

Parks Master Plan  
Email Comments

**PARKS**

One issue of concern for us downtown (Esther Short Park) is the number of skaters that violate city ordinances against skating in our downtown parks — Esther Short and Turtle Place, for examples, in addition to their illegal use of private property. When asked, these violators often cite two issues: skate parks are unsafe from gang activities and bullying; skate parks are located too far away the city center to use. I'd urge you to consider making the existing parks safer and consider expanding skate parks into areas where skaters can access them more easily. I don't know where all the skate parks are located, but if you have a map/grid, perhaps you can see where the gaps exist and consider plugging where you see a major gap. And, if you do consider developing additional skate parks — please be sure to do so only with local resident input as, the last thing we need is a skate park located in a residential area where the boards can be heard day and night slamming on pavement. There are industrial areas and buffer greenspace areas downtown where placing such a skate park would not be a residential or small business disturbance and I'd urge you to consider these kinds of locations. Call me if you have questions.

My biggest concern for parks is that there is a safe walking route to the park for the kids/families to get there, which means sidewalks. For those not close enough to walk, enough parking for several cars at one time. Otherwise, they tend to park where it is dangerous.

Thank you for your email and I have already did your survey and helped in the search for the County Parks. I will add by law, Counties only purchase lands and once you are annexed into the City do you get a fully developed park. For years we have watch the County sell the land that were deemed for future parks. 'Parks are not a need!!' The Budget money should not fund these to fully developed parks nor should these be maintained by those doing time. One should check out the RCW that govern parks and what the counties can do. Also the liability of those they make an agreement for maintenance, such as soccer groups or neighborhood assn. Beside it's been a proven fact and history, these places are where drug dealers go.

Regarding the Comprehensive Plan for Parks. 1)You need to hire a lot more boots on the ground, i.e., maintenance and grounds keepers. You need blue collar workers to provide the services to the community by keeping up the parks that you already have, and improving hiking and biking trails, and extending them where it makes sense to do so, to connect the major parks throughout the county. (Use Whatcom County as a fine example to pattern after. Whatcom is much smaller in population, yet has highly developed and well maintained trail system and really nice parks). 2)You should NOT sell any lands that are currently owned by parks. Whatever you paid for them when you bought them was a bargain compared to what you would have to pay now or in the future. I feel compelled to let you know that the county park I visit daily, Lucia Falls Park, is uncared for and in terrible shape. There is invasive species (ivy) taking over the entire wooded areas, climbing the trees, and generally killing off native plants. It just looks like hell. Limbs have been down for months even years in some areas there, with no apparent effort to even move them to the side. The signage is falling apart. The trails appear unkempt, no new media having been added since before the Great Recession started. Charlie's untimely death didn't help matters any. But Clark County Parks has dropped the ball, at just simply keeping the park neat and in presentable condition. Its not uncommon to see men fishing in the rocks just beneath the falls, totally illegal, with none trying to stop them. It's sad, the poor condition that this beautiful park has sunk. I also have had occasion to walk past a park in the Minnehaha area that appears to be totally unimproved, been that way for twenty years, as long as I remember. But there has been housing development all around it. Yet there it sits, a nice wooded area, perfect for a picnic area, yet with really no improvement whatsoever, for a decade or more. There is no way around it, these examples, and I'm sure there are many more, are a disgrace for the entire community. I realize the certain ideologues control the county for now, and have set out to starve your budget, and it seems to be working. But when something like this happens, you have to spread the word that you need more budget not less, but in the meantime, you got to get back down to the basics and provide the fundamentals, which is really what 80% or more of folks want anyway. Boots on the ground—maintenance and grounds keepers.

We think you should put the fee back on Lewisville park, because it was kept up better then.It is a shame to let a nice park like this go down hill, and it seems like there has been more vandalism since they took it off.

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**PARKS (CONT'D)**

I would like to see: A) Maintenance of existing parks before building new ones. B) more off leash parks. I think the one of 18th in east Vancouver is County, but it is used by hundreds of people every week. C) more parks dedicated to high density housing, i.e. apartments or R-\* developments. D) a dedicated lap pool on the east side. E) a dedicated tennis center on the east side F) low maintenance grass seed (Korean grass) that never needs mowing.

RE: Fazio Neighborhood park,

We have noticed that signs have been set along NW 21st Avenue by this park, advising park visitors (and others) not to park on the pavement. Well, that's great and it's certainly safer than parking there and trying to get your children out with traffic close by, so where are they going to park?

We suggest that a parking area be made out of the southernmost part of the park, adjacent to NW 96th Street. Access would be from NW 21st Ave to NW 95th Street and NW 23rd Ct. There could easily be room for 6-8 vehicles.

PS. Many vehicles daily are ignoring the signs to "do not park on pavement".

Re: Sorenson Neighborhood Park (Felida)

The Great Clark County Parks 2005 levy promised the development of county parks, which included Sorenson Neighborhood Park. We want to know the current schedule for completing the parks, since 2012 wasn't possible. In March 2014, our e-mail was answered by Heath Henderson, David Madore, and Jeff Mize. Heath Henderson said that all of their staff are excited to continue building the parks and it is a very rewarding process for the staff to see the neighborhoods appreciate their new parks. Sorenson Park is slated for 2016. Help make this plan work. Sorenson Park has gone through the master-planning process (2011) and the next step is to initiate the design process. As a voter and as a neighbor to Sorenson Park (Felida neighborhood) for 28 years, we are committed to seeing this park developed. Your help is truly appreciated by many families. Florence (Flossie) B. Wager believed in our parks, too.

