



## **ANACORTES PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

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Anacortes Community Forest Lands Advisory Board

*July 2, 2020*

### **Meeting Cancelled**

**Due to the Covid-19 virus threat, the Forest Advisory Board meeting for July has been cancelled.**

## ACFL Maintenance Report JUNE – 2020 by Steve Phillips

June 30, 2020

### Violations

Anacortes Parks and Police Departments have been sharing information related to an attempted abduction and physical assault of a minor that took place on our trails east of Little Cranberry Lake in the evening on Thursday, 25 June. The police have identified a person of interest and our staff is assisting. Many thanks to the adults who helped intervene in the situation. This is a reminder that sometimes the problems that exist in our society can find their way into the parks and Forest Lands. Stay safe.

On June 4, I observed an unfortunate situation on Heart Lake Road regarding an off-leash dog. I was locking the gate to Erie Mountain Road when I heard the scuffing of tires on pavement from a car slamming its brakes, a “whump” sound, and a female voice frantically shouting a dog’s name.

I jogged over, and as I jogged on the small connector trail that goes between the parking area across Heart Lake Road from the end of 212 and Ray Auld Drive, a female mountain biker with a troubled look on her face and a large dog following her (off-leash) passed me, but she did not stop. (I recognized her and hope to discuss this incident when I see her again.)

When I got out to Heart Lake Road, the man driving the car was still stopped. Looking north of me, the small black dog was running at full speed away from us. The young woman continued calling after the dog, who was in a mad dash away from the scene. I commended the driver for his quick braking; he was shaken up because he said that the dog just appeared out of nowhere. He said that his vehicle struck the dog.

I spoke briefly to the young woman trying to get back the small dog. She was in tears and said that she was dog-sitting and had only let him off leash for a second.

I didn’t see the collision, but piecing it together, my guess is that the small dog wanted to play with the larger one trailing the mountain biker, and ran after it into the street.

I reported the incident to Officer Nybo with APD, who deals with animal control, and was wishing I had given her information to the dog sitter to help locate the dog and assist in the situation.

### Trails – Drainage, erosion, bridges, fallen trees

June had only a few downed trees to remove (thanks John Meehan for multiple reports).

We began trimming ACFL trails in early June with more accessible and commonly used trails, also emphasizing trails where encroaching nettle is a known concern. Our goal is to have all the trails (over 50 miles) trimmed by the end of July. We are well on our way to reaching that goal.

### Invasive Species

You have probably heard of the Giant Asian Hornet (*Vespa mandarinia*) by now. If not, this is a species also known as “Murder Hornets” not because of their threat to humans, but because of their habit of decimating beehives in speedy and grisly fashion. To date, five confirmed sightings have occurred in Washington State from 9/30/19 to June 6 of this year, all in Whatcom County.

The threat to Washington State’s economy would be very high should they become established here. Therefore, the “EDRR” (Early Detection, Rapid Response) approach to invasive species management is currently in effect for this hornet.

Between our own traps and a net of traps already deployed by citizen scientists around the ACFL, our forestlands are currently being monitored for the occurrence of this hornet.

For more info:

<https://agr.wa.gov/departments/insects-pests-and-weeds/insects/hornets>

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/planthealth/plant-pest-and-disease-programs/honey-bees/agh>

**Trail 202, before/after, 6/27/20:**



# ACFL Update – June 2020

**Police Investigation in the ACFL:** As Steve said in his notes, our staff is cooperating with the Anacortes Police Department investigation into the report of an adult male attempting to grab a 15 year old in the ACFL. The incident was reported near the intersection of trail 107 and 108. Anyone with additional information is encouraged to call 360-428-3211 to assist the Anacortes Police in their investigation.

**ACFL Permits – 32<sup>nd</sup> Street Swamp:** We have been issued our permit by the US Army Corp of Engineers to make repairs to the beaver deceiver at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Street Swamp. We had planned to do this work with the AHS Green Club but due to Covid-19 that may not be possible. We will look to do the work at low water this summer.

**ACFL & COVID:** All of you who enjoy the ACFL have noticed increased use in the forest lands these past four months. We have kept the trails open throughout the pandemic but have had to limit access to parking. Most of those parking restrictions have been removed but we are still closing the Mt. Erie summit road to vehicles Friday through Sunday. Our hope is to reopen it fully when we get to Phase 3. The road is open for walking or biking 7 days a week.

**Car Prowls in the ACFL:** We have noticed an increase in car prowls at some ACFL trail heads. Please make sure you take all your valuables with you when you leave your vehicle. Please report any break-ins by calling 911.

**Have a Happy and Safe Fourth of July:** Our staff will be working over the holiday weekend doing their regular work and watching out for fireworks in the ACFL. Fireworks are banned throughout the City, and this includes the Community Forest Lands. Thank you.

**Thank you:** Thanks to those who have called in about camping and tents in the ACFL. Camping is prohibited throughout the Forest Lands. Please call 911 and Police will contact us to investigate. Also thanks to everyone who has reported downed trees on the trails, we appreciate the tips. You can report downed trees by calling our Parks office at 360-293-1918.