



ANACORTES PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission

January 12, 2021

CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19

**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
December 2020
Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission

Recreation Staff Report:

Camp ACTIVE: The youth fitness and sports camp (Camp Active) was held to help fill the need for safe social interaction and exercise for the children in Anacortes had 23 participants sign up for the 2nd session. The class was put on pause in November with a COVID 19 regulation update, staff modified the program and finished its last session December 17th. Based off what we heard from participants and parents, the program was highly successful.

Virtual Holiday Dog Walk: We had about 20 people and the same amount of dogs sign up for this month long program. You can see results at the website here: <https://runsignup.com/Race/Results/103348#resultSetId-228683;perpage:100>

Community Lighting: Staff partnered with the chamber of commerce to bring the community a holiday light show on December 11th-18th. The event featured 24 local businesses who decorated their building to provide a light event for community members.

We offered a poll for community members to vote for their favorite and had 264 votes, with Strandberg Construction receiving the most votes. A big “thank you” to all the businesses who participated in the Holiday Light Show!

Zoom with Santa: Staff offered a zoom with Santa Event on Dec 5th and 6th. The event allowed participants to zoom with Santa within the 10 minute sessions. We had 29 families sign up for the event and received a very positive response from the participants. We had an awesome Santa this year!

Holiday Craft Kit: Staff put together craft kits for children to order and enjoy. The craft kits included materials for 3-holiday craft projects, coloring pages, hot cocoa, and a candy cane. We had 6 craft kits ordered and scheduled pick up for December 17th and 18th.

Anacortes Waterfront Alliance Partnership: For the past couple years we have been working on an agreement and contract for AWA to take over the day-to-day operation of community sailing program. The contract was signed in December. And we look forward to working with them on putting together a summer community learn to sail program for youth and adults. We are excited to see this partnership provide more opportunities for the public to access the water through expanded boating programs and offerings.

Youth Basketball: The modified practice only season has been put on hold once again, with the Governor’s Healthy Washington COVID recovery plan, that was announced Jan 5th. We have 72 children signed up to participate, we are currently planning to let the practice only season begin when we enter phase 2 of the new plan.

Depot Plaza Restroom Project: Things were quiet on the site for the month of December. Looking to ramp up site construction in January preparing for delivery of the restroom unit the first week of February. Just a reminder website: <https://www.anacorteswa.gov/1282/Depot-Plaza-Restroom>

Other Items/Projects: We are working with the Senior Center to help provide some programs and other activities over the next couple months. Examples of programs are some technology training, i.e. Zoom Help, and some intergenerational programs.

This is the time of year we start planning some of our camps, events, and programs for Summer. Hoping to get back to some sense of normal summer recreation programs. However, unclear at this point what size of programs or events we will be able to have. The biggest question mark will be special events and some of our larger camps. We are working with the Mayor’s office to try and push back the distribution of the Summer A-town as far as possible to allow us to make those decisions while still allowing adequate time to advertise programs and families to plan their summer.

Dustin South, Recreation Manager
Travis Anderson, Recreation Coordinator

Forest Lands and Washington Park Report:

On this Christmas Eve, I reach out to the Commission with thankfulness and appreciation. It was great to reconnect in December, and am hoping 2021 will eventually put us all back in the same meeting room.

Libby Grage from Planning was able to get our draft impact fee report into the Department of Commerce comment prism, so that timeline is under way. As discussed at the December meeting, Jonn is reaching out to the Mayor and Council, so we will eventually get the report onto a Council agenda.

Our homeless camping grant project at Washington Park continues its successful run. The partnership with the Family Center and the Police Department has proven to be very effective, and more importantly, very supportive of the campers. We will be continuing the program thru February, with one of the hopes being to take some of the burden off of the Winter Shelter Program in town.

There has been a fairly public discussion the last few weeks regarding seasonal decoration of publicly owned trees in the parks and forest lands. We were able to come up with a plan for the Loop Road that appears to be working for most. We also have some sanctioned decorating at Pickett Pocket Park and the Heart of Anacortes. We continue to remove any decorations found the ACFL. I envision this discussion coming to the Parks Commission in the near future.

