



proud past, promising future

Maple Crest Neighborhood Park Public Comment Form Summary

Comment Period: April 2007

Number of Comment Forms Mailed Out: 1,143

Total Returned: 257

Return Rate: 22%

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 upon request. Please call Jilayne Jordan at (360) 397-6118 x. 4949 for more information.

Question 1: Please tell us how important the following typical neighborhood park elements are to you.

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important	Don't Know/No Opinion
a) Walking and biking trails	160 (70%)	44 (19%)	21 (9%)	5 (2%)
b) Open grassy fields for playing catch, touch football, Frisbee, etc.	129 (54%)	78 (33%)	29 (12%)	3 (1%)
c) Additional trees, landscaping and other habitat enhancement	112 (49%)	71 (31%)	38 (17%)	8 (3%)
d) Screening and privacy plantings for adjacent neighbors	80 (35%)	67 (29%)	65 (28%)	18 (8%)
e) Playground equipment	124 (54%)	57 (25%)	46 (20%)	3 (1%)
f) Small basketball court or sport court (less than half-court size)	56 (24%)	79 (34%)	89 (38%)	8 (3%)
g) Small skateboarding spot (1,500 square feet or smaller)	20 (9%)	44 (37%)	156 (69%)	7 (3%)
h) Picnic tables	105 (45%)	88 (37%)	41 (17%)	2 (1%)
i) Park benches/seating areas	170 (72%)	51 (22%)	12 (5%)	1 (1%)

NOTE: Not everyone who sent in their 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. Park benches/seating areas	72%
2. Walking and biking trails	70%
3. TIE: Open grassy fields	54%
Playground equipment	54%

“Very Important” AND “Somewhat Important” selected (more than 50%)

1. Park benches/seating areas	94%
2. Walking and biking trails	89%
3. Open grassy fields	87%
4. Picnic tables	82%
5. Additional trees, landscaping	80%
6. Playground equipment	79%
7. Screening and privacy plantings	64%
8. Small basketball or sports court	58%

- The least popular feature was the small skateboarding spot (69% selecting “Not Important”).
- Several proposed features did not get 50% or higher in any of the four rankings:
 - Screening and privacy plantings
 - Small basketball or sports court
 - Picnic tables

Question 2: How often do you currently visit this park? What do you do when you’re there?

- Some respondents did not answer this question.
- Some respondents thought we were asking how often they’d visit **if** the park were already developed and what they’d prefer to do there.
- Some respondents thought we were asking about the existing private park in the Maple Crest subdivision.
- More than 100 respondents stated that they had never visited the park, because:
 - They didn’t know it existed.
 - It’s not developed yet/nothing to do there.
 - There is no public access/the park is entirely fenced in.
 - Go to the private park in the Maple Crest subdivision instead.
 - No parking.
 - Uneven terrain.
 - Too many mosquitoes.
- The remaining respondents said that they had visited the park. The activities they said they engaged in at the park were:
 - Walking dogs/letting dogs run off leash
 - Walking
 - Observing wildlife

- Neighborhood Easter egg hunt
 - Picnicking
 - Sledding and snowboarding on hill in winter
 - Sitting and reading
 - Playing Frisbee
 - Archery practice
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Question 4: Is there something special about this park that you would like to preserve during the upcoming park development process?

- Some respondents did not answer this question.
 - The features respondents wished to preserve were:
 - Trees – keep as many as possible, keep them all, etc.
 - Current access point
 - Use of the area as an off leash dog park
 - Quiet and peaceful nature
 - Views from the top of the hill on the north side of the park (Mount St. Helens, etc.)
 - Sledding areas on the hill
 - Privacy of adjacent neighbors
 - “Open” feeling
 - Keep it open to the public, rather than private
 - Natural habitat, plants
 - Don’t overdevelop / Leave it as it is / Leave it as natural as possible
 - Shade
 - 35 respondents said there wasn’t anything in the park they wanted preserved.
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Question 5: Do you know the history of this property? Does this property have any special or historical significance to the area?

- Some respondents did not answer this question.
 - Most respondents (more than 120) did not know the history of the property.
 - The information neighbors provided about the history of the property included:
 - The Ralstons were the original owners of the home that used to be on the property.
 - The property used to be full of large trees, but a previous owner sold them.
 - Used to be farmland.
 - There was a property line dispute with the neighbor to the south at one point.
 - Was one of the original homesteads in the area. At one time it contained old growth trees damaged by the Yacolt Burn of 1910.
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Question 6: Do you have any concerns about this upcoming park development project?

