

Hazel Dell Sports Fields Fact Sheet

How will noise concerns be addressed?

Park activities will abide by all local codes and laws related to noise. The sports fields will not be in use before 8 a.m. or after 11 p.m. The county also plans to leave a vegetation buffer between the connector road and adjacent homes on the northwest and northern side of the park. Additional plantings will also be used to increase this buffer as needed.

Will the ball fields include lights for night games?

At least one of the fields will eventually include lights for night games. Any ball field lighting used at the park will be designed using the latest technology to minimize spill over to adjacent neighborhoods. In addition, an automatic timer will turn ball field lights off no later than 11 p.m.

This property is identified as a contaminated Superfund site. Will it be safe for public use?

The federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published a fact sheet about this Superfund site in June 2009, that stated:

“The contamination does not pose a risk. People can walk, run and play in this area. If playfields are developed on Clark County’s property or on adjacent properties, children will not be exposed to the chromium or VOC’s from the Boomsnub/Airco Site.”

A copy of the EPA’s fact sheet is available on the Hazel Dell sports fields project Web page.

How can I get more information?

Contact:


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Or visit us on the Web:

www.clarkparks.org/projects/hazeldellsports.htm

 For other formats, contact the Clark County ADA Office: **Voice** (360) 397-2000; **Relay** 711 or (800) 833-6388; **Fax** (360) 397-6165; **E-mail** ADA@clark.wa.gov.

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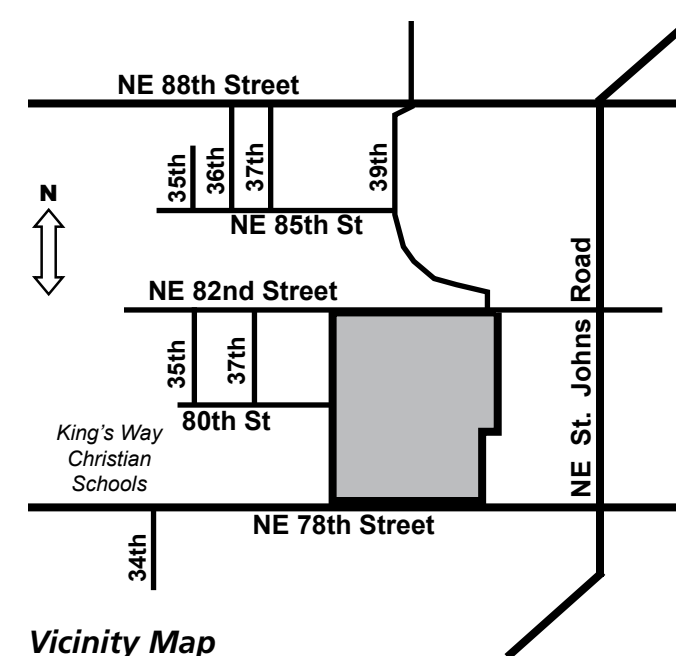
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Clark County Public Works and Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation began planning and design on a new sports field project in Northeast Hazel Dell in February 2009.

This 20-acre site is located on Northeast 78th Street, about a quarter mile west of St. Johns Road. The property currently features open fields on the south side and a forested area on the north side.

To help meet the needs of the local youth sports groups that would use this site, the project scope includes five baseball fields (one full-size, two intermediate and two tee ball), batting cages, a future restroom/concessions building, a parking lot, access roads and walkways and improvements to adjacent roads. The county will also identify space for a future neighborhood park.



Vicinity Map

Why does the county want to build these sports fields here?

Voters approved the Greater Clark Parks District in 2005, which allowed development to move forward on a number of new parks, trails and youth sports fields in the unincorporated urban area of Clark County. One of the commitments is to provide additional fields for a number of local youth sports groups through the parks district program.

Clark County began a review of sports field development opportunities in this area in 2007. Several potential locations for new sports fields were reviewed, including the county-owned property adjacent to King’s Way Christian Schools, Fairgrounds Community Park, and the WSU experimental agricultural site on NE 78th Street. Based on this review, the county concluded that the site next to the schools would be the best option because it would require the least earthwork and cost less. This site also provided opportunities to partner with the King’s Way Christian Schools and a planned commercial development across the street to share resources and save money.

When will construction start?

Construction is expected to begin in summer 2010.

How much will this project cost?

The county currently estimates that design, permitting and construction would cost approximately \$7.5 million.



