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Chinook Neighborhood Park Draft Concept Plans Comment Summary

Comment Period: Jan. 25-Feb. 9, 2011

Please note that this is a summary of the verbal and written comments from the Jan. 25, 2011 public meeting, the written comments submitted through the project Web page Jan. 26-Feb. 9, 2011 and verbal comments gathered by the [North Salmon Creek Neighborhood Association](#) through door-to-door canvassing during the first week of February 2011.

This summary reflects a range of opinions, and is not intended to present a word-for-word transcript. To view the hard copies of all the comment forms, please contact Jilayne Jordan at (360) 397-6118 ext. 4949.

Staff presented two preliminary concept plans to neighbors for input:

- o [Rounded Concept](#)
- o [River Concept](#)

An updated draft concept plan for the park will be developed based on neighborhood input, program needs, project funding and site requirements.

Summary 1: Jan. 25, 2011 public meeting

Most of the discussion at this meeting focused on whether or not to include a skateboarding/BMX feature in this park and on neighbors' concerns about traffic and parking problems on residential roads.

Skateboarding/BMX Feature: Clark County will not locate a skateboarding/BMX feature in Chinook Neighborhood Park for the reasons explained in the [Answers to Common Questions handout](#), which has also been posted on the Web page. [Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation](#) is working with the North Salmon Creek Neighborhood Association to try and find a more suitable location for this type of activity elsewhere in the Salmon Creek area.

Parking and Traffic: Chinook Neighborhood Park is being designed for neighbors who live within walking or biking distance of it. It is not meant to be a large "destination" park, like [Felida](#) or [Fairgrounds](#) community parks. There will be no signs posted on 139th or 149th streets directing cars to the park and, beyond a Web page, the park will not be promoted as a major outdoor destination to the general public. However, there will be some people who live within the neighborhood served by this park who choose to drive to the park for various reasons (e.g. they are disabled or have very small children who can't walk more than a block or two).

A traffic study indicates that, on average, two cars may be parked on one or both of the adjacent roads (NW 7th Court and NW 142nd Street) at any given time during the park's operating hours. These are both public roads and cars are legally allowed to park on them unless they create a safety hazard or are completely blocking residents' driveways, in which case the [Clark County Sheriff's Office](#) may be contacted.

Parking and increased traffic has not been a problem at most of the 20 neighborhood parks the county has built since 2005. The only exceptions have been parks with very large open lawn areas that attract organized sports groups, and parks with skateboarding/BMX "spots" that attract users from outside the neighborhood. Neither of these features is proposed at this park.

Other comments from the public meeting:

- Consider blocking vehicle access to the emergency turnaround on NW 142nd Street to prevent parking.
- The River Concept appears to be more for adults than for children.
- Need a safe place for children to play, out of the streets.
- Combine the natural features in the River Concept with some of the more traditional features in the Rounded Concept.
- Provide something for teenagers to do in this park.
- Don't overdevelop the park. Protecting the wildlife habitat is very important.
- Already have playgrounds and sports fields in this neighborhood. Don't duplicate what's already available. Provide something different.
- Don't clear all the underbrush and vegetation from the park – it creates a natural noise buffer.
- Provide crosswalks on NW 149th Street at 2nd, 7th and 11th avenues to improve pedestrian safety.
- Consider including a small woodchip trail along the creek from east to west.
- Identify the location of the existing conservation covenant area on the plan.
- Include a placeholder for a covered picnic shelter that the neighborhood can fundraise for.
- Provide some environmental education elements in the park – signs, etc.

Summary 2: The county's written comment form

Neighbors submitted 52 comment forms about the two draft concept plans. Staff also received formal letters from two different groups of neighbors living immediately adjacent to the park.

More respondents said they preferred the River Concept to the Rounded Concept. However, there were also a number of requests to combine elements of both plans together (i.e. replace sand play area with the labyrinth, add a more traditional playground to the River Concept, etc.).

