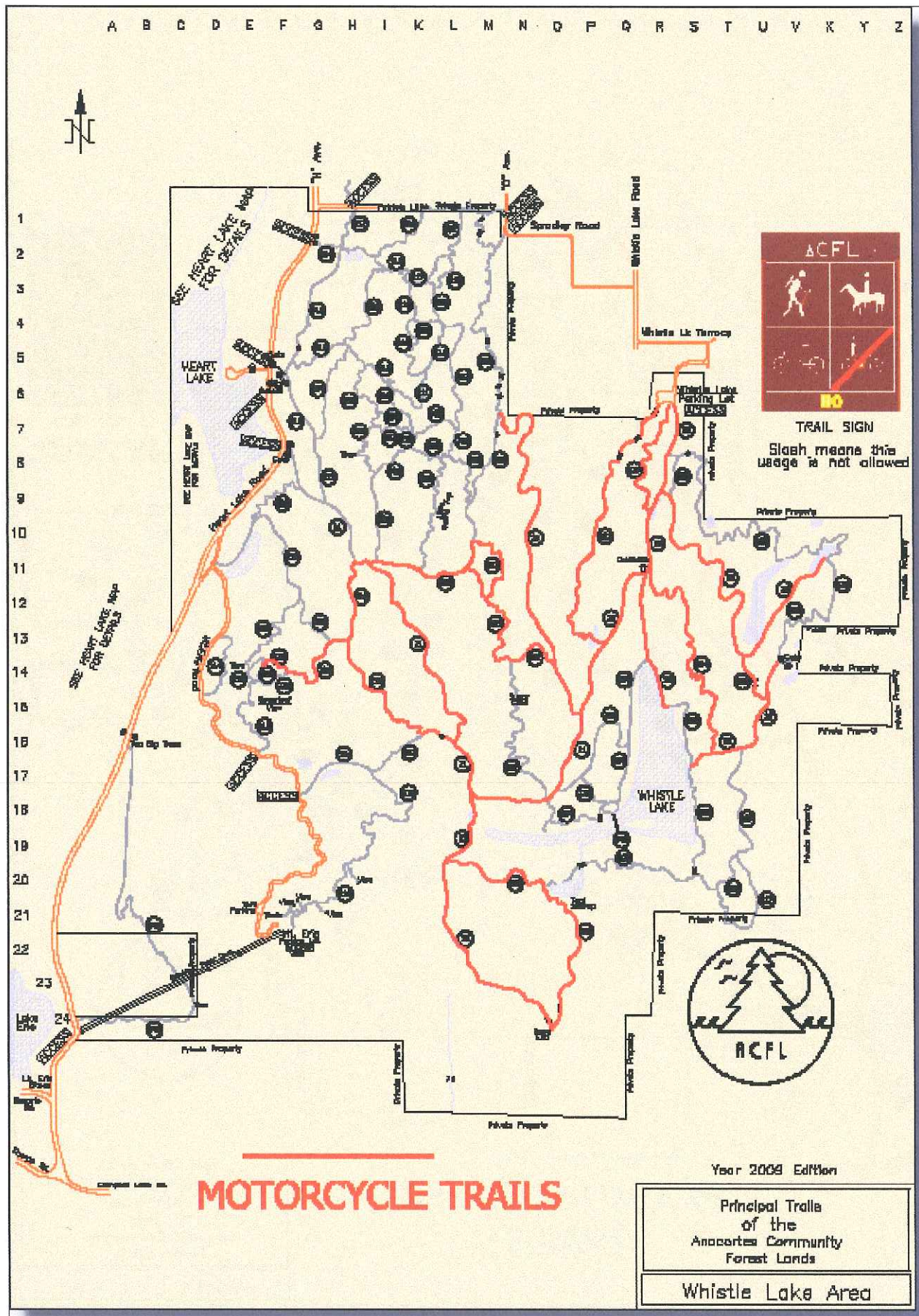


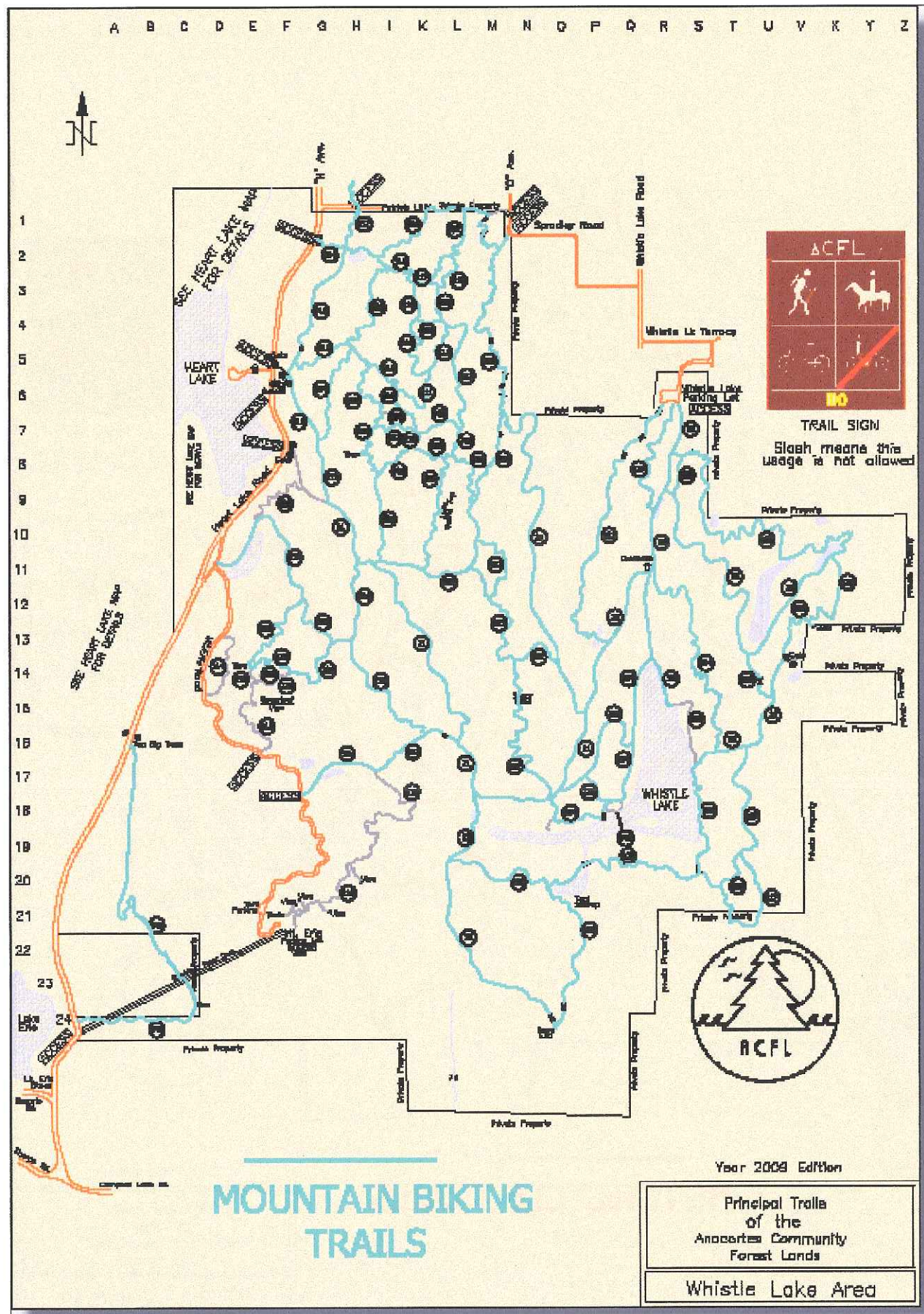


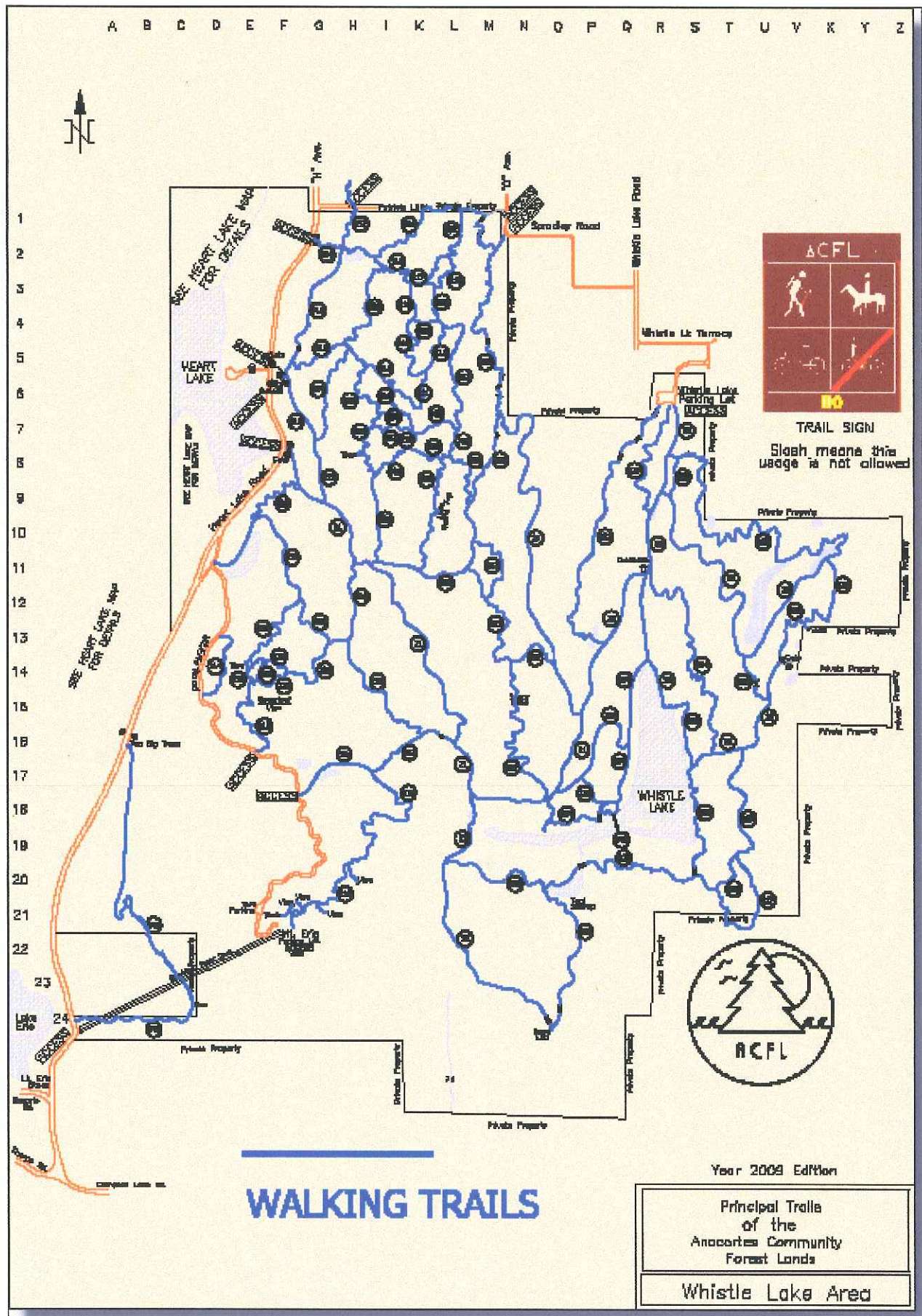














SEPA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

A. BACKGROUND [\[help\]](#)

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable: [\[help\]](#)

City of Anacortes Community Forest Lands Comprehensive Plan

2. Name of applicant: [\[help\]](#)

City of Anacortes

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person: [\[help\]](#)

Jonn Lunsford, Parks and Recreation Director

City of Anacortes

P.O. Box 547

Anacortes, WA 98221

360-299-1953

jonn1@cityofanacortes.org

4. Date checklist prepared: [\[help\]](#)

February 11, 2019

5. Agency requesting checklist: [\[help\]](#)

City of Anacortes

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable): [\[help\]](#)

Planning Commission public hearing on March 27, 2019. Adoption by ordinance expected by end of July 2019. If adopted, the proposed amendments would go into effect shortly thereafter.

