

Love Your Parks Day Survey Comments

September, 2009

Surveyors are listed below the parks they surveyed.

District 1

Chabot Park

Lorrie Fink, Susanna Zhang, Kevin Lu

Litter around bleachers/fence area. The perimeter of park is dirty. Players pick up after themselves.

Dover St Park /MLK

Claudia Heron, Joanne Lee-Yuen

Graffiti on the ground of the children's play area.

Driver [Jasper P.] Plaza

Claudia Heron, Joanne Lee-Yuen

Needs weeding and trash pickup. The benches have graffiti--all of them.

Garfield Park

Pete Klosterman, Jimmy La

Make a water fountain near the field. Some water fountains in school do not work.

Golden Gate Park

Claudia Heron, Joanne Lee-Yuen

The bleachers are full of splinters. Soccer goal needs netting. Swings broken. Sandbox in need of repair.

Helen MacGregor Plaza

Lorrie Fink, Susanna Zhang, Kevin Lu

Litter: Needs cleanup, litter, litter, litter!

Picnic: Fountain doesn't drain

Hardscape: Sign dirty paths need sweeping

Drainage: plumbing, water hookup is leaking

Not inviting, tended to but needs litter pickup and seems lifeless. Not a match for Children's Hospital!!!

Jefferson Park

Barbara Newcombe, Michael Coleman

Rec Center Bldg. closed and locked.

Linden Park

Amos Lans, Garden Teacher & NOCCS

North Oakland Community Charter School adopted Linden Park last week, via the "Adopt-a-Spot" program.

We did this because we have already been caring for the park for 3 years, and because it's the only way Dave Skinner & DPW would agree to hauling away the trash we pick up in the park.

Our survey answers only partially reflect the sad reality that Oakland Parks Dep't does almost nothing to maintain Linden Park. Almost all maintenance happens because of NOCCS staff, kids, & parents and neighborhood volunteers.

One good thing: the parks dep't did re-activate the sprinkler system to water the trees and remaining grass. Yay!

NOCCS 6th graders installed the drip irrigation for the plantings alongside the school.

Thank you all for your advocacy efforts! The parks sure do need some advocacy now, Wow!

Temescal Creek Park

Claudia Heron, Joanne Lee-Yuen

Graffiti by basketball area of park. No park hours posted.

District 2

Chinese Garden Park

Steven Huang

Neighborhood groups take good care of the park—open weekdays only.

Exterior area used mostly by homeless people who often break stairs and other structures.

Many attempted break-ins.

Garbage can used to be available but no longer

Multiple illegal dumping areas with piles of trash.

Clinton Park

Pete Klosterman, Jimmy La

More water fountains needed. Fix water fountain (photo).

Remove cement water fountain structure (photo)

Lakeside Park/Pine Knoll

Paula Stetler

Bare-bones restroom building but fully functional and safe to use in daylight!

This park is in much better shape than 3-4 years ago. There's a small amount of litter but no sign of homeless inhabitants as in previous years. The park is better maintained, (mowed, trimmed, weeded). It is a nice quiet accompaniment to the bustle of Lake Merritt across the street.

Lakeside Park, Pergola and Pine Knoll

Paula Stetler

Just a quick note to let you know that I snail-mailed my completed survey to you on Tuesday, Sept. 15, for the Lake Merritt area from the Pergola to the spillway and also the Athol/Pine Knoll Park area. I'm sorry that I couldn't email it to you, but my computer is not working and I can't figure out how to do attachments on my husband's computer!

I was really pleased with the entire area. There was almost no litter on the ground or in the lake, almost no graffiti, and hardly a Canada goose in sight! The new landscaping is coming along nicely, and

I am looking forward to new lawn and even more new trees. The entire area looks good and is a huge improvement over when I began surveying the area about 5-6 years ago. Kudos to YOU!!! And many thanks for coordinating the Parks volunteers!

**Lakeside Park/Lake Merritt - sailboat house to Pergola. Includes tot lot and Rotary Science Center
Carole Levenson**

Restrooms: Men's are good and women's are bad. More attention to condition of trees and weeds by the lake would be super. Volunteers do a remarkable job. This is a beautiful garden and park.

