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CLARK COUNTY
WASHINGTON

VANCOUVER-CLARK
PARKS &
Recreation

East Minnehaha Neighborhood Park Draft Concept Plans Comment Summary

Comment Period: March 16-31, 2011

In March 2011, staff presented a draft concept plan for this park to neighbors for review and input. Please note that this is a summary of the verbal and written comments from the Mar. 16, 2011 public meeting and the written comments submitted through the project Web page Mar. 17-31, 2011. This summary reflects a range of opinions, and is not intended to present a word-for-word transcript. To view the hard copies of all the comment forms, please contact Jilayne Jordan at (360) 397-6118 ext. 4949.

An updated draft concept plan for the park will be developed based on neighborhood input, program needs, project funding and site requirements. This plan will be mailed to neighbors and posted online for additional input in April 2011.

Summary 1: Mar. 16, 2011 public meeting

Approximately 30 people attended the public meeting. The following is a summary of the comments heard at the meeting:

- Concerned that the park won't be well-used and think that it's not an inappropriate use of taxpayer money at this time.
- Providing garbage cans is very important.
- Consider including a dog waste bag dispenser/station.
- Need a couple on-street parking spaces for those who can't walk to the park because they have very young children or are disabled.
- The Green Meadows Homeowner's Association's rules prohibit on-street parking on NE 69th Street. (Note: If the road is publicly owned, Homeowner's Association CC&Rs/rules only apply to residents. They do not apply to the general public.)
- Concerned about the park attracting property crimes.
- The park will be a wholesome addition to the neighborhood.
- The secluded location will help keep the park a neighborhood secret, which is a good thing.
- Would like a sports court, but understand why it may not be a good fit at this park because of the poor visibility from adjacent roads.
- Plant bigger trees around the play area initially.
- There is a high water table in this area – concerned that the wetland will attract mosquitoes.
- Don't want the coyotes that live in the park to be chased away.

- Concerned about park visitors parking on NE 69th Street, which is very narrow.
- Concerned that the county won't have enough construction funding available to do a good job in the park.
- Believe that 100 percent of the county's real estate excise taxes should go to parks because that was the original agreement when the taxes were first implemented.
- Provide traction surfacing on the boardwalk for safety.

Summary 2: Written comment forms

Neighbors submitted 14 comment forms about the draft concept plan at the public meeting and online through the project Web page.

Likes:

- Play area location and quality of equipment
- Open spaces
- The proposed loop trail through the woods
- Proposed wetland enhancements/protection
- Natural areas for birding and wildlife
- The variety of walking surfaces
- Playground
- Walking paths
- The way the plan reflects the natural environment
- Looking forward to having a place to take my small children
- The boardwalk
- Wetland/wildlife viewing platform on the boardwalk
- The neighborhood feeling – not too big
- That no skateboarding facility is included
- The nature play area
- Native plantings
- Paths that can be used for biking or walking
- The simplicity of the design
- The maintenance of the forested area behind homes on the north side

Dislikes:

- Nothing. Looks great
- The lack of a skateboarding facility or sports court for older children/teens
- It will only serve a limited number of residents because it has limited access
- Needs two or three more picnic tables or benches around the playground for parents
- Explore options for additional security measures, like lights at night, cameras or clear views through the park (no shrubbery/hiding places)
- Include railings on the boardwalk for safety
- Include a dog waste bag dispenser/station
- That the walking trail goes under the power lines
- Move the playground to the NE 63rd Street side of the park – more families with children live on that side, plus it will move them further away from the power lines

- Provide a loop walking trail on the NE 69th Street side of the park, which is where the older residents live
- The loop trail should connect neighborhoods on the west to the park
- Concerned that people will just drive to the park and park on NE 69th Street rather than walk in from 63rd Street
- That if the Bonneville Power Administration locates its 500kV lines here, the high EMF readings will be unsafe for park visitors
- Include the proposed loop trail through the woods, even if it's just surfaced with wood chips at first
- Would prefer this park have no active play areas or structures and just include open lawn areas that are regularly mowed
- Concerned that the playground is not visible enough from NE 69th Street and that it could become an attractive spot for partying and other bad behavior as a result
- Need lighting for security due to lack of visibility
- Locating the playground close to NE 63rd Street would be more convenient for neighbors who will have to walk the longest distance to access the park from the south

Other general comments:

- Concerned that golf balls could fly into the park from the adjacent golf course.
- Thanks for asking for neighborhood input.
- Make sure the fencing proposed between the playground and wetland is complimentary to the natural feel of the park, but open enough to see through (e.g. split rail?).
- Believe that the majority of neighbors do not want this park. Use the money for maintenance of the parks you already have instead.

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