



proud past, promising future

Dogwood Neighborhood Park Public Comment Form Summary

Comment Period: Feb. 17-Mar. 5, 2010

Number of Comment Forms Mailed Out: 372
Total Returned: 80 (72 paper; 6 electronic)
Overall Return Rate: 22%

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	49 (63%)	16 (20%)	11 (14%)	2 (3%)
b) Open grassy fields for playing catch, touch football, Frisbee, etc.	48 (66%)	19 (26%)	6 (8%)	0 (0%)
c) Additional trees, landscaping, etc.	17 (23%)	24 (33%)	32 (44%)	0 (0%)
d) Screening and privacy plantings for adjacent neighbors	19 (25%)	20 (26%)	32 (42%)	5 (7%)
e) Playground equipment	45 (59%)	18 (24%)	12 (16%)	1 (1%)
f) Basketball half court, small sports court or skateboarding spot	15 (20%)	24 (32%)	34 (45%)	2 (3%)
g) Picnic tables	33 (42%)	34 (44%)	11 (14%)	0 (0%)
h) Park benches/seating areas	55 (71%)	20 (26%)	2 (3%)	0 (0%)

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%)

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|-------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Park benches/seating areas | 71% |
| 2. Open grassy fields | 66% |
| 3. Walking and biking trails | 63% |
| 4. Playground equipment | 59% |

- The least support was for the basketball half court, small sports court or skateboarding spot (45% selecting “Not Important”) and the additional trees and landscaping (44% selecting “Not Important”).
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Question 2: Have you ever visited this undeveloped park before? If you answered “Yes”, what did you do there?

YES: 57 (74%)

NO: 20 (26%)

- Respondents said they engaged in the following activities:
 - Picnicking
 - Walking
 - Playing Frisbee™
 - Letting dog run off-leash
 - Letting children run around
 - Playing games
 - Getting into water balloon fights and snowball fights
 - Flying model airplane
 - Playing fetch with dog
 - Playing catch
 - Climbing trees
 - Walking the dog on the leash
 - Exploring
 - Playing badminton, baseball, football, flag football and/or soccer
 - Playing in the snow
 - Taking photographs
 - Stargazing at night
 - Nothing because the grass was too high
 - Picking blackberries
 - Enjoying nature
 - Skiing in the snow
 - Watching the horses at the saddle club
 - Birdwatching (there are owls in the park)
 - Playing airsoft/paintball
 - Hanging out and relaxing
- Some respondents did not answer this question.

Question 3: Is there something special about this park you would like to preserve during the upcoming park development process (i.e. trees, views, access points)?

- Some respondents did not answer this question.
 - 5 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 (43 respondents)
 - Fences to keep children from running into the street
 - Open space on the east side for running and playing
 - Walking trails
 - Views
 - Access points
 - The natural feel
 - Everything (leave it the way it is now)
 - The tree with hole
 - Shady area on the west side
 - Limited parking so it remains a “walk-to” park
 - View of Mount St. Helens
 - All the dogwood trees, which are the park's namesake
 - Openness
 - Limited access
 - Access from Northwood Park development.
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Question 4: Are there any neighborhood events you would want to hold in this park after it's developed?

- Some respondents did not answer this question.
- 16 respondents said there were no special events or activities they'd want to hold in the park.
- The following types of events and activities were listed by some respondents:
 - Family reunions
 - Birthday parties
 - Cook outs/BBQs/potlucks
 - Neighborhood kickball games
 - Dachshund (dog) races
 - Easter egg hunts
 - Picnics
 - Walking the dog
 - Ultimate Frisbee™ games
 - Neighborhood fair or gathering
 - Football games
 - Basketball games

- Fireworks on Fourth of July
 - National Night Out events in August
 - Off-leash dog events
 - Walking groups for moms
 - Play dates for children
 - Practice baseball
 - Play horseshoes
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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 crime and safety and security-related issues, including:
 - Concerned about vicious dogs being allowed in the park, on or off the leash.
 - The park bringing a criminal element into the neighborhood.
 - Vagrants living in the park.
 - Teens currently hang out in the park and have caused some trouble in the neighborhood. Don't include any features that would encourage more teens to visit this park (i.e. sports court, skateboarding area, etc.).
 - Need privacy/screening plantings for neighbors along the north side of the park.
 - The new pedestrian access to the housing development on the north side is attracting a lot of rowdy teenagers who are disturbing the neighbors on either side.
 - Concerned about the park attracting gangs and sex offenders.
 - Vandalism.
 - Concerned that the park will attract more traffic to local roads. It is already dangerous to walk along these roads.
 - Please add sidewalks between 101st Street and the park.
 - Designate a bike lane along 124th Avenue en route to the park so bicyclists can access the park safely.
 - Extend sidewalks from 99th Street all the way to the park.
 - Build it soon. Children in this neighborhood need a safe place to run and play, ride bikes, etc.
 - That people will be in the park after hours.
 - Don't create hiding places with landscaping or equipment.
 - Concerned adjacent homes may become targets for crime.
 - If this is going to be a walk-to park, the county will need to install more sidewalks for safety.
- Other concerns included:
 - Would like to see a horse trail connect the park to the adjacent saddle club.
 - Do not remove any trees unless they present a danger to the public because they're diseased.
 - Plant new trees that will enhance the existing aesthetics of the park.
 - It is currently being used primarily as a dog park. Please include a small fenced off area for continued off-leash use.
 - Want to be able to use the park while it's under construction.
 - Need to include parking.
 - Tired of experiencing constant traffic delays in this area due to construction. Wait until the county finishes the projects on 99th St, 147th and 119th before starting this project.
 - Need a sidewalk in order to safely walk to the park.