**Lakeside Park/ Harrison & Grand to Cameron Stanford House
Bob Schock**

Hardscape: graffiti on necklace posts

Measure DD areas will look great when the project is finished.

Lakeside Park Veterans' Center

Jen Jackson

Hardscape: Back of signs have graffiti

Drainage: West side looks dry. Grass in front seems soggy.

Greenery: West side of park has dry, bare spots.

Building: Wood window frames on east side need painting.

Morcom Rose Garden

Maggie Kostoff

Attached is the completed LYPD 2009 survey for the Morcom Rose Garden.

This 8 acre park has only one gardener, Tora Rocha, and as of July she is required to work at additional parks. Given this lack of staff and resources, the Rose Garden is extremely well managed and maintained.

Much credit can go to Tora and the many volunteers that support this park. This park is somewhat protected from the type of damage other Oakland parks suffer, because the Rose Garden is tucked into a residential area. There is the week-end beer drinkers who dump glass bottles. On the whole this park does not attract persons who damage the plants, pool or public structures.

Morcom Rose Garden

Rita Liberti

I've included my completed survey of the Morcom Rose Garden. Here are a few random comments, do with them what you will...

I've lived a block from the Rose Garden for nearly 10 years and I've never seen it look as good as it does at the moment. Especially impressive are the roses and the rose beds. With that said however, I think there are a few areas that need improvement and one area (the walkways) that are a bit dangerous with several trip hazards visible.

The trees and shrubs in the upper garden still seem as though they could use a little work. Blackberry bushes grow out of control in several areas (though it's better than it's been). All of the italian stone pines at the top of the garden are now gone. Is there a plan to replace some of those beautifully majestic trees? Maybe not? Also,

there seems to be a project (terracing) going on around the Olive St. side of the Garden. I wonder what that's about? As noted some of the walkways are in awful shape. Some portions seem barely navigable. Recently, I saw the City providing temporary fixes for a couple of walkway spots that were destroyed by the last of the Italian

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stone pines coming down - but many other portions of walkway are dangerous and, in my opinion, in desperate need of repair.

I wasn't there when the sprinklers were on, so I don't know how well they are working, although as I note in the survey, the plants seem to be getting water. The water cascade is working beautifully - it was running while I was there. There appears to be no leaks with that system.

Park Plaza Blvd

Lorrie Fink. 9-24-09

The areas near the middle bench is littered with cigarette butts; otherwise, well cared for.

There are some paths throughout the grass.

the sycamore tree in middle appears to be dying

The triangle wedge of the park near Haddon needs leaf-raking.

There are large broken branches on ground below the magnolia tree at the triangular wedge. Perhaps these have been removed from tree but not from grounds.

People use this park! I observed several people sitting on benches, walking through during my visit. Some people arrived with dogs, despite the "no dogs allowed" sign. But one person picked up the dog litter immediately.

District 3

Bertha Port

Mike & Beverly Kent, Darlene Hor

Water feature for kids not working.

Grove Shafter

Pat Hardy, Nancy Karigaca

Homeless encampment behind closed restroom. Mattresses, shopping cart, etc.

Jefferson and Lafayette Squares

Ron Wolff/ Friends of Old Oakland Parks.10-1-09

There's no room for comment. If there was I'd say the grass mowing is not done frequently enough, so there is dead grass clippings after mowing throughout the lawn areas of both parks.

The old Rec Center at Jefferson is a disgrace to the neighborhood.

Bird droppings at the children's play area at Lafayette is a health hazard.

Lafayette Square Park

Barbara Newcombe, Michael Coleman

Heavily used. Restroom drainage totally blocked!

Roof over chess tables has grass growing on it.

Tree guards on 11th St are bent.

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Lincoln

Steven Huang

I spoke with Wendy/staff.

- Sometimes there's graffiti
- Too many teenagers
- Need more staff
- Bathroom used by many people—only public restroom around
- Need safety signage, restroom use signage and signage for garbage in Chinese, Vietnamese, Spanish and English

Lowell

Vernon Clark

This is a very popular park: basketball, soccer, baseball, football on a daily basis. Hole in fence at basketball court.

