

# Fisher-Mill Plain Neighborhood Park Preliminary Concept Plans Comment Summary

Comment Period: October 16-26, 2008

Please note that this is a summary of the verbal and written comments from the October 16, 2008 public meeting, and the written comments submitted through the project Web page October 17-26, 2008. 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 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 three preliminary concept plans to neighbors for input:

- [Concept 1](#)
- [Concept 2](#)
- [Concept 3](#)

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## Property Sale Plan:

- Disagree that a neighborhood park should be limited by definition to 3-5 acres.
- Do not sell the southern three acres – this neighborhood does not have enough green space.
- Leave the southern three acres undeveloped if necessary, but don't sell it.
- Don't sell the southern three acres, and buy the privately owned acreage on the southeast corner of the park to increase the park's acreage and preserve greenspace.

## Access:

- Like that there are two entrances from NE 172<sup>nd</sup> Avenue in all three concepts. This is very important.
- Don't include paved access to the church property. It will create traffic, parking and litter problems for them.
- In concepts 2 and 3, allow for future access from the south side of the loop trail to the undeveloped property to the south.
- Install a painted pedestrian crosswalk on NE 172<sup>nd</sup> Avenue between Fourth and Fifth streets.
- Install a pedestrian signal with flashing lights.

**Trail Alignments:**

- Make the trails soft-surface instead of asphalt. Asphalt will get slippery with moss and lichens in this park because of the number of trees.
- Do not include a paved trail to the church property. It's not necessary and may invite people to park in their parking lot.
- Don't think there are enough walking trails in Concept 1. Like the double loop walking trail configurations in Concept 2 and 3 better.
- Like the paved trail connection to the church property in Concept 2.
- Like the double loop trail in Concept 2. Including lots of trails for walking and biking are important.
- Fund the full double loop trail in Concept 3. It is more important than the picnic area and concrete plaza.
- Please include fitness stations around the trail.
- The walking paths in all three concepts are very important. Many people walk and jog along NE 172<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, which is very dangerous. This would provide a safer place for this sort of activity in this neighborhood.
- Concept 1 needs more walking paths.
- Prefer a straight sidewalk along NE 172<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, like in concepts 1 and 3.
- Sidewalk along NE 172<sup>nd</sup> Avenue should be separated from the roadway, like in Concept 2.

**Playground:**

- Like the location of the playground in Concept 1.
- Make the playground space in Concept 1 larger and include more equipment.
- Fund all the playground equipment in Concept 2. It's more important than some of the other items.
- Like the playground in Concept 2.
- Include monkeybars in the park.
- Please include swings in the park.
- Include zip-line type gliders in the park. One that is short for smaller children and one that is tall for older children.
- Include slides.
- Include a hanging bar.
- Prefer the size of the playground in Concept 1 to the one in Concept 2.
- Don't like the playground location in Concept 3. It is too close to NE 172<sup>nd</sup> Avenue.
- Like the playground at LeRoy Haagen Memorial Community Park (NE 136<sup>th</sup> Avenue across from the WinCo).
- The playground equipment at Pacific Community Park seems to be more for older children. Include equipment at this park that is designed more for younger children.
- Don't use the same equipment that is at St. Helens Neighborhood Park.

**Landscaping and Trees:**

- Take the power lines into consideration when selecting trees to plant along NE 172<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. There have already been problems with the existing trees interfering with the power lines.
- Like the rain garden idea. Be sure to plant drought-resistant grasses and plants, though. The soil in this park drains really well.
- Don't cut down any trees. Preserve them for habitat. There are a number of birds who live in this park already.
- Plant street trees only on the east side of the sidewalk along NE 172<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. There are existing trees on the other side.
- Focus on planting trees that are native to the region.
- Do not need to plant many deciduous trees – there are already many, large trees in the park.

- Consider planting small deciduous trees, like Eddie's white wonder dogwood.
- Look at what Pierce County has done with rain gardens. They have some really nice examples.
- Fund the full double loop walking path in Concept 3. It is more important than the picnic area and concrete plaza.
- Focus on nature. Plant lots of new trees and save the existing trees.

#### **Skateboarding spot/basketball half court:**

- Don't need a skateboarding spot at this park. There is already one at Pacific Community Park at Gretchen Fraser Neighborhood Park next to the East Precinct.
- Don't like the basketball half court in Concept 1.
- Like the basketball half court in Concept 2.
- Fund the basketball half court in Concept 2. It is more important than some of the other items.
- Would prefer that the basketball half court be located closer to the playground, like in Concept 2.
- Don't like the skate spot in Concept 3.
- Like the skateboarding spot in Concept 3. The skate park at Pacific Community Park is too crowded. It's important to include something like this for local kids to use.
- Add a basketball court to Concept 3 and it would be perfect.
- Don't like the skateboarding spot on the east side of the park. Traffic noise is already very bad. We don't want anything that creates additional noise for across the street neighbors.
- Don't like the basketball court in Concept 1 and 2.

#### **Other Park Amenities:**

- Don't like the one lone picnic table on the west side of the property in Concept 1.
- Concept 1 needs at least one more picnic table.
- Need at least three picnic tables and 3-5 benches.
- Like the covered picnic area in Concept 3.
- Need more benches along the path in Concept 3.
- The events center and picnic shelter in Concept 3 are not necessary and would be used very little.
- Use the undeveloped three acres on the south side of the park for an off-leash dog park.
- Full sidewalks, clearly marked crosswalks and street lighting is needed for pedestrian safety.

#### **Park Name Suggestions:**

- Twin Peaks Neighborhood Park.
- Leave it Fisher-Mill Plain Neighborhood Park.
- 172<sup>nd</sup> Avenue Neighborhood Park.
- Name it Vandervort Neighborhood Park to honor local history.

#### **General:**

- The church on the north side of the park has been a great steward of this park. Please make sure to engage them in the discussion about this development and listen to what they'd like to see in the park.
- Like Concept 2 the best overall.
- Like how all the active play elements are clustered together in Concept 2.
- Lower the speed limit on NE 172<sup>nd</sup> Avenue to 40 mph so pedestrians can more safely cross the street to get to the park.
- Extend the sidewalk along NE 172<sup>nd</sup> Avenue south to Third Street.
- Like Concept 3 the best overall.

- Show how much additional money is needed for each of the unfunded items in the final plan, so neighbors can initiate fundraising activities or apply for grants.
- Like all three concepts.
- Concept 1 is a little boring.
- Lower and then enforce the speed limit on NE 172<sup>nd</sup> Avenue or install speed bumps.
- Like Concept 1 the best because it has minimal paving and emphasizes nature.
- Don't include any features that encourage kids to hang out in the park. They are noisy and destructive.
- Dislike Concept 3.
- Fill the sidewalk gaps on NE 172<sup>nd</sup> Avenue north of the park.
- Lower the speed limit on NE 172<sup>nd</sup> Avenue to match what it is north of NE 18<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Don't allow on-street parking, especially next to the church's driveway onto NE 172<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. Cars parked in this area make it difficult to pull out of the church's parking lot safely.

END