Thank you for accepting our comments on Clark County's comprehensive parks plan update. We appreciate the opportunity to participate in the process and request that you please place us on any notice list involving the County's parks plan update process. We own property located at 7703 NE 129<sup>th</sup> Street Vancouver, WA 98662, adjacent to land designated for the Curtin Creek Community Park within the Greater Clark Parks District. We believe that the parks plan update is an appropriate time for the County to reconsider the future use of the Curtin Creek Community Park. The 38.5 acre parcel was originally designated for a future community park. But today, a significant portion of the property is now being used for a wetland enhancement and compensatory mitigation site, subject to a perpetual conservation easement to protect and maintain the ecological functions of the area. There is also a fire station on the property. Given the change in use of this property, we believe it is no longer suitable for a community park, which is a high-intensity use requiring a large, permanent footprint.

At this point, it seems better appropriated for a different use. We suggest that the County re-designate the Curtin Creek land from community park to a natural area as a part of the comprehensive parks plan update. A natural area or open space designation is consistent with the long-term protection of the wetland enhancement and mitigation site. A natural area park is managed for both natural and ecological value and light-impact recreational use, which provides for nature-based recreation like bird-watching and low-impact environmental education activities to the extent such activities are consistent and compatible with the restrictions and goals of the required conservation easement. Further, designating the land as a natural area park effectively places the land into reserve for future mitigation projects, which in turn provides the County with its own banking mechanisms for future public works projects. Using this land for dual purposes offers a long-term opportunity for the County that would otherwise be unavailable. Also, there simply is not the demand for a community park in this area, as indicated by the lack of funding and lower than average population growth in this area of the county. The designated park land is also not very visible or accessible from the road given the fire station is in front of the property and the fact that other park sites may be more accessible to higher population densities and be more appropriate. Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to discussing these comments with you further. We believe there are opportunities to work collaboratively to address

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PARKS (CONT'D)
Just took the parks survey and have additional comment. I would prefer there be a charge for parking and access to Vancouver Lake and other parks (like there used to be) because it feels unsafe to go there. We bring our kayaks and no longer feel we can park car with expensive car top carrier in the parking lot. Lots of untrustworthy people hanging out now. It used to be much safer place to go, especially as women. Also, that might help with how much we have to spend on parks. Thanks.
I noticed the time was running out on sending in comment on the Clark County Parks Comp Plan. I just wanted to highlight Foley Community Orchard in the Felida neighborhood park. The partnerships between, then VCP, Clark Public Utilities and Urban Abundance. Its long term partnerships between public agencies and volunteer driven nonprofits. Here is a well written article about the project: <a href="http://www.columbian.com/news/2014/sep/03/volunteers-pick-pounds-of-parks-pears/">http://www.columbian.com/news/2014/sep/03/volunteers-pick-pounds-of-parks-pears/</a> We look forward to discuss how Urban Abundance can partner with CCP in the future to develop more Community Orchards.
What happened to the gazebo that was supposed to be built at Covington Park off NE 94th Avenue? We lost out on part of the park when NE 90th Avenue had to be extended from NE 68th Street through to NE 71st Street, did we lose this too? Thank you
Is it true we already have over 7,000 acres set aside for park land ????? enough already, socialist programs only work, until you run out of other people's MONEY!!!!
Greetings, I would like to see: A) Maintenance of existing parks before building new ones. B) more off leash parks. I think the one of 18th in east vancouver is County, but it is used by hundreds of people every week. C) more parks dedicated to high density housing, i.e. apartments or R-* developments. D) a dedicated lap pool on the east side. E) a dedicated tennis center on the east side F) low maintenance grass seed (Korean grass) that never needs mowing.
This is great to see people participating in the survey! As an after thought, I should have specifically stated my preference to a 'Regional Park' as something more akin to Gresham's Blue Lake Park. There is a park that really provides a lot of interaction for individuals, families, small & large groups AND offers some ways to allow funding back into the park by parking fees and facilities rentals. Just a thought! Thanks!
Maybe some things to consider when planning future parks: -parks for Seniors??? -parks for those with little or no access to yards and safe places to play. -parks with more benches and smaller sheltered picnic areas—kind of like at rest stops along the freeways. We have made many cross-country trips and always found those rest areas so pleasant—yes, noisy because of freeway traffic—but most have 3-4 single picnic tables with a roof! Sometimes they even have wind breaks. -clean bathrooms This afternoon we checked out Felida Community Park—looks very nice with some of the amenities that would be good for Seniors.
As a resident of the West Minnehaha neighborhood, I can attest to the desirability of these “pocket” parks as our grandchildren have grown up using them and making them a priority stop whenever they visit us from their home in Snohomish. Keep up the good work! I am concerned, however, about their maintenance and their susceptibility to tagging and other destructive activities. Knowing Park personnel are stretched thin, I suggest that you promote volunteer assistance through the neighborhood associations for basic upkeep (such as weeding and picking up wind-downed branches) and security (security patrols such as Neighborhood Watch and maybe videocam surveillance so police can be notified of problem activity). Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

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**RECREATIONAL FACILITIES**

A disc golf course would be great! I currently pay Oregon State Park fees because I play at Dabney, Rooster Rock, McIver, Champoeg, etc. I would love to make such contributions to the Clark County Parks if there were courses to play.

