



proud past, promising future

Covington Neighborhood Park Public Comment Form Summary

Comment Period: May 6-25, 2009

Number of Comment Forms Mailed Out: 1,126
Total Returned: 135 (128 paper; 7 electronic)
Overall Return Rate: 12%

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	75 (58%)	32 (25%)	18 (14%)	4 (3%)
b) Open grassy fields for playing catch, touch football, Frisbee, etc.	76 (60%)	39 (31%)	11 (8%)	1 (1%)
c) Additional trees, landscaping, etc.	51 (41%)	42 (34%)	26 (21%)	5 (4%)
d) Screening and privacy plantings for adjacent neighbors	28 (23%)	30 (25%)	50 (41%)	13 (11%)
e) Playground equipment	78 (60%)	31 (24%)	18 (14%)	2 (2%)
f) Basketball half court/sport court	50 (40%)	36 (29%)	34 (27%)	5 (4%)
g) Picnic tables	64 (50%)	40 (41%)	22 (17%)	2 (2%)
h) Park benches/seating areas	87 (67%)	27 (21%)	14 (11%)	1 (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. Park benches/seating areas	67%
2. Playground equipment	60%
3. Open grassy fields	60%
4. Picnic tables	50%

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

1. Open grassy fields	91%
2. Picnic tables	91%
3. Park benches/seating areas	88%
4. Playground equipment	84%
5. Walking and biking trails	83%
6. Additional trees and landscaping	75%
7. Sports court	69%

- The least support was for screening and privacy plantings for adjacent neighbors (41% selecting “Not Important”).
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Question 2: Have you ever visited Covington Neighborhood Park before? If you answered “Yes”, what did you do there?

YES: 94 (73%)

NO: 34 (27%)

- Respondents said they engaged in the following activities:
 - Walk
 - Walk the dog
 - Play football, baseball or soccer
 - Ride bikes
 - Picnic
 - Fly kites
 - Played with remote-controlled flying toys
 - Picked up trash
 - Let children play or played with children/grandchildren
 - Family events
 - Play Frisbee
 - Caught butterflies
 - Play croquet
 - Play tag
 - Explored
 - Sit and relax
 - Play fetch with dogs
 - Sat under a tree
 - Use as a shortcut between the neighborhoods or to the store
 - Enjoyed nature

- Lay out on a blanket
 - Run and play in the field
 - Those who hadn't been to the park gave the following reasons:
 - Didn't know it existed
 - There's nothing to do
 - It's undeveloped
 - Some respondents did not answer this question.
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Question 3: Is there something special about this property 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.
 - 18 respondents said there was nothing about the park they wanted to preserve.
 - Features that other respondents said they'd like to preserve included:
 - The existing trees (49 respondents)
 - The open area/grassy area
 - Access from the Fir Acres development
 - The lack of an official entrance from 94th Avenue
 - The shortcut between neighborhoods
 - The long perimeter around the park (for walking)
 - Ability to park at some of the entrances
 - Openness and visibility
 - Access points
 - Simplicity
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Question 4: Are there any special neighborhood events you would want to hold in this park after it's developed?

- Some respondents did not answer this question.
- 29 respondents said there were no special events or activities they'd want to hold in the park.
- 45 respondents said they would like to hold the following types of events and activities in the park:
 - Holiday events (Fourth of July, Easter, etc.)
 - Neighborhood potlucks or block parties
 - Birthday parties
 - Picnics
 - Barbeques

- Moms' group meetings
 - Children's play dates
 - Neighborhood association activities and meetings
 - Neighborhood pick-up sports games
 - Small concerts
 - Grand opening event
 - Dog agility
 - Neighborhood yard sale
 - Spring/summer activities for children
 - Political rallies
 - Fireworks
 - Family reunions or gatherings
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Question 5: Do you have any concerns about this upcoming park development project?

