



LAUREN NEIGHBORHOOD PARK COMMENT SUMMARY

Comment Period: April 2008

Number of Forms Mailed out: 1508

Total Returned 76

Overall Return Rate: 5%

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 Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation Department in Vancouver. Please call Terry Snyder at (360) 619-1117 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	49 (64%)	15 (20%)	9 (12%)	3 (4%)
B. Open grassy fields for playing catch, touch football, Frisbee etc.	40 (53%)	22 (29%)	12 (16%)	2 (3%)
C. Additional trees, landscaping and other habitat enhancement	23 (30%)	25 (33%)	22 (29%)	6 (8%)
D. Screening and privacy plantings for adjacent neighbors.	28 (37%)	20 (26%)	18 (24%)	10 (13%)
E. Playground Equipment	47 (62%)	14 (18%)	13 (17%)	2 (3%)
F. Small basketball court or sport court (less than half-court size)	14 (18%)	20 (26%)	38 (50%)	4 (5%)
G. Small skateboarding spot (1,500 S.F.)	12 (16%)	21 (28%)	40 (53%)	3 (4%)
H. Picnic Tables	42 (55%)	18 (24%)	10 (13%)	6 (8%)
I. Park Benches/seating areas	55 (72%)	14 (18%)	7 (10%)	0 (0%)

Most Important Park Elements

“Very Important” selected (more than 50%)

- | | | |
|----|----------------------------|-----|
| 1. | Park Benches/Seating Areas | 72% |
| 2. | Walking and Biking Trails | 64% |
| 3. | Play Equipment | 62% |
| 4. | Picnic Tables | 55% |
| 5. | Open grassy field | 53% |

“Very Important and Somewhat Important” Combined (more than 50%)

- | | | |
|----|----------------------------|-----|
| 1. | Park Benches/Seating Areas | 90% |
| 2. | Walking and Biking Trails | 84% |
| 3. | Open grassy field | 82% |
| 4. | Play Equipment | 80% |
| 5. | Picnic Tables | 79% |
| 6. | Additional Trees | 63% |

Responses were similar regarding the small basketball court or small sports court.

44% thought Basketball was very Important or Somewhat Import.

44% thought a small Skateboarding spot was very Important or Somewhat Import.

QUESTION 2 – HAVE YOU EVER VISTIED LAUREN PARK

THOSE WHO CHECKED NO: 22

THOSE WHO CHECKED YES 41

1. Just walked around inside it because I heard it was going to be a park someday
2. Just walked by because nothing to do there.
3. Walked and listened to the birds
4. Neighborhood picnic
5. Played with my dog and wife
6. Walked around it, too many holes not very flat ground
7. Out for walk with my 2 yr. old nephew
8. Looked at it as I walked past
9. We were walking our dog and went there to check out the space.
10. Just walked by.
11. Walk our dog – played catch with the kids
12. I walked my dog there every morning. It’s a nice ½ way point on a loop.
13. It is underutilized
14. Live across the street
15. Played catch – walked the dog
16. I’ve visited this area before the county took possession for taxes owed. I have worked my search dog on exercises that need 175’ of running space.
17. Walked – Neighborhood get together – picnic.
18. Attended area picnic
19. Nothing – Just looked at it.

20. Just looked at it – nothing there but nice area with trees. I'd like to have restrooms included in all parks. Even portables would be helpful. Water fountain.
21. Played in Grassy area
22. Run my dogs
23. Live across street
24. We took our dog there – played catch with our dog
25. Walked by
26. Brought my dog to see the park... it was a nice area
27. Walked dogs and kids
28. Walked dog. Let run around in field. Yes, not only for exercising dog – but great place to just sit on hot day and read. Please don't ruin int. Its lovely for those of us with no kids to be close to home and not drive some where to find this. There are already plenty of places for children to scream.
29. Walked through area.
30. Just wandered
31. I went walking with my dog at the park. I went to the neighborhood picnic, last year 2007
32. Not enough for little ones to do.
33. Neighborhood picnic last summer
34. Walk Through
35. Played catch with grandson
36. Looked around – Not really a park yet
37. Walked my dog there, but many people don't pick-up after their dogs so stopped going.
38. Picnic and frequently walk dog
39. My grand kids just walk around as there was no playground equipment for them to play on. No picnic tables for us to have lunch on. This is on poor park for Vancouver city to call a park for families to go to be with the children to play together.
40. Run with dogs
41. Neighborhood Committee Functions
42. Not much to do – walked
43. Blanket, Picnic lunch
44. Just walked through thinking of and hoping for improvements
45. Nothing – looked around and left
46. Walked Dogs
47. Walked, spread a blanket to sit and read
48. Had lunch, children played. Bathroom would be nice (great) Skatboarding will come no matter what. If you have concrete, so might as well have a spot
49. Play Football
50. We plan on going to see it

QUESTION 3. Is there something special about this park.....

