



proud past, promising future

April 2011

Salmon Creek Community Club Neighborhood Park Answers to Common Questions

When will construction start?

Clark County recently received updated financial projections for the [Greater Clark Parks District](#) and has determined that construction cannot start at in 2012, as originally planned.

The ongoing economic downturn is projected to cause a significant reduction in the amount of property taxes collected by the Greater Clark Parks District for maintenance and operations of its parks. As a result, the county is slowing down its park development program. It is not financially prudent to build all the remaining parks when projections indicate the county will have difficulties maintaining its existing parks.

In response to the slowdown, the Salmon Creek Community Club Neighborhood Park project will be put on hold after the concept plan is developed and approved this summer. Neighbors will be notified when work resumes on this project, but it may not be for a year or possibly longer.

For more information about recent changes to the Greater Clark Parks District program, please visit this Web page, www.clarkparks.org/faq.htm, or call (360) 397-6118 ext. 4949.

How will this project be paid for?

Funding to design, construct and maintain this park comes 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 (www.clarkparks.org).

These three funding sources are dedicated to parks and cannot be used for other purposes, like police or roads. However, all three funding sources are also dependent on the local housing market, which has declined in recent years. As a result, these funding sources are collecting less revenue, which has forced the county to slow down its park development program starting in 2011.

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, funding to build a parking lot or restrooms is not included in this park’s budget.

Will any safety improvements be made to the adjacent roads?

At this point in the park development process, staff expects that the project will extend sidewalks, curb and gutter on adjacent roads. We won’t know if additional road improvements will be required until we apply for our development permits. This will not happen until additional funding for final design and construction is available.

Will people living in or near the Whipple Creek Condos have access to the park?

Clark County will not be able to provide a footbridge across the creek as part of project because of budget restrictions. However, a bridge may be added to the park in the future as part of a separate improvement project, through grant funding or neighborhood donations.

What will happen to the trees and creek 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. Some existing trees may also be pruned and cleaned up, and dead or diseased trees removed. The creek and the buffer around it will not be disturbed and will be protected from silt and runoff during construction. The county’s recent channelization and restoration project on the creek will not be affected by the park development.

Will dogs be allowed in the park?

Leashed dogs will be allowed in the park after it’s developed. Clark County Code requires dogs to remain on leashes in parks unless it has been officially designated as an off-leash area. The county does not locate off-leash dog parks inside neighborhood parks because they attract visitors from outside the neighborhood who may create parking and traffic problems.

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 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.

How can I get more information about this project?

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

Or contact:

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