

162nd Ave. Community Park Public Comments and Suggestions

As of May 1, 2008

Sources:

- Comments from staff
- Phone calls from community
- E-mails from community

Softball/ Ball Fields

- I would like to see an adult ball field complex at the new park. It is very disappointing that the new fields at North Clackamas Park serve only the youth teams and the adult teams have no real nice place to play. It would be great if there could be multi-use fields for both youth and adult teams to use.
- We need a 5 field softball complex at the new park.
- Adult ball fields are a must. This is a promise that has been passed up for 20 years and I feel we should be given first priority.
- We really need 90' Baseball fields with mounds and infield grass/turf. A complex similar to Tualatin Hills is what is needed on this side of town.
- Having participated in the Tri-City Softball Association for nearly 20 years I have seen many of the failed promises of an adult softball complex. In the last go round not only did we not gain any fields but we lost the fields that we had at North Clackamas Park. As a tax paying resident of Happy Valley, I would like to see a nice adult softball complex constructed to meet the needs of our community. A field with turf would be ideal for our early spring and late fall seasons.
- I am the manager and coach for the Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church men's softball team. Over the years the Church also has had co-ed teams in the Tri City softball league. On behalf of my team which represents both home owners and business owners in Clackamas County and Happy Valley we are in support of adult softball fields. I am confident that they will be used seven days a week and for as many months as the weather allows. Our main fields at N. Clackamas Park were turned over to the youth program.

Personally I coached and sponsored several Jr. Baseball teams thru the former Happy Valley Jr. Baseball Association and supported the programs at Clackamas High School with both time and money. So I am not adverse to playing fields for the young people. Two of my former Jr. Baseball players are now on my adult softball team. I feel that adults should also have a place to play, especially in this age where so many adults are in poor physical shape and need an outlet to stay healthy. Softball has provided both a mental and physical outlet for the 30 plus years that I have played.

In the Happy Valley area two major golf courses have been sold to developers and recreational outlets have been replaced with commercial and residential units. I have read that adult softball is still the number one participant sport in the country. When I started playing softball most of the players were in their 20's and it was a young man's sport. Now softball players include men and women from the age of 20 to over 60. My team alone has two 60 year olds and three 50 year olds and they have all played for over 20 years.

Many of the existing fields we are forced to play in are not well maintained. We have also had conflicts with neighborhood groups who interfere with the softball

areas. We have had injuries over the years due to uneven outfield and infield playing surfaces.

In conclusion we strongly support the adult softball complex and feel it will be a much needed improvement to the community.

- I personally think that the complex would be a great idea. It would be nice to play on actual infields rather than a mix of dirt, rocks and weeds. I know a lot of guys that don't want to drive all the way to Delta Park to play softball, but don't want to play on the fields we currently play on, so this complex would allow for more teams to be formed which would lead to more money that could be used for upkeep.
- I drive by a newly built sport field complex in Lake Oswego on Stafford Road every day and see many different teams/sports using this field. It has the field turf built in and I think this would be a great addition for Clackamas County. With the weather as it is, a turf field would help negate rainouts and provide fields for all ages. I know that the turf field at Alder Creek is of use for many outdoor teams and the home of La Salle football. As a resident of Clackamas County, I strongly support a new complex of turf fields for sporting use.
- The new park should include baseball/softball fields of excellent quality. This area is starving for good baseball/softball fields east of I-205, between Hwy 212 and the northern county line. Please take this into strong consideration during the planning of this new park.
- Thanks so much for getting community input regarding the new park in Happy Valley. My family lives just blocks from the new site and we're excited about having a place to get out and play.

My recommendation would be for a lit, turf baseball field in the new park. We lack this kind of facility in our area (even at the high school) and I believe it would be highly utilized. I've lived in other areas where baseball was a community-wide focus, and it really served to bring people together. I believe a new baseball field would help move Happy Valley in that direction as well.

- As the Company facilitator for Warn adult softball for the past 15 years I can speak firsthand about the lack of & need for adequate community facilities for this activity.

Warn has over 500 local employees, many of whom live in the surrounding Clackamas / Damascus / Happy Valley areas. An important aspect of our Company culture is to encourage employee participation in community service programs & to provide a range of health-oriented recreational opportunities, including adult men's & co-ed softball. For as many years as I've been involved we have had to contend with a declining number of local ball fields that frankly are in poor playing condition, and always with the promise of better fields to be constructed "soon in the future" for adults to play on.

