



proud past, promising future

# Oak Grove Neighborhood Park Public Comment Form Summary

Comment Period: March 2007

**Number of Comment Forms Mailed Out:** 1,282

**Total Returned:** 164

**Return Rate:** 13%

Please note that this is a summary of the comments received and is not intended to present a verbatim transcription 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 typical neighborhood park elements are to you.**

	<b>Very Important</b>	<b>Somewhat Important</b>	<b>Not Important</b>	<b>Don't Know/No Opinion</b>
a) Walking and biking trails	<b>101 (64%)</b>	39 (24%)	16 (10%)	2 (1%)
b) Open grassy fields for playing catch, touch football, Frisbee, etc.	<b>101 (67%)</b>	41 (27%)	8 (5%)	2 (1%)
c) Additional trees, landscaping and other habitat enhancement	<b>66 (44%)</b>	55 (36%)	27 (18%)	3 (2%)
d) Screening and privacy plantings for adjacent neighbors	45 (31.5%)	<b>48 (33%)</b>	45 (31.5%)	6 (4%)
e) Playground equipment	<b>103 (67%)</b>	34 (22%)	15 (10%)	2 (1%)
f) Basketball half court / sport court	43 (31%)	40 (29%)	<b>52 (38%)</b>	3 (2%)
g) Small skateboarding spot (1,500 square feet or smaller)	29 (20%)	27 (18%)	<b>87 (59%)</b>	4 (3%)
h) Picnic tables	<b>78 (50%)</b>	56 (35%)	22 (14%)	1 (>1%)
i) Park benches/seating areas	<b>110 (70%)</b>	42 (26%)	6 (4%)	0

### **Most Important Park Elements – “Most Important” only (over 50%)**

1. Park benches/seating areas	70%
2. Playground equipment	67%
3. Open grassy fields	67%
4. Walking and biking trails	64%
5. Picnic tables	50%

### **Most Important Park Elements – “Most Important” AND “Somewhat Important” only (over 50%)**

1. Park benches/seating areas	96%
2. Open grassy fields	94%
3. Playground equipment	89%
4. Walking and biking trails	88%
5. Picnic tables	85%
6. Additional trees, landscaping, etc.	80%
7. Screening and privacy plantings	64.5%
8. Basketball half court/sports court	60%

- The small skateboarding spot was ranked the least important feature overall, with 59% selecting “Not Important,” and a total of 38% selecting either “Most Important” or “Somewhat Important.”
- The screening and privacy plantings appear to be very closely ranked across the chart.
- Some respondents did not fill out this section.

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### **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 apparently thought we were asking how often they’d visit **if** the park were already developed and what they’d prefer to do there.
- The majority (appx. 90) of respondents stated that they had never visited the park, because:
  - They didn’t know it existed.
  - There is too much dog waste.
  - There is nothing to do there now.
- The remaining respondents (appx. 50) said that they had visited the park. The activities they said they engaged in were:
  - Walk dog / let dog run off leash
  - Walk
  - Play catch, football or soccer
  - Play Frisbee and Frisbee golf
  - Play with remote control planes or helicopters
  - Fly kites
  - Observe nature
  - Climb trees
  - Meet friends
  - Relax

**Question 3: 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 items respondents wished to preserve were:
    - Trees (overwhelmingly requested by a majority of respondents)
    - Open field / open-ness / visibility
    - Access point from 159<sup>th</sup> Avenue
    - Any views
  - Some respondents asked that an access point from 162<sup>nd</sup> Avenue be added.
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**Question 4: 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 did not know the history of the property.
  - Some respondents expressed an interest in learning about the history if we could find anything out.
  - The comments we did receive about the history of the property were:
    - Cow pasture
    - Wetlands
    - Old farm
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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 50 of the respondents said they had no concerns.
- Some respondents expressed excitement about the park being built and a desire for it to be complete as soon as possible.
- The vast majority of the concerns raised had to do with safety and security.
- Issues and concerns identified were:
  - Lighting at night.
  - Restricting access to 162<sup>nd</sup> Avenue due to heavy traffic volumes on that street, or making any entrance from 162<sup>nd</sup> Avenue gated. Protect children from high traffic areas.
  - Fencing the entire perimeter.
  - The skateboarding spot attracting a “bad crowd,” or “delinquents.”
  - Putting active play areas away from houses to reduce noise issues.

- Attracting criminal activities like vandalism, noise, drugs, loitering, and gangs.
  - Dog owners not cleaning up after their pets.
  - Making the park friendly to local wildlife.
  - Good visibility through and into all areas of the park (no hiding places).
  - Traffic impacts from visitors and the need for adequate on-street parking/street improvements.
  - Construction impacts (noise, mess, traffic, etc.).
  - Make sure it's well maintained (no litter, graffiti, etc.).
  - Make sure local law enforcement can see into the park and is patrolling it regularly.
  - Spend money wisely.
  - Creating light pollution.
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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.
- Many of the respondents expressed excitement that the park was being developed.
- Summary of comments:
  - Including a basketball court would help keep kids out of the street.
  - Include playground equipment appropriate for a range of ages, including toddlers.
  - Basketball court and skateboarding spot would be too noisy.
  - Put benches next to playground.
  - Include a small fenced off-leash dog park inside the main park.
  - Include a water feature that kids can play in.
  - Include plenty of trash cans.
  - Include swings.
  - Include bathrooms.
  - Include covered picnic shelters or covered seating areas.
  - Include a miniature amphitheater for neighborhood plays, music and other gatherings.
  - Include tranquil areas that can be enjoyed by adults and seniors.
  - Make it a place where families feel safe / family friendly.
  - Make sure it's well maintained.
  - Additional trees and landscaping would be nice, but don't spent a lot of money on it.
  - Include a walking path.
  - Include a drinking fountain.
  - Include bike racks.
  - Include a backstop or an area to practice hitting balls.
  - Include a neighborhood meeting place to help people connect with each other.
  - Include a large open field area.
  - Put playground equipment next to 162<sup>nd</sup> Avenue.
  - Keep playground away from 162<sup>nd</sup> Avenue.
  - Plant more trees along the perimeter.
  - Include a sports field.
  - Include a dog waste bag dispenser – neighborhood association volunteers can keep it stocked with bags.
  - Mark walking trail with lengths at regular intervals.
  - Put skateboarding spot near 162<sup>nd</sup> Avenue to keep noise away from homes.
  - Include rock climbing walls and tunnels.

- Maintain the natural habitat in the park.
- Include a waterfall or pond to help make it relaxing.
- Include raised charcoal BBQ stands or firepits.
- Make the park totally tobacco and alcohol free.
- Include a tennis court(s).
- There are already walking trails, playgrounds, sports fields and basketball courts at schools and other places in the neighborhood. Don't put them in this park.
- Include more shaded areas.
- Start construction sooner.
- Improve access to adjacent neighborhoods.
- Put picnic tables or playground next to existing trees for shade.
- Include a putting green.

END