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Vandervort Neighborhood Park (formerly Fisher-Mill Plain Neighborhood Park) Playground Comment Form Summary

Comment Period: June 2009

Total Number of Comment Forms Received: 26

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 unedited 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.

What types of playground experiences are most important?

answer options	1 Most Important	2	3	4	5 Least Important
Balancing	4	2	5	7	6
Climbing	11	6	4	1	1
Sliding	7	10	2	2	3
Spinning	4	3	7	5	4
Swinging	15	2	5	2	0

Experiences ranked from most important to least important:

1. Swinging
2. Climbing
3. Sliding
4. Spinning
5. Balancing

Other play experiences listed by respondents:

- Swimming
- Skateboarding
- Rock climbing

Playground Options

Options ranked from highest approval level to lowest:

1. Option A – 44% chose “1, Like the Most”
2. Option D – 37.5% chose “1, Like the Most”
3. Option B – 41.7% chose “2” (see below)
4. Option C – 40% chose “5, Like the Least”

Option A

This option features a tall climbing structure designed for children older than 10 with a lookout platform at the top, a slide and multiple climbing challenges, including a rock wall, angled ladder and parallel bars. It also features a swing set with two belt swings and one toddler swing. Two different dynamic spinning pieces complete this option.

answer options	Response Percent	Response Count
1 Like the Most	44%	11
2	24%	6
3	8%	2
4	12%	3
5 Like the Least	12%	3

What did you like/dislike about Option A?

- Don't like that children under age 10 can't use the climbing structure.
- The climbing structure is ugly.
- Like that the round spinning piece can hold more than one child.
- Replace one of the spinners with a toddler play structure.
- It doesn't promote group play.
- Pacific Community Park already has this type of equipment. Provide something else.
- The climbing structure looks cumbersome.
- Not enough swings.
- Provide a teeter totter instead of the round spinner.
- Not durable enough.
- Love the climbing structure, parallel bars and spinner.
- Too weird and complicated. Keep it simple.
- Swing set frame is too short and seats are too high.

Option B

This option features a traditional climbing structure designed for children age 4-10 with a low slide and several climbing challenges. It also features a “tower boulder” climbing feature designed for children older than 4. This option also features a swing set with two belt swings and one toddler swing, and a spinning bowl.

answer options	Response Percent	Response Count
1 Like the Most	25%	6
2	41.7%	10
3	12.5%	3
4	12.5%	3
5 Like the Least	8.3%	2

What did you like/dislike about Option B?

- Spinning bowl does not look inviting.
- Does not promote group play.
- Like the rock climbing structure because it looks natural.
- Kids often get going too fast to stop in the spinning bowl at Pacific Park.
- The climbing rock is cool.
- Not enough things for older kids to do. Needs larger slides and climbing/balancing structures.
- Replace this climbing structure with the one from Option A.
- Swing set seats are too high. The structure itself needs to be taller.
- Replace the spinning bowl with the round group spinner in Option A.
- Like the looks of the climbing structure and that it can be used by younger children.
- The spinning bowl looks like fun.

Option C

This option features a dynamic climbing structure designed for children older than 10 that includes areas for climbing, balancing and spinning. This option also features one dynamic spinner, a swing set with two belt swings and one toddler swing, and a small imaginative play structure designed for children ages 2-4 with spaces to climb through, and a scooper for digging in the wood chips.

answer options	Response Percent	Response Count
1 Like the Most	4%	1
2	16%	4
3	28%	7
4	12%	3
5 Like the Least	40%	10

What did you like/dislike about Option C?

- Not enough play options for children under age 6.
- Not enough variety.
- The climbing structure looks potentially dangerous.

- Don't like that there's no slide.
- Not enough swings.
- This type of equipment is already available at nearby parks.
- A good balance of equipment for younger and older children.
- Not as exciting as Option A.
- Like the creative play structures and spinners.
- Don't like the weird modern equipment. Prefer something more old-fashioned.
- The dynamic climbing structure is not toddler friendly.
- The little play structure is cute.

Option D

This option features a large, traditional climbing structure designed for children younger than 12 that includes multiple slides, platforms and poles. This option also has a second imaginative play structure for children ages 2-4 with spaces to crawl through and balance on, and a swing set with two belt swings and one toddler swing.

answer options	Response Percent	Response Count
1 Like the Most	37.5%	9
2	16.7%	4
3	25%	6
4	8.3%	2
5 Like the Least	12.5%	3

Why? What did you like/dislike about Option D?

- Like that the climbing structure has multiple slides and a variety of activities.
- Like that the climbing structure can be used by a lot of children at the same time.
- Needs more swings.
- Like that it looks simple and fun.
- Like that it's designed mainly for children under age 12.
- Looks safe and durable.
- We need more traditional playground equipment in this neighborhood.
- Needs a taller slide.
- Not very original.
- Looks boring.
- Like the longer slide on the climbing structure.
- Needs a spinner of some sort.
- Like the slides.
- Like that the climbing structure is good for all ages.
- The smaller imaginative play piece looks boring. The piece in Option C would be better.

Other general comments about the playground:

- Three swings is not enough. Need at least four regular swings and at least two toddler swings.
- Model after the old-fashioned parks in Portland (teeter totters, merry-go-round, long straight slides, tall swing sets, etc.).
- Provide a water feature that children can play in.

- Provide a swimming pool.
- Provide a drinking fountain and restrooms.
- Provide a rock climbing wall.
- Provide a half pipe for skateboarders.
- Provide benches near the equipment for parents.
- Provide curved/corkscrew slides and monkey bars.
- Make the playground look natural.
- Use grass or rubber safety surfacing instead of wood chips.
- Don't like the equipment at St. Helens Park on 13th Street.
- This park is big. Make the playground big, too.
- Do not provide a skateboarding area in this park.
- Provide a sports court with a basketball hoop.
- Provide a zip line.
- Provide a rope climbing structure.
- Provide a basketball court.
- Provide a bouncy bridge.
- Provide a tire swing.
- Provide a merry-go-round.

END