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain. [\[help\]](#)

The City updates the ACFL Comprehensive Plan at least every 10 years, with a goal of every 5 years.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal. [\[help\]](#)

These existing documents are relevant to the present proposal and are being adopted and used to help meet environmental review requirements pursuant to WAC 197-11-600. We expect a DNS determination to be issued on March 8, 2019.

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain. [\[help\]](#)

Current project activities with associated government or application approval that effect the property covered by this proposal include the 32nd street beaver deceiver project and possible bike skills course at the old "A" Avenue dump site.

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known. [\[help\]](#)

City Council approval or modification of these proposed amendments (by ordinance).

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.) [\[help\]](#)

The Anacortes Parks and Recreation Department is updating its Community Forest Lands Comprehensive Plan (the Plan). The City of Anacortes owns more than 3,000 acres of designated forest lands within the City limits. These community forest lands contain some of the most unique and complex living environments in the Puget Sound Region. In an effort to develop a plan that works to conserve and enhance the unique environment in 2013, The Anacortes Community Forest Lands (ACFL) Advisory Board began discussing the process of updating the Plan, and in 2014 began taking public comment at their regular meetings – these comments are reflected s in our draft plan.

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist. [\[help\]](#)

The plan would apply city wide to the management of the approximately 3000 acres of Anacortes Community Forest Lands. Please see attachment A for a map of its boundaries.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS [\[help\]](#)

ITEMS 1 THROUGH 16 RESPONSES ARE GENERAL IN NATURE BECAUSE THIS IS A NON-PROJECT ACTION.

1. Earth

a. General description of the site [\[help\]](#)

(circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous,
other _____

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)? [\[help\]](#)

c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any agricultural land

of long-term commercial significance and whether the proposal results in removing any of these soils.

[\[help\]](#)

- d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe. [\[help\]](#)
- e. Describe the purpose, type, total area, and approximate quantities and total affected area of any filling, excavation, and grading proposed. Indicate source of fill. [\[help\]](#)
- f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe. [\[help\]](#)
- g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)? [\[help\]](#)
- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any: [\[help\]](#)

The City of Anacortes, Washington is located on the northern end of Fidalgo Island. Elevations within the City vary from sea level, to 600 feet in the southwest quadrant, and to 1,270 feet at the top of Mt. Erie. Portions of Anacortes are flat, rolling, hilly, and or contain steep slopes. Soil types vary throughout City limits. ACFL properties within the city inventory are representative of this varied terrain. Future projects may include ground disturbing activities that could temporarily increase stormwater discharge and erosion. The scope and the timing of these projects should be used as measures to limit the potential to create erosive conditions. The projects can mitigate impacts with the implementation of traditional TESC practices and BMP's.

Any future development that is proposed will be consistent with the City's development regulations and will be required to comply with City, State, and Federal requirements regarding slopes, soils, stormwater management, and erosion.

2. Air

- a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal during construction, operation, and maintenance when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known. [\[help\]](#)
- b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe. [\[help\]](#)
- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any: [\[help\]](#)

This nonproject action does not propose allowing for an increase in industrial type development that may increase emissions. Air emissions in conjunction to any proposed future maintenance and expansion construction will be De Minimis and limited to gas combustion equipment usage which should be kept minimum to limit impact.

Any future development that is proposed will be consistent with the City's development regulations and will be required to comply with City, State, and Federal requirements regarding emissions to the air and other impacts to the air.