I am the field scheduler and administrator for Salmon Creek Soccer Club. We serve about 1000 children each year from the county. With the formation of many new sports such as flag football, ultimate frisbee, and lacrosse competition for school fields is at an all time high. We are struggling to find place for our players to practice without destroying the fields that they have to play on. Numbers of soccer players each season is also going up and finding enough fields to accomodate all of the games each weekend is difficult. Especially with the league shortening our season and adding double headers. I believe that working on improving the drainage in the fields that we have and creating some new fields, the young soccer players in the community would be well served. Many sports can play anywhere there is a flat patch of grass but soccer is harder. We need space of a specific size and certain types of grass hold up to the abuse of cleats better. I hope that you will take this into consideration when developing your long range plan and help the youth soccer players here in Clark County.

Hi, I am e-mailing in regards to the County's long term planning for parks.  
We really need more turf soccer fields in the Vancouver area and esp. here in NW Vancouver. Soccer is a growing sport in Washington and we need more turf (possibly multi-use like Lacrosse, football) to play on. We are outgrowing our ability to provide field space. Grass fields can only be played on so much (when they are really wet) before it kills the grass and just becomes a big mud pit. In dry weather grass fields are great, esp. when it is really hot out- since turf can make you feel 10 degrees hotter on a hot day. In order for Advanced teams to remain competitive they also need to practice on turf.  
Thanks for your time :)

Clark County Parks Department,  
I am a Little League coach for Salmon Creek Little League and a resident of Salmon Creek. Our family primarily uses Luke Jensen Sports Park over all other County parks. Here are my suggestions, also suggested by my league president:  
1) Multi-use Turf Fields - Salmon Creek Little League pushed for 100% Turf fields at LJSP - Using Field 1 and Field 4/5 at LJSP as a models - both are designed for multiple sports, they are used year round, have lower maintenance costs, and given our weather are playable in light rain. F1 came with an initial cost of about \$1 million, and depending wear has about a 10 year life. Compare annual maintenance costs of natural grass vs the \$100k annual replacement budget, and that gap closes.  
2) Lights - extend the day year round so the fields can be used longer year round.  
3) Plenty of Parking - Distribute parking around the entire facility  
4) Revenue model - LJSP is the first park in the County that uses a revenue model to offset the costs to run the field. This should continue, and let the funds from taxes for Parks be used to develop parks that hopefully stand on their own going forward. LJSP is a great example where users are not bashful about paying for great facilities, and there's no reason to limit development of these facilites to the taxes raised.  
5) Develope large enough facilities that multi sport tournaments can be run - Other cities in our region have annual tournaments that the sport communities learn about and plan to return to each year. The business side of that brings outside funds into our parks, and also fills local hotels, restaurants, etc.  
6) Joint Partnerships - County & Public - Salmon Creek Little League has wanted to join forces with the county and get the best of both worlds, but the county has been reluctant to form these. There is a huge pool of volunteers in our group and others who want to do things for their respective organizations. It's just another way to extend the tax dollars they have to work with, and getting more value from that initial investment.

There is a VERY large, and growing, interest in Clark County, an surrounding areas, for Pickle Ball. This sport is so popular that Firstenburg Community Center has expended the number of courts availability and times to accommodate the growing interest. Washougal recently converted old tennis courts that were not being used into 6 Pickle Ball courts and they are being used every day by large numbers of players. Clark County is the home of The Columbia River Pickle Ball Club that was form just a few years ago and has tripled in members and has hosted several sanctions tournaments drawing players as far away as Phoenix and Northern California. I would like to suggest that the County provide more Pickle Ball courts, or re-vamp old un-used tennis court, into Pickle Ball Courts. If you would like more information regarding the size and scope of Pickle Ball in Clark County, you can contact Michael Wolfe at wolfemike@aol.com. Mr. Wolfe has been instrumental in promoting Pickle Ball in Clark County. At the moment the Pickle Ball enthusiast in Clark County are playing where ever they can find available courts.