- Some respondents did not answer this question.
- Approximately 60 of the respondents said they had no concerns.
- Summary of concerns people had about the future development of this park:
 - There is a large community park being built at 172nd Avenue and 18th Street already – please keep this one simple.
 - Concerned about increased traffic congestion and safety problems due to people stopping in front of the park to drop off or pick up children.
 - Litter removal – someone has been dumping beer bottles along the road for some time now.
 - Worried that the park will attract criminal behavior, gangs, drugs, drinking and vandalism.
 - Don't allow smoking in the park – put up signs.
 - Add sidewalk from 29th Avenue intersection to the park.
 - How much the project will cost.
 - Don't overdevelop the site.
 - Older children/teens possibly hanging out and intimidating younger children.
 - Please enforce hours of operation by gating and locking entrances after hours.
 - The park name is confusing – there is another private park called Maple Crest already.
 - If you put in a skateboarding area, please locate it close to the street where there is good visibility.
 - Need access from 25th Street.
 - Make sure snow sledding area is protected and improved (remove shrubs), but also make sure that sleds won't fly out into the street (put in some sort of barrier).
 - Need to provide on or off street parking.
 - Noise from park to adjacent neighbors. Please keep active play areas away from houses.
 - Don't block traffic during construction.
 - Don't allow dogs off leash.
 - Basketball and skateboarding features possibly encouraging after hours use of the park.
 - No parking allowed – make it a “walk to” park.
 - Make it dog friendly.
 - Include a pull in area for neighbors to drive into to safely unload supplies for picnics or family gatherings.
 - No skateboarding area.
 - Additional traffic on local roads.
 - Include gates in the fence along 28th Street to prevent children from running out into traffic.
 - Don't cram too many features in the park.
 - Make it friendly to all ages and handicapped accessible.
 - Keep all areas of the park very visible – no hiding places.
 - Encourage dog owners to pick up after their pets.
 - Concerned about children possibly hopping the fence to retrieve balls or Frisbees that fly into my yard, and my dog potentially biting them.
 - The site is too hilly and uneven.
 - Don't allow on-street parking on 28th Street – put no parking signs up.
 - Property has a natural echo. As a result, active play areas may be too noisy for adjacent neighbors.
 - Traffic safety:
 - Traffic on 28th Street travels at high speeds and there are two blind curves at either end of the street near the park. Concerned that motorists will not see people crossing the street to get to the park.
 - Need clearly marked, safe crosswalks across 28th Street

- Request a three-way stop at 29th Street to help control traffic speeds near park.
 - Request speed bumps and warning signs with flashing lights to alert motorists to pedestrians crossing 28th Street.
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Question 7: 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.
- A number of respondents expressed excitement that the park was being developed.
- Summary of general comments:
 - Provide access from 26th Street or 181st Avenue.
 - Provide clearly marked and signed pedestrian crossings on 28th Street.
 - Link the park to the Maple Crest subdivision trail and park with trails.
 - Remove bushes to improve sledding on hill.
 - Put picnic tables and benches on the top of the hill to enjoy the view of Mount St. Helens.
 - Don't allow parking.
 - Don't turn it into a large community gathering area.
 - Thin the trees out to allow for more open play areas.
 - Don't allow restrooms.
 - Use play equipment that's different from what's in the existing private park.
 - Restore the forested area.
 - Provide a large green space buffer between the park and adjacent neighbors.
 - Be bold with playground equipment selection – use new and innovative pieces.
 - Locate benches near playground.
 - Locate playground in shaded area.
 - There is a new skate park going in at Pacific Park. We don't need a skateboarding spot at this park also.
 - Provide things for older children (age 7-11).
 - Police need to enforce hours of operation.
 - Make sure to include features that appeal to adults.
 - The county should charge a usage fee to help pay for the park instead of taxing people who won't use it.
 - Provide play equipment for all ages of children, including toddlers.
 - Locate active play areas in center of the park – use hill as a natural sound barrier.
 - Keep sports court or skateboarding spot away from playground.
 - This is not a good spot for a park. Stop the project and leave the property undeveloped.
 - Change the name of the park and have a park naming contest. Name suggestions:
 - Lacamas Creek Neighborhood Park
 - Edmonds Neighborhood Park
- Additional park features respondents asked be included in the park:
 - Water feature for children in the summer.
 - Off-leash dog park (multiple requests)
 - BBQ grills
 - Covered picnic or seating area
 - Open area for playing catch, etc.
 - Lots of trash cans

- Recycling bins/cans
- Dog waste bag dispenser
- Swings
- Tennis courts (multiple requests)
- Tennis practice wall that can also be used for wall ball
- Gazebo
- Baseball field
- Bathrooms
- Provide hygienic garbage cans (“touchless”)
- Zip line from the hill
- Climbing wall built into the side of the hill like at Tualatin’s park
- Volleyball nets
- Fitness stations
- Frisbee golf
- Drinking fountain
- Perimeter walking trail
- Slides
- Bike racks near playground
- Lighting
- Teeter totter
- Multiple entrances
- Security cameras

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