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# Tiger Tree Neighborhood Park Public Comment Form Summary

Comment Period: March & April 2008

**Number of Comment Forms Mailed Out:** 2,009  
**Total Returned:** 147 (134 paper; 13 electronic)  
**Overall Return Rate:** 7%

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.**

	<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>106 (74%)</b>	27 (19%)	8 (6%)	2 (1%)
b) Open grassy fields for playing catch, touch football, Frisbee, etc.	<b>73 (51%)</b>	52 (37%)	14 (10%)	3 (2%)
c) Additional trees, landscaping and other habitat enhancement	52 (37%)	<b>58 (41%)</b>	25 (18%)	5 (4%)
d) Screening and privacy plantings for adjacent neighbors	<b>53 (38%)</b>	36 (26%)	34 (24%)	16 (12%)
e) Playground equipment	<b>74 (52%)</b>	33 (23%)	29 (21%)	5 (4%)
f) Small basketball court or sport court (less than half-court size)	33 (24%)	43 (32%)	<b>53 (38%)</b>	9 (7%)
g) Picnic tables	<b>70 (50%)</b>	50 (35%)	19 (14%)	2 (0%)
h) Park benches/seating areas	<b>92 (66%)</b>	37 (26%)	11 (7%)	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 (more than 50%)*

1. Walking and biking trails	74%
2. Park benches/seating areas	66%
3. Playground equipment	52%
4. Open grassy fields	51%
5. Picnic tables	50%

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

1. Walking and biking trails	93%
2. Park benches/seating areas	92%
3. Open grassy fields	88%
4. Picnic tables	85%
5. Additional trees/landscaping	78%
6. Playground equipment	75%
7. Screening plantings	64%
8. Sports court	56%

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## Question 2: Have you ever visited Tiger Tree 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 (89) stated they had previously visited this currently undeveloped park. The activities they said they engaged in were:
  - Walking and hiking around it or through it
  - Jogging/running through it
  - Walking dogs/letting dogs run
  - Road bike through it
  - Playing on the downed trees
  - Exploring
  - Watching birds and other wildlife
  - Enjoying nature
  - Playing catch, soccer and football
  - Riding BMX bike on jumps and trails
  - Picnicking
  - Playing with children
  - Easter egg hunt
  - Playing in the snow
  - Sitting and reading
  - Relaxing
  - Picking up trash
- The remaining respondents (56) said that they had not visited the park for some of the following reasons:

- It is dark and scary
  - Didn't know it existed
  - Too overgrown
  - Didn't know it was open to the public yet
- Some respondents said they no longer visit the park or allow their children to visit it because they consider it unsafe. They cited the lack of visibility due to overgrown vegetation, downed trees and muddy trails, trash, and criminal activities as the reasons they felt it was unsafe.
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**Question 3: 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.
  - The things respondents said they wished to preserve were:
    - All existing access points
    - Trees (especially the large evergreens)
    - Grass
    - Privacy for adjacent neighbors
    - Ability to walk a dog
    - Wooded trails
    - Rural feel
    - Wildlife
    - The “elephant tree” – a tree with a second trunk growing out of its side
    - Leave a few hazelnut trees so the squirrels have something to eat
    - Keep wooded area along the south and east side of the park as natural as possible
    - BMX jumps along the trails (make them better)
    - Leave it as it is/don't do anything
    - Trilliums, Oregon grape and all native plants and trees
    - Open grassy area
    - Peace and serenity
    - Shade
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**Question 4: Do you have any concerns about this upcoming park development project?**

- Some respondents did not answer this question.
- 15 respondents said they had no concerns.
- A number of respondents stated that the undeveloped park is currently experiencing a number of different safety and security problems, including drug and alcohol use, fighting, vandalism, after-hours use, excessive dog waste, dogs allowed off the leash, littering, illegal dumping, motorbike riding, and homeless camping – all of which are against the law.

These concerns have been shared with the county parks maintenance and operations office, which can help with things like vegetation management, illegal dumping and litter removal. However, in order to make this park a safer place to visit, it is vital that neighbors immediately report any illegal activities they observe in the park to the Clark County Sheriff's Office by calling 9-1-1 or by calling the Central Precinct at 397-6195.