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TRAILS
<p>Trail maintenance for hikers, bicycles, and horses are my main concern. And bathrooms!</p>
<p>I would like to see more natural areas that horseback riding is allowed in such as Whipple Creek Regional Park and allow a trail obstacle use area at the west side of fairgrounds park. there is one already submitted to the county for the property that joins Whipple Creek Regional Park east of 11th Ave making it possible for all users to learn how to use the trails correctly. Not all children play ball. some enjoy nature and can learn better from the natural environment please consider more connecting horse trails that can be used to enjoy nature. this allows many elder people to get outside and exercise. More parking areas that are graveled and larger for trailers to use. maintain existing trails for the future. save wooded areas and plant more for the future. Maintain the Mill area at Whipple creek. allow the restoration of the old bridge Mill &amp; water wheel and the Gazebo area which already are in the park. support a restroom area for the Whipple Creek Regional Park users. please consider a larger parking area as our trailers are larger now and more people walk at the park also need parking. keep things rustic but safe and maintainable, no pavement at all. Interconnecting trails at Daybreak for equestrian use would also help natural trails, less pavement and concrete.</p>
<p>One thing I didn't have a chance to comment on in the survey is lack of parking at some trails. I don't know if it is Clark County Park or not, but there is a newer trail head on Fruit Valley Road near Vancouver Lake. When they last improved this trail head they closed off street parking. I still don't understand why that was done. The trailhead isn't really within walking distance of many homes and they got rid of the parking. ?????? Also restrooms are very important to us older people. I hate to admit it, but I have sometimes had to find a tree while out walking on some of the trails. I really try to make sure I am not offending anyone, but I fear getting cited for indecent exposure.</p>
<p>I'd like to see more available single track mountain bike trails in the parks. I have no problem going and helping with trail work at various parks if that would help. Having trails closer to home makes it easier to get the whole family out riding and we all like more rugged trails than the current wide gravel paths. A bike park in the county would be an awesome idea to get everyone out as well. Something like what Castle Rock has.</p>
<p>It has come to my attention there are some upcoming open forums on use of open spaces for parks. I may not be able to attend any of them due to my work schedule. So I wanted to express my interest in the need for BMX tracks to be included in the design of any parks. Someone may recall that a Vancouver resident &amp; bmx racer has done some extensive communication with the Parks Department in the past in regards to this very topic . He did spark an interest and we were going to get the go ahead for the space located out off Andresen but we were told the grant fell through. The sport of BMX racing is &amp; has been a very family friendly sport and would go over quite well in our neighboring communities.</p>
<p>Good morning, I missed the open houses. I would just like to say as a horse trail rider and hiker, my family and I hope all future projects include multi use trails and horse trails. Thank you for all that is done to encourage a love of nature and enjoying this beautiful land.</p>
<p>Hi! I read with great interest the article on Updated Parks Plan in the Works in the Columbian newspaper. I have completed the survey and I appreciate the opportunity you give us to share feedback/priorities. I want to bring to your attention that the trail by the Quarry off on 192 Ave, just north of SR 14 (exit 10) is very nice but incomplete. Can the extension of the walking/bicycling trail to Goodwin Street (new Breckenridge subdivision) and connecting NW 18th Ave. (also SE 40th St) be considered in Clark County plan? It will create a complete great walking loop, great for those who want walking and exercising. We had a very successful HOA meeting last Saturday and our members supported this concept wholeheartedly. I would be more than happy to meet with you in person to explain further. Thank you very much.</p>

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**TRAILS (CONT'D)**

I completed the online survey and attended the Camas open house where I put some dots on the boards, but I did not fill out a comment card. On both the survey and the boards, I voiced my preference for trails and open space as a priority over other facilities such as sports fields. These comments provide further information on my preferences as the County updates its parks plan.

I would like the updated parks plan to provide for acquisition of new regional park land and open space and development of walking and hiking trails. I walk for exercise and would like more natural areas to walk in, like those I enjoy at Lacamas Park. When I am in that park, I enjoy walking along the water, hearing the birds singing, and seeing what native plants are in bloom. In addition to my enjoyment, the park provides habitat for wildlife. Having habitat for wildlife in parks results in more wildlife in neighborhoods and backyards, such as my backyard where I have bird feeders. I think it is important to have a network of trails and open space for wildlife and for people to enjoy nature. I live close to Lacamas Heritage trail and would walk there more but the parking lot is often full. It would be nice to have more areas like it and Lacamas Park in Clark County. It would also be nice if there was more interconnection between parks and trails for better movement of wildlife and so those areas don't become isolated islands surrounded by development. Whipple Creek is also a nice park to enjoy nature in but unfortunately horses turn the trails into a muddy mess. I don't think the County needs to provide more places for riding horses, which are owned by a small percentage of County residents. Mountain biking also needs to be limited so trails aren't torn up by their tires. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the parks plan update.

Hi, I would like to see the bike path completed between Battle Ground Lake State Park and Battle Ground. There is a beautiful path started from Battle Ground Lake that dead ends in the middle of nowhere. In the Battle Ground area, there are few paths for walking or bicycling, in fact, other than Lewisville Park there are absolutely no county parks close to Battle Ground, third largest city in Clark County. To complete this path would give residents access to Battle Ground Lake, one of the treasures in Clark County. Currently we have to drive to the Lake or ride on county roads with high speed traffic and narrow shoulders. I always dreaded taking my kids for a bike ride to the lake. Not much incentive to get exercise that way! Thanks for reading and I hope you can take some positive action to get this path done. It would be a feather in Clark County's and north county's cap.

**COMMENTS RECEIVED AFTER PUBLICATION OF DRAFT PLAN (WITH RESPONSES)**

**PARKS**

We do not need any more county parks. Right now there are 4 within 1 square mile of where I live. And nobody ever talks about the maintenance costs we pay for these parks that are almost always empty. We need more funds sent to the fire departments that are understaffed for this fire season.

RESPONSE:

Provision of Parks is determined by a needs assessment, discussed on page 21 of the plan.

What is it that we as a community can do to ensure the area referred to as Green Mountain in Camas/Vancouver remains under the guidance of Clark County?

We are very concerned about the lack of vision and what that will mean as far as impact to our communities livability.

RESPONSE:

The Green Mountain Property is under the custodianship of Clark County's Department of Environmental Service's Legacy Lands Program. Pat Lee is the Legacy Lands Manager. This property is identified to be a future Regional Park which is detailed in both the Conservation plan and Parks Plan. The planned development along the south side of Green Mountain is within the jurisdiction of the City of Camas. The County plans to partner with Camas to make some significant trail connections that will eventually link Green Mountain to Lacamas Lake Regional Park. Another trail is also planned to link Green Mountain to Camp Bonneville in the future.



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**PARKS (CONT'D)**

Will equestrian use be a factor in the parks development?

RESPONSE:

Yes. Equestrian use will definitely be a part of the development scope for the Parks Master Plan, including connecting trails. Projects in the Capital Facilities Plan include trails with an equestrian component.

