

## Martha Hall

I am not hopeful when I hear that the City of Anacortes and its Park Department may be responsible for this clean up if this is needed. I had a very unsatisfactory experience with the Dept. of Ecology and its director in my area, North Sound. I live in Anacortes and reported illegal activities by the Anacortes Park Department to Ecology in 2016. I had many photos and had documented these activities carefully over several years. One involved the Park Department adding a large amount of fill on top of an old, logging road through a wetland in Smilely's Bottom, a wetland near my home and adjacent to our high school. People from Ecology visited the site with me and people from the City and its Park Dept. and then wrote an inaccurate report which showed they had not read my extensive reports on this fill and these activities. I was never able to get Ecology's director for this area and the wetland specialist who was involved to fully correct their errors. They also left correcting and addressing illegal fill to the City and its Park Department. Nothing has ever been done that I can see to address these violations such as removing the fill or adequately mitigating all of the many negative impacts caused by this fill and improvements to the old road which has increased traffic and dog use on this road all year which is causing serious impacts to wildlife use of this area. Virginia rails and other interesting species once used and nested in this area, but no more. What did the City do? They formed a secret committee to address these issues and I was not told about this and was not able to participate. Instead, this committee consisted of the people who supported this fill and these illegal activities and a few people who knew little about these illegal activities or their negative impacts. And this is the last I ever heard - that the Park Department formed this committee - about 6 years ago. Is this what Ecology supports when wetlands are negatively and illegally impacted by fill, cutting trees in riparian areas, installing multiple and giant lights on ballfields that light up this entire area and are kept on late into the night and all night, and paving roads and etc. without obtaining proper and required city permits? This is what the City of Anacortes does. The City and Park Department think this is okay.

I took many photos of the old dump in the ACFL which is not being questioned - again - after not being capped and the damaged contained correctly years ago. And Ecology thinks this can be left up to the City and Park Department to fix. The City allowed a small amount of dumping along Guemes Channel, from 12th Street, Oaks Ave, at what is now a small park and stairway to the Guemes Channel Trail. The City traded very valuable street ends in a nearby development to have this developer clean-up this dump and build these stairs. This dump too was not completely clean up. I took and shared photos with the City of this dump too. I also have taken many photos of the dump in the ACFL and all of the garbage, metal, tires, containers, glass, etc that remain in the streambed at the edge of the capped area of this dump. This seasonal stream runs into the wetlands below. I shared some of these photos with the City of Anacortes and received no response. I also photographed areas where the Park Department has filled the shoreline along Little Cranberry Lake and Heart Lake to make or improve old trails made by fishermen years ago. This is fill in wetlands and lakes in areas that are most used by wildlife. This fill and these trails prevents wildlife from using these shorelines. These also violate the City's CAO. But this does not matter in Anacortes. My photos were mostly ignored - except for the closure of one short section of trail - but without adequate removal of fill and restoration of damaged areas. Many other trails are still damaging our shorelines because of where and how they are built and maintained. Our City supports this. I also documented failures of the City of Anacortes to create the Guemes Channel Trail as a no-net-loss project as promised to the USACE and Ecology and WDFW. This trail system is causing huge and

everlasting negative impacts to salmon and other marine life who might use the near-shore habitats which are now filled with armoring and large boulders that continually fall onto this shoreline. These problems have not been addressed. Ecology and WDFW should know about these. I have given both photos and documentation of these violations.

Past behavior and current culture can provide valuable clues for what to expect in the future. I've lived in Anacortes since 1996. I have very low expectations for the City and its Park Department to do the right thing - unless someone else makes them and will pay for it. Ecology needs to ask for adequate funding if it is given the task of protecting and restoring salmon habitat, wetlands, shorelines, etc. Ecology needs adequate and dedicated staff. This self-policing idea only works when the party wants to do the right thing.

Martha Hall