



proud past, promising future

# Kate & Clarence LaLonde Neighborhood Park Public Comment Form Summary

Comment Period: March 13-April 5, 2009

**Number of Comment Forms Mailed Out:** 1,158  
**Total Returned:** 179 (164 paper; 15 electronic)  
**Overall Return Rate:** 15%

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	<b>148 (84%)</b>	18 (10%)	9 (5%)	1 (1%)
b) Open grassy fields for playing catch, touch football, Frisbee, etc.	<b>109 (63%)</b>	48 (28%)	15 (9%)	0 (0%)
c) Additional trees, landscaping and other habitat enhancement	<b>77 (45%)</b>	61 (36%)	26 (15%)	7 (4%)
d) Screening and privacy plantings for adjacent neighbors	52 (31%)	<b>66 (39%)</b>	38 (22%)	13 (8%)
e) Playground equipment	<b>84 (48%)</b>	58 (33%)	29 (17%)	4 (2%)
f) Basketball half court / sport court	51 (31%)	44 (26%)	<b>67 (40%)</b>	5 (3%)
g) Small skateboarding spot (2,000 square feet or smaller)	23 (14%)	28 (16%)	<b>109 (65%)</b>	8 (5%)
h) Picnic tables	<b>92 (54%)</b>	61 (36%)	17 (10%)	0 (0%)
i) Park benches/seating areas	<b>123 (70%)</b>	47 (27%)	6 (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%)*

1. Walking and biking trails	84%
2. Park benches/seating areas	70%
3. Open grassy fields	63%
4. Picnic tables	54%

### *“Very Important” AND “Somewhat Important” combined (more than 50%)*

1. Park benches/seating areas	97%
2. Walking and biking trails	94%
3. Open grassy fields	91%
4. Picnic tables	90%
5. Additional landscaping	81%
6. Playground equipment	81%
7. Screening plantings	70%
8. Basketball half court/sports court	57%

- The least support was for the small skateboarding spot (65% selecting “Not Important”).

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## Question 2: 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.
- Respondents said they wished to preserve:
  - The Douglas fir trees.
  - The apple and pear trees.
  - Healthy, established trees.
  - Access point from 99<sup>th</sup> Street.
  - Don't disturb the creek area. Keep all the native trees around it.
  - Views through the park.
  - The open pasture look.
  - Animals and their habitat.
  - Keep it as natural as possible.
  - Keep the main access on 99<sup>th</sup> Street, not on 102<sup>nd</sup> Street.
  - The rolling terrain.
  - Views into the creek.
  - Rustic, agricultural feeling.
  - Access from 102<sup>nd</sup> Street.
  - Native vegetation.

## Question 3: Are there any special neighborhood events you would want to hold in this park after it's developed?

- Some respondents did not answer this question.
  - Respondents said they would like to hold the following types of events in the park:
    - Summer music or concerts
    - Farmer's market
    - Supervised children's activities
    - Family or church picnics or barbeques
    - Social gatherings
    - Game nights
    - Neighborhood picnics or block parties
    - Carnival
    - Weddings or receptions
    - Holiday events (Easter egg hunts, Labor Day, 4<sup>th</sup> of July, etc.)
    - Birthday parties
    - National night out concerts
    - Plant exchanges
    - Political rallies
    - Community meetings
    - Grand opening event/park dedication
    - Nature studies
    - Family reunions
    - Radio-controlled car races
    - Backyard clubs
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**Question 4: Do you have any concerns about this upcoming park development project?**

- Some respondents did not answer this question.
- Most concerns involved safety and security:
  - Don't include a skateboarding spot in this park. It will bring vandalism and other bad behavior.
  - Make sure the park remains open with good visibility from 99<sup>th</sup> Street. Don't provide places for people to hide.
  - Provide lights for people who walk through the park after dark.
  - Don't put things in the park that will attract vandalism or other criminal activities.
  - Homeless camping in the park.
  - Make sure people can safely cross 99<sup>th</sup> Street to get to the park.
  - Unsupervised children could be injured on the playground.
  - Install security cameras.
  - The park will attract crime, gangs, drug dealers, and drinking.
  - Unsupervised teenager hanging out in the park, partying, etc.
  - Don't allow use of the park after dark.
  - Without safe access across 99<sup>th</sup> Street, this project should not move forward.
  - Children walking and biking on 99<sup>th</sup> Street to get to the park.
  - Many of the surrounding streets don't have sidewalks. It will be too dangerous for children or families to walk to the park.

- Put the skateboarding spot next to the street so it's more visible and accessible by emergency services vehicles.
- Install a flashing crosswalk on 99<sup>th</sup> Street like at Clark College.
- Install lighting around the park for visibility at night.
- Need law enforcement to patrol the park after dark.
- Install fencing along 99<sup>th</sup> Street to prevent balls, Frisbees, dogs or children from going out into this busy street.
- A basketball court will attract troublemakers, vandalism and littering, and is too noisy.
- Consider fencing the playground area for additional security.

