



ANACORTES PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission

July 13, 2021 Meeting Cancelled.

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

Parks and Recreation Update

July 2021

Recreation Staff Report:

Co-Ed Youth Flag Football: The Flag Football league which staff partnered with the Anacortes Football League, ended June 11th. The 5-week program focused on teaching the fundamentals of the sport. The program served children 1st-7th grade, with modified programming to meet state guidelines. Thanks to the Anacortes High School Football Team for helping out with the program.

Pee Wee Baseball: We had 73 participants sign up for the Pee Wee Baseball program. The Pee Wee baseball program serves to teach 4-6-year-olds the fundamentals of baseball in a fun and safe environment. The program was adapted to meet state health guidelines. The program was held at the Storvik Park Ball field which provides plenty of space for the program to spread out and give parents/spectators a good opportunity to watch the kids in action.

Youth Volleyball Camp: The Anacortes High School Volleyball Coaches and Team put on a camp through APRD on June 8, 10, & 11. The turnout was great with 32 participants! The AHS Volleyball coaches and players were very organized and the kids who participated had a blast. We had a last-minute facility scheduling change when the middle school was not available, and camp had to be moved out to Fidalgo Elementary. But the school district was accommodating. Participants received a camp t-shirt as part of their registration fee. Thanks again to Coach Swapp and her players for putting together the camp!

Tots in the Park: In this new toddler program, staff planned outdoor activities for toddlers and their parents out at Washington park. The program was designed to provide a safe alternative to our indoor parent child activities. The participants made crafts, had guided exploration, and played fun games. The library partnered with staff on this program to bring a kids Storytime to end each class. We had 14 children sign up for this activity.

Night Out at the Park: Night out at the park is an adapted version of kid's night out that was last offered in 2019. The program planned an evening of outdoor fun for the participants including crafts, hiking, sports, and snacks. We had 21 participants participate in this activity. The program took place at Washington Park.

Survivor Camp: Staff has brought back the popular Survivor camp program for 2021. We have filled capacity for both sessions starting June 28th and July 12th. The four-day camp leads children through various teambuilding and competitive activities. We normally have a waitlist for each session and this year was no exception. Recreation Coordinator, Travis Anderson, did a great job figuring out a way to get as many kids into the program as possible, while maintaining a high-quality program. In the summer of 2022, we would like to offer more sessions but would need to hire more seasonal staff to do this.

Senior Center Social Cafe: On Thursday, June 17, the recreation staff coordinated with senior center staff to provide a social event outside to celebrate the future opening of the Senior Center scheduled to take place in July. The event started at 10am, refreshments were served, and the weather was great. Several of the Seniors were very excited to see friends they had not socialized (in person) with for over a year. The ukulele group, half-notes, played several songs and it felt like the center was never closed. Many of them are very excited the doors to the center will be opening back up.

Girls Youth Basketball: the Anacortes High School Girls Basketball Coaches and Players hosted a girls basketball camp from, June 28 – 30 at the Anacortes Middle School Gym. After a very warm first day the participants did a great job learning and soaking up skills that were being taught. Thanks again to Coach Dunham and the high school players. All the participants we saw were having a great time!

Art Camp/Class: Julene Cannon, long time Summer Art Camp instructor for us is back this summer to teach a full slate of youth and adult classes the first week of classes took place from June 28 – July 1 at the Depot. The Youth Classes had 32 participants, Teen classes had a 10, and Adult Classes had 4. Recreation staff was very pleased with the participation numbers, especially since the class was not advertised in the Summer A-Town Publication. We have another week of classes scheduled for mid-July.

Skyhawks Tennis Camp: APRD has been partnering with Skyhawks sports for over 20 years and they have been able to provide some sport camps that we have not been able to provide due to limited resources. Tennis has been one of those camps. The camp took place the week of June 28 – July 2. There were three sessions of classes taught for ages 4 to 8 years old. Each session was full. Skyhawks Sports will be back later in the summer to offer some more camps.

Sailing Classes: June 28th also marked the new era of the partnership with Anacortes Waterfront Alliance to offer Learn to Sail Classes for the community. The first week was a beginner class however throughout the summer beginner and

intermediate classes will be taught. Outside of the City's partnership with AWA to offer youth and adult Learn to Sail classes. They are also offering other opportunities for the residents and visitors to recreate on the water.

Dustin South, Recreation Manager

Travis Anderson, Recreation Coordinator

Grand View Cemetery Expansion Update- We continue to work with Team Tuttle who is developing the deliverables we need to be ready to go out to bid on the expansion. We are hopeful to have them soon so we can start Phase two. A few of the highlights of Phase Two is that we will have a columbarium area, a paved road 8' wide with 8' wide pullouts spaced throughout so visitors can park. The current layout shows 3202 4'x9' burial plots this will change some as we add the east- west corridors for irrigation and trees. We will also have urn garden area that will offer more options. We are looking forward to the additional trees we will be planting, a new fence behind the homes that are on Hillcrest Drive and adding improvements to the front of the cemetery and around the sediment pond. Parks crew is maintaining the grass and weeds that have started to grow already within the expansion area.

Washington Park- The park remains busy and campground full each weekend. In 2019 our camping revenue was \$113,214 and right now the camping revenue is \$132,655. The seasonal staff has done a great job this summer keeping visitors happy and safe. Fire Department was called out to a trail near Burrows lookout for a small fire on June 29. They were quickly able to put the small fire out. This summer we are seeing the return of more day camp users and even groups getting ready to go out on their kayaks. This summer at the park seems back to the normal busy we are used to seeing.

