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VANCOUVER-CLARK
PARKS &
Recreation

April 2010

North Sifton Neighborhood Park Frequently Asked Questions

Why is this park being developed?

This property was originally acquired by Clark County with the intention of developing it as a neighborhood park once funding was available to maintain it. In 2005, voters in the unincorporated urban area of the county approved a ballot measure that created the Greater Clark Parks District (www.clarkparks.org). This special taxing district provides maintenance and operations funding for 30 new neighborhood parks, five new community parks, seven miles of new trail and additional youth sports fields. North Sifton Neighborhood Park was one of the 30 neighborhood park properties that were identified as being part of the Greater Clark Parks District during the campaign. It is now being developed as part of this program.

When will construction start?

Construction may start in 2011, if funding is available.

What is the construction budget?

Approximately \$657,370.

How is this project being paid for?

Funding to design and construct this project comes from:

- Park impact fees, which are paid by developers whenever new homes are built
- Real estate excise taxes, which are paid whenever homes are sold

Maintenance will be paid for with property taxes collected by the Greater Clark Parks District (www.clarkparks.org), which was approved by voters in the unincorporated urban area of Clark County in 2005.

All of these funding sources are dedicated to parks and cannot be used for other purposes. The economic downturn has reduced the amount of money going into these funds. The county plans to complete design and permitting this year, and will continue to monitor revenue levels to determine when construction can begin.

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Will there be a parking lot and restrooms?

No. Neighborhood parks are designed for people living within the adjacent neighborhoods to walk or ride their bike to, not drive. They are not meant to be “destination” parks that attract visitors from outside the immediate neighborhood. As a result, the budget for this park does not include funding for parking lots or restrooms.

What will happen to the trees on the east side of the property?

Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation and Clark County Public Works intends to keep the forested area intact and integrate it into the park concept plan. Only trees that are sick or present a hazard to the public will be removed.

What kind of road improvements will be made? Will the barricades on NE 96th Street near the park be removed?

The county will probably be required to widen the south side of NE 96th Street in front of the park for sidewalk, curb and gutter. Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation will not be asked to remove the barricades currently blocking NE 96th Street. However, these barricades will likely be removed in the future as a part of the adjacent housing development project.

Who will maintain the park after it's built?

After construction is complete, Clark County Public Works will visit the park at least once a week in the winter and potentially up to seven days a week in the summer, when park use increases, to perform regular maintenance. Park maintenance includes mowing, weed removal, tree and plant care, garbage pick up, and equipment repairs.

Can the name of the park be changed?

Yes! “North Sifton” is just a placeholder name used by staff to identify the property. Neighbors will be invited to suggest new names for the park at the public meeting in April and then vote for their favorite in May.

Can I install a gate from my yard into the park?

Neighbors who share a property line with the park may pay to have a gate installed in the park's chain link fence *after construction is completed*. Interested neighbors must contact Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation in advance to request a gate agreement. For more information, call Brian Potter at (360) 619-1123.

How can I get more information about this project?

Please visit the project Web page at: www.clarkparks.org/projects/northsifton.htm.

Or contact:

Matt Hall, Project Manager

Clark County Public Works

Phone: 360-397-6118 ext. 4225

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