



proud past, promising future

Chinook Neighborhood Park Public Comment Form Summary

Comment Period: March 2007

Number of Comment Forms Mailed Out: 2,218
Total Returned: 330
Return Rate: 15%

Please note that this is a summary of the comments received and is not intended to present a verbatim transcription 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 typical neighborhood park elements are to you.

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important	Don't Know/ No Opinion
a) Walking and biking trails	267 (87%)	31 (10%)	8 (3%)	0
b) Open grassy fields for playing catch, touch football, Frisbee, etc.	134 (45%)	98 (33%)	58 (20%)	6 (2%)
c) Additional trees, landscaping and other habitat enhancement	137 (46%)	114 (38%)	36 (12%)	14 (4%)
d) Screening and privacy plantings for adjacent neighbors	126 (41%)	109 (36%)	49 (16%)	20 (7%)
e) Playground equipment	143 (49%)	92 (31%)	51 (17%)	9 (3%)
f) Small basketball court or sport court (less than half-court size)	58 (20%)	88 (30%)	137 (46%)	12 (4%)
g) Small skateboarding spot (1,500 square feet or smaller)	37 (12%)	55 (19%)	176 (60%)	26 (9%)
h) Picnic tables	133 (44%)	124 (41%)	43 (14%)	1 (>1%)
i) Park benches/seating areas	195 (62%)	106 (34%)	11 (4%)	0
j) Nature and wildlife education elements (signs, functional art, etc.)	91 (31%)	102 (34%)	93 (31%)	12 (4%)

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 (over 50%)

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| 1. Walking and biking trails | 87% |
| 2. Park benches/seating areas | 62% |

“Very Important” AND “Somewhat Important” selected (over 50%)

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| 1. Walking and biking trails | 97% |
| 2. Park benches/seating areas | 96% |
| 3. Picnic tables | 85% |
| 4. Additional trees, landscaping & habitat enhancement | 84% |
| 5. Playground equipment | 80% |
| 6. Open grassy fields | 78% |
| 7. Screening planting for adjacent neighbors | 77% |
| 8. Nature and wildlife education elements | 65% |
| 9. Small basketball or sports court | 50% |

- The least important feature was the small skateboarding spot (60% selecting “Not Important”).
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Question 2: How often do you currently visit this park? What do you do when you're there?

- Some respondents did not answer this question.
- Some respondents thought we were asking about another currently developed park, like Whipple Creek Regional Park or HB Fuller Park; or thought we were asking how often they'd visit **if** the park were already developed and what they'd prefer to do there.
- Approximately 125 respondents stated that they had never visited the park, because:
 - They didn't know it existed.
 - It's not developed yet.
 - There's no access.
 - It's too overgrown.
 - Go to HB Fuller Park, Salmon Creek Park, Felida Park or Whipple Creek Park instead.
- Those who said they had visited the park engaged in the following activities:

○ Walking	○ Read
○ Walking dogs	○ Explore woods
○ Observe and enjoy wildlife and nature	○ Pick blackberries
○ Play with children	○ Picnic
○ Ride bicycles	○ Jog
○ Play in the “the swamp”	○ Play lette (airsoft paintball)
○ Play catch	
○ Play Frisbee	

Question 3: Are pedestrians currently using this park? If so, where do they enter and exit the park? Where are they going?

- Some respondents did not answer this question.
- The majority of respondents said they didn't know if any pedestrians were using the park.
- Those who said that pedestrians are using the park listed the following access points:
 - 10th Avenue from the south
 - 11th Avenue near the creek
 - 7th Place (footbridge)
 - Near 139th Street
 - 8th Avenue and 142nd Street
 - 146th Street
 - East side of Salmon Creek Meadows at 142nd Street
 - 143rd Street east of 9th Avenue
 - From bridge to 142nd Street
 - Some are cutting through private property
- The main destination listed was to and from the Skyview High School complex.

Question 4: Is there something special about this park that you would like to preserve during the upcoming park development process?

- Some respondents did not answer this question.
- The items respondents wished to preserve were:
 - Trees (do not clearcut)
 - The footbridge at 7th Place
 - The creek
 - Wildlife habitat
 - The Conservation Covenant along the creek
 - Blackberry bushes
 - Natural terrain
 - Privacy of immediately adjacent neighbors
 - Trees planted by Alki Middle School students as part of a Whipple Creek preservation project
 - Tranquility
 - Views
 - Waterfalls
 - Wetlands

Question 5: Do you know the history of this property? Does this property have any special or historical significance to the area?

