



proud past, promising future

Lakeshore Neighborhood Park Public Comment Form Summary

Comment Period: March 2008

Number of Comment Forms Mailed Out: 1,760
Total Returned: 503 (323 paper; 180 electronic)
Overall Return Rate: 29%

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 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	339 (70%)	98 (20%)	41 (9%)	5 (1%)
b) Open grassy fields for playing catch, touch football, Frisbee, etc.	327 (69%)	112 (24%)	31 (6%)	2 (1%)
c) Additional trees, landscaping and other habitat enhancement	236 (50%)	166 (36%)	63 (13%)	2 (1%)
d) Screening and privacy plantings for adjacent neighbors	138 (30%)	168 (36%)	127 (27%)	33 (7%)
e) Playground equipment	262 (55%)	132 (27%)	82 (17%)	5 (1%)
f) Small basketball court or sport court (less than half-court size)	128 (27%)	150 (32%)	172 (37%)	18 (4%)
g) Small skateboarding spot (1,500 square feet or smaller)	63 (13%)	120 (26%)	245 (53%)	36 (8%)
h) Picnic tables	199 (42%)	194 (41%)	71 (15%)	9 (2%)
i) Park benches/seating areas	313 (64%)	148 (30%)	25 (5%)	1 (1%)

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 (over 50%)

1. Walking and biking trails	70%
2. Open grassy fields	69%
3. Park benches/seating areas	64%
4. Playground equipment	55%
5. Additional landscaping	50%

“Very Important” AND “Somewhat Important” combined (over 50%)

1. Park benches/seating areas	94%
2. Open grassy fields	93%
3. Walking and biking trails	90%
4. Additional landscaping	86%
5. Picnic tables	83%
6. Playground equipment	82%
7. Screening plantings	66%
8. Sports court	59%

- The least support was for the small skateboarding spot (53% selecting “Not Important”).
- Some respondents indicated that the county should work directly with immediately adjacent neighbors on the question of screening and privacy plantings.
- It appeared that some respondents thought “open grassy fields” meant formal soccer or baseball fields. It should be noted in future outreach that the open grassy fields are informal spaces meant for neighborhood or family pick-up games, Frisbee, kite flying, etc. They usually are not large enough to be used for full-scale soccer or baseball games.

Question 2: Have you ever visited Lakeshore Neighborhood Park? If “yes,” what did you do there?

- Some respondents did not answer this question.
- A few respondents apparently thought we were asking what they would like to do in the park after it is developed, or what they like to do in other developed parks.
- The majority of respondents (252) said that they had not visited the park for some of the following reasons:
 - Nothing there
 - Didn’t know it was a park
 - Grass was too high
 - Not inviting
- The remaining respondents (241) stated they had previously visited this currently undeveloped park. The activities they said they engaged in at the park were:
 - Walking around it or through it
 - Walking dogs/letting dogs run
 - Looking around/looking at it while passing by

- Playing Frisbee or Frisbee golf
- Hitting golf balls
- Playing with airsoft guns
- Picnicking
- Building snowmen in winter/playing in the snow
- Playing baseball, football, soccer and bocce ball
- Shooting off model rockets
- Flying kites or radio controlled airplanes
- Playing with children

Question 3: Salmon Creek and Eisenhower soccer clubs urgently need more small “mini-mod” fields for teams of children ages 6-7, many of whom live in this area. The county is considering using about 1.5 acres of this 5 acre park for this purpose. The fields would be used by the soccer clubs every day except for Wednesdays and Sundays during their fall seasons. The fields would be open to the public the rest of the year. Games would occur only during daylight hours, and off-street parking would be provided. The remaining 3.5 acres of the park would feature other neighborhood park elements (i.e. walking and biking trails, playground equipment, picnic tables, etc.). Based on this information, would you support including these fields at this park?

- Some respondents did not answer this question.
- 394 respondents said they **would** support including these fields at this park for the following reasons:
 - Good use of the park space
 - Soccer is very popular in this area
 - There is a need for more fields to serve the soccer clubs in this area
 - Soccer is a positive and healthy sport for children and families
 - Little children won’t tear up the field as much
 - Soccer clubs are a positive force in the community and deserve our support
- Some of the respondents had conditions attached to their support for the fields, which included:
 - Keep the fields small (for young children only)
 - Turn the rest of the park into a fenced off-leash dog park
 - No additional taxes required
 - Fields must be located away from homes, preferably close to the church
 - Adequate off-street parking must be provided
 - No on-street parking allowed during games
 - Soccer clubs must pay for maintenance of fields
 - Include a full-size soccer field also
 - Include a baseball diamond or baseball backstop also
 - Use soccer fields for off-leash dog park the rest of the year
 - Don’t reduce the size the park to allow for more parking
 - Have people park at the nearby schools and walk over
 - Only if all the other park features can also be included
 - Address any impacts noise may have on adjacent neighbors
 - Soccer clubs must provide portable potties and take them away after games are over so they don’t get vandalized
 - Soccer clubs must clean up the park after every game