1. Trees – Wildlife
2. Keep tall firs on the south side
4. It needs to remain gated at the entrance, so cars don't drive into park; if there isn't going to be any parking inside the park.

5. The trees are beautiful
6. Trees! The beauty of this park is its greenery. This is a nice quiet spot for people to come and picnic or play. A few tables, perhaps a swing could enhance the park if the overall quiet open area is generally preserved and keep improvements to a minimum.
7. We like the tall trees and the location/access from 124th.
8. Current trees and plantings
9. There is nothing there. I like to go if there is something for my daughter to do there.
10. Keep the trees
11. Restrooms
12. Keep strictly for neighborhood only – walking distance only – no excess cars.
13. Keep the trees for shade. Please keep some grass.
14. The way it is
15. Trees
16. Don't know
17. The park is long, narrow and small – limited in size by surrounding homes. Let's keep it simple. Some swings for little ones. It already has space for playing catch, Frisbee etc. Maybe horseshoe area for older folks and benches to rest on.
18. Will there be one access point? The streets 39th st & 124th are raceways. The speed for safety of children should be 25, both on 124th & 39th. Especially now with an elementary school and now a park.
19. Love the shade from existing trees! Love the openness (nowhere to hide and jump out).
20. Trees. Parking available – nothing now. Only 1 entrance point now – need a 2nd at least.
21. Trees are fine – don't add any more
22. I would like to keep it just the way it is.
23. More access and parking
24. Trees
25. The trees that are present are good ,mature trees
26. Trees
27. Not really
28. It is good to keep some of the trees for shadow.
29. It needs some tender loving care. It needs to be a park where people and families can go and have fun.
30. Keep trees plus add more landscape. Walking path around perimeter with benches placed around for sitting. Playground center toward fron. Open area center & to rear.
31. Trees, Some parking space.
32. Trees
33. Please put in play equipment for our children to play on, As to many children play in the street around the park. Our children need this park to keep off the street and close to home.
34. Keep the big trees
35. Just some trees for the birds and squirrels
36. The big trees and open spaces
37. Another Access to park, maybe private gates in our back yards.
38. Keep all trees
39. Not really
40. Trees and Grass
41. The big trees
42. The length of the park is nice for walking (miles ect,) trees are a blessing

QUESTION 4 – Do you have any concerns about the upcoming park development project? If so, please explain.

1. It needs to be well lit and designed so not to be a gathering place for crime.
2. It is such a long and narrow area that it must have the plan well thought out so that walking areas are not restricted. The entrance gate needs to be carefully planned so that vehicles are restricted and people can get in easily.
3. No. I am excited to finally have a great park within walking distance from my home so my daughter and I can go there in the summer,
4. Teens using it inappropriately use for smoking, gangs etc. They do these things in our front lawns. Keeping it safe for young children.
5. It can't happen soon enough
6. Keeping the neighbors safe.
7. No skateboarding – Crime is bad
8. Yes. The park needs more than one entrance on foot exit into or out of the park. Because of all the rainy weather we get, it would be nice to have a roof over some of the picnic tables.
9. The blocks between 33rd and 35th need a sidewalk on 124th Ave. It is dangerous to walk there. I walk on that side of the street almost daily and have had to jump into the mud or bushes to avoid being hit. Since the speed bumps were added, it is worth because drivers swerve onto the grass to avoid the, One almost hit me once. If people are going to use this park, they need a safe walkway to get there.
10. I would suggest a lot of lighting to discourage after hours crime, drug activity, etc.
11. Please make it nice for families with small children but not for drug users.
12. Only that I want it patrolled so that it will not be a drug haven. Plus, I want it well lit.
13. I am concerned about having a skate board park / area because I have seen too many situations where this caused problems. Schools have a lot of space for this type of thing when school isn't in session
14. Park is currently unsafe to access by foot. No sidewalks and no shoulders when approaching from south.
I would hope this would be a “neighborhood park” for families, parents. Children, and retired citizens to enjoy. Teens need a separate place because of their developmental stage and social needs. Often a park focusing on the needs of teens, will not be a very good “neighborhood park” for families. Of course, all ages are welcome at Lauren. I would just hope it would have a children's playground and picnic area to cater to the families of our area.
16. What I have seen. Pieces of land are developed and designated for specific purposes. This excludes random activities. Parks need to allow the natural selective activities of special interest groups as well as teenagers and children. Looser boundaries imposed on the land usage would better present a homonymus usage.
16. The reason I would keep it simple would be to keep the parking from becoming a nightmare in a neighborhood which is not presently crowded, but the addition of a log of on=street parking could head it in that direction. I would certainly be opposed to any traffic control accessory which would bear nay resemblance whatsoever to the stupidity of the traffic circle installed a could years ago at 124th Ave, and 37th St.
17. Beside the speed, I have seen the following: A car totaled, a child almost hit, 2 dogs killed and one hit as she stood right next to her owner as she was going to get into her car. A car hitting the fence down and going into the front yard of that house. A truck stolen, Two cars broken into and a truck broken into twice. Numerous accidents on 39th & 131st St. The police department is fantastic. You see them in the neighborhood all of the time. Some things are going to happen no matter what.

