Stanton Neighborhood Park
Public Comment Form Summary

Comment Period: May 10-31, 2009

Number of Comment Forms Mailed Out: 445
Total Returned: 61 (53 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	**36 (67%)**	13 (23%)	6 (10%)	0 (0%)
b) Open grassy fields for playing catch, touch football, Frisbee, etc.	**28 (52%)**	18 (33%)	7 (13%)	1 (2%)
c) Additional trees, landscaping , etc.	22 (40%)	**27 (49%)**	4 (7%)	2 (4%)
d) Screening and privacy plantings for adjacent neighbors	**18 (33%)**	17 (32%)	15 (28%)	4 (7%)
e) Playground equipment	**29 (54%)**	11 (20%)	11 (20%)	3 (6%)
f) Basketball half court / sport court	**22 (39%)**	11 (20%)	20 (36%)	3 (5%)
g) Picnic tables	**35 (61%)**	13 (23%)	8 (14%)	1 (2%)
h) Park benches/seating areas	**38 (66%)**	13 (22%)	7 (12%)	0 (0%)

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	67%
2. Park benches/seating areas	66%
3. Picnic tables	61%
4. Playground equipment	54%
5. Open grassy fields	52%

"Very Important" AND "Somewhat Important" combined (more than 50%)

1. Walking and biking trails	90%
2. Additional trees, landscaping	89%
3. Park benches/seating areas	88%
4. Open grassy fields	85%
5. Picnic tables	84%
6. Playground equipment	74%
7. Screening plantings	65%
8. Basketball half court/sports court	59%

- The least support was for the basketball half court/sports court (36% selecting "Not Important").

Question 2: Would you or your family use a community garden if it was possible to locate one at this park?

NO: 45 (74%)
YES: 16 (26%)

- Several "yes" respondents stated that they thought a community garden was "a great idea."
- One respondent said they weren't sure if they would use a community garden.

Question 3: Is there something special about this property 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.
- 14 respondents said there was nothing on the property they wanted to preserve.
- Other comments received:
  - Do not provide public access to the park from 175th Street, which is a private road. Provide access from the corner of 29th and 175th.
  - Keep any mature trees.

- Add more trees.
- Include an access point in the southwest corner from 27th Avenue.
- Add a pond.
- Do not block the 27th Avenue extension north.
- Leave the property as it is now.
- Put benches around the existing large trees for shade and locate the playground equipment close to the trees.

Question 4: Are there any special neighborhood events you would want to hold in this park after it's developed?

- Some respondents did not answer this question.

- 16 respondents said there were no special events or activities they'd want to hold in the park.

- 13 respondents said they would like to hold the following types of events and activities in the park:
  - Neighborhood meetings or picnics
  - Summer picnics
  - Birthday parties
  - Holiday celebrations (Fourth of July, Memorial Day, Easter, etc.)
  - Block parties
  - Barbeques
  - Neighborhood Association events
  - Free concerts
  - Potlucks
  - Family gatherings
  - Children's play dates

Question 5: Do you have any concerns about this upcoming park development project?

- Some respondents did not answer this question.

- Many concerns involved safe access to the park:
  - NE 29th Avenue is very narrow with poor sight distance because of the hills and fast-moving traffic. Walking or biking to the park would be impossible unless sidewalks and bike lanes are added to this road south of 179th Street.
  - Include a trail that connects the Whipple Creek Condos and apartment complex on 179th Street with the park, so residents don't have to walk along 179th Street and 29th Avenue.
  - Provide on-street parking or a small parking lot so neighbors don't have to walk along 29th Avenue to get to the park.

Other concerns included:

- NE 175th Street is a private, gravel road. The homeowners who live along it pay for road maintenance, not the county. The general public should not be allowed to drive or park on it.
- Don't duplicate what's at Vista Meadows Neighborhood Park.
- Provide restrooms for children and shade around the playground area for parents.
- Concerned that the park will be vandalized.
- This park is not needed. All the homes in this area have large yards and plenty of space to play.
- Concerned that the park will attract crime and other criminal elements to the neighborhood.
- This is a waste of money. Spend the money on roads instead.
- There are other parks available within a few miles of this neighborhood. We don't need one here.
- Develop the park located at the end of 159th Street at 20th Avenue instead (Salmon Creek Community Club Neighborhood Park).
- Prefer that the county build a dog park here instead.
- Install streetlights along 29th Avenue for better visibility.
- Do not include a skateboarding feature in this park.
- Do not allow park visitors to park in the adjacent housing developments (27th Avenue, etc.).
- Stop spending taxpayer money on projects like this.
- Need to enforce the leash and scoop laws related to dogs in the park.
- Concerned about traffic on 29th Avenue being disrupted during construction.
- Make sure the new housing development on the west side of the park does not encroach on the park.
- Do not allow on-street parking on 29th Avenue. It is already very hard to pull out of roads/driveways onto 29th Avenue because of the poor sight distance.
- Do not put berms (hills) in the open lawn areas like at Vista Meadows Neighborhood Park. The uneven terrain makes it impossible to use those areas for pick up games or practicing sports.
- Need the Sheriff's Office to patrol the park regularly.
- Need to provide handicapped parking or else the park really isn't "accessible."
- Do not put any buildings on the property (restrooms, etc.).
- Concerned that you will exclude teenagers from the park. Include something that they would enjoy.

Question 6: 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:
  - Discourage parking and driving to the park. Make the necessary road improvements to allow for safe bicycle and pedestrian access. Providing a parking lot may attract some inappropriate activities.
  - Please keep us involved and informed.
  - Happy that this park is being developed.
  - Design this park so it's similar to Felida Community Park.
  - Tighten your belts and leave us alone.
  - Keep it as natural as possible (native flowers and trees, etc.).
  - Encourage dog owners to pick up after their pets by installing dog waste bag dispensers and lots of garbage cans.
  - Can't wait to use this park.
  - Build something other than a generic neighborhood park, like a community garden or a dog park.
  - Provide direct pedestrian access between the University Place subdivision and the park.
  - Make the park pet friendly.

- Specific features respondents asked be included in the park:
    - A walking trail combined with an agility course (i.e. climbing ropes, pull-up bars, etc.)
    - Lots of swings
    - A water feature that children can play in
    - Merry-go-round
    - Climbing structure
    - Bike paths
    - Covered picnic area or pavilion
    - Restrooms close to the playground
    - Benches around the playground for parents
    - Bird boxes, feeding station and natural habitat to attract nature
    - A pond or wetland to attract birds and frogs
    - A sign that says how many laps around the trail equals a mile
    - Play structure with slides, swings, and bars
    - Toddler swings
    - A skateboarding area
    - Soccer fields
    - Off-leash dog park
    - Walking/jogging path
    - Tennis courts
    - Drinking fountain
    - Parking
    - Lighting
    - Open lawn area for pickup games and practicing sports

END