3. Water

- a. Surface Water: [\[help\]](#)

- 1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into. [\[help\]](#)

- 2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans. [\[help\]](#)
- 3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material. [\[help\]](#)
- 4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known. [\[help\]](#)
- 5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan. [\[help\]](#)
- 6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge. [\[help\]](#)

b. Ground Water:

- 1) Will groundwater be withdrawn from a well for drinking water or other purposes? If so, give a general description of the well, proposed uses and approximate quantities withdrawn from the well. Will water be discharged to groundwater? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known. [\[help\]](#)
- 2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals. . . ; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve. [\[help\]](#)

c. Water runoff (including stormwater):

- 1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe. [\[help\]](#)
- 2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe. [\[help\]](#)
- 3) Does the proposal alter or otherwise affect drainage patterns in the vicinity of the site? If so, describe.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water, and drainage pattern impacts, if any:

The City is bounded on three sides by 20 miles of saltwater shoreline of Burrows Bay, Rosario Strait, Guemes Channel and Fidalgo Bay. These shorelines are "shorelines of statewide significance". There are 15 named streams flowing through the city, including 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. Many of the streams have been placed in culverts, channels, or have been otherwise altered. There are three freshwater lakes within City limits, including Whistle, Heart and Cranberry Lakes, as well as a portion of the northeast shoreline of Lake Erie. Various category wetlands are found throughout the City, with major systems located within the Anacortes Forest Lands and near Ship Harbor.

All of the designated ACFL properties encompass these valuable water resources with the intent to protect and preserve shore lands, flood plains, wetlands, lakes and streams. Many of the proposed future goals of the plan include restoration and enhancement of these vital ecosystems. While any proposed future maintenance and expansion construction has the potential to increase stormwater runoff, and loose soil erosion, it is possible to mitigate these impacts through BMP's, drainage improvements, and revegetation.

Any future development that is proposed will be consistent with the City's development regulations and will be required to comply with City, State, and Federal requirements regarding regulated critical areas, stormwater runoff, and all other potential impacts to both ground and surface water.

4. Plants [\[help\]](#)

- a. Check the types of vegetation found on the site: [\[help\]](#)
- ☐ deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other
 - ☐ evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other
 - ☐ shrubs
 - ☐ grass
 - ☐ pasture
 - ☐ crop or grain
 - ☐ Orchards, vineyards or other permanent crops.
 - ☐ wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other
 - ☐ water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
 - ☐ other types of vegetation
- b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered? [\[help\]](#)
- c. List threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site. [\[help\]](#)
- d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any: [\[help\]](#)
- e. List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site.

The ACFL is approximately 3000 acres and is blanketed with native plant species. A majority of the above plants occur within the ACFL properties. No known or threaten species exist on site. The ACFL was established for the purpose of managing these forest lands and preserving the forest against damage while balancing recreational opportunities. Vegetation communities of particular protective value include scattered old growth, mature second growth forest stands, and wildflower meadows. The ACFL has over a 25 year history of working with community volunteers to remediate invasive plant species and enhance native vegetation. The proposal may allow for an increase in forest lands and recreational facilities, which could in turn increase the amount of vegetation removal to prepare for maintenance, expansion, or new construction. It is anticipated that any negative impact from these activities will be heavily outweighed by conservation and enhancement efforts within the valuable forest lands.

Any future development that is proposed will be consistent with the City's development regulations and will be required to comply with City, State, and Federal requirements regarding plants, including minimum landscaping and open space requirements and tree preservation standards.

5. Animals

- a. List any birds and other animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site. Examples include: [\[help\]](#)
- birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other:
 - mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:
 - fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other _____

- b. List any threatened and endangered species known to be on or near the site. [\[help\]](#)
- c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain. [\[help\]](#)
- d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any: [\[help\]](#)
- e. List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site.

All of the above animals occur within Anacortes. Anacortes is part of the migratory route known as the American Pacific Flyway. The City is home to many fish, shellfish and bird and mammal species, especially within the Anacortes Community Forest Lands and along the saltwater shorelines.

This nonproject action may result in a future increase to the City's recreational facilities inventory, which could in turn increase the amount of vegetation removal to prepare for construction, displacing common mammals. Additionally, noise created from construction machinery and equipment can have temporary impacts to surrounding wildlife, however the amount of such activity is expected to be minimal.

Any future development that is proposed will be consistent with the City's development regulations and will be required to comply with City, State, and Federal requirements regarding animals.

6. Energy and natural resources

- a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc. [\[help\]](#)
- b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe. [\[help\]](#)
- c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)

No significant impacts are anticipated to energy and natural resources outside of normal development. Any future development that is proposed will be consistent with the City's development regulations and will be required to comply with City, State, and Federal requirements regarding energy and natural resources.