- Use turf instead of grass on the fields
- Priority should be given to Eisenhower Soccer Club
- 97 respondents said they **would not** support including these fields at this park for the following reasons:
 - Traffic congestion is already bad at certain times of the day. This would make it worse, which will result in serious traffic safety issues
 - Noise during games (there are some day sleepers adjacent to the park)
 - Will negatively affect quality of life and property values for adjacent neighbors
 - Don't want portable toilets at the park due to vandalism and smell
 - There isn't enough parking available. People will end up parking on 21st Avenue, which isn't wide enough to accommodate it and would prevent residents from pulling out of their driveways safely
 - There are several other sites better suited for sports fields at nearby schools and at the Salmon Creek Sports Association Complex near Kline Pond
 - Too close to homes
 - The county should not limit access at a publicly funded park
 - This park isn't big enough
 - Will reduce the amount of space available for other neighborhood park features
 - Would attract people from outside the neighborhood
 - Would generate a lot of litter
 - It doesn't make sense to pay for these kind of fields if they're only used for a few months out of the year
 - The fields will start small, but might become larger over time
 - The soccer clubs will try to run the whole park
 - Soccer season is also in the spring – this will limit general public use of the space too much
- The county will respond to the following questions asked by some respondents at the public meeting on May 15, 2008, and through the project Web page:
 - Where would the off-street parking be located? How many parking spaces would be available?
 - How many people/cars typically attend one of these games?
 - Will the soccer clubs ensure that no one parks on the streets?
 - How will traffic be managed?
 - How loud can these games get?
 - Why can't these fields be built somewhere else?
 - Will soccer clubs remove trash and litter from park after every game?
 - Will soccer clubs pay for maintenance of the fields?

Question 4: Is there something special about this park as it is right now that you would like to keep during the upcoming park development process (i.e. trees, views, access points, etc.)?

- Some respondents did not answer this question.
- Many respondents said there was nothing in the park they wanted to preserve.
- The things respondents said they wished to preserve were:
 - The openness and good visibility inside the park for safety and security purposes
 - The current access points from 99th Street and 21st Avenue
 - Contours of the land
 - Fencing

- Open grassy fields
 - Views – especially to the west
 - Trees
 - Space for dogs to run
 - Privacy and quiet for adjacent neighbors
 - Green space
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Question 5: Do you have any concerns about this upcoming park development project?

- Some respondents did not answer this question.
- About 25% of respondents said they had no concerns.
- The issues and concerns identified by respondents related to the soccer field proposal included:
 - Location and amount of off-street parking during games and concerns about parking on the streets
 - The environmental impact to groundwater from the fields
 - The intersection of 99th Street and 21st Avenue is too busy to handle any additional traffic
 - Adding a parking lot to the park will reduce the park space and amenities
 - Noise levels during games
 - Litter
 - Will require a left-turn lane to get into any parking area from 99th Street westbound
 - Traffic safety on 21st Avenue (speed, crossings, etc.)
 - Increased traffic congestion on neighborhood streets
 - The fields will only be used two months of the year and will be “useless” the rest of the time
 - Too many restrictions on use
- Other issues and concerns identified by respondents included:
 - Noise and traffic impacts during construction
 - Need to widen and improve 21st Avenue to include sidewalks and street lights
 - Need local law enforcement to patrol the park regularly
 - Not a good location – too much traffic and no way for people to cross the nearby streets to get to the park safely without walking all the way down to the 99th Street/21st Avenue intersection
 - Don’t duplicate what’s already offered at Lake Shore Elementary School
 - Don’t build the park for children only – provide things for adults to enjoy as well
 - The park becoming a hang out for teenagers, gangs or homeless people
 - Keep it open and visible – no hiding places
 - Deter criminal activities at night by including lighting
 - Concerned that dog owners may be ignored
 - Avoid letting the planning and public outreach process drag on too long
 - Keep any skateboarding features small
 - Skateboarding spot attracting bad behavior, intimidation of younger children, etc.
 - That the park won’t have any playground equipment
 - That the park won’t be built until 2012 (why so long?)
 - Don’t provide on-street parking – people should walk or bike to the park
 - Remove perimeter fencing
 - Do not include a dog park
 - Need to enforce dog leash and scoop laws

- Need on-site parking for general park use so children don't have to cross 99th Street or 21st Avenue to get to the park
 - Enforce hours of operation
 - Ensure park is well maintained
 - Provide entrance gates that close so children don't run out into traffic
 - That there won't be enough garbage cans
 - That children will cross 99th Street or 21st Avenue in places other than at the signalized intersection
 - Need to provide additional pedestrian crossings on 21st Avenue and advance warning signs
 - We don't need another park – don't build it
 - Include screening plants for the Fazio property and the neighbors on the west side
 - Won't use the park and don't want to pay for it
 - No additional taxes for construction or maintenance
 - Make sure trails are handicapped accessible
 - Locate places for children to play away from 99th Street for safety
 - Need to actively prevent vandalism and graffiti
 - Use “green” maintenance techniques like Lake Shore Elementary School – limit use of harmful chemicals in places where children play
 - That no soccer fields will be included
 - Need crosswalk improvements on 21st Avenue at 98th Street
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Question 6: Do you have any other comments to share about this project?

