



proud past, promising future

Bozco Place Neighborhood Park Public Comment Form Summary

Comment Period: April 2008

Number of Comment Forms Mailed Out: 1,557
Total Returned: 140 (137 paper; 3 electronic)
Overall Return Rate: 9%

Please note that this is a summary of comments received and is not a word-for-word transcript of all written comments. The original comment forms are available for public review upon request at the Clark County Public Service Center in Vancouver. Please call Jilayne Jordan at (360) 397-6118 x. 4949 for more information.

Question 1: Please tell us how important the following neighborhood park elements are to you.

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important	Don't Know/ No Opinion
a) Walking and biking trails	103 (76%)	23 (17%)	8 (6%)	2 (1%)
b) Open grassy fields for playing catch, touch football, Frisbee, etc.	74 (55%)	43 (32%)	13 (10%)	4 (3%)
c) Additional trees, landscaping and other habitat enhancement	55 (42%)	51 (39%)	20 (15%)	5 (4%)
d) Screening and privacy plantings for adjacent neighbors	53 (40%)	38 (29%)	30 (23%)	11 (8%)
e) Playground equipment	71 (54%)	29 (22%)	26 (20%)	5 (4%)
f) Small basketball court or sport court (less than half-court size)	29 (22%)	32 (24%)	60 (46%)	10 (8%)
g) Small skateboarding spot (1,500 square feet or smaller)	18 (14%)	26 (20%)	76 (58%)	11 (8%)
h) Picnic tables	73 (53%)	42 (31%)	20 (15%)	1 (1%)
i) Park benches/seating areas	98 (72%)	30 (22%)	7 (5%)	2 (1%)

NOTE: Not everyone who sent in a comment form responded to this question, and not everyone who responded marked a box for each item.

Most Important Park Elements

“Very Important” selected (more than 50%)

1. Walking and biking trails	76%
2. Park benches/seating areas	72%
3. Open grassy fields	55%
4. Playground equipment	54%
5. Picnic tables	53%

“Very Important” AND “Somewhat Important” combined (more than 50%)

1. Park benches/seating areas	94%
2. Walking and biking trails	93%
3. Open grassy fields	87%
4. Picnic tables	84%
5. Additional landscaping	81%
6. Playground equipment	76%
7. Screening plantings	69%

- Responses were evenly divided regarding the small basketball court or small sports court with 46% selecting “Important” and “Somewhat Important,” and 46% selecting “Not Important.”
- The least support was for the small skateboarding spot (58% selecting “Not Important”).

Question 2: Have you ever visited Bozco Place Neighborhood Park? If “yes,” what did you do there?

- Some respondents did not answer this question.
- The majority of respondents (72) stated they had previously visited this currently undeveloped park. The activities reported were:
 - Walking
 - Walking dog/letting dog run
 - Enjoying nature
 - Flying remote control airplane
 - Exploring
 - Hiking through wooded area
 - Picking apples or berries
 - Climbing trees
 - Playing soccer
 - Looking around
 - Running around and playing
 - Picnicking
 - Relaxing
 - Reading
 - Sledding in the winter
 - Watching fireworks on the Fourth of July
 - Playing baseball

- Jogging
 - Using it as a cut through to access the Discovery Trail and SR 500
 - The remaining respondents (54) said that they had not visited the park for the following reasons:
 - Didn't know it was there
 - Not in a good location
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Question 3: Is there something special about this park as it is right now that you would like to keep during the upcoming park development process (i.e. trees, views, access points, etc.)?

- Some respondents did not answer this question.
 - Some respondents (14) said there was nothing in the park they wanted to preserve.
 - Respondents said they wished to preserve:
 - Existing access points from 39th Street, Petticoat Lane and 36th Avenue
 - Trees
 - Views
 - Native vegetation
 - Open field/openness
 - Place to let dogs run
 - Animal habitat areas
 - Rhododendrons
 - Large oak tree in field
 - The hill
 - Everything (don't develop it)
 - Peace and quiet
 - Canyon/gully area
 - Views from adjacent properties into the park
 - Parking
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Question 4: Do you have any concerns about this upcoming park development project?

- Some respondents did not answer this question.
- Some respondents (19) said they had no concerns.
- Most concerns identified by respondents involved safety and security:
 - Plant a dense vegetative screen along the northeast corner of the park next to the house with dogs that bark whenever anyone walks by (so the dogs can't see people walking into the park)
 - Concerned that a skate spot could attract criminals
 - 39th Street and Petticoat Lane are both too narrow to allow for any on-street parking, drop offs or any increased traffic levels resulting from the park development
 - Concerned the park development will attract people from outside the neighborhood
 - Concerned the park will attract gangs, drugs, vandalism, alcohol, vagrants/homeless camps, etc.

