



Mini-mod soccer fields at All Saints Episcopal Church

Frequently Asked Questions June 2010

In 2009, Clark County Public Works and Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation partnered with the Diocese of Olympia to locate four small, “mini-mod” soccer fields at All Saints Episcopal Church, 2206 NW 99th St. in the Lakeshore neighborhood. The county will make some minor improvements to the property around the church starting in late June or early July 2010, including:

- Smoothing out and reseeding part of the lawn
- Installing an irrigation system
- Creating a low drainage swale along the north property line to catch stormwater runoff
- Making minor repairs to the existing parking lot and installing two handicapped stalls
- Installing wood chips in the church’s playground
- Installing chain link fencing around the fields

Construction would be complete in fall 2010, and games would begin in 2011.

Why are these fields being built?

In 2005, voters approved the Greater Clark Parks District program, which provides maintenance and operations funding for new parks, trails and sports fields. With the passage of the parks district levy, the Board of County Commissioners made a commitment to local youth sports groups to provide 41 additional sports fields in the unincorporated urban area of the county. These fields will help meet the need of local youth soccer clubs that serve families living in Lakeshore and Hazel Dell.

Don't the majority of neighbors oppose these fields?

Most of the 33 neighbors who attended a public meeting about Jack Z. Fazio Neighborhood Park were opposed to including mini-mod soccer fields in the park. However, prior to the public meeting the county mailed a comment form to all neighbors living within a half-mile radius of the park, which is directly across NW 99th Street from the church, asking if they would support including the soccer fields at the park. Of the 503 responses returned to the county, 394 supported the soccer fields.

Why can't the fields be built at Eisenhower Elementary School?

The existing soccer field at the elementary school is already being used by Eisenhower Soccer Club. The school district also charges a rental fee for the field, which some soccer clubs cannot afford.

Why is the partnership with the church being allowed?

The county does not have enough funding to buy the land *and* build all of the sports fields projects included in the Greater Clark Parks District program. In response to this, the Board of Clark County Commissioners directed staff to seek out partnerships with public and private entities to provide these needed facilities and do the most good with limited tax dollars. The county has already partnered with several school districts and churches to develop youth sports fields, and will continue to seek out these types of partnership opportunities in the future.



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What is mini-mod soccer?

To limit the impact to neighbors, mini-mod soccer will be the only type of organized sport allowed on this site. Mini-mod soccer fields are designed for children ages 10 and younger. They are significantly smaller than standard high school or adult soccer fields. To compare:

Standard size soccer field: Approximately 330 feet by 210 feet (75 x 120 yards)

Mini-mod soccer field: 90 feet by 60 feet (10 x 30 yards)

Each team has six children on it. Each game lasts 20 minutes. Up to eight teams may use the site at the same time (2 teams per field x 4 fields).

When would games be played?

The soccer clubs may use the property for games and practices from 8 a.m. to dusk on weekdays and Saturdays throughout the year. However, no games or practices will be scheduled during regular church activities on Wednesdays after 5 p.m. or on Sundays. In addition, no games or practices will occur during the Montessori school's operating hours (Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.).

How many cars will come to the games and practices?

Games will typically attract 45-50 vehicles if all four fields are being used at the same time. Games will be staggered to help minimize overlap and traffic impacts. Practices will attract fewer cars than games.

Where will people park if the church parking lot is full?

The church parking lot has 60 spaces available. If the church parking lot fills up, cars may park on public streets. Should this happen, a car would typically be parked for the duration of one game, or less than one hour.

How will the additional traffic impact NW 99th Street?

Northwest 99th Street is major arterial designed to move a large amount of traffic. The soccer games will not significantly impact existing traffic or congestion levels.

How much noise will games create?

Mini-mod soccer games attract much smaller groups of spectators than high school or adult games. On game days, immediately adjacent neighbors will hear the referee's whistle and some cheering and clapping when someone makes a goal. No amplified sound systems will be allowed.

Who will be in charge of maintenance of the fields, litter removal, etc.?

Clark County Public Works parks maintenance crews will visit the property every day when the fields are in use to remove trash and conduct other routine maintenance. Neighbors are encouraged to contact the county about any maintenance or operations concerns after the fields are in use. Maintenance problems can be reported to Clark County Public Works by calling (360) 397-2446 at any time (24/7). Concerns about who is using the site or scheduling of games can be reported to Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation by calling (360) 619-1111.

Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation will monitor the use of the fields and may make adjustments to the use agreement and maintenance schedule as needed. Staff also will meet regularly with soccer clubs to ensure compliance with the use agreement, including review of the field use schedule. Problems with noise, traffic and/or litter will be addressed as quickly as possible.

Will portable toilets be allowed? Who will maintain them?

There are currently no plans to provide portable toilets at this site. If the soccer clubs would like to rent portable toilets for the site, they would need approval from Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation and they would pay for the rental and maintenance.

How can I provide input?

The improvements to the church's property are considered minor maintenance, based on the type of work being done and the cost. No zoning changes or permits are required due to the relatively small scope of the project. Public design and permitting processes are associated with larger projects.

The agreement between the county and the church and the construction contract were reviewed and approved by the Board of Clark County Commissioners as part of their regular, public business meetings. For more information about the Board's meetings, please visit this Web page: www.clark.wa.gov/bocc/hearings/hearings.html.

Where can I get more information?

Contact:

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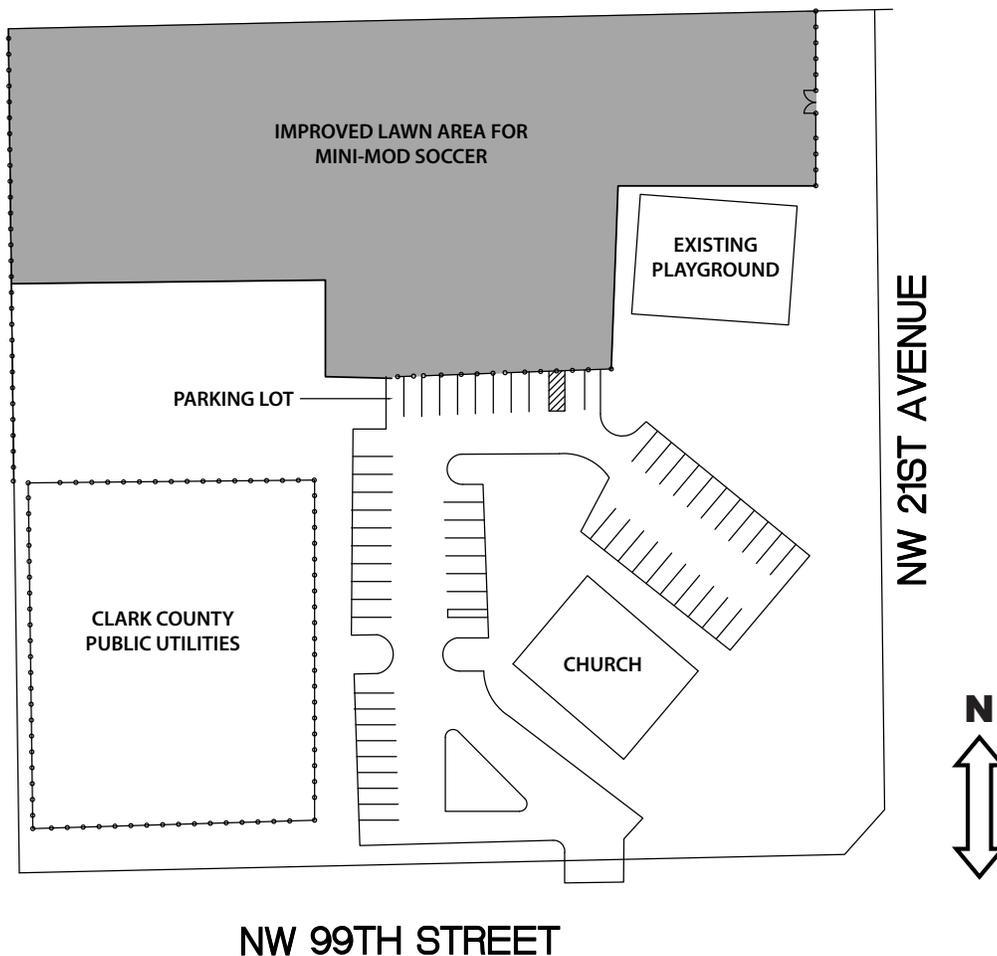
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 For other formats, contact the Clark County ADA Office
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