The planned recreational complex in Happy Valley is the best opportunity to fulfill that promise and provide a sorely-needed recreational resource that supports a broad segment of our community. We urge your support & approval of adult ball fields as part of the recreational complex in Happy Valley.

- I feel the biggest need for the new park is additional lighted sports fields, specifically need two or more ball fields – one should be a regulation size 90' baseball field for junior and adult baseball and one should be a combo 60'-70' feet for junior/little league baseball/softball. Really need 2 to 4 additional fields to support the growth of the area. If done right, these can also be used for a variety of sports. I would also like to see a general play area for small kids, walking & jogging paths and areas for personal training for adults would be great too. With the tremendous growth in this area, the park needs to be family oriented.
- Me and my family are residents of Clackamas County and Milwaukie, Oregon. For the past few years we have been involved in Clackamas Little League, and I might add, I am the Treasurer and an Officer of Clackamas Little League, and have been for the last couple of years now.

I would like to express to you our need for additional baseball fields in Clackamas County. More specifically, I would like to say that our HUGE need at this point is to find another baseball field with 90 foot base paths for our Junior Baseball program. We currently are able to play three nights per week at the North Clackamas Complex which is a wonderful facility, but that is not enough as the popularity of our league increases and more 13 and 14 year olds are signing up to play baseball. We have two junior teams and could of had two more this year - but we had to turn the players away because of the lack of fields.

We also share a field at Alder Creek with several other leagues, as well as the Putnam freshmen and JV programs. This has become quite frustrating, especially during rainouts, when Putnam has first preference, and several of our scheduled games are bumped.

We have tried to build relationships with the local high schools that have the fields, but this has been frustrating as well, as the high schools are tentative about letting our league play due to the nature of rainouts and scheduling conflicts.

As a representative of the Board of Directors for Clackamas Little League and an officer, I would like to extend to you our support for additional fields, particularly for the junior baseball program. ...We would also be interested in perhaps pursuing a concept of a public/private partnership for a little league complex that would include up to 8 baseball fields, filling the need from farm league to minors, majors and ultimately junior baseball...

- I would like to see new softball/baseball fields with all weather turf be built in this location. Everyone knows the Happy Valley area is growing at a huge rate. This means there are more children moving into the area. I believe we as a community and a county have an obligation to keep children physically active. A functional athletic facility would do just that.

As a board member of North Clackamas Junior Softball Association that has over 250 girls involved in our program, I am excited to see the new energy that is being dedicated to our sport. I have talked with board members from the Happy Valley softball association, and they are seeing an increase in their registration numbers. This is exciting news. It is a must that these girls are guaranteed the fields needed to practice and play games.

Since the park at North Clackamas was completed, there has been great communication that has arisen between all the softball and baseball communities in the area that use the park. We are all embracing the luxury of having such great facilities. We are hosting tournaments and the level of competition is increasing more than has been seen in this area, probably ever. With another facility like N. Clackamas Park, we could become known as the hottest place to play ball in the state! And that is not an exaggeration.

- I have been playing ball in the area for the best part of thirty years. I'm a small time homebuilder who just happens to sponsor a softball team. I'm a little curious as to why we don't have a good facility to play ball on. After all we are the ones paying taxes. We've been promised new fields as long as I can remember. I personally think it's time the county kept its end of the deals.

Lacrosse/Soccer fields

- The Clackamas girls' lacrosse team played at the Tualatin Hills Howard Terpenning recreation complex this past weekend and this was an amazing facility. I believe this complex is on 90 acres and I have no idea how they funded such a facility, other than there must have been some large personal donations . . . but this is a plan to dream about.

I just wanted to make sure you were aware of this facility and see if we can try to make our new Clackamas Co park look something like this.

- Lacrosse is fast becoming one of the most popular sports in this area, and across the country. There are not enough playing and practice fields available for current teams, let alone those that will want to participate in the future. The nice thing about lacrosse is that it is a sport that can share fields with both football and soccer. Having fields that can serve multiple sports is practical and economical, and truly represents an opportunity for the county to provide a great benefit to a

wide range of sports interests. I strongly urge you to include field playing space in the final plan that can accommodate this growing demand.