Lowell Park

Mike & Beverly Kent, Darlene Hor

Restroom drinking fountains are clogged.

Tables in picnic area are missing a piece

Play structure board broken. Litter near play structure.

Very poorly maintained—homeless population.

Madison Square

Steven Huang

Not enough trees. People get mugged here. People dump household trash here. Need more cans. Bird poop on play structure.

Marston Campbell

Vernon Clark

Drinking fountain not working, grass on walkway

Marsten Campbell Park

Pete Klosterman, Jimmy La

Water fountain sprays real far.

Looks like no one uses this park.

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Slides full of sand.
Park is dirty

McClymonds

Jen Jackson

Garbage in sand lot

Mosswood.

Ron Bishop.9-24-09

1. The Restroom adjacent to the tennis area is not ADA accessible and is in need of cleaning.

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2. The Restroom by the ball field the faucets are not working properly.

3. The paved path connecting Kaiser Mosswood to the Park is in disrepair and the paving has uneven joints.

4. The entry to Mosswood @ Shafter where the Major Sign is located is not accessible from the neighborhood, [Kaiser and Oakland installed a barrier in the middle of MacArthur blocking access].

5. There are some piled up vegetation behind the original home.

6. The tennis courts can use a refinish. They have been in disrepair for many years.

7. The Horse Shoe Pits are now occupied by planters that do not take advantage of the space. There should be room for both if properly planned. It is a park for recreation.

8. The tot lot is vacant and I understand there are steps being taken to fill that void.

9. We have a water fountain for the dog park and not enough water fountains for the people park.

10. The Amphitheatre is in need of some repair, the park would benefit from a sound wall, and I support a large stand of trees [redwoods] be planted between the freeway and the dog park areas all along the freeway to decrease some of the rubber dust, other airborne pollutants, and noise.

Poplar Park

Pete Klosterman, Jimmy La

Replace sand in play structure with soft padding.

Build a bigger play structure for the older kids.

Ping Pong table is broken.

Raimondi Park

Ellen Wyrick Parkinson

Garbage containers are full & smelly.

Restroom: no toilet paper, no paper towels, no lights, floors wet & dirty. Locker room is dirty.

Food Area: No running water for hand washing.

Raimondi

Jen Jackson

No doors on bathroom stalls

Needs weeding in mulched areas so it doesn't start looking really bad.

South Prescott Park

Mike & Beverly Kent, Darlene Hor

Jose Uribe lives next door to the park. He cleans, plants trees and plants.

Homeless population.

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Dog poop around.
Never close gates

District 4

Allendale Park

Susan Angstadt, Sharon Hayden

Director of nursery school has done great job organizing and tidying the rec facility in the year she's been here.
Fence by sports field leaning dangerously
Pathway between school and park is uneven and difficult to navigate for strollers, seniors and disabled.

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Allendale

Beverly Clark, Yishan Chen, Sylvia Nim

Water fountain drainage is bad.

Dimond Park

Susan Angstadt, Sharon Hayden

Rec Center is closed in contradiction to posted hours.
Clippings Blackberry clippings sitting there for more than a week and spread around.

Marj Saunders

Elaine Geffen

Our park has some serious issues right now—a huge dead oak tree, half of the tree hanging over the WPA project waterfall area, a casual path and high voltage lines. It lost one small limb this spring but is really threatening to fall, with brown leaves all over. Another tree issue is that private residents are cutting down park property trees for a better view and letting them fall into the creek . I am contacting Martin Matarresse and Mark Gomez about these issues. They do the grass mowing.

Irrigation: Adequate watering—we turn on and off the watering in the summer.

Hardscape: some problem with wooden walkway.

Signage: Our neighborhood association has placed a sign with some rules.

Maxwell Park

Susan Angstadt, Sharon Hayden

I counted as-yet unrepaired irrigation and drainage systems as not existing, since functionally the park has had no properly operating systems in years.

The question about the condition of restroom floors and walls seems to have been left off this version, but I realize there was a problem with space.

Your system was very easy to use. Great job!