7. Environmental health

- a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe. [\[help\]](#)
 - 1) Describe any known or possible contamination at the site from present or past uses.
 - 2) Describe existing hazardous chemicals/conditions that might affect project development and design. This includes underground hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines located within the project area and in the vicinity.
 - 3) Describe any toxic or hazardous chemicals that might be stored, used, or produced during the project's development or construction, or at any time during the operating life of the project.
 - 4) Describe special emergency services that might be required.
 - 5) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

This nonproject action does not propose allowing for an increase in industrial type development that may increase risks of environmental health hazards.

Any future development that is proposed will be consistent with the City's development regulations and will be required to comply with City, State, and Federal requirements regarding environmental health. No significant impacts are anticipated to environmental health outside of normal development.

b. Noise

- 1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)? [\[help\]](#)
- 2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site. [\[help\]](#)
- 3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)

Noises typical of residential and recreational environments are currently found in the area of the City's forest lands. The intensity can range depending on the location and use of the resource such as low impact in hiker only areas to more moderate noise impact from motorcycle use and areas of dense congregation. Changes to noise levels can be expected with an anticipated increase of vehicular traffic and visitorship to the improved or expanded facilities. Noise can be controlled through hours of operation, screening, design elements, and increased police patrol.

8. Land and shoreline use

- a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties? Will the proposal affect current land uses on nearby or adjacent properties? If so, describe. [\[help\]](#)
- b. Has the project site been used as working farmlands or working forest lands? If so, describe. How much agricultural or forest land of long-term commercial significance will be converted to other uses as a result of the proposal, if any? If resource lands have not been designated, how many acres in farmland or forest land tax status will be converted to nonfarm or nonforest use? [\[help\]](#)
 - 1) Will the proposal affect or be affected by surrounding working farm or forest land normal business operations, such as oversize equipment access, the application of pesticides, tilling, and harvesting? If so, how:
- c. Describe any structures on the site. [\[help\]](#)
- d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what? [\[help\]](#)
- e. What is the current zoning classification of the site? [\[help\]](#)
- f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site? [\[help\]](#)
- g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site? [\[help\]](#)
- h. Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify. [\[help\]](#)
- i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project? [\[help\]](#)
- j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace? [\[help\]](#)
- k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)
- l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any: [\[help\]](#)
- m. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with nearby agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any:

The current land use of City properties affected by this proposal is the balance of conservation and recreational use; the majority of these properties fall under the PUBLIC zoning designation. This

nonproject action does not propose a change in use at this time. The surrounding use and zoning designation of the parks vary by location but primarily include residential, and are not expected to experience any affects by approval of the Plan. No specific development actions are planned at this time that would require actions to the existing structures or critical areas.

The ACFL has approximately 50 miles of dirt and gravel trails used recreationally by local residents. Heart Lake has a pit toilet as does Whistle Lake. Mt. Erie has a road to the summit where there is a cell tower compound leased by Puget Sound Energy. There are many critical area sites within the ACFL located in and around wetlands, the four area lakes within or bordered by the Forest Lands.

Any future development that is proposed will be consistent with the City's development regulations and will be required to comply with City, State, and Federal requirements regarding land use and shoreline regulations.

9. Housing

- Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing. [\[help\]](#)
- Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing. [\[help\]](#)
- Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)

No significant impacts are anticipated to housing.

10. Aesthetics

- What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed? [\[help\]](#)
- What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed? [\[help\]](#)
- Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)

The Plan if approved will preserve existing open space and the natural character of public lands, as well as protect the scenic viewshed of Fidalgo Island.

11. Light and glare

- What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur? [\[help\]](#)
- Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views? [\[help\]](#)
- What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal? [\[help\]](#)
- Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)

The Plan if approved will preserve existing open space and the rural character within these public lands, no impacts to lighting or glare are anticipated.

12. Recreation

- What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity? [\[help\]](#)
- Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe. [\[help\]](#)

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any: [\[help\]](#)

The City has over 3000 acres of designated Community Forest Lands, which amounts to over 50% of the city's total land area.

