



proud past, promising future

# East Minnehaha Neighborhood Park Public Comment Form Summary

**Comment Period: Jan. 14 - Feb.1, 2011**

**Number of Comment Forms Mailed Out:** 926  
**Total Returned:** 133 (125 paper; 8 electronic)  
**Overall Return Rate:** 14%

Please note that this is a summary of comments received and is not 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.**

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important	Don't Know/ No Opinion
a) Walking and biking trails	<b>98 (73%)</b>	23 (17%)	12 (9%)	2 (1%)
b) Open grassy field for playing catch, touch football, Frisbee, etc.	<b>81 (61%)</b>	34 (26%)	14 (10%)	4 (3%)
c) Additional trees, landscaping and other habitat enhancement	48 (37%)	<b>51 (39%)</b>	27 (20%)	5 (4%)
d) Screening and privacy plantings for adjacent neighbors	64 (31%)	<b>44 (33%)</b>	30 (23%)	17 (13%)
e) Playground equipment	<b>62 (47%)</b>	30 (23%)	36 (27%)	4 (3%)
f) Basketball half court / sport court	27 (21%)	33 (25%)	<b>63 (49%)</b>	6 (5%)
g) Small skateboarding spot (1,500 square feet or smaller)	15 (12%)	14 (11%)	<b>96 (74%)</b>	4 (3%)
h) Picnic tables	45 (34%)	<b>56 (43%)</b>	29 (22%)	1 (1%)
i) Park benches/seating areas	<b>80 (59%)</b>	38 (28%)	17 (12%)	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  | 73% |
| 2. Open grassy field          | 61% |
| 3. Park benches/seating areas | 59% |

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

- |                              |     |
|------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Walking and biking trails | 90% |
| 2. Open grassy field         | 87% |
| 3. Benches/seating areas     | 87% |
| 4. Picnic tables             | 77% |
| 5. Trees and landscaping     | 76% |
| 6. Playground equipment      | 70% |
| 7. Screening plantings       | 64% |

- The least support was for the small skateboarding spot (74% selecting “Not Important”) and the basketball half court/sports court (49% selecting “Not Important”).

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## Question 2: Have you ever visited this property before?

Yes: 55

No: 69 (Primarily because they didn’t know it existed previously.)

### **If you answered “yes,” what did you do there?**

- Walked through or past it
- Walked, jogged or played with dog(s)
- Picnicked
- Just looked at it from the street
- Played ball or tossed a Frisbee
- Nothing (because it’s not developed)
- Explored
- Socialized with neighbors
- Used it as a shortcut to access the golf course
- Picked blackberries
- Hiked around with children

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## Question 3: Is there something special about this park you would like to preserve during the upcoming development process (i.e. trees, views, access points)?

71 people responded to this question (53%).

Most of these responses were focused on preserving the natural features of the park, including:

- Trees/large mature trees
- Wildlife habitat
- Native plants

- Open lawn area(s)
- Wetland – don't allow people to walk through it without installing a bridge
- Forested area in the northeast corner
- Leave the open lawn area north of the power lines “as is”
- The natural buffer bushes next to adjacent properties

Additional features/elements respondents were interested in preserving were:

- Existing access point from NE 69<sup>th</sup> Street
- Views into golf course

**Question 4: Do you have any concerns about this upcoming park development project? If so, please explain.**

57 people responded to this question (43%).

Most of the concerns respondents expressed were about:

- A developed park attracting more traffic to the neighborhood and encouraging visitors to park on neighborhood streets
- The park attracting criminal activities to the neighborhood
- The park becoming a place for teenagers to gather and party after dark

Other concerns were:

- Keep it as natural as possible/don't overdevelop it.
- Don't spend taxpayer money on this project.
- Don't allow access to the park from 69<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Don't allow/encourage on-street parking on 69<sup>th</sup> Street.
- There is no easy access to park from neighborhood to the west – consider an access trail through the golf course connecting to the segment of 69<sup>th</sup> Street west of the park.
- Improve visibility through the park by removing underbrush and blackberries.
- 50 registered sex offenders live in this area – safety and security are very important.
- Provide parking inside the park, so neighborhood streets don't become congested.
- May need to include some sort of barrier against golf balls flying into the park from the adjacent golf course.
- Don't want the park. Don't build it.
- Don't want any active play features in the park (e.g. playground, sports court, etc.). Keep it passive and natural.
- Concerned that the park is somewhat secluded and has poor visibility from adjacent properties and roads.
- It is primarily used as a place for people to walk their dogs – don't want to lose this.
- Don't allow dogs off the leash in the park (Note: County code doesn't allow dogs to be off the leash in any park unless it has been designated as an official off-leash dog park).
- Need adequate parking and restrooms.
- Skateboarding and basketball will be too noisy for adjacent neighbors.
- A skateboarding feature will encourage after-hours use in the park.
- Spend the money on something else.
- Don't want children to have access to the power line towers.
- Small children will need access to a restroom.
- Don't allow after hours use (gate and lock entrances).

