



proud past, promising future

North Sifton Neighborhood Park Public Comment Form Summary

Comment Period: Feb. 12-28, 2010

Number of Comment Forms Mailed Out: 838
Total Returned: 64 (62 paper; 2 electronic)
Overall Return Rate: 8%

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	45 (70%)	16 (25%)	3 (5%)	0 (0%)
b) Open grassy fields for playing catch, touch football, Frisbee, etc.	43 (68%)	18 (29%)	2 (3%)	0 (0%)
c) Additional trees, landscaping, etc.	19 (30%)	29 (46%)	13 (21%)	2 (3%)
d) Screening and privacy plantings for adjacent neighbors	15 (24%)	20 (32%)	22 (35%)	6 (9%)
e) Playground equipment	37 (59%)	19 (30%)	7 (11%)	0 (0%)
f) Basketball half court/sport court/small skateboarding spot	19 (30%)	20 (31%)	21 (33%)	4 (6%)
g) Picnic tables	34 (53%)	20 (31%)	9 (14%)	1 (2%)
h) Park benches/seating areas	42 (67%)	19 (30%)	2 (3%)	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	70%
2. Open grassy fields	68%
3. Park benches/seating areas	67%
4. Playground equipment	59%
5. Picnic tables	53%

- The least support was for screening and privacy plantings for adjacent neighbors (35% selecting “Not Important”).
 - The small basketball court, sports court or small skateboarding spot received mixed support, with many people who selected “Very Important” or “Somewhat Important” noting that they didn’t want a skateboarding spot, but would support some other type of sports court.
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Question 2: Have you ever visited this undeveloped park before? If you answered “Yes”, what did you do there?

YES: 40 (63%)

NO: 23 (37%)

- Respondents said they engaged in the following activities:
 - Let kids run around.
 - Walked for fitness or pleasure.
 - Let dogs run off the leash.
 - Walked my dog(s) on a leash.
 - Picnicked.
 - Rode bicycles.
 - Just looked at it.
 - Played catch with dogs.
 - Visited the horses.
 - Picked blackberries.
 - Hiked.
 - Explored with my children.
 - Fed the horses
- Those who hadn’t been to the park gave the following reasons:
 - There is nothing there.
- Some respondents did not answer this question.

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

- Some respondents did not answer this question.
 - 9 respondents said there was nothing about the park they wanted to preserve.
 - Features that other respondents said they'd like to preserve included:
 - Fencing along 96th Street, so children and dogs don't run into the road.
 - The existing trees (16)
 - Open field.
 - The natural feel.
 - Access points.
 - Shade.
 - Green and grassy look.
 - Minimal traffic on area streets.
 - Nesting hawks in the wooded area.
 - Wildlife that lives in the park.
 - Access to the park from 93rd St.
 - Access from 162nd Ave.
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Question 4: Are there any neighborhood events you would want to hold in this park after it's developed?

- Some respondents did not answer this question.
- 12 respondents said there were no special events or activities they'd want to hold in the park.
- The following types of events and activities were listed by some respondents:
 - Easter egg hunts.
 - Events to raise awareness about prevention of animal cruelty and to support local animal shelters.
 - Birthday parties.
 - Play dates for children.
 - Block parties.
 - Neighborhood or family BBQs.
 - Picnics.
 - Grand opening for the park with advertisements/sponsorships for local businesses.
 - Fireworks/parties on the Fourth of July.
 - Movie nights.