- Don't want sports fields or activities that will attract a lot of people.
 - That people won't clean up after their dogs.
 - Keep the park quiet and family friendly. No skateboarding.
 - Worried that dogs won't be allowed off the leash.
 - Keep it a "walk-to" park by not providing parking.
 - That the park will change the "flavor" of the neighborhood.
 - Want the park to be mowed regularly, especially in the summer when the grass gets really long.
 - Locating a park this close to the rodeo venue is not a good idea.
 - Don't disturb the owls that live in the park.
 - Preserve natural feel and appearance.
 - Do not include an off-leash dog park here.
 - Don't locate park activities directly behind the houses on the north side.
 - Keep it easy to maintain.
 - That it will turn out to be another boring neighborhood park without anything interesting to attract visitors.
 - Separate park features designed for older children from those for younger children.
 - Additional traffic on 124th Avenue.
 - Don't want it to be overly groomed.
 - Keep the grass mowed and limb up the trees to let in more light.
 - Needs a pedestrian access point from the south.
 - No skateboarding spot.
 - Would prefer it stay the way it is (undeveloped).
 - It will only be minimally developed. Want it to be a full-service park with a variety of amenities.
- Funding for development:
 - The community doesn't have any money for it right now.
 - Would prefer this funding be used for law enforcement.

The capital funding used to design and build this park comes from two dedicated sources that may not be used for other purposes: park impact fees and real estate excise taxes. Park impact fees are paid by developers of new homes. Real estate excise taxes are collected whenever a home is sold in Clark County. The county currently has enough capital funding available to complete planning, design and permitting for this park project. Construction is scheduled to start in 2011, only if the necessary funding is available. If there isn't enough funding available from these dedicated sources in 2011, construction will be delayed.

Maintenance and operations of the park after construction will be funded by the Greater Clark Parks District. Voters in the unincorporated urban area of Clark County approved the formation of this special district in 2005. The property taxes collected by the district are also dedicated and may not be used for other purposes.

Question 6: Do you have any other comments about this project?

- Some respondents did not answer this question, or said they didn't have any other comments.
- Summary of general comments:
 - Provide something that will get skateboarders out of the street.
 - Looking forward to it.
 - Please hurry up and build it (this year if possible).
 - Please keep the park pet-friendly.
 - Avoid lots of concrete/asphalt surfaces, like sports courts, skate parks and parking lots.
 - Need to mow the grass more than three times a year.
 - Keep the design simple. Don't overdevelop it.
 - Make it fun for children.
 - Don't provide a skateboarding area.
 - Discourage bicycles in the park.
 - Create a combined playground and off-leash dog park.
 - Consider removing some of the trees so it doesn't provide hiding places for criminals.
 - Don't include the weird, contemporary playground equipment I've been seeing a lot of lately.
 - Make sure the swings are low enough to the ground that small children can get on with out adult assistance.
 - This project will be good for the neighborhood children and adults.
 - Don't make any changes. Leave it "as is."
 - Preserve the trees, but also provide as many amenities as possible.
 - Very excited.
 - Remove damaged or diseased trees so they don't become a hazard.
 - Don't allow dogs or horses in the park.
 - Keep the landscape simple and keep it as open and sunny as possible.
 - Keep the back of the park wooded and put a sports court or skate park next to the road.
 - Want to volunteer to help install playground equipment, tables and benches during construction.
 - Make this entire site a dog park.
 - Minimize additional traffic in the neighborhood by not including a parking lot.
 - Will use the park a lot.
 - Use this park development funding to improve safety at existing parks instead.
 - Minimize the amount of concrete/asphalt.
 - The previous property owner nurtured each of the trees by hand. Please preserve them as her legacy.
 - Name park for the Zeiler Family, who used to own it.
 - Property transfer deed requires at least 80% of the trees remain. It was very important to the Zeiler Family.
 - This will benefit the neighborhood.
 - Make sure the park and the features within it are accessible for people in wheelchairs.
 - Contact the Northwood Homeowners Association for volunteers, additional input or assistance with park operations.
- Specific features respondents asked be included in the park:
 - A field to play catch in.
 - Provide plenty of garbage cans to discourage littering.
 - Sidewalks.
 - Off-leash dog area.
 - Playground equipment for young children.
 - Covered area for when it's raining.

- Picnic tables under the trees for shade.
- A smoking area.
- Would prefer the tall swing sets to the shorter swing sets being installed in new parks recently (like what's at Lewisville Regional Park). Include at least four swings.
- Teeter-totter.
- Open lawn area for running and playing.
- Include community garden space and lease out 10' x 10' plots.
- All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) track.
- Paved walking/biking trails.
- More dogwood trees.
- Access point from 122nd Avenue.
- Adult fitness stations along a paved trail.
- Mile markers on trail.
- Dog waste disposal station(s) with bag dispenser.
- Picnic areas.
- Gazebo or covered picnic shelter with electrical outlets and running water.
- Restrooms.
- Locate benches in a variety of locations.
- Locate picnic tables in both sunny and shady spots.
- Woodchip trails.
- On-street parking.
- Community garden on the back half.
- More plants and shrubs (rhododendrons).
- Horseshoe pits.
- Swings.
- Basketball court.

END