

Last minute email comments

Comment #1

From: Gina McCoy [mailto:Gina.McCoy@vansd.org]

Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 2:37 PM

To: Lebowsky, Laurie

Subject: Parks

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.

Thank you,

Gina

From: Alice Linker [mailto:twolinkers1960@gmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 1:40 PM

To: Cnty Parks

Subject: Comp plan

Comments on the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan:

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 playscapes 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.

Thank you.

Alice Perry Linker

8821 NE 111th Avenue