- I would like to see sports fields included in the new park. This area has many baseball, soccer, and lacrosse teams all competing for fields to practice and have games on. Lacrosse fields are particularly important because it is a growing sport and now has teams starting at the third grade level and continuing through high school.
- Artificial Turf Field for Football, Soccer, Lacrosse etc. and another artificial field for baseball.
- We need full size soccer fields!

Other Park Features

- We hope that there are covered picnic areas - really nice to have during the summer and during the rain!
- I also run an in home day care. And since discovering the new play structure area at NCP, I have taken my daycare children there on a regular basis. They actually ask me to take them there. The structure is so large that it keeps them involved and encouraged to run and play for a long period of time. Another play area like that is a must at the new park.
- I would also like to see walking paths similar to those at NCP. They are well lit, clean and open. This creates a feeling of safety that far exceeds that of walking in some neighborhoods in the area. This also encourages adults and elderly people to stay active. The nice sidewalks make pushing strollers much easier for active mothers & fathers.
- Shared indoor gathering, educational or citizen involvement (or other civic groups) designed to be independently used or controlled access from the rest of a primary use (such as an elementary school)—typically school media centers are designed for community use, containing room for up to 100 people, restrooms and limited kitchen/refreshment, janitorial facilities. These spaces can be designed for indoor/outdoor interaction during nice weather (such as large patio, covered BBQ area, etc. adjoining the primary indoor space).
- Community level master planned pedestrian/sidewalk systems and bicycle promenades (and trails, such as crossing Rock Creek or its tributaries north of the park, to provide access to existing and planned residential development, employment and shopping—thereby reducing need for pedestrians and bicyclists to have to use SE 172nd Avenue).
- Protection of habitat areas and wetlands and providing PASSIVE open space links to Rock Creek (to the west) and its Tributaries (to the north and east).

Provide integrated habitat restoration and native tree plantings to repair fragmented open areas and forested uplands.

- Off-road cycling (non-motorized)
- Structured rock climbing that is combined into a nature feature setting
- WATERPARK (fountains, shallow water, interactive water play)
- Community outdoor/indoor community swimming facilities (to include competitive swimming standards). Swim facilities would be ideal integrated with the joint community gathering rooms noted above.
- Restrooms
- Covered group gathering, outdoor Kitchen
- Outdoor Entertainment setting (such as use of informal sloped or stepped areas that are maintained as passive open space) that could include an entertainment pavilion-stage (to shelter performance from inclement weather and allow for lights, sound, changing rooms, etc.)
- Satellite Senior Center (?), community education facilities, neighborhood involvement group meeting place, etc. (and to supplement Clackamas Community College curriculum or such needs as outdoor or environmental education schools); these facilities could be integrated with the education district facilities, especially the elementary school. This might be a case where school district needs could be met during the day, also.
- Community gardens, nurseries, composting facilities
- Children's structured play (linked with Elementary play areas)
- Kid's tree forts and observation platforms
- Significant garden sculpture
- Seasonal whirly-gigs, including park flags, banners, Community information Kiosks (for citizens)

Skate park

- The skate parks that have been built in Portland have been extremely popular features in the parks.
- Need safe places for kids to skateboard. We don't have anything in Happy Valley or the park district.
- Skate Boarding and designated skating pathways (that would likely include bike trails)
- Build a skate park for all ages and abilities.

- I am opposed to having any kind of skate or dog park. Skateboards are loud, annoying and disruptive. Dogs should be kept on leashes and not have any dedicated area. This money is provided by me as a taxpayer for people to enjoy a park with an atmosphere of peace, quiet and tranquility. Dogs and skateboarders do not contribute to that goal.

Off leash Dog Area

- An area for dogs would also be a priority.
- Please include an off leash dog area.
- Provided pets (especially dogs and cats, etc.) are controlled and do not impact fish and wildlife habitat, an off-leash dog park would be ideally suited to this location. There is one dog park in the North Clackamas Park Floodplain which should be found a new home. The NCPR district should support 3 or 4 locations that do not adversely impact sensitive habitat lands, such as in Oak Grove, Milwaukie, Regional Center or Sunnyside and in Happy Valley (north and south).