Hello, I participated in the Parks Plan open house at 3 Creeks Library. I would like to reemphasize my comment about restrooms in the parks. Restrooms are needed by ALL parks users, regardless of what activity they came to the park for. Restrooms are especially needed by kids and older people. Restrooms are a basic human need.

I just wanted to share my input that restrooms are a very important factor when it comes to enjoying time at the park. Please have restroom access as much as possible, even if it means using port-a potties.

RESPONSE:

Neighborhood parks usually do not have restrooms because they are designed for people who live nearby to visit for short periods of time.

Greetings,

I would like to know the plans of what type of facilities the county is developing at the Curtin Creek Community Park. Will there be sport fields developed there? I hope that the area will be used for trails to view the wetlands and the diverse eco- system around the creek. I am very interested in the plan, because I am a landowner on the creek. Could you please direct me to where I may find out the tentative proposal for Curtin Creek Community Park?  
Thank you for your help.

RESPONSE:

I've attached the three concept plans and all three do show sports fields. There is a conservation covenant for the riparian area (also attached) around the creek so that area will be used for passive recreation only such as a trail that meanders along the riparian area toward NE 119th street as a connection and for wildlife/ wetland viewing. Our trails plan shows a trail that follows Curtin Creek with the intent of connecting the Salmon Creek Greenway to Padden Parkway. The park and trail system are both listed in appendix A of the draft Parks Comprehensive Plan which is currently on our parks page. Here is the link. <http://www.clark.wa.gov/publicworks/parks/index.html>  
Please let me know if you have any other questions and I'll do my best to answer them. Thank you for your inquiry.

Thank you for your quick information on the Sorenson Neighborhood Park (Felida).

Since I can see you have concerns regarding the County Councilors funding to maintain the parks, I will continue to have concerns, too. We voted for the parks and maintaining them, too. Also, everyone knows we continue to pay for this vote, since we did think this was our responsibility, too. I hope the County Councilors see that their follow through is important to the success of the parks for families here. It is not a waste of money to fund our park.  
I will see at the Sept. 8th meeting.

RESPONSE:

There is an open house planned for Sorenson Park on Tuesday September 8th at Fire District 6. Scot Brantley will be the project manager and McKay & Sposito will be there to unveil some playground designs for the community to choose from. The mailers will be going out I believe around August 11th so you should get one. I plan to be there as well and hope to see you. As for PIF, we are now at \$782,442,000 which is a few thousand short of our goal but I anticipate we should hit it around next month. The only hurdle left is to be sure we have funding to maintain it once built and I have been discussing this with our County Councilors. If they provide us the funding we need at the beginning of 2016, we will be able to start construction in May of 2016. Looking good so far.

I believe serious consideration should be given to extending park hours so they are open earlier in the day, especially during the summer months. An opening time of 7AM when the sun rises well before 6AM does not make a lot of sense. I pass by Pacific Park throughout the year between 6 and 7AM. There are frequently a number of cars parked on the street because the gate is not unlocked until 7 or later. Restroom facilities are also not available to park users until the OFFICIAL opening time of 7AM. Let's take action to get these parks open at a more reasonable time for the benefit of us citizens.

RESPONSE:

This issue is discussed in Chapter 10 or the implementation chapter of the Parks Master Plan.

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**PARKS (CONT'D)**

The Clark County Aging Services Readiness Plan includes several recommendations regarding County Parks. They are as follows:

Parks as meeting places: Develop creative ways to use parks as meeting places for community groups or neighborhood associations by installing shelters, gazebos and low lighting for neighborhood gatherings. The groups using the facilities could help maintain the parks.

Expand programs to encourage development of more neighborhood pocket parks and community gardens: Smaller, flexible, close-to-home parks could include informal natural play areas, community gardens, restored creeks and landscaping with trees, shrubs and flowers.

Provide safe, accessible public facilities such as commons, parks, especially near concentrations of older adult's homes.

Construct interpretive heritage trails: The health benefits of walking are well established and extremely important in addressing not only health but social equity issues for seniors, in particular. Clark County is rich in local and regional history, but many residents are not familiar with it. Development of heritage trails would encourage walking and other activities while giving residents an innovative way to learn about the area. Existing or new trails, sidewalks and pathways could have exhibits and/or art interpreting the area's history.

RESPONSE:

Goals 4 & 7 of the plan addresses the concerns of the Commission on Aging. Also, page 25 of the plan.

The last time I spoke with you was at the open house at Three Creeks Community Library on March 5th. I have written comments and did the online survey. But most importantly, have we been heard and has our vote counted for our neighborhood park?

We want to hear that the funding for the Sorenson Neighborhood Park (Felida) has a green light to proceed. Will this happen in 2016? I hope you appreciate hearing from us again. We will appreciate your commitment, too.

RESPONSE:

I just heard yesterday that there is an open house planned for Sorenson Park on Tuesday September 8th at Fire District 6. Scot Brantley will be the project manager and McKay & Sposito will be there to unveil some playground designs for the community to choose from. The mailers will be going out I believe around August 11th so you should get one. I plan to be there as well and hope to see you. As for PIF, we are now at 782,442,000 which is a few thousand short of our goal but I anticipate we should hit it around next month. The only hurdle left is to be sure we have funding to maintain it once built and I have been discussing this with our County Councilors. If they provide us the funding we need at the beginning of 2016, we will be able to start construction in May of 2016. Looking good so far.

