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CLARK COUNTY
WASHINGTON

VANCOUVER-CLARK
PARKS &
Recreation

Sorenson Neighborhood Park

Draft Concept Plans Comment Summary

Comment Period: March 9-24, 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. 9, 2011 public meeting and the written comments submitted through the project Web page March 10-24, 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. 9, 2011 public meeting

Approximately 30 people attended the public meeting. The majority of those in attendance were generally supportive of the draft concept plan as presented. The following is a summary of the issues and suggestions discussed at the meeting:

- Concerned that snow sledding may be impacted by part of the proposed switchback trail at the top of the hill.
- Move the playground and the northern entrance from NW 26th Avenue further south, away from adjacent homes.
- Use boulders or some other type of less obtrusive barricade along NW 26th Avenue, instead of chain link fencing.
- Make the irrigated open lawn area as flat as possible to allow neighbors to play a game of soccer more easily.
- Some standing water in the rain garden areas is fine, as long as it doesn't attract mosquitoes.
- Concerned about too much standing water accumulating in the rain gardens creating a safety problem for small children.
- Provide something for teenagers (e.g. basketball hoop or skateboarding area).
- Use real boulders in the park, not the prefabricated plastic ones like at Raspberry Fields Park.
- Need on-street parking and a curb cut so people in wheelchairs or with limited mobility can still visit the park.
- Install speed humps on NW 26th Avenue to slow down traffic in this area.

- Like the open lawn area.
- Provide a dog waste bag dispenser and trash cans.
- Concerned that the sand/cobble area could become a neighborhood cat litter box and unsanitary.
- Like the plan – it is beautiful and creative.
- Concerned about the paved path becoming a skateboarding area.
- Adjacent neighbors don't want to lose their view through the park, but also don't want to hear children screaming in the playground.
- Put boulder seating at the top of the hill.
- Really need/want the proposed park entrance on the east side through the school district property.
- Want to keep plum trees intact.
- Would prefer the entire park be irrigated to prevent brownouts.
- Plant low, native plants along the property line. Don't block neighbors' views with trees or shrubs that may grow large over time.

Park name suggestions:

- Water Tower Hill Park, because of the water towers on the northwest corner – they are a major landmark in the neighborhood used for giving directions, etc.
- Keep it Sorenson Park, after the previous landowner
- Betty Sue Morris Park, after the former state legislator and county commissioner, who is also a Felida resident
- Plum Tree Park, after the plum trees in the park

Summary 2: Written comment forms

Neighbors submitted 18 comment forms about the draft concept plan at the public meeting and online through the project Web page.

Likes:

- Love everything about it/excellent design
- The walking trail
- That unleashed dogs will not be allowed in the park
- Playground
- The “boulders rolling down the hill” theme
- The entrance from the east side – this is a high priority
- Irrigated open lawn in the southwest corner – make sure it is at least 60 by 40 yards to accommodate sports activities.
- That the hill in the northwest corner is unirrigated
- The rain gardens
- Existing trees are retained (especially the plum trees)
- That the hill is preserved for sledding
- The natural feeling
- Picnic area
- ADA path with benches
- That the park's openness will be preserved
- Boulder element

- Playground with equipment for multiple age groups
- That there isn't a parking lot
- Use of real boulders
- The location of the playground next to NW 26th Avenue
- The education components with the boulder basins
- The active play areas near NW 26th Avenue
- Paved path

Dislikes:

- Nothing for older children/teenagers – please include a basketball hoop in the plan (several requests for this)
- There aren't any drinking fountains (needs two)
- The playground and northern park entrance is too close to homes on the northwest corner – move them further south
- The chain link fence along the front of the park – use boulders instead
- Concerned that the playground is so close to the road and that children may be able to run out into the street – move it further away from the street
- There isn't an off-leash dog park in the plan
- The paved paths
- The seating area at the top of the hill
- Would prefer the park stay more natural
- Concerned about the rain gardens becoming weed-filled eyesores in the summer and attracting mosquitoes when it's wet
- Additional trees around the playground blocking a clear view into the park from NW 26th Street
- The additional entrance on the east side creating a shortcut for bicycles – install gates to limit bike access
- The unirrigated areas – would prefer the entire park stay green year-round

Other general comments:

- Use earth tones on the playground equipment to fit in with the boulders theme
- Include fitness stations around the trail for adults/seniors
- Keep chain link fencing along the front of the park so children don't accidentally run out into the street
- Move the entrances from NW 26th Avenue away from the playground so children can't accidentally run out into the street
- Make sure there is something for toddlers in the playground

Park name suggestions:

- Sorenson Hill Park, or another name with the word "hill" in it since that is the major feature of the park
- Plum Tree Park, because of the delicious plums it produces every year
- Water Tower Park because of the water towers in the northwest corner
- Leave it Sorenson Park – it was the name of the farm that was here before the land was sold to the county
- Rocky Hill Park
- Basin Hill Park
- Rocky Meadows Park
- The Hill

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