



Salmon Creek Community Club Neighborhood Park Public Comment Form Summary

Comment Period: Feb. 15-March 5, 2011

Number of Comment Forms Mailed Out: 1,156

Total Returned: 186 (174 paper; 12 electronic)

Overall Return Rate: 16%

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	136 (76%)	32 (18%)	10 (5%)	1 (1%)
b) Open grassy fields for playing catch, touch football, Frisbee, etc.	91 (52%)	50 (28%)	29 (16%)	7 (4%)
c) Additional trees, landscaping and other habitat enhancement	48 (29%)	56 (34%)	49 (31%)	10 (6%)
d) Playground equipment	84 (48%)	42 (24%)	44 (25%)	6 (3%)
e) Basketball half court / sport court	34 (20%)	42 (25%)	88 (51%)	7 (4%)
f) Small skateboarding spot (1,500 square feet or smaller)	14 (8%)	23 (14%)	119 (70%)	14 (8%)
g) Picnic tables	69 (39%)	71 (40%)	35 (20%)	2 (1%)
h) Park benches/seating areas	108 (60%)	53 (30%)	16 (9%)	3 (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	76%
2. Benches/seating areas	60%
3. Open grassy field	52%

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

1. Walking and biking trails	94%
2. Park benches/seating areas	90%
3. Open grassy field	80%
4. Picnic tables	79%
5. Playground equipment	72%
6. Additional trees and landscaping	63%

- The least support was for the small skateboarding spot (70% selecting “Not Important”) and the basketball half court/sports court (51% selecting “Not Important”). The main reasons for this appeared to be concern that these types of activities would attract crime, noise and after-hours use to the park and neighborhood.
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Question 2: Have you ever visited this property before?

Yes: 101

No: 79 – several who answered “no” said they had driven past the park

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

- Walked
- Just drove by or looked at it from the road
- Walked dog(s)
- Explored/looked around
- Flew model airplanes
- Played Frisbee
- Played baseball/catch
- Picked blackberries
- Let children and pets run around
- Played with children
- Birdwatching
- Enjoyed nature
- Picnicked
- Watched children play soccer
- Couldn’t do anything because the grass was too long
- Removed litter
- Played soccer
- Nothing because it’s not developed yet

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)?

101 people responded to this question (54%).

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

- Trees/mature trees
- The old snag trees
- Whipple Creek
- Wildlife habitat/bird nesting and feeding areas
- Wetlands
- Natural buffer for adjacent freeway noise
- Watershed
- Greenery/native shrubs and plants
- Open meadow area

Additional features/elements respondents were interested in preserving were:

- Ability to let dogs run off the leash
- Views
- Peace and quiet/serenity
- Existing nature path
- Existing access point from the road (NE 20th Avenue at 159th Street)
- On-street parking in front of the park
- Privacy of adjacent neighbors
- Secluded feeling
- Limited access
- Well-controlled pet access

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

98 people responded to this question (53%).

A majority of the concerns expressed by neighbors related specifically to:

- Safety issues, including:
 - poor visibility and lots of hiding places in the park.
 - the park possibly attracting illegal activities such as vandalism, drugs, drinking, homeless camps, trespassing, break-ins, etc.
 - the location of the park entrance on a blind 90-degree corner creating a dangerous situation for pedestrians and bicycles, and for motorists who choose to park along the road or stop briefly to drop off passengers.
- The desire to preserve the natural features of the park, like the trees, creek, wildlife, etc.

Other concerns were:

- Groups of children currently gather in the park during good weather to build forts and bicycle jumps, play war, shoot BB guns and make a lot of noise that disturbs neighbors.