The Great Clark County Parks 2005 Levy promised the development of county parks, which included Sorenson Neighborhood Park. Currently Sorenson Park is slated for 2016. Sorenson Park has gone through the master-planning process (2011) and the design process is almost complete. Our taxes have been collected since this levy and as a neighbor to Sorenson Park (Felida neighborhood) for 28 years, we are committed to seeing this park developed. Help make this process work. Florence (Flossie) B. Wager believed in our parks, too.

Also, we would like to have a cost sheet for Sorenson Park, so we can better understand where the money for this park is going. We do appreciate our neighborhood park. Also, it would be interesting to see how much is spent on each park project. The development of county parks is very interesting. We believed in them enough to vote for them in 2005.

RESPONSE:

There is an open house planned for Sorenson Park on Tuesday September 8th at Fire District 6. Scot Brantley will be the project manager and McKay & Sposito will be there to unveil some playground designs for the community to choose from.

As for PIF, we are now at 782,442,000 which is a few thousand short of our goal but I anticipate we should hit it around next month. The only hurdle left is to be sure we have funding to maintain it once built and I have been discussing this with our County Councilors. If they provide us the funding we need at the beginning of 2016, we will be able to start construction in May of 2016. Looking good so far.

Detailed information regarding parks projects is included in Appendix A of the Capital Facilities Plan of the Clark County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space plan.



**COMMENTS RECEIVED AFTER STAFF REPORT PACKET WENT TO THE BOARD OF COUNTY COUNCILORS**

In your news release dated July 15, you indicate "Clark County encourages community members to review the draft plan and submit written comment." How can we review the plan if you don't post it where it is easy to find online. Can you please send me a copy of the "design" for Sorenson Park that was sent out to some people in the neighborhood. Why isn't the planned design for Sorenson Park online?

The Board of County Councilors Hearing for Park Master Plan is Tuesday, Sept. 22 at 10 AM. This is a written testimony for Pat and Laura St.John. The Great Clark County Parks 2005 Levy promised the development of county parks, which included Sorenson Neighborhood Park. Currently Sorenson Park is slated for 2016. Sorenson Park has gone through the master-planning process (2011) and the design process is almost complete. Our taxes have been collected since this levy and as a neighbor to Sorenson Park (Felida neighborhood) for 28+ years, we are committed to seeing this park developed. Help make this process work. Florence (Flossie) B. Wager believed in our parks, too. Also, I continue to see the commitment for other parks, [www.clark.wa.gov/parks](http://www.clark.wa.gov/parks). Thank you very much for your commitment in fulfilling the plans voted on and passed. Every time I go to a neighborhood meeting, we talk about the great master plan for Sorenson park. It will be rewarding to see it completed for our neighborhood. Somebody left a flyer on our doorstep today suggesting that Sorenson Park should not be developed and suggesting that we attend the 9/22 board meeting to make our voice heard. I expect to be busy at work during that time, so here is why I think Sorenson Park SHOULD be developed. The flyer says people use the park already. We do not. We have lived about 100 yards from the park for almost seven years, our kids have been there three times. I've spent about as much time volunteering at clean up events as anything else in the park. The flyer says there are other parks in the area. Fazio Park is almost a mile away. That's too far for young kids to walk (especially if your kids have to go to the bathroom occasionally). That means we've had to drive there (even though you can't park there without blocking the bike lane). A big problem with the park now is that it is fenced on 3 sides. As the crow flies, we live about 100 yards from the park, but we have to go three quarters of a mile to get to it (either up to 113th Street or down to 103rd St). Developing the park will significantly improve the walkability and bikeability of our neighborhood. The flyer says it would be better to keep existing trees and un-irrigated vegetation. This seems like a good idea, and it should be a goal for every park in Clark county. The public has had years to voice its opinions about Sorenson Park, and we've decided to develop it. For the sake of my two kids and over a dozen other kids in our neighborhood, please don't let a few Parks are a vital component of a livable Clark County. I strongly encourage the councilors to adopt this plan. This plan will provides a vision for how parks and other recreation areas will be become a key component for making Clark County the family friendly area I desire. I would especially encourage the county to continue efforts to build all the parks promised by the Greater Clark County Parks District ie Sorenson Neighborhood Park and others. Please adopt this plan and move to make Clark County a great place to enjoy the outdoors. Thank you.

You collected lot of money from all the developers, for the last 5 years. Instead of developing the Cozy Park, you are making money by renting the house on the property. What is your target date of finishing this project, if any?

Parks are a vital component of a livable Clark County. I strongly encourage the councilors to adopt this plan. This plan will provides a vision for how parks and other recreation areas will be become a key component for making Clark County the family friendly area I desire. I would especially encourage the county to continue efforts to build all the parks promised by the Greater Clark County Parks District ie Sorenson Neighborhood Park and others. Please adopt this plan and move to make Clark County a great place to enjoy the outdoors. Thank you.

**RECREATIONAL FACILITIES**

This looks like you have put considerable work into developing a new plan for my county park systems. Where are the pools? What about a recreation center for our youth? These weren't even an option to choose when you proposed what new facilities we wanted/needed. 48% of the respondents mentioned that swimming was high on their list of activities. That is a pretty high percentage, but the options for swimming in our county are severely limited. For those of us in the north end of the county, there aren't any. I fully support the growth for hiking/walking trails, but should that eliminate our option for a pool or a rec center?. We have in our city a skate park, public park, and a ballfield. Few options for our kids to have activities if they are not into skateboarding or baseball. The skate park is frequently used for drug use and teenagers use the buildings on the ballpark to sneak away from school and engage in non-age appropriate activities. Please consider the option of a recreation center for our youth that includes a pool.