- Some respondents did not answer this question, or said they didn't have any other comments.
- About half of the respondents expressed excitement about the park development.
- Summary of general comments:
 - Keep it as natural as possible to attract wildlife and birds
 - Just plant some trees and leave it alone
 - Make it dog friendly
 - Name the park after the Fazios or a member of their family
 - Locate playground near parking
 - Sell the property to developers
 - Don't allow smoking in the park
 - Add screening plantings between the park and the roads
 - Plant trees as soon as possible so they have time to grow (before construction)
 - Add access off of 95th Street behind the LDS church
 - Provide a variety of playground equipment
 - Provide access to the park from the NW 24th Avenue area
 - Create a simple, green oasis – don't overdevelop it
 - Provide playground equipment similar to what is at Felida Community Park, Marshall Community Park or the Imagination Station in Troutdale, Oregon
 - Make this park primarily a walking/biking space, not an active play or sports park
 - Give the Fazio Family on the corner of 99th Street and 21st Avenue the choice of how to screen their property from the park if that's what they want
 - Don't need playground or basketball court because they are already available at the nearby schools
 - Don't include any/too many picnic tables – they create trash and places for criminals to hang out
 - Provided only limited access to 99th Street because of the heavy traffic there

- Surface the perimeter walking trail with wood chips instead of asphalt or concrete
 - Make sure any structures and furnishings are graffiti proof
 - Provide a place for children age 8-15 to hang out together
 - There are very few children in this neighborhood – we don't need a playground
 - Ban all skateboarding spots from this area
 - Use pervious material for the trails
 - Why will it take so long to build? Why start design now if construction not starting sooner?
 - Hurry up
 - Keep the neighborhood involved in decisions
 - Skateboarding spot is a good idea – will keep kids out of the street and off the couch
 - Should be for neighbors, not sports groups
 - Spend the money on roads instead
 - Make it a “no dogs allowed” park – the amount of dog waste left in parks is unsanitary
 - Would rather have a small number of large regional parks with lots of amenities (like Frenchman's Bar and Vancouver Lake) than a large number of small parks with few amenities
 - This will provide a place to bring my children before Lake Shore Elementary school lets out for the day because the public cannot use school playground, etc. while classes are in session
 - Good location – there are a lot of families in this area with children
 - Use sustainable development methods
 - Invite neighbors to buy engraved bricks to help raise money for the project or encourage other community fundraising activities
 - See if the Mormon church on the west side of the park will let you use their parking lot
 - Highlight the history of the area in some way in the park design
 - Don't promise what you can't build
 - Add an access point to southwest corner of the park
 - Create the same type of feel as Felida Park
 - Support youth soccer by including the mini-mod fields
 - Make sure the soccer fields have good drainage so they don't get muddy
 - Put soccer fields on the south side of the park and add a landscaped berm to screen homes
 - Provide a place that keeps kids busy and out of trouble
 - Reduce speed limit on 99th Street and 21st Avenue around the park
 - Don't include a skateboarding spot because it will attract after hours use
- Additional park features respondents asked be included in the park:
 - Restrooms and water faucets
 - On-street parking
 - Covered picnic shelter with electrical access
 - Lots of garbage cans
 - Dog waste bag dispensers
 - Fenced off-leash dog park or separate “dog walk” area
 - Shade trees
 - Lighting
 - Fire pit
 - BBQ grills
 - Paved perimeter path
 - Water fountain/water feature/water pond
 - Basketball court (with 2 hoops)
 - Horse shoe pits
 - Bocce courts
 - Tire swings
 - Bike racks

- Frisbee golf course
- Therapy equipment for persons with disabilities, full back swings, and wheelchair accessible toys
- Sand and water feature
- Modern, unique climbing structures like what's at the park in Sherwood, Oregon
- Community garden space
- Baseball field or backstops
- Remote control car track
- Put playground under a rain shelter for year-round use
- Summer sprinkler system for children to play in
- Water source that will attract small wildlife
- Pay phone for emergencies
- Wall for throwing/hitting balls against with a basketball hoop attached (multi-purpose area)
- Drinking fountain
- Tennis courts
- Playground equipment for all ages, including a long slide and monkey bars

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