The Rounded Concept

Likes:

- The traditional playground
- The benches
- The bottom half
- The labyrinth
- Shape of the walkway
- The location of the playground on the south side
- The wider, safer walkway

- Open lawn areas
- Picnic area
- Preservation of the trees and vegetation
- No parking lot
- Bike rack
- The whole thing
- No skateboarding/BMX feature
- The openness/improved visibility through the park
- Viewing area on the north side
- Swings
- Great for younger children
- The traditional look/feel
- That it doesn't provide things that will attract teenagers
- The unirrigated lawn area
- The minimal amount of development
- No dog park

Dislikes:

- The paved trail
- The traditional playground/play structures – keep it natural
- Open lawn areas – not needed
- Concerned the playground could become a target for vandalism because of the low visibility to and through the park
- Too invasive/developed
- The playground is too isolated – move it to the viewing area on the north side of the park
- The labyrinth is too close to adjacent homes
- Picnic tables – picnicking brings more litter problems
- Put the labyrinth on the opposite side of the trail, away from homes
- Very generic - looks like every other park
- Playground is too small
- No basketball court
- No skateboarding/BMX feature
- Not enough benches
- Would prefer a woodchip or gravel trail
- Not enough natural landscaping/"naturescaping"
- No environmental education opportunities
- No need for a playground with H.B. Fuller Co. Park nearby
- Loss of peace and quiet
- Too much pavement
- Emergency vehicle turnaround on NW 142nd Street
- Removal of any trees and underbrush/wildlife habitat
- Benches
- Any sort of formal play or gathering areas that will attract visitors
- Too secluded – will attract crime and become a place to hang out and party
- Not enough open lawn area for playing pick-up games, catch, etc.
- Nothing provided for older children/teens
- Add the secondary soft-surface trail from the River Concept

- Minimize the playground and instead maximize the walking paths (add more)
- Not enough picnic tables

The River Concept

Liked:

- The top half
- The entire thing – prefer a more natural feel in the park
- The reduced amount of development/impact
- The focus on imaginative play in nature
- The secondary soft-surface trail on the south side
- The wider, safer walkway
- The natural play features
- Preservation of trees and vegetation
- Picnic area
- The river theme along the trail
- The peaceful and relaxing nature of the design
- No skateboarding/BMX feature
- The location of the trail away from adjacent homes
- It fits in better with its surroundings
- Grass islands
- More natural
- Least invasive
- Looks cheaper to maintain
- Pervious concrete paving option
- No asphalt
- Make sure secondary soft-surface trail is handicapped accessible
- Stamped concrete or exposed aggregate paving options – make sure it's water permeable
- Extend the soft-surface trail

Disliked:

- The lack of traditional playground equipment
- Concerned about the sand play feature – it may become unsanitary or messy
- The paved trail – keep it all soft-surface
- Open lawn areas – not needed
- Add swings
- Emergency vehicle turnaround on NW 142nd Street
- Removal of any trees and underbrush/wildlife habitat
- Picnic tables and benches
- Any sort of play or gathering areas that will attract people
- Not enough open lawn area
- Maximize the greenspace near the creek by moving all benches, picnic tables, etc. to the south near the playground
- Include more picnic tables
- Concerned that the log and rock features will get abused by kids on bikes using them as jumps
- Add a water slide

- Move the natural play area further away from adjacent homes
- Move the play areas to the open area on the north side of the park to reduce noise issues
- Make the natural play areas bigger
- Too enclosed
- No skateboarding/BMX feature
- Not enough for children to do
- Just a glorified (and expensive) walking path
- The pavement options are not bike friendly
- Include signs with the names of trees, plants and birds
- Secondary soft-surface walking trail is not needed
- No basketball court
- Need to provide something to climb and swing on
- Pavement options sound excessive – just use the cheapest option and use the money saved on adding some playground equipment
- Shift all developed features (e.g. picnic tables, benches, nature play areas) to the east side of the trail, away from homes
- Doesn't remove enough vegetation (for improved visibility)

Other general comments:

