

Maple Crest Neighborhood Park Concept Plans Comment Summary

Comment Period: May 31-June 10, 2007

Please note that this is a summary of the oral and written comments from the May 31, 2007 public meeting, and written comments submitted through the project Web page on June 1-10, 2007. This summary reflects a range of opinions, and is not intended to present a word-for-word transcript. Comments received 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 project funding, site requirements and neighborhood priorities.

Of the three concept plans presented, [“Once and Future Forest”](#) was generally preferred by people at the public meeting over [“Orchard/Grass”](#) and [“Playful Hill.”](#) Responses from the Web page were mixed, with most people liking some aspects from all three plans.

Safety and Security:

- Concerned about safety of walking along the soft-surface paths in “Once and Future Forest”. Too many potential hiding places.
- Keep sight lines into the park from 28th Street open to help prevent criminal activities in the park.
- Concerned that the trees in “Orchard/Grass” will provide too many hiding places for people to hang out and get into trouble.
- Please make sure the lower limbs on the trees are removed to provide better visibility into the wooded areas.

Access:

- Try to connect this park with the private Maple Crest Park and trail.
- Buy property or an easement on the south side of the park and provide a second entrance there. Locate this entrance on the far west corner of the park if possible.
- Do not provide access to the park from 26th Street.
- Use boulders to line the 28th Street entrance rather than a fence.
- Concerned that the drop off zone shown in “Once and Future Forest” and “Playful Hill” will actually be used for parking. Please sign it and enforce it.
- Like the drop off zones in “Once and Future Forest” and “Playful Hill”.

Trail Alignments:

- Concerned about safety and security along proposed trails through the trees – too many potential hiding places.
- Like the trails through the wooded areas – they will help increase visibility in these more secluded spots.
- In “Once and Future Forest” and “Playful Hill,” please move the trail further away from the property on the northwest corner (triangle shaped).
- Focus on the forest and soft-surface walking trails through the wooded areas.
- Don’t like the winding trail in “Once and Future Forest”. Would prefer a perimeter trail that’s not too close to houses.
- Please move trails further away from adjacent homes.
- Like the smaller trail section into the forested areas on the east side of the park in “Once and Future Forest”.
- Like the winding trail option in “Once and Future Forest” because it is handicapped accessible.
- Add a soft-surface perimeter path to the paths proposed in “Once and Future Forest” and “Playful Hill.”
- Like the soft-surface perimeter trail in “Orchard/Grass”. It will provide healthy exercise.

Open Lawn Areas:

- Too much open mowed space in “Playful Hill”. There are already a lot of these types of areas elsewhere.
- Like including open grassy areas in the park for children to run around in.
- Do not support removing any existing trees to create open areas.
- Would like to have shorter grass on a section of the hill for sledding.
- Like the open spaces and amphitheater feel of “Playful Hill”. A group of local scouts or a church group could gather and have a meeting comfortably on the grass.

Playground:

- Love the rock climbing and slide idea in “Playful Hill”. Please keep this feature.
- Locate playground closer to main entrance off of 28th Street.
- Like the shaded area around playground in “Orchard/Grass”.
- Include a toddler play area.
- Make the rock climbing area more challenging with boulders.
- Like the larger size of the playground in “Playful Hill”. There are a lot of young children in the area.
- Please locate playground farther away from road so it isn’t as easy for children to run or wander out into traffic.
- Provide equipment designed for older children or teenagers instead of a skateboarding spot.
- Move the rock climbing feature in “Playful Hill” further away from the playground. It may not be safe for young children to climb on or be around (could get knocked down, etc.).
- Please provide lots of toddler swings.
- Make the playground accessible for children of all ages like at Fisher Basin, not like the tall structure at Grass Valley.
- Including a boulder rock climbing element perhaps 8-12 feet long and 8 feet high with two sides. This would provide a quiet and non-confrontational activity for children to enjoy.

Landscaping:

- Re-establishing the forest at the site is very important.
- Maximize and improve the wildlife habitat in the park.
- Please keep the existing buffer trees on the northwest corner.
- Keep as many of the existing trees and grasses as possible.
- Concerned that forested areas in “Once and Future Forest” will provide places for children to hide and get into trouble.

- If there isn't enough money for full reforestation, please focus on adding trees along the perimeter for screening.
- Like the idea of planting fruit trees in the orchard and flowers on the hill in "Orchard/Grass".
- Don't plant tall Douglas fir trees along the west border of the park – they are a safety concern for neighbors. We just removed some for just that reason.
- Prefer natural grassy areas rather than cultivated grass lawns.
- Don't like the formal look of the orchard in "Orchard/Grass". Would prefer a natural looking forested area.
- "Once and Future Forest" seems too similar to what's already there. Would just be a place to stroll through once and while. Needs more functionality.
- Like the reforestation along the edges in "Playful Hill". It will encourage the birds to stick around.
- Don't like the orchard idea in "Orchard/Grass". It detracts from the natural look of the park.
- Only people who will never use the park would like "Once and Future Forest". Younger families want more open space for picnicking and other activities.
- Like the buffer trees on the north and southwest sides of the park in "Orchard/Grass".
- Small trees in the simulated orchard in "Orchard/Grass" are more likely to be vandalized and doesn't really serve a purpose.