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Where will the funding come from?

Real Estate Excise Taxes (REET), which are paid whenever homes are sold in Clark County, will pay for design and construction. These REET funds have been allocated specifically for ball field development.

Clark County will pay for basic maintenance and operations of the site with property taxes collected by the Greater Clark Parks District levy.

Who will use these fields?

The primary users will be local youth baseball and soccer groups, including Salmon Creek Little League, the Clark County Junior Baseball Association and Westside Soccer Club.

The county is also working on a joint use agreement with King's Way Christian Schools that would allow some public access to the school's new soccer, field hockey, and lacrosse fields, and future football stadium. Visitors to the county's sports fields would also be able to use the school's parking lot as needed. In return, the school would receive access to the county's fields and parking lot during school games and events. Any agreement will also ensure fair public access and use of the shared fields on the school's property.

The county recently decided not to allow the West Coast Baseball League to use this site for its collegiate-level games.

Will the community be able to use the site, or is it just for the sports groups?

The Hazel Dell sports fields will be open to the public and other community sports organizations when they are not in use by organized sports groups mentioned above. The county will post the schedule for each field on the Internet, so that users are aware of all practice and game times.

Will the site also include a neighborhood park?

Clark County will set aside space on the north side of the property for a future neighborhood park, but actual park planning and development may not occur for several years. In the meantime, the county is looking at partnering with King's Way Christian Schools and the Hazel Dell community to add some interim features to the neighborhood park using volunteer resources, donations and grants. These interim features could include soft-surface trails, benches or picnic tables, and environmental learning and interpretive signs.

Why can't the neighborhood park be developed sooner?

Clark County is using Real Estate Excise taxes that have been set aside specifically for sports field development to pay for this project. The county may not use this funding to develop neighborhood parks. The county is also in the process of developing 35 new parks throughout the urban unincorporated area as part of the Greater Clark Parks District. This neighborhood park is not part of that park development program. However, the county may be able to remove some brush to improve safety as part of the sports fields development project.

How many trees will be removed?

The county will determine exactly how many trees will be removed later in the design process. The goal of the design will be to save as many trees as possible while still developing the planned sports fields and associated infrastructure. The county has recent experience developing sports fields within a wooded area at Hockinson Meadows Community Park, which opened to the public in April 2009 (18209 NE 172nd Avenue).

What will happen to the wetland in the northwest corner of the property?

This area will be preserved and potentially enhanced. No development will occur around it, although the county may provide some environmental education and outdoor learning opportunities in collaboration with King's Way Christian Schools.

How much additional traffic will be generated during games?

The draft traffic study shows the sports fields generating up to 190 additional trips if all five fields are used at the same time. However, games are typically staggered so these visitors will not be arriving and leaving at the same time. Nearly all of visitors to the county's sports fields will be coming from neighborhoods to the west and north of Hazel Dell.

How many parking spaces will be provided in the park?

The parking lot will accommodate approximately 109 vehicles, with additional shared parking at King's Way Christian Schools. An access driveway would connect the county's parking lot with the schools' parking lot. On-street parking will not be allowed along the new north-south connector road through the park.

Why is the connector road between NE 78th Street and NE 82nd Street necessary?

Clark County Code requires that developments of any kind, including parks, have cross circulation streets every 800 feet. The connector road will help improve safety on St. Johns Road and the east end of NE 82nd Street by reducing the amount of traffic using this intersection. It will also improve emergency response time for residents on NE 82nd Street and provide emergency access for visitors within the park. To help improve safety, Clark County plans to include speed humps on the connector road.

The county will initially provide a left turn lane at the intersection of the connector road and NE 78th Street. A traffic signal will be installed when the planned commercial development on the south side of the road is built. The intersection of the connector road and NE 82nd Street will be controlled with two-way stop signs for north-south traffic.

How will NE 82nd Street be improved?

The south side of NE 82nd Street will be widened for sidewalk and curb in front of the park.

How will NE 80th Street connect to the park?

The county will determine what this access will be based on input from neighbors in the adjacent residential development. The existing cul-de-sac could become a pedestrian and bicycle access point into the park, or the county could restrict all access into the park at this location by fencing it off.

When will games and practices be held?

The county will determine when games and practices will occur at this site later in the design process. Typically, they are held between 6 and 10:30 p.m. during the week and all day on Saturdays. There would be no games or practices on Sundays.