- Some respondents did not answer this question.

- More than half of those who responded (175) said they did not know the history of the property.
 - Some respondents expressed an interest in learning about the history if we could find anything out.
 - The comments we did receive about the history of the property included:
 - It's a natural area
 - It's a wetland area
 - It's an important wildlife habitat area
 - There's a Conservation Covenant along the creek
 - It used to be farmland and pastureland
 - It used to be a cattle ranch
 - It was the site of the Weake Dairy Farm
 - It's a watershed
 - It's a greenbelt
 - Residents used to skate the pond in the wetland area in the winter when it froze over
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Question 6: Do you have any concerns about this upcoming park development project?

- Some respondents did not answer this question.
- Approximately 55 of the respondents said they had no concerns.
- General summary of issues and concerns identified:
 - Keep it natural / leave it alone
 - Negatively impacting the creek, wetlands or wildlife
 - Variety concerns about development driving wildlife (including coyotes) into neighborhoods or elsewhere
 - Too much clearing near creek will damage ecosystem
 - Preserving the trees
 - Inadequate access for surrounding neighborhoods
 - Prevent access from Skyview High School so teens cutting class won't use park as a hangout
 - Impacts from construction and development to immediately adjacent neighbors
 - Preserving privacy and quiet
 - Develop a "good neighbor" policy with regards to keeping active play areas/trails away from adjacent homes.
 - Additional traffic on neighborhood streets during construction and after park is developed
 - Don't allow on-street parking in neighborhoods
 - Providing off-street parking for visitors
 - Safety of children and seniors
 - Don't put in any ballfields – that's what HB Fuller is for
 - Park development attracting crime, drug dealing, vandalism and homeless camps
 - Put noise restrictions in place
 - People coming from far away to use the park
 - Be sure to enforce the leash law
 - Not enough visibility. Heavily forested areas provide too many hiding places
 - Need a long-term commitment to maintenance of the park
 - Prevent access by off road vehicles

- Don't charge park entry fees
- Don't break the Conservation Covenant along Whipple Creek
- It will become an attractive nuisance
- Remove non-native invasive plant species
- Minimize use of chemical fertilizer and weed killers
- No lighting at night
- Include lighting for safety
- No basketball or skateboarding areas – they attract crime
- Make sure the Sheriff's Office patrols the park regularly
- Keep traffic out of Grand Haven and Southwind neighborhoods
- HB Fuller Park was supposed to be a public park, but it isn't (fenced off for specific uses). Don't let this happen here.

Question 7: 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.
- Approximately 50 respondents expressed excitement that the park was being developed.
- Summary of general comments:
 - Include access to the park from 148th Street area
 - Don't include bike trails because ruts will create erosion problems
 - Don't allow on-street parking on 7th Place
 - Make sure park is well maintained
 - Provide activities for older children (basketball and skateboarding), but locate them away from family areas
 - This is a waste of money – only a limited number of people will use it.
 - Need active play areas for children to burn energy (playground, fields for playing catch, football, etc., basketball courts or skateboarding spots)
 - Use money to improve other nearby existing parks instead
 - No horses on trails
 - If you can't address parking and access issues, the project will be a waste of time and money
 - Include access from 149th through to Skyview High School
 - Clear out blackberries to create more open space under the trees
 - Include access from 11th Avenue
 - Fence the park
- Additional park features respondents asked be included in the park:
 - Parking (many requests)
 - Lighting
 - Fenced off-leash dog park (10 requests)
 - Horseshoe pits
 - Equestrian trail
 - Play structure / large play structure for multiple age groups
 - Grassy area for informal soccer and football games
 - Put playground under trees for shade
 - Restrooms
 - Emergency call boxes

- Access to the creek
- Include a labyrinth design in any open areas (grass, stone or paint)
- Include places to sit and rest in the shade
- Add a second pedestrian bridge across the creek at 11th Avenue
- Drinking fountains
- Covered picnic area for BBQs or parties
- Large skate park
- Mile markers on trails
- Sandbox
- Swings
- Tennis courts
- Lots of garbage cans
- Space to play lette (airsoft paintballing)
- Use soft surface paths instead of asphalt or concrete
- Don't duplicate playground equipment used commonly by area schools – be imaginative

END