Sports Court / Skateboarding Spot:

- Don't like the sports court or skateboarding features – would prefer quieter activities.
- There is a new skate park going in nearby at Pacific Community Park, so there's no need to put a skateboarding spot in this park.
- Like the skateboarding spot. It's important to take the needs of older children into consideration and provide a place for them to do their thing and not get into trouble.
- Please include a "street" style skateboarding area in the park and make it as large as possible.
- Don't like the location of the sports court or skateboarding spot in "Orchard/Grass". It's not safe having it so close to the curve on the paved trail.
- This park doesn't have enough visibility from the road to include a skateboarding spot. It could attract problems.
- Concerned with children riding skateboards down the hill. This would be very dangerous.
- Providing a skateboarding spot in this park will help keep them off of private property and out of the streets in the neighborhood.
- Please put skateboarding spot as close to the road as possible.
- Please make the skateboarding spot larger and include more elements in it.
- Switch the location of the playground and skateboarding spot in "Orchard/Grass" so the skateboarding spot can be more easily seen from the road.
- The skateboarding park at Pacific Community Park is designed for more advanced skaters. This smaller skateboarding element will provide a place for less experienced children to practice safely.

Other Park Amenities:

- Most people really liked the lookout spot idea in "Once and Future Forest" and "Playful Hill".
- Like the gazebo shown in "Playful Hill." Please incorporate it in the final plan as a future unfunded element.
- Please locate park benches further away from neighboring houses. In "Once and Future Forest" move the future bench currently located along the soft surface trail on the southwest side of the park.
- Put picnic tables and benches in shaded areas wherever possible.
- Group a couple of picnic tables together, and then have a couple more scattered around elsewhere.
- Including a sports court or skate spot is a good idea, but be sure to examine and address impacts to other park users (walkers, picnickers, wildlife enthusiasts, etc.) and adjacent neighbors.

- Providing a sledding area on the hill is not that important. It would only be used a few times every couple of years when it snows.
- Like the idea of providing a sledding hill in the park. It might help keep children from sledding in the streets or in the nearby water filtration area.
- Would prefer a basketball court over a skateboarding spot.
- Not enough benches in “Playful Hill”.
- Locate benches and picnic tables near the playground so parents can better keep an eye on their children.
- Keep picnic tables to a minimum. They are hard to maintain in good condition due to bird droppings, leaves and other debris.
- Needs a tennis court.
- Provide natural picnic areas using grass, rocks or logs to sit on instead of picnic tables.

General:

- The park acts as a natural amphitheater due to the topography, so don’t allow loud activities like skateboarding and basketball.
- Please provide some noise and privacy buffering for immediately adjacent neighbors, especially along the east side of the park. There is a day sleeper on the southeast side of the park.
- People crossing 28th Street to get to the park will be in danger from high speed traffic coming around the two curves on either side of the park. Please encourage Public Works to look into a traffic safety improvement project here.
- Do not allow dogs off the leash in this park.
- Please provide things for kids and adults to do.
- Please avoid negatively impacting any wildlife with this project, and please take it seriously.
- Keep this park more oriented to younger children and adults – teenagers can use the new Pacific Community Park. Moms with young children need a safe and quiet place to go. Groups of teenagers will drive younger children away.
- Don’t believe the park will be so heavily used that it will create the noise, privacy or garbage problems immediately adjacent neighbors are worried about.
- You get more bang for the buck with “Orchard/Grass”.
- I went to the park to test out the natural echo some neighbors mentioned and found it to be almost non-existent.

New Park Name Suggestions:

- Vote talley from recent Web survey:
 - Lacamas Ridge Neighborhood Park (3 votes)
 - Edmonds Neighborhood Park (9 votes)
 - Lacamas Creek Neighborhood Park (5 votes)
 - Echo Neighborhood Park (4 votes)
 - Morning Star Neighborhood Park (3 votes)
 - Name park after a historic person or place in Clark County (6 votes)
 - Name park after a US soldier from Clark County killed in Iraq (7 votes)
- Additional names suggested through the recent Web survey:
 - Rose Crest Neighborhood Park
 - St. Helens View Neighborhood Park
 - Coyote Neighborhood Park
 - Kingsley Neighborhood Park
 - Forest Ridge Neighborhood Park
 - Harmony Ridge Neighborhood Park

- Maple Ridge Neighborhood Park
- Hill Top Neighborhood Park
- Truman Neighborhood Park
- Soldier Field Neighborhood Park
- Name park after the previous property owner

END