



proud past, promising future

Fairgrounds Community Park Play Experiences Comment Summary

Comment Period: October 2007

Total Number of Comment Forms Received: 106

Please note that this is a summary of the comments received and is not intended to present a word-for-word transcript of all written comments. The unedited 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.

We asked respondents for the ages of any children in their care. The results are as follows:

answer options	Response Percent	Response Count
1-5 years	51.46%	53
6-10 years	40.78%	42
10+ years	50.49%	52

There were fewer children in the 6-10 age group represented, but the difference between all three age groups is very small. **Children of all ages may be using this playground.**

Play Experience Preferences

The majority of neighbors ranked all the listed play experiences 3 or higher. This shows that most neighbors thought that all the experiences were at least somewhat important.

When compared with each other, the following order of preference is seen (from Most Important to Least Important):

1. **Swinging** (41.41% chose "1 Most Important")
2. **Climbing** (36% chose "1 Most Important"; 37% chose "2")
3. **Sliding** (36% chose "1 Most Important"; 29% chose "2")
4. **Balancing** (30% chose "2")
5. TIE – **Hangin/Gliding** (32.33% chose "3") AND **Spinning** (32.33% chose "3")

Climbing

answer options	Response Percent	Response Count
1 Most Important	36.00%	36
2	37.00%	37
3	15.00%	15
4	8.00%	8
5 Least Important	4.00%	4

Swinging

answer options	Response Percent	Response Count
1 Most Important	41.41%	41
2	32.33%	32
3	20.20%	20
4	4.04%	4
5 Least Important	2.02%	2

Hanging / Gliding

answer options	Response Percent	Response Count
1 Most Important	22.22%	22
2	26.26%	26
3	32.33%	32
4	12.12%	12
5 Least Important	7.07%	7

Sliding

answer options	Response Percent	Response Count
1 Most Important	36.00%	36
2	29.00%	29
3	22.00%	22
4	8.00%	8
5 Least Important	5.00%	5

Spinning / Twisting / Rocking

answer options	Response Percent	Response Count
1 Most Important	10.10%	10
2	19.19%	19
3	32.33%	32
4	28.28%	28
5 Least Important	10.10%	10

Balancing

answer options	Response Percent	Response Count
1 Most Important	14.00%	14
2	30.00%	30
3	28.00%	28
4	24.00%	24
5 Least Important	4.00%	4

Other comments about the playground:

- Make sure the play area feels safe. No hiding places.
- Include a covered picnic shelter near the play area without walls.
- Include a security camera and emergency call box at the playground.
- Design play equipment so it blends in with the natural surroundings.
- Include equipment geared towards older children.
- Include a merry-go-round.
- Include a walkway around the play area, like at Felida Community Park. That way parents can get some exercise while keeping an eye on their children.
- Include swings for small children.
- Include high bars with lots of space between them.
- Include a bouncy bridge, a see-saw, fireman's pole, big tires, a tunnel, a tunnel slide and a graduated level climbing tower.
- Activities should focus on physical things children can do, rather than games like tic-tac-toe, etc. Provide equipment that challenges children physically and promotes motor skill development in a fun way.
- Locate picnic tables and trees for shade near play area.
- Use soft, rubber cushion surfacing instead of wood chips, gravel or sand.
- Make the play area all-weather by installing a roof over it.
- Include several toddler/infant swings. They are very popular.
- Avoid equipment that does not have bars, rails or walls all the way around for safety's sake.
- Please avoid tunnel slides. Some children like to hide in them, and other children run into them when they use the slide.
- Include low profile equipment that is close to the ground.