18. Need to advertise this & other parks. No one knows they are there unless they live next door.
19. Make the basketball area a full court. Skateboard area is too small for much so don't waste money on one. 1500 s.f. or less
20. I have lived as a homeowner in this neighborhood for 18 years. Most people here use this area to walk and run their pets. People drive to this park just to do that. People also use this area for sports, setting up their nets, and talking them down when they are finished. We manage to co-exist just fine. Sense you leveled the crack house that was in the park we don't have nearly as many problems.
21. Needs more parking. Keep bushes high so no one can hide behind them. Curved trails, Picnic areas, No dogs allowed.
22. Parking
23. After I received this form, I went by Lauren park to see what would work there. The area is surrounded by house so I would not recommend a basketball court or skateboard area for sound nuisance reasons. No one would ever be able to sleep with ball bounding sounds or skate boards sliding around. The house are too close in proximity for loud noises. On another note, I was concerned with the lack of sidewalks on 124th Ave. for children to use to get to the parks. I would hope that this would be addressed.
24. Dog friendly very important
25. I fear that a basketball setup would attract undesirable trouble makers. Like the one on Anderson Avenue.
26. Vandalism - but what else is new?
27. Smooth out ground on interior of park.
28. Me and my daughter went to another park some years ago, there they had put the playground equipment under some fir trees. That was not good, the equipment had sticky sap on them. That would be good to remember! When to decide where to put the play equipment
29. That there are no sidewalks, either side of the street for people walking to the park. The cars fly down 124th and the lil speed bumps do not help much at all. That is my only true concern about the park – The walkers safety.
30. I am concerned that it may attract older kids who may leave behind graffiti and trash.
31. Keep playground for kids up front toward street so kids can be seen and be safe. Not in back.
32. Parking may be a problem Should have some parking space available. Restroom would be nice, however I know maintaining them maybe a factor.
33. Access to the park for handicapped & elderly and security for the back end of the park.
34. Please install play equipment for kids
35. Just Excited
36. More Picnic Tables – Benches
37. I enjoy my quiet and privacy, so playground equipment near my house might take that away. Maybe something at the entrance? Also I have see dog owners not clean up after their pets.
38. Just that it won't happen fast enough
39. I think it would be great to have a nice park – it just isn't very big for all the things you suggest. Area so small – probably only have room for playground and walk trail and picnic tables. I don't live right by the park – but main thing is that it isn't noisy for homeowners.
40. Take care about features that would attract bad behavior. Example: Tables that would encourage youth to loiter and misbehave. One would like to have a place for youth to hang-out but this usually leads to the bad element, littering, smoking, drinking, etc.

41. My concern is a place to go to the bathroom, little children and old people like me need a restroom even if it is an outhouse, it would be such a relief. Thank you. Must have garbage cans to help keep it clean. Planting shrubs around park will keep the down noise. Skateboarding is loud.

QUESTION 5. Do you have any other comments to share about this project?

1. We have been waiting for along time. Our district had a lot of money that went elsewhere. Please work on our park! Do you consider restrooms?
2. Picnic benches for our neighborhood committee and or community functions is a top priority. A couple of trees for wildlife preservation is a must and at least a pathway for walking and one form of entertainment for young children either playground or skate boarding area.
3. Improving this area & making it something for families to enjoy is great. I'm for it as long as noise is low-key.
4. Please put in enough tables (Not just 3 or 4)
5. Would like park benches to sit & watch the kids skate. A couple bowls & street skating area would be GREAT! I take our kids to the other skate parks and have watched. Not really any problems – they really lookout for each other and I think the skate park here would really improve what the teenage to focus on – sports – exercise not drugs and getting into trouble. Right now they really don't have anything to do. Little kids have play grounds at their schools which are open after hours. Some with basketball courts. We want a Skate Park.
6. I think it would be great if a portion of the park would be set aside as a dog park.; Not everyone has kids – we with dogs would also like to enjoy the park. I think you need to be careful to make sure the people who surround the park are not affected by noise. I'm concerned skate board spot and basketball court will invite a lot of noise.
7. We are fortunate to have some green space to preserve. I don't have a dog, but a dog park sounds nice. I like to watch people with their dogs
8. I have been waiting a long time for this to happen. "Thank you so much"
9. Hope to see some of the improvements made soon