- Some respondents did not answer this question.
- Many concerns involved safety and security-related issues, including:
 - Don't locate active play features near NE 94th Avenue. It has too much traffic.
 - Fence the entire perimeter of the park to prevent children from running into the bordering streets.
 - Don't create places where people can hide. Keep it open and visible.
 - Don't include screening plantings for adjacent neighbors. This will reduce visibility in the park and make it less safe.
 - Include lighting to discourage people from hanging out in the park at night.
 - The park may bring more traffic to neighborhood roads.
 - There are several registered sex offenders living in this neighborhood. Please keep the park very open and visible.
 - The park may attract gangs, drug dealers and other crime.
 - Build a wall or large fence to keep kids from getting onto the freeway.
 - The park may attract transients.
 - The park may attract unsupervised teenagers.
 - The equipment, benches and tables may get vandalized.
 - Please put speed humps on 94th Avenue to help slow traffic down near the park.
 - Safety and congestion issues during construction.
 - Need to enforce the park hours.
 - Law enforcement needs to patrol the park at night.
 - Install a security camera.
 - Keep it safe and clean.
- Other concerns included:
 - Don't overdevelop it. Keep it simple.
 - It's inappropriate to invest in park development during the current economic crisis.
 - People who live north of 76th Street won't be able to safely access this park due to lack of sidewalks.
 - That the county won't be able to finish the project because of the economy.
 - Not enough neighbors will get involved in the park development process.
 - That people will park on the narrow streets next to the park if you don't provide ample parking.
 - Increased littering as a result of increased use.

- That dogs will not be accommodated in the park.
 - That there won't be enough playground equipment for everyone to use.
 - Concerned the people won't pick up after their dogs. Please post signs and enforce the scoop law.
 - Spend the budget wisely and stretch every dollar.
 - Concerned that the park will create too much noise for adjacent neighbors.
 - Don't want to lose the ability to run my dog off the leash in this park.
 - Skateboarding and basketball are too noisy for such a narrow park with so many immediately adjacent neighbors.
 - Don't provide parking. Keep this a walk-to park.
 - This park isn't needed and won't be used.
 - Don't let people run their dogs off the leash. Some people are scared of dogs.
 - That the park won't be well maintained.
 - That teenagers will be excluded from this park.
 - That the park will become a special interest park only. Provide something for everyone.
 - Concerned about immediately adjacent neighbors losing privacy and peace.
 - Concerned that the development will reduce property values for adjacent neighbors.
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Question 6: 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.
- Summary of general comments:
 - Very excited that this park will be developed.
 - Looking forward to it.
 - Invite neighbors and children to help with construction or planting to help create a sense of ownership.
 - Keep the park dog friendly.
 - Wait until the economy improves before building this project.
 - Please build another park north of NE 76th Street.
 - Make it family friendly.
 - Provide a full or half-size basketball court in this park, so neighbors can remove the hoops that are blocking sidewalks and streets nearby.
 - Looking forward to having a park within walking distance.
 - Make sure the county mows the park much more often than they do now, and that litter is picked up and not left to be shredded by the mowers.
 - Give the park a cohesive theme. Active use and passive use often don't coexist well.
 - Don't let the park be used by soccer clubs.
 - Change the park's name. Too many other things have "Covington" in the name around here.
 - Want the Sheriff's Office to patrol more often.
 - Install speed humps or other traffic calming devices on 94th Avenue in front of the park.
 - Use Sifton Neighborhood Park as a model for this park.
 - Leave it the way it is. Just add a few benches, a fountain and flowers.
 - Add more features to Orchards Park instead of building this park (sports fields, swimming pool, tennis courts, volleyball court, etc.).
 - Keep the park as natural as possible. It is home to many wild animals.
 - This project is a waste of money. Children can play at local schools or go to church instead.
 - Use rubber matting instead of wood chips in the playground.

- Plant more trees next to I-205 to help reduce noise.
 - Design the park for younger children to help prevent crime.
 - Use native plants for landscaping to attract animals and bugs.
 - Encourage neighborhood fundraising to enhance the park.
 - Don't think playground equipment will be used.
 - Like the playground structure and the paved walking/jogging trail at Esther Short Park.
 - Please provide something for older children.
 - Upgrade the fencing along 94th Avenue.
 - Don't add more trees and open space to the park.
 - Make sure the paths are ADA accessible.
- Specific features respondents asked be included in the park:
 - Playground equipment for all ages.
 - Dog waste bag dispensers.
 - Paved trail.
 - Tennis court.
 - Infant and regular swings.
 - A separate toddler play area.
 - Small skateboarding area.
 - Lots of benches so parents can watch their children play.
 - Picnic tables.
 - More trees and shaded areas.
 - A place to ride skateboards.
 - Swimming pool.
 - Walking path around the perimeter.
 - Lighting.
 - Small fenced dog park/dog run.
 - Baseball diamond or back stop.
 - Community garden (vegetable or roses).
 - No paved trails.
 - Restrooms.
 - Wall ball court.
 - Baseball field.
 - BBQ grills.
 - Water feature that children can play in.
 - Covered area with benches.

END