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PROJECT NUMBER: # 15-068PLN                      ISSUE DATE: May 15, 2015  
PROJECT NAME: Covington Parks, Recreation & Open Space Plan

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RECORDED BY: Steve Duh / Jean Akers  
TO: FILE  
PRESENT: Members of the Public  
Staff from City of Covington  
Project Team Members from Conservation Technix & MacLeod Reckord

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**SUBJECT:        PROS Plan: Open House Meeting Notes (05/13/15)**

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Community members were invited to an open house on Wednesday, May 13, 2015 from 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. at City Hall. As the first of three public meetings for the PROS Plan, the project team prepared informational displays covering three major themes for parks and recreation. These display stations included Recreation Programming, Trails & Linkages and Parks & Outdoor Recreation. Attendees were encouraged to talk with staff, record their comments and complete a written comment card.

City staff and project team staff engaged with participants to explore current issues, needs and interests related to park, trail and recreation opportunities and needs.

## COMMENTS PER DISPLAY STATION

The following represents a summary of the comments received at each display station.

### Parks & Outdoor Recreation Station

**How satisfied are you with your neighborhood park? Is there a demand for more park space in your neighborhood?**

- Definitely a demand for a playground and more structure play areas
- Demand for better maintenance of existing parks

**What outdoor recreation opportunities are too limited or missing in Covington?**

- Missing general purpose fields; there is too much emphasis on scheduled-use fields
- Need an interconnected trail system so people can get place to place on foot
- Indoor basketball courts at a multi-use facility with waterpark features
- Ice rink
- Food bank
- Outdoor pool
- Love the idea of community gardens

**Are there enough playgrounds available for younger kids? Older kids?**

- No! We need a playground

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- We need at least one, hopefully two, huge playgrounds where families that have younger and older kids can all play together
- Playground
- Splash park
- Dog park

**Are there enough outdoor recreational opportunities for teens? Seniors? Special needs groups?**

- Not for seniors; they go to Maple Valley. Need a senior center

**What do you want kids to remember about growing up in Covington?**

- Walkability - getting to places on foot
- Playing on really cool playgrounds
- Participating in community sports
- Being proud to live here

**-- Priorities Voting Board (tally of dots)**

- 10 – Expand and/or Renovate the Aquatic Center
- 9 – Multi-Use Community Recreation Center
- 8 – Water Spray Park or Splash Pad
- 8 – Improve and/or Enhance Existing Parks
- 7 – Additional or Synthetic Turf Sport Fields
- 5 – Multi-Use, Paved Trails
- 5 – Picnic Shelters & Playgrounds
- 5 – Land Acquisition for Future Parks
- 3 – Off-Leash Dog Areas

**-- Map Board & Chart Pad (sticky note comments)**

- Consider if HOA Timberlane eliminates pool - convert to a public splashpad / water park
- Don't ignore the existing facilities to build shiny new stuff only
- Jenkins Creek Park - what are plans for future? Play area is desired
- CCP - we leave the City for soccer!
- CCP - parking needed
- Local rock climbing facilities, especially for kids

**Trails & Linkages Station**

**What are the key routes you would take, but don't because of access restrictions or other concerns?**

**Where are the missing links?**

- Neighborhood access to the library from the west
- Walking along 516/Kent Kanglely is unpleasant
- Sidewalk on 164th by library

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- Sidewalk and lights on 156th
- 262nd desperately needs sidewalks \*\*
- Sidewalk over SR-18 on 180th Ave SE - no shoulder to walk on, 35 mph plus speeders
- Sidewalks or connecting trails along 156th, 256th & 240th, etc

### **What trail improvements would encourage you to walk or bike more frequently?**

- Connect the bits of trails that now exist, so I could actually get somewhere \*\*

### **What other community destinations would be well served by direct and safe bicycle and pedestrian trails?**

- Connect commercial and residential areas, so people have the option to walk \*\*

### **What is the average distance you prefer to cover when you use trails?**

- Any distance - I usually choose to walk over drive, but I like to walk somewhere with a purpose (i.e., going to the store)

### **-- Map Board & Chart Pad (sticky note comments)**

- More continuous multi-use trails
- Better and safer pedestrian route along 272nd \*\*
- Sidewalk from high school to library (along 164th)
- Walkable downtown
- Summer events for families
- Farmers market
- Recreation facility in town - walkability to town center
- Need to advertise where there are trails
- Turf sport fields

## **Recreation Programming Station**

### **What are the key routes you would take, but don't because of access restrictions or other concerns?**

#### **Where are the missing links?**

- Neighborhood access to the library from the west
- Walking along 516/Kent Kanglely is unpleasant
- Sidewalk on 1664th by library
- Sidewalk and lights on 156th
- 262nd desperately needs sidewalks \*\*
- Sidewalk over SR-18 on 180th Ave SE - no shoulder to walk on, 35 mph plus speeders
- Sidewalks or connecting trails along 156th, 256th & 240th, etc

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**What recreation opportunities are missing?**

- Adult softball
- More adult fitness programs - adult dance and other classes

**What kinds of recreation programs, activities or classes would you or your family use?**

- Public racquetball courts
- Soccer, volleyball, baseball - already use these through Covington Sports

**Are there specific age groups that need access to additional programs? What types of activities or programs should be offered?**

- Adult soccer league
- Rowing

**Aquatics**

**As the community continues to grow, are there other improvements you would suggest?**

- Hot tub, steam room, sauna
- Play area for small kids (siblings waiting for older kids)
- Moving water (lazy river, etc)
- More pool space

**Are there other aquatic programs the City should offer or schedule more time slots for?**

- Schedule more of everything

**What blend of facilities would encourage you to visit more often or stay longer?**

- Waterpark features
- Multi-use space (work-out rooms)

**-- Priorities Voting Board (tally of dots)**

- 9 – Youth sports
- 6 – Adult sports programs
- 6 – Outdoor education / nature programs
- 5 – Youth summer camps
- 5 – Adult fitness and wellness programs
- 2 – Youth fitness and wellness programs
- 2 – Before and after school programs
- 2 – Other? (write-in: Senior center)
- 1 – Gymnastics and tumbling programs
- 0 – Martial arts programs

**-- Map Board & Chart Pad (sticky note comments)**

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- Food bank? Available in Covington?
- Senior center
- Future town center should include recreation civic center
- Pool should be like the Federal Way pool; need to mix young/older kids
- Good range of recreation programs currently offered
- Teen center needed
- Smaller youth sports/summer camps with 2 adults (like CCS - Eric & Trudy Shrug) better than larger organizations (Skyhawks)

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: Angie Feser  
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