- Provide activities/equipment for toddlers.
- Like the playground at the park next to Snyder Field in Sherwood, Oregon. It's good for all ages. The climbing molecule and spinning seats are great.
- Use traditional equipment like what you find at schools. No futuristic play structures.
- The modern-looking equipment seen at some parks doesn't appeal to children under 3 years old, and looks dangerous.
- The play area should have easy access to nature (wetland trail, trees, water, etc.).
- Don't like the equipment at Vista Meadows Neighborhood Park. Preschoolers can't use it. Don't provide that kind of equipment here.
- Consider including natural, primitive areas that children can explore, and using natural materials like rocks and wood. The book "Last Child in the Woods" describes some great playground and park designs.
- Like the rubberized surfacing at the playgrounds at Washington Park and the Police Park on Mill Plain Boulevard. This kind of surfacing makes playgrounds safer and cleaner.
- Include tall swings for older children and adults.
- Include a climbing boulder.
- Provide lots of baby swings – that is a favorite activity for children who can't walk yet.
- Provide natural looking playgrounds with natural features, like the water feature at Esther Short Park.
- Design the park with two separate play areas, one for ages 0-6 and one for ages 7 and over.
- Include a sand and water play structure like the one in Tualatin, Oregon.
- Provide traditional equipment, like forts with bridges, slides and swings.
- Provide opportunities for more natural play where traditional equipment is integrated into the natural environment (slides built into hillsides, tunnels that replicate hollow logs and caves, tire swings, Tarzan swings, small bouldering climbing walls, obstacle courses, etc.).
- Please provide playground equipment that is accessible to children with disabilities.
- Please provide a wide variety of equipment and experiences. Don't do what everyone else is doing. Make this playground unique. Example: Couch Park near NW 23rd Street in Portland.
- Include a tall slide – you don't see those much anymore.
- Provide monkeybars, swings and climbing structures.
- Make sure the equipment appeals to preschool age children as they will most often use the playground.
- Interaction with nature should be encouraged at this park. Help children learn to appreciate the region's wildlife, etc.
- Include a play house of some sort.
- Include an art-type structure that can be used by all ages, like a tractor, fishing boat, etc.
- Salmon Creek Regional Park is a great example of how to design a park that provides a wide array of fun things for children to do.

Other general park comments not related to the playground:

- Need an outdoor roller hockey rink somewhere in Clark County.
- Please improve NW 11th Avenue to include a wider shoulder or sidewalk so neighbors can safely walk/bike to the park from the 149th Street area.
- Happy to see a skate park included in the design.
- Include soccer fields and walking trails.
- Provide safe, clean restrooms.
- Provide a wiffleball field.
- Provide an off-leash dog park.

- Include a bike path.
- Include open fields to run around and play volleyball in.
- Include a spray ground (water feature).
- Include a Frisbee golf area.
- Include drinking fountains.
- Include a skateboarding area.
- Include features that appeal to older children, adults and seniors.
- Allow dogs on the leash on the walking trails.
- Keep as many trees as possible.
- Provide adequate lighting to prevent the park from attracting criminal behavior at night.
- Need an indoor heated swimming pool in this part of the county. It would benefit a large number of residents, both young and old, all year round.
- Provide a place for bands to play like at Esther Short Park.
- Provide lots of benches.
- Make the park dog friendly.
- Provide an obstacle course and fitness trail for adults and teens.
- Make sure the park is well lit and highly visible, have the sheriff's office patrols frequently, and remove graffiti immediately.
- Please include sports fields.
- Don't like the skateboarding feature. There are enough of them in the area already and they attract bad behavior.
- Please provide bicycle access to the park from Tenny Road – perhaps through the Whipple Creek easement? Having greenbelt access from the Salmon Creek area to the new park would be a great way to connect these communities and provide sustainable access to area shopping.
- Please don't allow horses in this park. Whipple Creek Regional Park is right next door and already provides equestrian trails. Hiking on trails that allow horses is very difficult. Make this a hiking and walking park only.
- Provide a place where small children can ride bikes/tricycles.
- Provide rustic walking trails.
- Locate benches every ¼ to ½ mile along the walking trails for resting.
- Provide picnic tables in both shady and sunny places.

END