- Union Road at Whipple Creek is currently used as a dumping ground for automobile parts and yard equipment.
- Protect the wildlife habitat, especially for birds.
- Being injured by wildlife in the park.
- Pet owners not picking up their dog's waste.
- It will attract criminal activities, like the water tower park in Mt. Vista.
- It will attract non-residents.
- Additional litter/trash.
- Lots of coyotes live in this area.
- Don't overdevelop it. Keep it as natural as possible.
- Remove some of the underbrush to improve visibility/safety and dissuade homeless camping.
- Fence the park to protect neighbors from trespassers.
- Not enough room for families to park to offload picnic supplies, sports gear, etc. for a day at the park.
- Remove tree limbs below 8 feet to improve visibility/safety.
- Want the park to be mowed on a regular basis.
- Don't plant new trees and shrubs unless there is a long-term plan to water them and keep them alive.
- Need to maximize family use by including lots of playground equipment, swings and covered picnic areas.
- Parking is too limited. Need more.
- Excessive noise for adjacent neighbors.
- Minimize the amount of pavement used in the park.
- Cars parking along the road could create safety problems (not everyone will walk to this park).
- People use this park for playing paintball, which would create a conflict with other park users. Post signs prohibiting paintballing.
- Don't want people to continue to let their dogs run off the leash in the park.
- Manage the park development and maintenance costs. Don't want to pay more taxes.
- Don't want a skateboarding area in this park because it will attract crime, partying and after-hours use.
- Need law enforcement to patrol the area more often.
- Include lighting to discourage after-hours use.
- Post signs advising pet owners of the county's leash and scoop laws.
- Want the recreation needs of families and teenagers to be met in this park.
- Would like better access to the property from the Whipple Creek Condos on the west side of the creek.
- Need pedestrian crossings on 159th Street and 20th Avenue, sidewalk extensions approaching the park, and a "drop-off" area with 15 minute parking, so disabled neighbors can use the park.
- Mosquitoes.
- Don't allow dogs in the park.
- Keep quiet, natural areas separate from active play areas for children and teens.
- Don't destroy vegetation/trees to provide access to the creek.
- Locate active play areas away from adjacent neighbors.
- Don't want any amenities that create noise.
- Use pea gravel instead of wood chips in the playground.

- Concerned that the limited use/appeal will not be worth the expense.
- Encourage imaginative, nature-based play experiences instead of just providing playground equipment.
- Don't make it a place for teenagers only. Keep it family-oriented.
- Don't want people parking on Union Road to get to the park.
- Too hidden and secluded. Would be afraid to use it.
- Discourage homeless camping.
- Provide lots of garbage cans.
- Enforce park hours of operation.
- Don't build it unless you can afford to maintain it for the long-term.
- Need to provide restrooms for small children who walk/bike to the park with families and can't hold it until they get home after playing.
- Concerned that no one will use this park because the area is not very populated.
- Would prefer it if the county made improvements to Mt. Vista Park instead. This park is on a dangerous road and nearby developments already have playground equipment in them.
- People drive very fast on the adjacent roads.
- Only want a dog park.
- Concerned about noise and traffic delays due to construction.
- Don't make this park the same as all the other parks in this area. Provide at least one unique feature to draw visitors to the park.
- Need to thin out the forested area to improve visibility and safety.
- Things like playground equipment, picnic tables, benches and other active use features will just be destroyed by vandals.
- Concerned that bikes and pedestrians sharing the same small trail will create conflicts.
- Keep the active use features (benches, picnic tables, etc.) in the southeast corner closest to the road.
- Concerned a skateboarding area will attract "bad kids" to the park.
- Do not include a parking area.
- Worried that the park will be used for dumping garbage.
- Need a safe place to park since many children are too young to walk more than a block or two.
- Be sure to provide community interaction space, like tennis courts, ping-pong tables or benches, where neighbors can socialize with each other.
- Don't provide direct vehicle access to the park from the freeway.
- A sports court will end up being used by skateboarders, like at the Mt. Vista water tower park. They need a separate, dedicated space.
- Fence the property to help keep children from running out into the road.
- Have seen evidence of homeless camping in the park already.
- Need lighting for after-hours use.
- That the playground equipment won't be truly accessible for children with disabilities (special swings, ramps up to climbing structures instead of stairs, rubberized safety surfacing instead of wood chips, etc.).
- Don't use the "modern" playground equipment like what's at Vista Meadows Neighborhood Park.

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

- We don't need a park. Fix the road instead/use the money for something else.