Work continues on the Cap Sante Rotary Park trail and viewpoint project. Had a great site visit with Rotary Club project team and Libby & Tess from Planning. We should have some materials for Parks Commission review shortly. Parks Manager Johnston has been working with a variety of Rotary Club volunteers on park projects, and we are looking forward to expanding this onto the Cap Sante trail system.

Guemes Channel Trail: most of the work on this front has involved discussions with various home owners who live along the railroad grade. We are also working on normal maintenance permitting and delivery.

Along these lines, the Planning Commission held its public hearing on the Shoreline Master Program, and Planning staff will be processing and preparing for review all the public comments for a January meeting. We look forward to our continued work with Planning as well as the community on any projects appropriately partnered with the SMP.

It has been a quiet month for tree evaluations around town. The new system we have put together involving Planning and Public Works has really helped divide up the work, and puts Planning back in the regulatory lead.

Special thanks to the Parks & Recreation staff for the incredible journey that has been 2020. Everyone took their roles, the safety of others, and the joy of parks & recreation to levels we have never seen before. We look forward to continuing to provide safe and accessible opportunities for our community, and those fortunate enough to come visit us.

Bob Vaux, Assistant Director
Dec 24, 2020

Parks Update

- Grand View Cemetery Expansion Update- Tiger Construction is working away at finishing up the sediment pond and installing all the catch basins. We had a bit of rain towards the end of the month, therefore the crew had to take a few weather days. What we still need to complete in this phase of construction is grading the access road and installing of the crush rock on top, spreading soil conditioner on the dirt and then get ready for the hydroseed. The goal is to have this phase of the project wrapped up by January.
Crew Update- The crew did a great job putting up the lights downtown this past month. Really appreciate everyone's effort to get the lights up. The lights will stay up until Valentine's Day and then they will come down and the street trees will get pruned by the crew. Bigger projects that the crew will start working on is the "A" section utility upgrade in the campsite and we will get the fields ready at Volunteer Park for baseball/fastpitch season.
- Causland Park Plaza Update- Crew started to get the plaza area ready and has started laying the bricks. Stone mason Bryan Elliott should start work on the Memorial Wall in late February.
- Volunteers- We had some volunteer activity this past month. We tree decorating at the Pickett Pocket Park and we also had the Rotary Noon Club do a work party and clean up the flower beds and leaves behind the Senior Activity Center. As always this extra help is always appreciated. Coming up in January I have the Anacortes High School Honor Society Club coming to do a litter pick up for us at both Washington Park and Storvik Park.
- Washington Park Update- The Park remains busy with visitors and a few campers. I would consider the organized tree decorating at the park was a success. The volunteers who put the decorations up, took them down by Jan. 4th.
- Field Use Request- This past month I've had a few field use requests for time on the outfield of MDD. I've been able to get time on MDD for a rugby group, girls high school lacrosse and a 7 on 7 football team. Daniels Baseball field has been used almost every night by the Anacortes Baseball Club. The baseball club has done a good job getting kids time on the field and following the covid guidelines. Come February we will keep the fields open for baseball/ fast pitch only and for any programs that our Rec team might organized. This could change, but as of right now the high school baseball/ fastpitch teams fall under the WIAA season 4 that is set to run April 26- June 13. Baseball/fastpitch seasons might start earlier in March, but no official announcement has been made. Nonetheless the parks crew will want time to get the fields ready for the baseball seasons whenever they are set to happen.

Nicole Johnston, Parks Manager

- Parks and Recreation staff is preparing to bring a draft Impact Fee Study to City Council this winter for their review. Parks and Recreation impact fees are applied to new construction in the city limits and are used to offset new growth by adding new parks and amenities. Our last Impact Fee update was in 1998.
- Staff is also preparing a slight increase in fees at the Washington Park Campground and Boat Launch in 2021 that will go before City Council. This would help us offset some of the costs to our recent park improvements and bring us closer to costs at nearby public campgrounds.
- The Anacortes Community Forest Lands Management Plan update should go back before City Council in late March or April of this year. It was scheduled to go before Council in March 2020 just at the time of the initial COVID shut down.

- I echo Bob's thanks to all of our staff who worked throughout 2020 to keep our parks and services open despite the burden of COVID and reduction in number of employees. Our parks saw about a 15%-20% increase in use during that time.

Jon Lunsford, Director