RESPONSE:

Goal 1 of the Parks Master Plan discusses a Community Center and Goal 4: Water Access is also included.

Hi, I am e-mailing in regards to the County's long term planning for parks.

We really need more turf soccer fields in the Vancouver area and esp. here in NW Vancouver. Soccer is a growing sport in Washington and we need more turf (possibly multi-use like Lacrosse, football) to play on. We are outgrowing our ability to provide field space. Grass fields can only be played on so much (when they are really wet) before it kills the grass and just becomes a big mud pit. In dry weather grass fields are great, esp. when it is really hot out- since turf can make you feel 10 degrees hotter on a hot day. In order for Advanced teams to remain competitive they also need to practice on turf. Thanks for your time :)

RESPONSE:

Goal 5: Provide all-season designs for sports fields.

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I support the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan as presented to the Clark County Council by the Parks Advisory Committee. In order for all types of parks to grow and develop, the County should seek to increase the revenue stream to the parks. The advisory committee presented a method for adding public and private grants and enhancing the public-private partnerships that now exist.

When considering the parks budget, I ask that the councilors increase the Parks staff to include a grant writer and a planner. As our county becomes more urban, it becomes increasingly important to add parks and open space to provide that necessary escape from the noise and tension that accompany developed places. The increased staff will provide the resources to research suitable locations and the funds to build parks and enhance open public spaces. Regional parks like Salmon Creek Greenway and small neighborhood parks like Orchards Highlands Park provide an ideal combination of playgrounds for children and natural, undeveloped areas for wildlife and nature study. More parks like these are needed. I note that the development of eight proposed neighborhood and community parks has been delayed, a situation that is far from satisfactory. Urban neighborhoods need small parks, ideally within walking or biking distance from houses.

Considerable research has been done into the importance of outdoor play and the exposure to natural places in the development of children's minds and social behavior. Two examples follow.

The Wallace Foundation's Urban Parks Initiative notes: "Parks have traditionally been viewed as venues for play. The evolving view, however, is that parks can be the locus for initiatives that help children develop physically, intellectually, psychologically, and socially."

Master's-degree research at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech) cites the "developmental window of opportunity" between the ages of three and twelve. "Outdoor play in greened play spaces has a positive effect on children's social development, motor skill development, attention, and activity level. It also can provide children with experiences in naturalistic landscapes which could impact their morals, values and actions."

Parks are, indeed, more than play equipment, picnic tables and baseball diamonds, although those are important, too. We are learning that parks and open spaces are vital if we want our children and grandchildren to become caring, moral and educated adults.

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I hope that County Councilors will take into consideration what demographic of the population can attend a 10 am meeting on a Tuesday...  
Since I will be working, I would like to ask that the county consider a skate park in the north Vancouver area. There are small ones here and there, but a nice big complex where kids can practice their skills would be fantastic.

**TRAILS**

We spoke about ideas and the desire to have a mountain-bike specific trail nearby Battle Ground. I had called to express an interest in working with Clark County to design/create/maintain bicycle specific trails accessible from town and usable by riders of all skill levels. I do know there is a demand for off-road cycling because I see the turnout of riders at various trails in the area such as Cold Creek or Lacamas Lake any given day of the week.  
It is true that we have a lot of excellent riding in the SW WA region already. But this requires packing up a vehicle and driving an hour or more to reach the trail. These amazing trails are typically rated intermediate to advanced levels in terms of physical or technical difficulty and the equipment required. Entry level (or family friendly) options are typically packed with joggers, horses, dog walkers, children, cars, etc. - which can often lead to unfavorable or even dangerous interactions amongst these various user groups.  
It's a great feeling to coast back to the house after a satisfying evening ride. And to introduce new riders to the sport and see them progress. I believe there are properties in the immediate area with potential and we have a healthy community of riders that are eager to support this effort.  
I would love to keep this conversation going with you. Please keep us in mind.

RESPONSE:

Goal 4: Trail System; Goal 5: BMX/Pump Track  
Goal 3: Implement Trails & Bikeways Plan

I'm writing in regards to the proposed county parks plan. I like your idea of connecting parks and green spaces with trails. I urge you to keep the trails more "natural." This means single and double track that is either dirt or gravel. Paved paths are nice for road bikes and strollers but we also need some natural, less compacted surfaces that are more suitable for off road cyclists and runners and walkers. Thank you for taking the time to involve the community in this process.

RESPONSE:

Our public involvement talked a lot about connecting trails and parks  
Goal 3: Implement Trails & Bikeways Plan

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Clark County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan. WTA's mission is to preserve, enhance, and promote hiking opportunities in Washington state through collaboration, education, advocacy and volunteer trail maintenance. With the support of over 600 members in Southwest Washington we speak for hikers and welcome the chance to further our mission through the planning process. Survey data and public comments summarized in the draft plan reflect what we hear from our constituents. Hiking and walking are very popular activities and that pedestrians prefer trails in a natural setting. In addition to the high percentage of participants engaging in hiking and walking, your survey respondents also ranked trails as their highest priority to address in the plan. We echo their support for more hiking opportunities in Clark County.

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We also support trail construction and maintenance through our volunteer programs. Last year we completed more than 2,400 hours working on the new trail at Vancouver Lake and restoring trails at both Whipple Creek and Lacamas Parks. Thus far in 2015 we've done over 1,200 hours with much more planned.