- Most of the concerns were related to safety and security:
  - Safety for bicycle riding
  - Worried that the park will attract crime, drugs and drinking, gangs and homeless people
  - Make sure there are regular police patrols
  - Fighting, discrimination and violence occurring in the park
  - Limit the number of structures and surfaces in the park that could attract graffiti or other vandalism
  - Clear out the underbrush and some trees and provide some lighting to improve safety
  - The park should be visible from one end to the other
  - Get rid of overgrown areas that provide hiding places
  - Worried it will become a place for teenagers to hang out and get into trouble
  - Worried that teenagers will intimidate younger children
  - Worried that registered sex offenders living next to the park will have more access to children
  
- The other issues and concerns identified by respondents included:
  - Adequate space to park
  - People continuing to allow their dogs off the leash – please enforce the dog leash and scoop laws
  - Worried that all the trees will be cut down to make room for sports fields
  - Noise to adjacent neighbors early in the morning and at night
  - The narrowness of some of the entrances – it seems like we are invading the neighbors' space
  - Construction creating a lot of noise and traffic impacts to neighbors
  - Don't locate loud features like the playground or basketball court anywhere near adjacent neighbors
  - It's not going to be built soon enough
  - Don't raise taxes
  - Don't overdevelop it – limit concrete or asphalt surfacing.
  - Don't put in a skateboard park.
  - Removing trees and shrubs will reduce neighbors privacy
  - Concerned that dog owners won't pick up after their pets
  - Worried that additional features will result in more trash in the park
  - Don't allow people to drive into the park
  - Additional traffic and parking on neighborhood streets
  - Children riding BMX bikes in the park tend to go really fast, so provide separate walking and biking trails
  - Move trails away from adjacent properties
  - After hours use of the park disturbing neighbors
  - Unsupervised children and dogs in the park
  - That animals and birds in the park will be negatively impacted by the development

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**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:
  - Maintain open area, trees and atmosphere

- Clean it up and make it nicer and more useful
- Make it more open and less dark
- Address the problems that are in the park now, including homeless people living in the park, vandalism, fires, drugs and fighting, and after hours use
- Hurry up
- Looking forward to the park being developed and improved
- Keep the park as natural as possible with only a small playground in the open field
- Remove diseased trees, thin out the nut trees, but leave as many of the trees as possible
- Don't turn it into another shadeless playground for children who won't take care of it
- Keep it groomed and well maintained
- Make the entrance on the east side less intimidating. It is very narrow and surrounded by yards containing dogs who bark loudly whenever anyone approaches
- Add park locations and other community information to the address change packet
- Make sure the park is wheelchair accessible
- Don't include picnic tables
- Don't include restrooms
- Give plenty of notice on public meetings
- Leave the park the way it is now
- Wonderful project
- Make the property across from York Elementary School a neighborhood park for the people who live north of the airport
- Thanks for requesting feedback from neighbors
- Believe that this property was donated to the county to be used as a non-developed park only
- Involve and listen to neighbors
- Make it dog friendly
- Keep it fun and family friendly
- No dogs allowed
- Playground equipment won't be used and picnic tables will bring trash – leave it the way it is
- Leave all the trees
- Gear playground to children under 12 – don't want the park to become more of a teenage hangout
- If a basketball court is included, keep it half court or smaller and provide a separate smaller hoop for little children
- Don't overdo screening plantings – it's important that neighbors be able to see into the park to help keep it safe
- Conduct once a day visual checks of the park in the late afternoon to make sure it isn't being abused
- Make paintball illegal
- At least 15 different bird species frequent this park – don't take away their habitat
- Playground equipment is very important
- Stop wasting our tax dollars – spend the money on better things
- Just improve the trails and clear the brush and spend the money somewhere else
- Thank you
- Need to make the park open and inviting so people of all ages can feel safe and comfortable without completely eliminating the natural feel in the park
- Include unpaved trails suitable for jogging
- Use Orchards Park as a guide for the development of this park
- No sports equipment
- Don't use a lot of metal so people won't be tempted to steal it
- Include things for older children to do (basketball, BMX, skateboarding)
- Improve the trails and keep children from digging up the ground to create BMX jumps
- Improve current entrances
- Don't pave all the trails

- Make it so vehicles can drive into the southeast side of the park
  - Add lighting on the 85<sup>th</sup> Circle side of the park to deter homeless camps
  - Provide something for pre-school age children and toddlers to do
  - Plant bushes and trees that are bird friendly
  - Provide easy access for police and emergency vehicles
  - Close the park at dusk
- Additional or specific park features respondents asked be included in the park:
    - Restroom
    - Off-leash dog park area – there is a playground available at the school already, but no dog park in this area
    - Lighting
    - Designated smoking area
    - Fun playground equipment
    - Covered picnic area
    - Swings and monkey bars in the playground
    - BMX bike trail with jumps
    - Horseshoe pits in an out of the way spot
    - Water feature surrounded by fruit bushes for the birds
    - A restroom with a quarter slot on the outside door for access to help keep vandals out
    - Security cameras
    - Concrete skateboarding/BMX area – let neighborhood kids design it
    - BBQ area next to picnic tables
    - Plant additional trees that have some fall color
    - Disc golf course
    - Tennis courts
    - Lots of trash cans (one at each entrance and next to any active play features)
    - On-site parking so visitors don't park in front of homes
    - Bird bath and bird feeders

END