- Looking forward to it.
- Eliminate unnecessary government expenditures and lower taxes instead of building parks.
- Remove some of the trees to make more space for typical park features.
- Vista Meadows Park on 29th Avenue is seldom used.
- Acquire the property to the north to expand the developable area.
- Preserve this area as a wildlife refuge and keep it as natural as possible.
- Provide better access to the park from NE 15th by the Whipple Creek Condos – this area is currently signed as “no trespassing.”
- Would like biking trails to be connected to other parks in the area.
- Would like to see the Parks and Recreation Department put pressure on housing developers to include parks, basketball courts, skateboarding areas, playgrounds, etc. in their developments so places like this park can be left undeveloped and natural.
- Very excited to have a park close to home.
- Provide features that appeal to adults and seniors.
- Use playground equipment similar to what’s at Fairgrounds Community Park.
- Would like it to be dog-friendly.
- Our children and neighborhood need this park.
- Use selective deforestation to improve safety.
- Keep the paintballers out.
- Need a bridge over Whipple Creek so people on the west side can access the park without driving.
- Keep the development low impact.
- Need safe pedestrian access for families with small children.
- Leave the park as it is.
- Use this park development money to pay for maintaining existing parks instead.
- Provide an access trail from the northeast side of the park to the west end of 164th or 165th streets
- Build it!
- Don’t include a dirt bike trail.
- Prohibit use of BB guns and air rifles.
- Put picnic tables along the eastern slope of the creek.
- Don’t put the park entrance on a hill.
- A park is definitely better than more housing.
- We need a place to go to have fun, but it needs to be safe, clean and attractive.
- Providing a safe place to walk and ride bikes is very important.
- Just need a walking trail, a few benches and garbage cans.
- Would prefer the county use the money to build a community garden or co-op.
- Make sure there is adequate parking.
- Don’t think the county should be building more parks when it doesn’t have the money to maintain them.
- Would like to see this space better utilized.
- Provide a covered playground so children can play year-round, like at Fort Lewis.
- Would really like a Frisbee/disc golf course at one of the parks in this neighborhood. They are well-used elsewhere.
- Need a fenced dog park somewhere in the Salmon Creek area, near the hospital.
- Parks help preserve natural areas from development and improve home values and wildlife habitat.
- Rules for bicycles using the trail would be good if it’s a shared bike/ped facility.
- Wish it could have been built a lot sooner.
- Use native trees and plants in the landscaping.

- We need this park in our community.
- Don't spend money on additional landscaping. This property is filled with trees and plants already.
- The majority of the people who use the park now are there with their dogs. Please provide a fenced dog park in the back for us.
- Encourage area Homeowner's Associations to help maintain the park.
- Additional walking/biking trails would be appreciated in this area.

Requests for specific park features:

- Include a trail next to the creek
- Include BBQ grills
- Include a picnic area with a view
- Put benches close to play area for parents
- Clear some space under the trees for picnicking
- Use existing natural path as the alignment for the permanent path to avoid removing trees
- Need sidewalk access to the park
- Include lighting for safety at night
- Include an emergency call box, like what WSUV has along their trails
- Provide an off-leash dog park area/fenced dog run
- Include a trail through the wooded area
- Provide access to the creek for park visitors
- Needs more parking
- Include lots of playground equipment
- Include a skateboarding area
- Provide a covered picnic shelter
- Create an open, well lit space
- Include a backstop for baseball practice
- Provide off-street parking area
- Include a dog waste bag dispenser
- Include a drinking fountain
- Include restrooms
- Include a disc golf course
- Prefer a rock climbing wall to a skateboarding area
- Need surveillance cameras
- Provide swings and slides
- Provide playground equipment suitable for all ages
- Provide a paved trail around the outside of the park
- Include a tennis court
- Include environmental education elements like signs that describe the plants and wildlife
- Provide a footbridge over the creek
- Include basketball courts
- Additional landscaping would be nice
- Paved trails are preferable
- Include a community garden space
- Include a spray park water feature
- Provide portable toilets and drinking fountains to encourage more use
- Provide a large open lawn area for soccer and other sports
- Include a soft-surface running trail

- Include traditional playground equipment, rather than the “modern” stuff that’s at Vista Meadows Park
- Provide a dirt area for mountain biking/BMX biking with small jumps and table-tops, bermed trails, log rides, etc.
- Include a gazebo near the front of the park with benches
- Include a water play feature like at Esther Short Park or put on in at Fairgrounds Community Park

END