

Parks Master Plan
Email Comments
EXHIBIT 2

PARKS
<p>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.</p>
<p>What is it that we as a community can do to ensure the the area referred to as Green Mountain in Camas/Vancouver remains under the guidance of Clark County?</p> <p>We are very concerned about the lack of vision and what that will mean as far as impact to our communities livability.</p>
<p>> Hello, If you're referring to the Green Mountain property, it is under the custodianship of Clark County's Department of Environmental Service's Legacy Lands Program. Pat Lee is the Legacy Lands Manager and can best answer your question regarding Green Mountain. I'll copy him so that he receives your question and can respond. I can tell you that this property is identified to be a future Regional Park which is detailed in both the Conservation plan and Parks Plan. You can view the draft Comprehensive Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan by going the parks page on the Clark County web site. http://www.clark.wa.gov/publicworks/parks/index.html You'll find it in the capital facilities pages within appendix A Regional Park section of the plan.</p> <p>> If you're referring to the planned development along the south side of Green Mountain, that is within the jurisdiction of the City of Camas. Pat and I plan 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.</p> <p>></p> <p>> I hope you find this information helpful. Please let me know if you have any further questions or concerns. Thank you for your inquiry,</p> <p>></p> <p>></p> <p>> Bill Bjerke</p>
<p>Thank you for the useful information Bill. Will equestrian use be a factor in the parks development?</p>
<p>Yes. Equestrian use will definitely be a part of the development scope for Green Mountain and connecting trails.</p> <p>Bill</p>
<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Greetings,</p> <p>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 use for trails to view the wetlands and the diverse ecosystem 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?</p> <p>Thank you for your help.</p>
<p>Good morning,</p> <p>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</p> <p>Please let me know if you have any other questions and I'll do my best to answer them. Thank you for your inquiry,</p> <p>Bill Bjerke</p>

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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.

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.

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. Thank you for checking in Laura and I'll see you at the open house.

Bill Bjerke

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.

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.

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.

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 :)

TRAILS

Bill,

We spoke on the phone last week 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.

I'm writing in regards to the proposed county parks plan. I like you 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.

TRAILS Cont'd

Dear Planning Committee,

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.

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

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