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

- Some respondents did not answer this question.
- Many concerns involved safety and security, including:
 - Include security measures so the park doesn't become a nighttime hangout for criminals.
 - Make the park more open, visually, so it's less inviting to criminals and bad behavior.
 - Provide a safe pedestrian access to the southwest corner of the park from NE 93rd Street and 158th Avenue.
 - Provide nighttime lighting to help prevent bad behavior after hours.
 - Get input from city and county law enforcement on potential problems in this particular area.
 - Don't allow alcohol consumption in the park.
 - Enforce daytime-only hours of operation.
 - Concerned that the park will attract crime and gangs to the neighborhood.
 - Vandalism.
 - Concerned that the park will increase car traffic on local roads.
 - Keep it open and highly visible. There are sex offenders living nearby.
 - Don't include a skateboarding spot. Similar features have created vandalism problems at other neighborhood parks in the county.
 - Don't want it to become a hangout for teenage troublemakers.
 - Concerned about increased traffic and people parking along the very narrow street during construction and afterwards. Many people currently walk in the street because there aren't sidewalks.
 - Remove some of the trees in order to open the property up visually.
 - Remove underbrush for better safety.
- Other concerns included:
 - Don't cut down any of the existing trees.
 - Dogs won't be allowed to run off the leash.
 - It could be overdeveloped with equipment and pavement.
 - A sports court or skateboarding area attracting criminal activities or a bad element to the park.
 - Don't install playground equipment like what is at Orchards Community Park.
 - Install playground equipment like what is at Marshall Community Park, and Sifton and York schools.
 - Don't allow overnight camping.
 - Don't waste taxpayer money on this project during an economic crisis.
 - Don't want a skateboarding area.
 - Don't want dogs to be allowed to run off the leash around children, etc.
 - There isn't enough room for on-street parking without blocking local/emergency access.
 - Hard to walk or bike on 96th Street where it's barricaded because part of it is unpaved.
 - Construction traffic impacting residents.
 - Dog waste not being disposed of properly.
 - Parking, so mothers can bring their children.
 - Need sheltered areas during rainy weather.
 - The park is too small to include very many activities.
 - Littering.
 - The development will reduce scarce coyote and bird habitat.
 - That noise from construction will disrupt neighbors. Only allow work to occur during daylight hours.
 - Need the park to be maintained regularly and the trash removed.
 - Keep it family oriented and don't provide features for teenagers.
 - Don't disturb two hawks nesting in the trees.

- Screening plantings for adjacent neighbors would be appreciated.
 - Smell from the adjacent horse pasture could affect ability to enjoy the park.
 - Don't allow dogs in the park.
 - Don't want a skateboarding spot.
 - Keep the project moving forward; prevent delays due to lack of funding.
 - Don't include a lot of landscaping.
 - Thin out the existing trees, but preserve the forested feeling on the west side.
 - Bicycles and pedestrians sharing one path could be dangerous.
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Question 6: Do you have any other comments about this project?

- Some respondents did not answer this question, or said they didn't have any other comments.
- Summary of general comments:
 - Looking forward to the new park.
 - Please include a pedestrian access from 93rd Street.
 - Don't build it.
 - Great idea.
 - Make it safe for families and dog-friendly.
 - This park should have been developed a long time ago.
 - Very excited.
 - Leave one tree that can be decorated at Christmas.
 - Think green.
 - Make it big.
 - Thanks for improving our community.
 - Keep it open year-round (some regional parks close to cars in the winter).
 - Allow dogs.
 - Keep it as natural as possible.
 - No skateboarding spot.
 - Make sure it's a place where children can safely play.
 - Don't include playground equipment or a sports court – there is already enough in other parks.
 - Don't allow bicycles in the park.
 - Don't spend a lot of money on trees and landscaping. This park already has plenty.
 - Develop it as soon as possible.
 - There are enough parks in the county. Don't want to pay more taxes.
 - Build an amusement park there instead.
- Specific features respondents asked be included in the park:
 - Off-leash dog run area.
 - Swings.
 - Slides.
 - BBQ grill/pit.
 - Lighting at night.
 - Loop walking trail.
 - Rose garden where people can buy memorial plaques/bricks to help support.
 - Equipment for toddlers.
 - Toddler swings.
 - Picnic tables/areas.

- Paved area for children to ride bikes.
- Shady areas for hot days.
- Place playground equipment in an area that gets some shade in the summer.
- Paved area for four-square.
- Restrooms.
- Adequate parking.
- Dog waste disposal station with bags.
- Picnic tables and benches.
- Tennis court.
- Install solar or wind-powered lights in the park.
- A skateboarding spot for local children.
- Covered picnic shelter.
- A running track around the perimeter for fitness.
- A walking and biking trail through the trees.
- Covered picnic areas with BBQ facilities and running water.
- Include screening plantings along the southern border of the park for adjacent neighbors.

END