Though this action the City is working with community to develop appropriate balance between conservation and recreation programs and facilities to include in our comprehensive plan.

Any future development that is proposed will be consistent with the City's development regulations and will be required to comply with City, State, and Federal requirements regarding recreation.

13. Historic and cultural preservation

- a. Are there any buildings, structures, or sites, located on or near the site that are over 45 years old listed in or eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers located on or near the site? If so, specifically describe. [\[help\]](#)
- b. Are there any landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation? This may include human burials or old cemeteries. Are there any material evidence, artifacts, or areas of cultural importance on or near the site? Please list any professional studies conducted at the site to identify such resources. [\[help\]](#)
- c. Describe the methods used to assess the potential impacts to cultural and historic resources on or near the project site. Examples include consultation with tribes and the department of archeology and historic preservation, archaeological surveys, historic maps, GIS data, etc. [\[help\]](#)
- d. Proposed measures to avoid, minimize, or compensate for loss, changes to, and disturbance to resources. Please include plans for the above and any permits that may be required.

While the forest lands do not have any significant historic buildings or structures the area remains of significant historic and cultural value. These properties are protected through multiple layers of protection including deed restrictions and Conservation Easements.

Any future development that is proposed will be consistent with the City's development regulations and will be required to comply with City, State, and Federal requirements regarding land use and shoreline regulations.
cultural preservation.

14. Transportation

- a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site or affected geographic area and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any. [\[help\]](#)
- b. Is the site or affected geographic area currently served by public transit? If so, generally describe. If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop? [\[help\]](#)
- c. How many additional parking spaces would the completed project or non-project proposal have? How many would the project or proposal eliminate? [\[help\]](#)
- d. Will the proposal require any new or improvements to existing roads, streets, pedestrian, bicycle or state transportation facilities, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private). [\[help\]](#)
- e. Will the project or proposal use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe. [\[help\]](#)

- f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project or proposal? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur and what percentage of the volume would be trucks (such as commercial and nonpassenger vehicles). What data or transportation models were used to make these estimates? [\[help\]](#)
- g. Will the proposal interfere with, affect or be affected by the movement of agricultural and forest products on roads or streets in the area? If so, generally describe.
- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any: [\[help\]](#)

As a result of this Comprehensive Plan Revision, the City found a need for increased recreation facilities within the ACFL based on both current public input and projected population growth; these facilities would potentially increase traffic on public roads and the need for improved public access, parking, and non-motorized trails. Alternative methods of transportation can be incorporated into the planning and project design of future facilities to include non-motorized foot paths and bicycle lanes, as well as greater access by public transit.

15. Public services

- a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, public transit, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe. [\[help\]](#)
- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any. [\[help\]](#)

No significant impacts are anticipated to public services.

16. Utilities

- a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: [\[help\]](#)
electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system,
other _____
- b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed. [\[help\]](#)

This non-project action may result in a future increase to the City's forest lands and recreational facilities inventory, which could in turn increase the amount of need for utility support for these facilities.

Any future development that is proposed will be consistent with the City's development regulations and will be required to comply with City, State, and Federal requirements regarding utilities.

C. SIGNATURE [\[HELP\]](#)

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury under laws of the State of Washington that the above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make a decision.

Signature: 

Name of signee: Jonn Lunsford

TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT

EVALUATION FOR
AGENCY USE ONLY

Position and Agency/Organization: Parks & Recreation Director, City Of Anacortes

Date Submitted: February 11, 2019

D. Supplemental sheet for nonproject actions [\[help\]](#)

Because these questions are very general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment.

When answering these questions, be aware of the extent the proposal, or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal, would affect the item at a greater intensity or at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented. Respond briefly and in general terms.

1. How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise?

The plan allows for the continued recreational use of the ACFL. The majority of use in the forest lands is non-motorized and not expected to increase emissions. A secondary effect of the use of forest lands includes the increased travel to and from the sites may be by motor vehicle which could potentially increase air emissions, storm water runoff and contaminants. Bike paths to the forest lands and bike parking at trail heads could help alleviate these issues.

