



ANACORTES PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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Anacortes Community Forest Lands Advisory Board

November 5, 2020

MEETING CANCELED DUE TO COVID-19

Trails – Drainage, erosion, bridges, fallen trees

Most of the story this month has been tree removal to keep the trails clear after a few wind events took their toll. We have had some rain, but our lakes have not reached capacity levels yet. As of this writing, our lakes are not yet flowing out of their outlets. Trails have not seen much water flowage, but lasting puddles are appearing on some trails, especially north of Heart Lake.

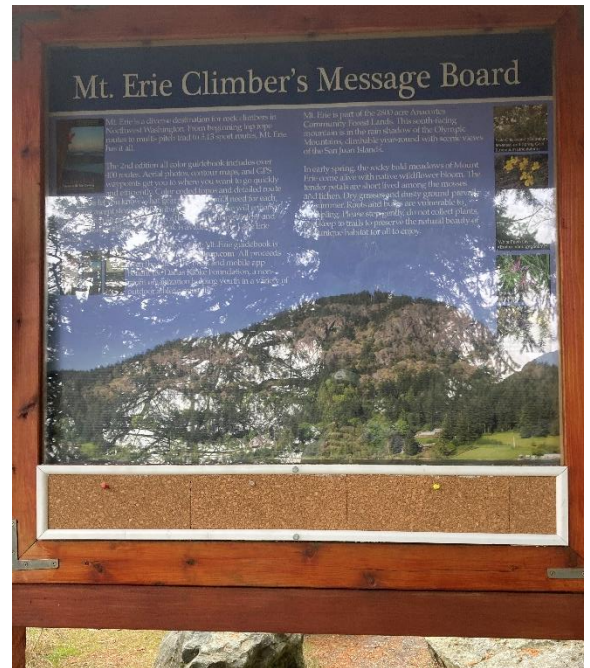
Sky from the parks crew helped me repair the log boom at Little Cranberry Lake. We secured the floating timbers to each other with paired lengths of chain anchored with lag screws.

Miscellaneous Good News

We installed a new “beaver deceiver” (hydraulic structure designed to allow passage of water despite beaver-damming efforts) at the 32nd Street wetland. The permit required that we not use machinery, so the Parks crew and Jonn all had to change various articles of clothing by the time we finished. This unit replaces the previous one at this location, which did not have quite the design or capacity to handle the amount of water required. So far, the water level is barely high enough to reach it; the true test will come later this winter as rains saturate the system that feeds it.

I made a custom corkboard for the climber’s kiosk at the top of Mount Erie. I’m hoping it outlasts weather and vandalism, woodpeckers, moss... fingers crossed. Thanks to the staff at Sebo’s for recommending an inexpensive, weather-proof material for the frame: PVC.

I passed the Arborist exam on the 13th!



ACFL Administrative Report for November Forest Advisory Board Meeting Bob Vaux, Assistant Director, Anacortes Parks & Recreation

First, I want to thank the Parks & Recreation team for covering for me while on vacation, Sept 16 – Oct 1. I am fortunate to be surrounded by so many generous and talented people.

Upon my return, we did begin a series of staff meetings mapping out our priorities for the fall and winter. We have several sites in the ACFL where trail repair is long overdue. I have a scheduled review of these sites with Planning Dept staff soon, and we will develop our project priorities from there.

We are currently working on an update for the ACFL map packets that are sold at city hall and at various businesses. Thanks to Steve Philips for taking a very detailed look at all the text and routes, and to Rob Hoxie/GIS for making the actual changes.

I am sure you have noticed by now that the Mt. Erie Road is open to motorized traffic seven days a week. While we did have a handful of local walkers advocating for the continued closure, we are happy to have this access available to all once again.

Director Lunsford and I have met on site with PSE staff to discuss the parking/bollard plan that will give them the 24/7 access that they need up there. I appreciate the Board's input on this, and we are optimistic about the results. I have not heard from PSE on an installation timeline.

Parks Manager Nicole Johnston and I met recently with DNR NW Region Community Assistance Forester Jeremy Porter. Along with making sure we get our annual Tree City USA application in, we discussed a wide range of tree topics, and look forward to Jeremy and his instructor coming over in February for another hazard tree evaluation/action workshop. These fellows delivered this to us last February, and we had a great day at Causland Park.

ACFL Steve, Nicole and I were happy to help the Friends of the Forest recently on a variety of educational hikes in the woods with grade school children. Various City departments, along with organizations like the Friends, have been working with the School District on ways we can all contribute to the enrichment of children during these challenging times. We look forward to continuing this activity with the Friends as fall transitions into winter.

Steve Philips continues doing great things in his role as ACFL maintenance lead. He has recently met all the criteria for and passed the exam to become a Certified Arborist. He pulled this off in the midst of summer's seasonal challenges, and will definitely up our professional management of all things having to do with trees. Steve brings a lot of skill and genuine commitment to the long term health of the ACFL. He is a pleasure to work with, and I look forward to him continuing to get to know and work with our community.

I would like to thank the entire Parks Maintenance team for helping Steve and I take care of some hazard tree management in the Fir Crest NGPE. All went as planned, no damage to property or people.

Some troubling news from the Mt. Erie area; pieces of rubber with screws and nails facing up have been found on the road and apparently nearby trails. We have received two direct accounts of this to date. The Police Department has been notified, and we are keeping a vigilant eye out. Finally, a reminder that the annual winter closure to motorcycles on the trails begins Sunday, November 1st, and continues through March 31st. This includes all classes of Ebikes.

Faithfully Submitted,
BV /October 30, 2020