- Concerned about after hours use of the park – need regular security patrols at night
 - Remove low shrubs and other hiding places to improve safety
 - Concerned about unsupervised children using the park
 - Provide a safer alternative to Swift Skate Park for skateboarders here
 - Make the park more open and visible to keep it safe
 - Design the park so homeless people won't want to camp here
 - Ensure the safety of any playground equipment
 - People drive too fast on 39th Street, which will create safety problems for people walking to the park
 - Light the park at night so criminals won't hang around
 - Add sidewalks to 39th Street and other access roads to the park to ensure safety
 - Prevent children from running into the road while coming and going from the park
 - The park is too isolated and will attract crime
 - Concerned that the park will put a strain on the local police force
 - Concerned that homeless people living along Discovery Trail and in Leverich Park may be attracted to this park, and make it unsafe
- Other general issues and concerns raised included:
 - Property taxes will increase
 - Do not overdevelop it
 - Want the park to remain quiet and peaceful – no skateboarding or sports courts
 - Don't put active play areas in the park – there are already places like that available at the school
 - Concerned that the park won't be handicapped accessible (tables, trails, playground, etc.)
 - Concerned that immediately adjacent neighbors will lose their peaceful view of nature
 - Don't use too much hard surfacing (concrete and asphalt) – keep it natural
 - Don't provide any parking spaces or lots, so the park will only be used by neighbors
 - Use the money to improve other existing parks in this area instead (Leverich, Waterworks, Evergreen, etc.)
 - Provide a bridge over SR 500 so people living on the south side of SR 500 can get to the park
 - Concerned that the park won't be maintained to an appropriate level
 - Keep it environmentally friendly
 - Concerned about where people will park when they visit the park (not everyone can, or will, walk)
 - Concerned about increased litter
 - Concerned that the playground will look like all the other parks in town – make it unique
 - The pristine nature of the area and wildlife habitat will be destroyed with increased use of the park
 - Concerned that it will be a park only for teens or sports – make it family friendly
 - Don't concentrate the development on the northeast side of the park only – there are more children on the south side
 - Concerned about noise levels for adjacent neighbors – especially if a basketball court or skate spot is included
 - Concerned that people will continue to leave dog waste in the park
 - Concerned that any structures and equipment will be vandalized or destroyed repeatedly, driving up the cost of maintenance
 - Do not allow on-street parking on 39th Street
 - Keep entrances narrow to prevent off-road vehicle access
 - Concerned about the creek filling with sediment over time and flooding neighbors' properties

Question 5: Do you have any other comments to share about this project?

- Some respondents did not answer this question, or said they didn't have any other comments.
- Some respondents (26) expressed excitement about the park development.
- Summary of general comments:
 - Install speed bumps on 39th Street to curtail speeding past the park (people use it as a shortcut between St. Johns Road and Falk Road/42nd Avenue)
 - This is an older, established neighborhood. We don't need playgrounds, basketball courts or skate spots for children (and there is a playground at the school five blocks away already)
 - Provide a couple of on-street parking slots for handicapped use
 - Deter homeless camps in the forested areas
 - Great location
 - Provide limited access to the forested areas and canyon with trails
 - It's not safe for kids to walk to Truman Elementary School – this would be a great alternative
 - Plant only native trees and shrubs
 - Connect the trail in the park to the Discovery/Burnt Bridge Creek trail
 - Fence off the canyon/creek area so children don't fall in
 - Please work directly with immediately adjacent neighbors on privacy and noise screening
 - Keep it simple
 - Keep as many trees as possible
 - Keep it natural and low maintenance
 - Keep it safe
 - Leave it alone and just protect what's there
 - Remove the ivy that is spreading to neighboring houses on the northwest side of the park (canyon area)
 - Create a dense vegetation barrier in the wooded area to prevent homeless camps (holly and Oregon grape)
 - Don't use bright colors on the playground equipment – use colors that blend in with nature
 - Include screening and privacy plantings for neighbors if the active play areas all go in the northeast field
 - Build it as soon as possible
 - Locate active play areas as far away from neighbors as possible
 - Locate a skate spot next to Petticoat Lane
 - Add more trees to help block out noise from SR 500
 - The climbing structure at St. James Park on 49th Street was a big hit - include something like that
 - Provide an access from 38th Street
 - Maintain and/or restore the features that make it useful as a part of a wildlife corridor and flyway habitat – naturescape as much as possible
 - Allow horseback riding through the park so riders can connect to Discovery Trail without having to ride on St. Johns Road
 - Add steps to the access from 39th Street – it's steep and gets quite muddy
 - Ensure police have quick and easy access
 - No motor vehicle access
 - Provide better access to the stream without impacting habitat too much
 - Limit access to the forested canyon area to protect wildlife habitat
 - Remove the nightshade from the park
 - Do not allow dogs off the leash

- Don't cut down the old cherry tree or the big oak tree
- Please change the name of the park. Suggestions:
 - Panorama Park
 - Klein Park (after family who lived in the neighborhood for many years)
 - Curtin Park (after family who lived in area for many years)
- Specific park features respondents asked be included in the park:
 - Lighting
 - Small covered picnic area for shade and rain protection
 - BBQ stands like what's at Vancouver Lake Regional Park
 - Covered BBQ area
 - Wheelchair accessible trails, playground equipment, tables, etc.
 - Informational signs/labels to trees including names, ages, description, etc.
 - Picnic tables near or under trees for shade
 - 1 or 2-acre fenced off-leash dog park with benches
 - Swings
 - Large slides
 - Restrooms
 - Level open field with a backstop and soccer goal for practice
 - Bike racks
 - Nature walk/education areas featuring different types of native plants and trees
 - Tennis courts (lighted and with a basketball hoop attached)
 - Soccer field/goal
 - Playground
 - Biking area
 - Consider including an on-site caretaker residence like at Leverich Park
 - Surveillance cameras
 - Nature trails through the forested area
 - Wheelchair accessible path through canyon area with necessary wooden bridges/pathways
 - Parking lot
 - Winding trail between 39th Street and Petticoat Lane
 - Water feature (like at Esther Short Park)

END