..

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

Continue to encourage our users to use non-motorized means to access the ACFL when possible. Comprehensive planning can help us foresee these impacts, project design elements can provide alternative transportation methods such as pedestrian and non-motorized access to major trail heads, as well as possible service by public transit.

2. How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish, or marine life?

The plan seeks to enrich and where possible expand the ACFL, which in turn will have a positive effect on native flora and fauna. However, future growth and expansion of these recreational assets may have an impact through maintenance and expansion development activities.

Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life are:

Much of the ACFL is either protected by conservation easements, City ordinance, critical areas and goal of this plan is conservation with recreation. Extensive efforts have been undertaken to remediate invasive species and enhance native vegetative communities and vital habitats. Overall we believe the future impact of expansion and development will be offset by proper stewardship of public lands and the restoration and enhancement of natural environments within.

3. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources?

The proposal is not likely to significantly increase impacts to energy usage and natural resources..

Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are:

Future development under this proposal would be able to incorporate low impact design guidelines and utilize energy saving technology. All activities will continue to be subject to existing energy codes and other city, state and federal regulations and/or additional project-level environmental review.

4. How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection; such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands?

The proposal is primarily for the purpose of preservation and enhancement of public forest lands, and recreational areas, therefore it is not likely to significantly increase impacts to environmentally sensitive areas. While future development and increased usage may have an impact on these areas it is expected that any impact will be offset by mitigation, enhancement, and preservation.

Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts are:

Future development under this proposal would continue to be subject to existing regulations protecting environmentally sensitive areas, and other city, state and federal regulations and/or additional project-level environmental review.

5. How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans?

The ongoing management of the ACFL and this plan stress the importance of our native shorelines. Integral to our community is public beach access and boating facilities. The proposal will preserve the compatible use of our freshwater resources within the forest lands. Potential impacts would include maintenance and expansion of parking, boat access, and restroom facilities.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are:

Future recreational use under this proposal would continue to be subject to existing city, state and federal regulations and/or additional project-level environmental review.

6. How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities?

Significant impacts to transportation, public service and utilities are not anticipated for with any future development.

Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are:

Future development under this proposal would continue to be subject to existing city, state and federal regulations and/or additional project-level environmental review.

7. Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.

The proposal directly implements local comprehensive plan policies and is consistent with the Growth Management Act and all other local, state and federal laws applicable. Future development under this proposal would continue to be subject to existing city, state and federal regulations and/or additional project-level environmental review.

City Of Anacortes Determination of Nonsignificance

Description of proposal: The City of Anacortes is considering updates to its Community Forest Lands Comprehensive Plan (the Plan). The Anacortes Community Forest Lands (ACFL) contain approximately 3,000 acres of some of the most unique and complex living environments in the Puget Sound Region. The Plan contains descriptions, goals, and policies for ACFL geographic management areas, forestlands stewardship, and management of recreational areas. In an effort to develop a plan that works to conserve and enhance the unique environment, the Anacortes Community Forest Lands Advisory Board began discussing the process and updating the Plan in 2014.

Proposed amendments are available for review on the city's website:

<https://www.anacorteswa.gov/528/Comprehensive-Master-Plans>.

Project File #: PLN-2019-0003

Proponent: City of Anacortes

Location of Proposal: City limits of Anacortes

Lead Agency: City of Anacortes Planning, Community & Economic Development Department

The lead agency for this proposal has determined that it does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(C). This decision was made after review of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public on request.

This DNS is issued under WAC 197-11-340(2); the lead agency will not act on this proposal for 14 days from the date below. **Comments regarding this DNS must be submitted by March 27, 2019.**

Responsible Official: Don Measamer

Position and Title: Director of Planning, Community & Economic Development

Phone/Email: 360-299-1942; don@CityofAnacortes.org

Address: P.O. Box 547, Anacortes, WA 98221



Date of issuance: March 13, 2019

Appeals of this environmental determination may be made per the procedures outlined in AMC Ch. 18.04 and Ch. 19.20. Additional information regarding the appeal process may be obtained from the City of Anacortes PCED Department, 360-299-1984.