



proud past, promising future

March 2011

Sorenson Neighborhood Park

Answers to Common Questions

When will construction start?

Construction is currently scheduled to begin in spring 2012, if funding is available. Park construction typically takes 4-6 months to complete.

How is this project being paid for?

Funding to design and construct this park may come from:

- Park impact fees, which are paid by new housing developers,
- Real estate excise taxes, which are paid whenever homes are sold, and
- Greater Clark Parks District property taxes.

These three funding sources are dedicated to parks and cannot be used for other purposes, like police or roads. Maintenance will also be paid for with property taxes collected by the Greater Clark Parks District (see www.clarkparks.org), which is a junior taxing district approved by voters in the unincorporated urban area of Clark County in 2005.

Will there be a parking lot and restrooms?

No. Neighborhood parks are designed for people living in adjacent neighborhoods to walk or ride their bike to, not drive. They are not meant to be “destination” parks that attract visitors from outside the immediate neighborhood. As a result, the budget for this park does not include money for a parking lot or restrooms.

Will there be an entrance to the park from the east side?

Clark County is working with Vancouver Public Schools to establish an access point to the park across the school district property from the 109th Street cul-de-sac on the east side of the park. An easement or use agreement may be required.

What will happen to the trees in the park?

The county recognizes the value the existing trees bring to the park and plan to design the park around them as much as possible. The current draft concept plan proposes to remove only a few trees near the southwest corner of the property. Existing trees will also be pruned and cleaned up.

Will adjacent properties be screened from the park?

The county can add shrubs or small trees along the park's fence line to help screen adjacent properties, *if neighbors desire*. We recognize that many neighbors value their unobstructed views through the park and will not plant screening trees or shrubs along the park property line unless specifically asked to do so. Interested property owners should contact the project manager to request these plantings no later than May 2011.

What will happen to the hill in the northeast corner of the park?

The hill is a unique feature of this park and will not be removed. If neighbors desire any sort of seating area at the top of the hill, a fully handicapped accessible path will have to be built to ensure the park is compliant with the national Americans with Disabilities Act. This path may interfere with sledding activities in the winter. The other option is to just plant new grass on the hill and leave it as is, with no seating areas or paths.

Will dogs be allowed in the park?

Leashed dogs will be allowed in the park after it's developed. The Clark County Code prohibits off-leash use in parks unless it has been officially designated as an off-leash area. The county relies on a partnership with Clark County DOGPAW, a local non-profit group, to operate and maintain its existing off-leash dog parks. DOGPAW is currently working with the county to develop a new off-leash area near Vancouver Lake that will serve the west side of Clark County. For more information about DOGPAW, go online: www.clarkdogpaw.org.

Will there be access to the school district property on the south side of the park?

Not immediately. Vancouver Public Schools would like there to be a direct connection between the park and their property, but not until they develop it. The school district does not have any immediate plans to develop this property, and would like to still have the ability to lease the property for agricultural purposes if they wish. As a result, they have asked that their property remain fenced off from the park until they develop it.

Will the Sheriff's Office patrol this park on a regular basis?

Clark County Sheriff's Office deputies usually visit public parks only when someone calls 9-1-1 to report a problem or crime in progress. If they are able to drive by the park on the way to or from another assignment, they will scan the park from their vehicles. They will not get out and walk through the park unless they suspect an illegal activity is occurring.

It is important for neighbors and park visitors to keep an eye on the park and report any illegal activities immediately by calling 9-1-1 or by calling the West Precinct directly at (360) 397-6079. The Sheriff's Office cannot respond to emerging or recurring problems if no one reports them.

Who will maintain the park after it's built?

After construction is complete, Clark County Public Works will visit the park at least once a week in the winter and potentially up to seven days a week in the summer, when park use increases, to perform regular maintenance. Park maintenance includes mowing, weed removal, tree and plant care, trash removal, and equipment repairs.

Can I install a gate from my yard into the park?

Neighbors who share a property line with the park may pay to have a gate installed in the park's chain link fence *after construction is completed*. Interested neighbors must contact Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation in advance to request a gate agreement. For more information, call Brian Potter at (360) 487-8323.

How can I get more information about this project?

Please visit the project Web page at: www.clarkparks.org/projects/sorenson.htm.

Or contact:

Troy Pierce, Project Manager

Clark County Public Works

Telephone: 360-397-6118 ext. 4403

E-mail: Troy.Pierce@clark.wa.gov