- Combine traditional playground equipment with natural play features
- Like the labyrinth in the Rounded Concept, but would prefer playground equipment over it
- Include a covered picnic shelter
- Provide more equipment than what is at Raspberry Fields or Vista Meadows parks
- Use natural colors for the playground equipment (browns and greens)
- Like that the greenway and habitat areas will be preserved
- Garbage cans and bike racks are important
- Need restrooms and parking
- Restrict parking in the emergency turnaround area at the end of NW 142nd Street for maintenance/emergency vehicles only
- Provide dog waste bag dispensers
- Don't develop it if it's going to bring additional traffic and require an emergency turnaround on NW 142nd Street
- Restrict on-street parking to residents only during daylight hours/permit parking only
- Don't need this park development because H.B. Fuller Co. Park is so close
- Put language in the plan about the county's intent to keep the adjacent greenways natural and undeveloped
- Any playground features should be made from wood and other natural materials, not plastic
- Minimize development and maintenance costs
- Would like a pedestrian path connecting H.B. Fuller Co. Park to this park
- Keep the blackberry bushes
- Post signage prohibiting bicycle and skateboard use of the park
- Looking forward to the area becoming more regularly used, so inappropriate uses might decrease
- Trade the sand play feature in the River Concept for the labyrinth in the Rounded Concept
- Include low-level lighting along the main walking path
- Paved paths will encourage skateboarders and bicyclists to travel through the park at high speeds, creating a dangerous situation for pedestrians and other park visitors

- Consider providing permit-only parking for neighbors on the adjacent roads to discourage parking
- Concerned that removal of the underbrush and trees from the park will allow noise from the adjacent industrial/commercial site (Ariel Truss Company) to reach neighbors. Please keep screening plants, hedges or trees along the eastern property line
- Ensure regular maintenance of the park and adjacent roads
- Design the labyrinth using natural stone and vegetation, not colored concrete or pavement
- Blend a play structure with climbing and swinging options, a labyrinth, logs, boulders and a soft-surface walking trail into one
- The opinions of immediately adjacent neighbors should have more weight than those who will not be directly impacted by how the park is developed and used (e.g. noise, litter, parking, home values, etc.)
- Put more space between the walkway, benches and picnic tables and the adjacent neighbors – shift everything further to the east
- Limit after-hours use (suggested park hours: 7 a.m.-9 p.m.)

N. Salmon Creek Neighborhood Association canvassing

During the first week of February, a number of local youth and adults volunteered to go door-to-door in the neighborhood to invite comments about the park development plans. The volunteers used a shorter comment form developed by the neighborhood association as part of this effort. Neighbors were invited to 1.) choose which draft concept plan they liked best, 2.) vote on which park features they would like to see added to the park plan through neighborhood fundraising and donations, and 3.) provide any additional comments.

A total of 263 comment forms were collected by the volunteers. The following is a summary of those results:

Preferred Draft Concept Plan

Rounded Concept: 165
 River Concept: 15
 No Preference: 83

Additional Park Features (to add to the park through community fundraising/donations)

BMX/Skate: 206*
 Basketball Court: 143
 Covered Picnic Area: 129
 Additional Benches: 124

** As stated previously, the county will not include a skateboarding or BMX feature in the concept plan for Chinook Neighborhood Park. The neighborhood association is currently working with Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation to find a different location for this feature.*

Additional Comments:

- Provide more playground equipment
- Include a climbing structure and swings in the playground
- Provide more features for older children
- Provide a BMX feature to help get kids out of the street
- Provide an off-leash dog park
- Provide astro-turf area for golfing
- Keep it natural

- Ensure the park is handicapped accessible
- Provide restrooms
- Provide drinking fountains
- Provide dog waste stations
- Protect habitat buffers
- Provide a putting green
- Make it happen
- Build something we don't already have in this neighborhood, like a skateboarding or BMX area
- Provide a sprinkler water feature in the summer
- Provide lots of swings
- Provide a safe place for skating and BMXing
- Provide a basketball court
- Fence the property
- Provide lighting
- Provide bicycle paths
- Need a skateboarding park in this area, but not at this park
- Don't build a skateboarding feature
- Provide a mountain bike trail
- Provide a paved trail
- Provide more full-sized soccer fields in this area
- Provide a walking path along the creek with a direct connection to Skyview High School

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