



PROJECT NUMBER: # 15-065PLN ISSUE DATE: April 14, 2015
PROJECT NAME: Clark County Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan

RECORDED BY: Steve Duh & Laurie Lebowsky
TO: FILE
PRESENT: NACC members
Bill Bjerke – Clark County Parks
Jeff Mize – Clark County Public Works
Laurie Lebowsky – Clark County Community Development
Steve Duh – Conservation Technix

SUBJECT: Stakeholder Session Meeting Notes: NACC (04/13/15)

Doug Ballou welcomed Bill Bjerke to discuss the county parks plan. Bill provided a short summary of the project and thanked the NACC for their time.

DISCUSSION / COMMENTS

1. What are the key priorities for the county's regional and urban park and trail system?

- Playgrounds
- ADA play areas; disabled-accessible play equipment for children using wheelchairs
- Everything we taxed ourselves for under the MPD
- Soccer and baseball fields
- We have an aging county, and the aging population should have access to facilities and that are easy to use; not things just for small kids; need benches and foot stools for the aging population
- Parking is needed
- Access issues in urban parks; if access standard is measured in miles, then it shouldn't be as the crow flies. It needs to relate to actual access routes. People do not know where access to some parks is. Pleasant Valley Community Park and Greyhawk Neighborhood Park are examples; unless you live in the immediate neighborhood, you might not know how to enter the park
- Better signage
- Westside community center
- Pool
- Heritage Farms Trail - should be a priority in the next few years to get the trail accessible and usable; with the site master plan, there are still concerns about splitting the site with a roadway. Needs to be some type of gazebo or lookout point at the top.
- Water access for kayaks and canoes - small boat launches, especially along Lake River and the Lewis River
- Water features and splash pads; something button-activated. Could be something that is simply an irrigation system or uses the water for irrigation.

1A. What park/trail/recreation facilities are missing?

- Things that get kids outside and playing and off their computers
- More seating and shelters along trail corridors. Seniors need places to stop and rest.
- More dog waste bins/stations
- Safe crossings along busy roads in areas of parks - 54th Avenue is dangerous
- Add wayfinding markers for water trails
- East Minnehaha (St Johns Park property, undeveloped) - what would it take to add some simple benches to make the site usable? How can neighbors add benches without county maintenance workers removing them?

1B. Where are the gaps in regional recreation facilities?

- Hazel Dell Community Park - site needs re-development. Can the back fencing be removed to link the property to the Heritage Farms site?
- Does the County coordinate with the federal agencies and outreach with the wildlife refuges? Consider partnering with the federal agencies for coordinated development and management of sites like Flume Creek
- Partner with different agencies, including Columbia Land Trust.
- Camp Bonneville status - it will still be 6 to 8 years before the spent ordinances are removed. Some areas will have limited access and others will be fully restricted.

1C. What amenities or opportunities will make the county park system better / stronger?

- Boating and sailing education facilities
- Mountain biking
- Skateboarding areas, including ADA skateboarding facilities
- Golf
- Disc golf
- Off leash areas
- Something similar to the Water Resources Education Center in Vancouver.
- Partner with environmental groups and neighborhood associations and provide incentives, similar to the fee waiver program for development
- Clean up Vancouver Lake
- Wetland interpretive features - signage along trails; coordinate with schools for environmental education
- Most people don't know where the parks are; need a handout and better marketing to include information about what is located at each site – better marketing for the entire parks program

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- Work closely with disabled-accessibility groups that provide information to people with disabilities, a “know before you go” type approach

2. How do you see the future for county parks, trails and recreation facilities?

- Develop more parks – do not surplus parks property
- Coordinate with cities and establish a single countywide agency for parks, so cities will not need their own departments
- Look to future trends to see what activities are likely coming
- Build the Chelatchie Prairie Railroad Trail

3. What contributions or support can your organization offer to help create this future?

- NACC can help with public outreach; aim to over communicate with NACC to help disseminate information
- Volunteering - in-kind contributions, landscaping, labor
- Develop a mechanism for volunteering (Bill referenced parkhero.org - the County's volunteer calendar portal)
- Consider rezoning parkland that is still designated as residential – do not combine park impact fee districts

Every effort has been made to accurately record this meeting. If any errors or omissions are noted, please provide written response within five days of receipt.

-- *End of Notes* --

cc: Bill Bjerke
project file