- This is not a good location for a public park – it is too secluded and visibility is too poor.
- Homes in this area all have large backyards – a park is not needed.
- Concerned that the development will chase away the wildlife.
- The park will need to be secured and patrolled on a regular basis.
- Concerned that the park won't be regularly maintained.
- Don't want wood chips in the playground because of splinters.
- Locate open lawn areas, playground and other active play areas away from adjacent homes to cut down on noise.
- Enforce existing leash and waste removal laws for dogs.
- Like the park the way it is now. Leave it alone.
- Build it sooner.
- Concerned about the impact to the park if BPA expands the power corridor through the park.
- Don't want outsiders coming in to the neighborhood.
- Get rid of any hiding places inside the park.
- Concerned that playground equipment will just get vandalized.
- Providing a place for people to walk their dogs will bring more visitors and better “eyes on the park.”
- Provide tall fences and buffer plantings for adjacent neighbors.
- The power lines are dangerous.

#### **Question 5: Do you have any other comments about this project?**

- Access from NE 63<sup>rd</sup> Street is vital.
- Get rid of the power lines.
- Getting this park developed was the main reason we bought our house – very excited.
- Make the NE 69<sup>th</sup> Street access secondary to the access from NE 63<sup>rd</sup> Street.
- Plant trees and other vegetation that specifically attract more wildlife to the park.
- Very excited to have a park so close to home.
- Make sure the park is safe for young children, but also interesting for older children.
- This is a great thing for local families.
- Don't want to pay more property taxes for parks.
- Looking forward to using the new park.
- Use this space for things like rummage sales, a farmer's market, educational seminar, outdoor concerns or health and fitness programs.
- Make sure the park is handicapped accessible.
- This park will be an asset to the community.
- Provide a clear demarcation of the property lines of the park (fence it).
- This park will help connect neighbors and create a better sense of community.
- Don't want the park to raise property assessments.
- Need sidewalks on the roads leading to the park.
- Need traffic warning signs about watching for pedestrians going to the park.
- Build it as soon as possible.
- Fence the park off from the golf course.
- Connect the park to the neighborhood to the west using the BPA corridor.

### **Regarding specific park features:**

- Locate playground close to trees for shade.
- Provide an equal balance between grassy and wooded areas.
- Plant more trees for shade.
- On-street parking dedicated for the park is necessary.
- Provide more open lawn area.
- Need more than one entrance.
- Remove the blackberries and other invasive plants.
- Install a 6-foot tall fence around the entire site.
- Area set aside for playing with dogs off the leash (xx people requested this).
- Dog waste bag dispenser.
- Keep some areas natural for kids to explore.
- Include an elevated walkway or bridge across the wetland from north to south.
- Need a covered picnic shelter.
- Include a drinking fountain.
- Include restrooms.
- Include a parking lot or other dedicated parking.
- Include security lighting.
- Include BBQ grills.
- Include horseshoe pits.
- Include checkers or chess tables.
- Walking/running trail would be nice.
- Would like colorful playground equipment with long slides and lots of swings.
- Parking lot at the 63<sup>rd</sup> Street entrance is needed.
- Install surveillance cameras.
- Include a Frisbee/disc golf course.
- Include an archery practice area – local businesses could donate targets in return for advertising on them.
- Include full-court basketball.
- Include a tennis court.
- Include benches along the walking trail, so elderly users have a place to stop and rest.
- Include playground equipment and picnic tables.
- Put covered picnic tables and open lawn play area next to the playground.
- Include a baseball backstop.
- Include a cat park.
- Provide wide walking trails.
- Make it like Whale Park in Kona, Hawaii.
- Build a playground close to the 69<sup>th</sup> Street entrance.
- Include a volleyball area.
- Include a pickleball court.
- Include exercise stations that are easy to maintain.

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**Question 6: “East Minnehaha Neighborhood Park” is a placeholder name used by county staff to identify the property and will be changed during the design process, based on neighbors’ input. If you would like to suggest a new name for the park, please do so in the space provided and tell us why you are suggesting it.**

- Meadow Land Park
- Green Meadows Park
- Park Meadows
- Meadows Park
- Orchard Meadows
- NWPlaza Park
- Blue Heron Park
- 9-Iron Park
- Sand Trap Park
- Fairway County Park
- Northtown Park
- Herm Kelly Park or Kelly Meadows Park after its former (now deceased) owner, Herman Kelly.
- Power Line Central
- Walnut Grove Park, because it serves this neighborhood
- A historical Vancouver name
- Meadows Acres
- East Green Meadows Park
- Our Park, because it belongs to the neighborhood.
- Sophie's Park (no explanation)
- Glennwood Heights
- Minnehaha People's Park
- We raised your tax dollar park
- NE 63<sup>rd</sup> Street Park
- South Meadows Park, because it's on the south side of the Green Meadows neighborhood
- Keep it East Minnehaha Park
- Sunshine Spot, because parks are always a bright spot
- Good Times Park
- Goose Hollow Park, because numerous flocks of geese can be seen in this area
- South Green Meadows Park
- The Meadows Park
- Tranquility Park
- Meadow View Park
- Par Excellence Park, because it's near the golf course and will hopefully be a great park
- Green Haven Park
- Highline Park
- Orchards Park
- Sophie the Spaniel's Park, after a local dog

END