Other concerns included:

- Don't overdevelop the park. Keep it as natural as possible.
- Keep the adjacent cows/livestock separate from the park.
- Keep people out of the adjacent creek.
- Do not make 102<sup>nd</sup> Street the main entrance to the park. Don't want additional vehicle and foot traffic into the residential area.
- Don't allow dogs or horses in the park.
- Cement or bolt the garbage cans down so they don't blow away.
- Stop raising taxes to pay for projects like this.
- There aren't very many children in this neighborhood.
- Make sure the park is well maintained.
- Make sure the park is handicapped accessible.
- Provide parking for people with special needs children.
- Keep this a walk-to park. Only provide handicapped parking spaces.
- A skateboarding area will attract loud and rowdy teenagers and young adults who will drive families and younger children away.
- The park will be non-functional without restrooms (small children and picnics require restrooms).
- Visitors will park on neighborhood streets and in front of houses if a parking area isn't provided.
- The development may harm animals and birds that live in the park.
- Many people will have to drive to the park because they don't have sidewalks in their neighborhoods (i.e. 50<sup>th</sup> Avenue), and won't be able to walk there safely.
- Enhance and protect the natural habitat.
- The park will bring more traffic to 45<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Make sure the park hours are clearly posted.
- Concerned that I won't be able to walk my dog in the park.
- Do not ban smoking. Taxpayers who smoke also helped pay for this park.
- Noise and traffic during construction.
- Make sure to control litter in the park.
- Do not locate playground next to adjacent houses on the north side of the park. Concerned about excessive noise. Install soundproof solid fencing.
- Install privacy screening/fencing for adjacent neighbors, including those on the north and east sides.
- The park will create safety and security problems for adjacent neighbors.

**Question 5: 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.

- Summary of general comments:
  - Too many trees makes a park uninviting. Make sure there is open space and sun.
  - Allow people to walk dogs on the leash.
  - Just name the park “LaLonde Neighborhood Park.” Leave “Kate and Clarence” off.
  - Make this an old-fashioned park where you can relax, picnic and hear the birds and nearby livestock.
  - Acknowledge the farming and ranching history of this site in the park design.
  - Add an access road along the western border of the park with parking spaces.
  - Include playground equipment that appeals to younger children.
  - Plant a hedgerow along the western border for screening and privacy.
  - Build it sooner.
  - We are very excited about this project.
  - Make sure the design is ADA compliant.
  - This is not a convenient location for a park.
  - There is already a skateboarding spot in the park on 88<sup>th</sup> Street. We don’t need one here.
  - Include playground equipment with lots of swings, like what is at Felida Community Park.
  - Keep it simple.
  - Include something for older kids also.
  - Don’t like the smaller Kompan structure at Tenny Creek Park. The structure in the woods is great, though.
  - Parking should be on the 102<sup>nd</sup> Street side of the park.
  - Locate playground equipment away from adjacent houses.
  - This will be a great asset for this community.
  - Include two separate playgrounds, one for older children and one for younger children.
  - There are already sports fields and basketball courts at the nearby school. Keep this park quiet and family oriented.
  - Plant native species in the park and include edible plants and berries.
  - Post trail lengths so people know how far they’re going (1 lap = half a mile, etc.).
  - Allow for views into the creek from the walking trail.
  - Make trails wide enough to accommodate both walkers and bikers safely.
  - Keep the skateboarding spot substantially separated from the playground.
  - Give the park a farm theme.
  - Don’t put the modern-looking playground equipment in this park. Keep it traditional.
  - Design the park to avoid adverse impacts to adjacent neighbors.
  - Lack of parking and restrooms at Tenny Creek Park make it unusable.
  - A basketball court will be too noisy.
  - Like the playground equipment at Sgt. Brad Crawford Park. It is good for all ages.
  - Keep it a simple, quiet and green space.
  
- Specific features respondents asked be included in the park:
  - Parking, including handicapped spaces, is very important. Otherwise, people will park on the adjacent streets.
  - A small, fenced off-leash dog park.
  - Plenty of well-lit parking.
  - A covered area to escape the rain, similar to a bus stop shelter.
  - A hiking trail down to the creek.
  - A level, grassy area to play catch.
  - A parking area off 99<sup>th</sup> Street.
  - BBQ pits.
  - Covered picnic shelter (like at Battle Ground Lake State Park and Hazel Dell Community Park).
  - Pavilion (like at Esther Short Park).

- Covered picnic area with cooking area, BBQ pits and running water.
- Horseshoe pits.
- Drinking fountain next to restrooms.
- Shuffleboard areas.
- Radio-controlled car race track (100' x 200').
- Open or covered basketball courts.
- Garbage cans.
- Restrooms or portable toilets.
- Bird viewing area along the creek.
- Artwork from local artists.
- Solar powered lighting at night.
- Dog waste bag dispenser.
- A path made of crushed rock for running and jogging around the perimeter.
- Perimeter walking path with exercise stations.
- Swings and monkey bars.
- Drinking fountains.
- Blacktop path from north to south.
- A bike jump area.
- Disc golf.
- A little pond with a bridge over it for romantic walks.
- Spinners in the playground.
- Handicapped accessible playground equipment.
- Little League baseball fields.
- Slides.
- Traditional playground equipment.
- Softball field.
- Teeter-totter.
- Sand pit.
- Water feature (like at Jorgenson Woods Neighborhood Park).
- A viewing area into Stag Canyon.
- Volleyball net.

END