

Martha Hall

I support requiring the City of Anacortes to conduct additional studies to measure the amount of contamination in the soils, streams, and wetlands in and surrounding this old City Dump. This old dump is located in the headwaters of and within critical areas including streams and wetlands and major beaver ponds in the ACFL including wetland complexes that include Big Beaver Pond and the 32nd Street Swamp. These wetland complexes are designated and protected as "Critical Areas" and "Fish and Wildlife Habitats" in the Anacortes "Critical Area Ordinances". These wetland complexes provide habitats that are used by a long list of species of plants and animals. These species include aquatic species, invertebrates such as dragonflies and mayflies, and many birds such as trumpeter swans, many species of ducks, grebes, and migrating songbirds. These birds include raptors such as merlins who, like the kingfishers, hunt for dragonflies and other prey in these ponds and wetlands. The beavers are greatly appreciated for the work they do to maintain these wetlands. This work includes keeping water levels high enough during our increasingly hot and dry summers so support all of the species who use and depend on these wetlands. All of these species and these special habitats are highly valued and enjoyed by many residents and non-residents of the City of Anacortes. These "critical areas" Contaminated soils, streams and wetlands may negatively impact these plants and animals.

My biggest concern is the slow response to address contamination from this dump by the City of Anacortes and its Park Department. The potential for contaminated soils, water and streams has been visible and reported for many years. This is especially true for the sides of the old dump seen when walking Trails 124 and 108. A seasonal stream runs along the north end of this old dump and through a low area at the edge of this dump that still contains many items of dumped garbage. This area was ignored when the dump was capped so it is outside of the area the City of Anacortes has addressed. I'm probably one of many residents who sent photos of dumped items in this area to the City of Anacortes over the years. During the winter when plants have few leaves, many items such as dozens of old tires and metal and glass can be seen strewn around in this area. These items are on the dirt bank outside the capped dump and in the season stream below this dump. Some become more visible and are exposed by erosion. This area is in the stream and wetlands and drains into these. Why did the City of Anacortes not remove these items when the old dump was capped? Why were letters and photos sent by the public like me ignored?

The City of Anacortes and its Park Department failed to be interested in this old dump for many years. This only changed when some bike groups and some staff of the Anacortes Park Department decided they wanted to build a bike skills course on this old City Dump. It was disappointing that this was their motivation to look again at this old dump site. This wasn't because they cared about contamination. This was all about their desire to build the bike skills course in a natural area which is strongly opposed by many people because the ACFL was not protected to build recreational facilities for various user groups such as mountain bikers.

Another old Anacortes City Dump is also located near Lovric's Marine off of 12th Street in Anacortes. The trail and its stairs that go down to the Guemes Channel Trail do through this old dump. Erosion and time continues to expose more of the contents of this old dump. The City of Anacortes had an agreement with a local developer to clean up this area and build this small "park" and stairway in exchange for some very expensive city street ends that this developer used to create more waterfront building sites in his adjacent development. The clean-up of this old dump also was

not adequate to address possible contamination into the marine ecosystem below, Guemes Channel. Has this area been checked for possible contamination of soil?

I will need to check to see if I still have some of the photos I've sent to the City of Anacortes Park Department documenting the garbage that still remains at these old dumps.

I hope the Department of Ecology closely supervises any work done by the City of Anacortes when addressing contamination at old dump sites. In the past the City of Anacortes and its Park Department has not shown much of an interest in addressing possible contamination caused by these old dump sites.

Thank you for having a comment period and a public meeting on this issue,
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