Causland Park Plaza Update- Thanks to Brian and Sky we have completed the pavers just in time for the 4th of July at Causland Park. Really appreciate all of their hard work. The plaza area looks great and I look forward to taking down the caution tape and cones that have been up at the park. Crew will work hard to get this park looking as good as we can before the holiday weekend. The Rotarians has done a great job weeding the flower beds in the back of the park.

Spray Pad- Spray Pad opened up on Friday, June 25. It brought me great joy to see the spray pad in action. See attached photo! The spray pad hours are 11am-6pm.

Survived the Hot Days of June- Parks Department helped beat the heat by keeping the spray pad hours on longer into the evening, turning on the sprinklers at Storvik and at Causland. The Fire Department came out to Washington park and hooked up a hose near Sunset Beach and let kids run through the water. They were out at the park from 3-5pm. This was popular if you were at the park and wanted to get sprayed by the fire department!

Crew Update- We hired Braydn Krueger (First day is July 1) and Myles Farrell (First day July 6) to fill our two parks maintenance positions. They are awesome and the whole crew is excited to have them join our team and start working. The crew continues to stay busy keeping grass mowed and irrigation working. We have had a record number of Saturday cemetery services this summer so far and the crew has done a great job taking turns working and putting in the extra hours to provide this service.

Nicole Johnston, Parks Manager

Our entire full-time staff has been involved with the hiring process for two parks maintenance team positions. First round interviews took place June 3rd. From there we narrowed the field to four finalists, who came in for a meet and greet with our maintenance staff. After lengthy evaluation, the jobs were offered to and accepted by Braydn Krueger and Myles Farrell. Both are born and raised here in Anacortes, and very excited to join our team. Braydn comes on board July 1, while Myles' first day will be July 6. We are grateful to Mayor Gere and the City Council for allowing us to fill these long-frozen positions.

By now you have probably been made aware of the 129 blue chalk paint markings on trees throughout the ACFL on the weekend of June 5/6. In 31+ years of Parks & Rec work, I have never seen graffiti of this magnitude, especially as the result of one application. ACFL Steve and the Trail Team were not only able to get the mess cleaned up in a very efficient way, but they found the individual who admitted to doing it. The Anacortes Police Department has an on-going investigation.

Spent some time with new Fire Chief Bill Harris and Captain Jack Kennedy reviewing camp and beach fire policy at Washington Park, as well as freeing up some park and ACFL sites for AFD training opportunities. A reminder that we work closely with the AFD on burn bans and other fire safety related issues year round.

I spent some time in the ACFL each of the three Memorial Day weekend days. Did some early morning checking of potential campsites, along with some training of our seasonal staff at Whistle Lake in the afternoons. The weekend came and went quietly.

I continue to support ACFL staff, working sunshine shifts as the current weather dictates. While many Father's and their families enjoyed the woods last Sunday, the family atmosphere kept things at a dull roar.

June 5th was National Trails Day, and we hosted a volunteer work party on the east side of Sugarloaf. Six of us spent the morning carefully removing scotch broom from some sensitive rocky bald terrain, then enjoyed a trail or two after in honor of the day.

Council and Planning Department staff continue work on the Critical Areas Regulations update. The public hearing has been closed for now, but may be revisited depending upon the magnitude of changes proposed by the Council.

It was great to see the Friends of the Forest Trail Ambassador program kick off on May 29th. Two volunteers set up shop in the Whistle Lake parking lot from 9A-2P, and were able to make contact with several forest visitors.

Our consultants continue work on the Whistle Lake dam safety plan. We have not had any recent on site activity.

We did spend time on the Guemes Channel Trail with our consultant, along with staff from FEMA and couple of different state agencies. We were evaluating last winter's storm damage, our short term repairs and some options for the future.

Jon and I, along with Mayor Gere, other COA Department Heads and a variety of consultants visited the old "A" Avenue landfill site. It was mostly an historical and fact finding tour as we work through the Model Toxics Control Act protocol.

Mayor Gere, Council member Matt Miller, Friends of the Forest Board President Charlie Collins, Jon Lunsford and I met with new Chamber President/CEO Jesica Stickles. We focused our discussion on the relationship between the FOF, the COA, the Chamber and how the ACFL might be used to promote our community. We each made a commitment to work together on future projects.

Our local Rotary Club continues work on the Cap Sante trail and viewpoint project. Next steps are working with a fish and wildlife habitat consultant, along with the COA Planning Department.

Jon and I met in town with Allison Dellwo, our RCO grant manager. We spent some time looking at long term options at Storvik and the Skate Park, as well as some site plan review at Heart Lake.

Washington Park remains a popular wedding option for some, especially those catching up from a cancelled ceremony a year ago. I do my best to work with folks, help them realize their matrimonial dreams while protecting our amazing natural park area.

Misc tasks...working with a new downtown business owner on some sidewalk options...meeting with homeowners regarding adjacent ACFL trees...

Bob Vaux, Assistant Director

As you can see from all the reports above, we have a lot of programs and activities going on now that recreation programs and the Senior Activity Center are opening up. We appreciate all the work City Staff are doing in preparation for the Fourth of July. Public Works, Legal, Parks and Recreation, Police and Fire all have a hand in making the celebration a success. We also have several generous volunteers who give their time on the holiday. Thank you all. We have been working with the Police and other city departments lately in an effort to assist various homeless individuals in our parks or near our trails. An incident comes up usually once a week this time of year. As always, we appreciate the cooperation of Anacortes Family Center.

Jonn Lunsford