We support many of the goals and objectives laid out in the draft plan. In particular we support the goal of connecting neighborhoods to parks with pedestrian and bicycling trails to reduce reliance on cars to access hiking trails (concurrently reducing parking lot congestion at trailheads). We also strongly support the addition of new staff resources to enable efforts on collaborating, planning and revenue generation. Without recreation staff like Karen Llewellyn, Roger Anderson and Terry Riggs we could not complete the work that we do.

To improve the plan we would like to see more emphasis placed on serving the demand for trails in a natural setting that provide a high quality hiking experience. The proliferation of user-created paths at Whipple Creek Park, Lacamas Park and many other facilities is strong evidence of an unmet demand for soft-surface trails in a natural setting that form loop options. The concept of connectivity is prominent throughout the draft plan; we would like to see equal emphasis placed on the "pearls" connected by the "string" of regional trails. Although one could argue that individual Park's Master Plans are the place to highlight such local and primitive trails, we believe these trails deserve a prominent place in a comprehensive plan given the overwhelming support for them and so that the plan offers a truly comprehensive overview of what the park system should become.

While it is tempting to simply adopt user-created trails into the system these paths are rarely designed and built to modern standards for user safety and sustainability, often leading to greater problems in the long term. Similarly, using old road corridors for trails often creates erosion problems and doesn't provide the same experience of single track that is heavily favored by hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians alike. It would be a tragic mistake to ignore the serious design pitfalls of road corridors and user created trails in developing trail systems at Green Mountain, Camp Bonneville and other Clark County parks.

Thank you again for the opportunity to engage in this important planning process. We look forward to working together to make Clark County a great place to hike.

- Sincerely, Ryan

Ryan Ojerio

SW Washington Regional Manager Washington Trails Association

[www.wta.org](http://www.wta.org)

RESPONSE:

A follow-up implementation strategy for the Parks Advisory Board should be to consider language for planning for trails and not automatically assuming an old road or right-of-way would be appropriate for a soft-surface trail.

**TRAILS (CONT'D)**

The City of Ridgefield has the following comments on the Draft Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan.

Regional Sports Complex Along I-5 Corridor:

The City of Ridgefield, in collaboration with the Ridgefield School District, is developing a regional sports complex near the city limits and we see this as a strong candidate project for agency partnering. A regional sports complex along the I-5 corridor is included in the County's Draft 6-Year Regional Systems Plan under Special Facility Development/Acquisition, with acquisition scheduled for 2019 and development scheduled for 2021. Ridgefield's sports complex site is located in close proximity to I-5, within two miles of interstate access, and appears to "qualify" for this project. In 2015/2016 the City will be preparing a market assessment, acquiring property from the developer, developing a design and preparing construction documents. Development (i.e. construction) of the facility is scheduled to occur in 2017, pending securement of funding. We would like to discuss this partnering opportunity with Clark County and potentially move this project ahead in the County's 6-Year Plan.

Regional Trails Development:

The Regional Trails Map included at the end of Appendix B of the Draft Plan shows three regional trail connections to the Ridgefield area: an east trail connection along the I-5 corridor, a central trail connection along Lake River, and a west trail connection through the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge. Only one of these trail connections is included in the 20-Year Plan and we would like to see all three included. The Ridgefield community is highly supportive of multi-modal travel and we are interested in collaborating on each of these projects, as each would both provide travel options and promote healthy living for Ridgefield.

Thanks you for allowing the opportunity to comments. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Respectfully yours,  
Timothy C. Shell, P.E.  
Public Works Director  
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RESPONSES:

Sports Complex: Goal 5 of the master plan discusses expanding sports facilities.

Trails: The two trails referenced in this email will be included in the final version of the PROS.

Since I won't be able to attend your upcoming Board of County Councilors hearing for Parks Master Plan on Tuesday September 22nd, I would like to express my family's love for our local parks. My husband, Will, and I moved to Clark County in the fall of 2002. We wanted to be in Camas due to the excellent schools and library, as well as to the proximity to LaCamas Park. Since then, we have run, hiked and mountain biked\* there several times a week. I can't tell you how much I LOVE that park...! More recently, we have included our two girls on our bike rides there. Also, I will take about 5 of our kids' friends for a (loud) hike to LaCamas Park. They all love it. No one can accuse our neighborhood kids of having Nature Deficit Disorder. Additionally, our family likes to ride our bikes and hike in nearby areas, such as Thrillium on Larch Mountain. However, due to having a full family schedule, we don't get to go to these farther off places more than a few times a year. It would be wonderful to have closer parks in which to hike and ride our bikes. Having beautiful settings in which to recreate and rejuvenate is such a vital element to a healthy community, and I hope you will consider including more parks where we can bike. I understand that there will be a new development in the Green Mountain area; I hope you will include a park with dirt trails that are properly planned for hiking and mountain biking. Recent "trails" that have been built by housing development contractors in Camas are disappointing because they are unusable due to their steepness or their too-sharp switchbacks (which can lead to being washed out). If possible, I could find plenty of volunteers from the mountain biking community, as well as some with landscaping knowledge, who would gladly volunteer their time to building sustainable dirt trails. P.S. \*I feel compelled to point out that we (including our local biking community) are polite mountain bikers; we yield to hikers and runners, stay on the trail, and most of all, frequently rebuild and maintain the trails.

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RESPONSE:

The County has been working with the City of Camas on development of the Green Mountain area, and plans for this area do include plans for trails.