



proud past, promising future

# Covington Neighborhood Park

## Preliminary Concept Plans Comment Summary

Comment Period: July 7-15, 2009

This is a summary of the verbal and written comments from the July 7, 2009 public meeting, and the written comments submitted through the project Web page July 8-15, 2009. This summary reflects a range of opinions, and is not intended to present a word-for-word transcript. Comments about issues outside the scope of the park development project have been brought to the attention of the appropriate departments or agencies.

A proposed concept plan for the park will be developed based on neighborhood feedback, program needs, project funding and site requirements.

Staff presented four preliminary concept plans to neighbors for input:

- [Linear Concept Plan](#)
- [Mini Loop Concept Plan](#)
- [Interpretation Concept Plan](#)

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### Access:

- All the plans need to include ADA accessible paths from 90<sup>th</sup>, 91<sup>st</sup> and 92<sup>nd</sup> avenues.
- Like the multiple exits to side streets included in the Mini Loop Concept Plan.

### Trail Alignments:

- Prefer a longer walking-biking path.
- Concerned that the single path in the Linear Concept Plan may become too easily crowded with users.
- Prefer the pathway in the Mini Loop Concept Plan.
- Like the idea of a “track-like” loop for running, walking and strolling with multiple exits to side streets.
- Like the single path in the Linear Concept Plan. It provides more usable space within the park for other activities.
- Suggest modifying the curve of the path in the Linear Concept Plan to provide a larger open lawn area (stay to north or south side on half the property).
- Like that the winding path in the Linear Concept Plan helps make the area look less linear and narrow.
- Like the loop path in the Mini Loop Concept Plan, but would prefer it go the full length of the park.
- Like the loop path with benches in the Interpretation Concept Plan.
- Don't like that the loop path in the Interpretation Concept Plan seems to take up so much space.
- Prefer the walking path in the Interpretation Concept Plan.

**Playground:**

- Like the location of the playground in the Linear and Mini Loop concept plans.
- Like that the swings are located near the rest of the playground.
- Need adequate lighting at the playground to prevent problems.
- Don't like the layout of the playground in the Interpretation Concept Plan.
- Use rubber mats instead of wood chips in the playground.
- Would like to see a combination of natural and traditional playground equipment.
- Would prefer traditional playground equipment to the natural play experiences.
- Including natural play features would be a plus and may help keep the cost down.
- Suggest placing some natural play experiences around the park as anchor points, but also include traditional playground equipment in the central area.
- Don't use the same type of equipment that was installed at Orchards Community Park.
- Like the idea of log and sand play areas, but we also need swings.
- Like the nature concepts for the play area with a log playground, teeter totters, nature swings, and bird houses.
- Need swings and slides.

**Landscaping and Trees:**

- Keep existing trees trimmed to provide unobstructed views through the park.
- Like that the big trees are included in the Mini Loop Concept Plan.
- Add more trees to the west side of the park to help muffle the freeway noise.
- Love the idea of including edible plants and native plants that attract wildlife.
- Don't plant lots of tall trees. Would like to be able to fly kites here.
- Really like the naturescape idea.
- Put the natural play features where the existing trees are (east side of the park).
- Make sure landscaping doesn't create hiding places.

**Multi-Purpose Sports Court:**

- Like the small sports court in the Linear Concept Plan.
- Consider locating sports court on the west side of the property where it's already very noisy because of the freeway.
- Don't like that the sports court is missing from the Mini Loop and Interpretation concept plans.
- Include lighting around the sports court and/or skateboarding area to prevent problems.
- Add a combination sports court and skateboarding area to the west side of the park.
- Add a sports court to the center of the Interpretation Concept Plan, and a skateboarding area to the west side near I-205.
- A basketball court would be great. It would help get kids out of the streets.

**Other Park Amenities:**

- Please keep the existing post and cable fencing around the outside of the park. It adds character and will save money.
- A small picnic area is sufficient. Large family events should be held at Orchards Park instead.
- Put a small skateboarding area at the west end of the park.
- Don't use chain link fencing on this park.
- Love the large informal play field in the Interpretation Concept Plan.
- Don't include a skateboarding area.
- Like the picnic tables in the Linear Concept Plan, although a covered picnic area would be preferred.
- Please provide open lawn areas for soccer.

- Appreciate a drinking fountain being included.
- Add a concrete wall for wall ball or to hit a tennis ball against.
- Need a larger lawn area than what is provided in the Linear Concept Plan.
- An interpretive plaza is not necessary. It will be a target for vandalism/graffiti.
- Like the large informal play field in the Mini Loop Concept Plan. Lots of possibilities.
- Like the picnic area in the Interpretation Concept Plan.
- Add 2-3 picnic tables to the east end of the park.
- Don't include a baseball diamond.
- A covered picnic shelter would be great.
- Like the informal play field in the Interpretation Concept Plan.
- Like that 71<sup>st</sup> Street is shown as being improved in the Interpretation Concept Plan.
- Include a dog waste bag dispenser.
- A simple plaque instead of an interpretive center would be plenty.
- Providing a small skateboarding area will give kids a safer place to ride than in the streets.
- Include recycling bins along with garbage cans.
- Don't provide parking. Keep it a walk-to park.
- Concerned that a skateboarding area may attract people from out of the area who will park in driveways or block the narrow roads.
- Do not provide restrooms.
- Include field goals for football.
- Do not provide a baseball backstop.
- Would like to see a combination of the Linear and Interpretation concept plans.
- Like the plaza/kiosk in the Interpretation Concept Plan.
- Provide enough open lawn so children can play pick up football games.

#### **General:**

- Love the Linear Concept Plan.
- Excited about the "nature" additions.
- This will be a huge asset to this community.
- Don't like the Interpretation Concept Plan.
- Linear Concept Plan is an overall great concept. I wouldn't change anything.
- Add the interpretive space to the Linear Concept Plan.
- The east and west greens in the Linear Concept Plan will make nice picnic areas.
- The Mini Loop Concept Plan is my favorite.
- A natural setting can be found at Orchards Park. As a walk-to park, this park needs to provide more "scripted" activities for adults and children, like basketball.
- Provide interpretive/educational information about the area's history.
- Don't like that the west side of the park seems to be mostly unused in the Interpretation Concept Plan. Extend the path and add a sports court to this area.
- The Interpretation Concept Plan is boring.
- Don't like how the Interpretation Concept Plan accentuates the long, narrow shape of the park.
- Will visit this park daily unless it rains. Really looking forward to it.
- Keep the park as child-friendly as possible.
- Wonderful to see this park finally developed.
- Like the Interpretation Concept Plan the best.
- Turn west green in the Linear Concept Plan into a skateboarding area.
- Picnic tables are important.
- If you improve the streets, people will drive faster. Don't improve them.

- Lighting is very important to prevent criminal activities at night. We can't call the police to report them if we can't see them.
- Need a street light at the corner of 94<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 71<sup>st</sup> Street.
- Like the idea of a skateboarding spot, but am concerned that it might attract crime and make too much noise for adjacent neighbors.
- Concerned about people not cleaning up after their dogs. Please install signs and a dog waste bag dispenser.
- If the county doesn't have enough money to build everything next year, please consider building just a portion of what is planned at first (phase 1).

**Park Name Suggestions:**

- Keep it Covington Neighborhood Park. It's the name of the British family who originally settled here.
- Change it to Maple Tree Neighborhood Park. That is the actual name of this neighborhood.
- Tired of the name "Covington" on everything. Anything else would be better.
- Something that honors the Native American tribe(s) that lived here.

END