Nancy Karigaca

Maxwell Park

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3. Restrooms—beautiful mosaic
4. Hardscape—poop on floor, person sleeping on bench, retaining wall questionable

McCrea

Chris Burgardt.9-23-09

McCrea continues to suffer from a lack of an overall plan. The casting pool area is the bright spot in the park which is partially due to maintenance work performed by the Oakland Casting Club. The McCrea Park Neighbors continues to organize large clean ups for Earth Day and Creek to Bay Day. The clean up efforts have removed large amounts of ivy and Himalayan blackberries. Prior to the start of the clean up days, several established Oak trees were killed by the ivy; no trees have been lost to ivy in the last three years.

The old caretaker's house needs to be repurposed; local school groups have expressed an interest in using it as a classroom for park-focused events, which seems like a more appropriate use than the current storage for air filters. The attached bathrooms are perpetually disgusting. The bathrooms need to be redone. The trout pond area is utilized for two weeks over the summer and left abandoned to graffiti artists the rest of the year. The ponds need to be upgraded and have expanded recreation programs or be replaced completely.

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Since the last survey, the park has gates randomly closed and locked. The main walking path through the park was closed for months, resulting in a decrease in recreational use and an increase in illicit use. The park cannot be secured with the current fences and gates, so locking some or all of them results in a more private area for sexual activity, alcohol consumption, and marijuana use because neighbors have less convenience access to the park.

Last, poison oak is becoming an impediment to volunteer efforts in the park. The poison oak is spreading closer to picnic and seating areas and prevents volunteers from accessing some of the areas where ivy is growing unchecked. Something will need to be done to mitigate the poison oak before it spreads farther and leaves portions of the park inaccessible.

Montclair

Jill L. Broadhurst.9-25-09

2 large trees in bed above play yard that drops 20 lb cones, highly dangerous. They finally came and removed most of the cones but will not consider tree removal. The needles/"leaves" that drop are also sharp and threatening.

- overgrown brush hanging over structures:rec center and south side by Luckys that needs immediate pruning
- overgrown and dead shrubs behind the recreation center pose fire hazard
- fountain to the rear of the park is not longer working
- reeds in the pond have now overtake a third of the pond, and pose a security visibility issue
- overgrown shrubs are cascading over leaning fence to the east sside of the pond
- Mountain side staircase by tennis courts needs immediate clearing and weeding, sweeping
- In general overall pruning along pathway from school to Moraga is in immediate need of service

District 5

Brookdale

Beverly Clark, Yishan Chen, Sylvia Nim

Hole in net at tennis courts.

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Outdoor children's Area: surface has patches ripped out. Peeling paint and rusting. Lawn is dead at play area.
Sidewalks: cracks

Fruitvale Plaza Park

Maria Sanchez, Raymond Mach, Calvin Looc

More visible sign needed. One tree in bad condition

Josie De La Cruz Park aka Carmen Flores

Maria Sanchez, Raymond Mach, Calvin Looc

Grass needs maintenance. Replace trees.

Manzanita Park

Michael Killian, Raymond Ke, Chris Hong, Arthur Leung

Windows in front of the rec center are absolutely filthy. Graffiti and litter in children's play area. Grass and trees in good condition.

Manzanita

Maria Sanchez, Raymond Mach, Calvin Looc

Broken glass on ground. Needs water fountains.

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Nicol Mini

Maria Sanchez, Raymond Mach, Calvin Looc

Poop in park.

District 6

Rainbow

Karen Smulevitz, Lasonia Williams

1. Exposed electrical wiring in light post
2. Broken glass by tot lot
3. Fence near skate park needs immediate repair—hazard
4. Drainage problem near...
5. Creek smells bad & heavy trash
6. Skate park is awesome but locked on a Saturday! Only opened on request

Love the park. It needs swings.

District 7

85th Ave/Eula Brinson Mini Park

Kristi Holohan

Park is generally in good condition. Broken fence on side where people can come in from apartment complex. There was a living room chair and grill left there. I spoke with neighbors and they said only drug dealers go into park and there have been bullets from park that hit their houses. Also, someone was shot in the park. People are afraid.

88th Avenue Mini Park

Kristi Holohan

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This park is completely dilapidated. Someone could really get hurt. The slides are missing and the grass has grown up through the sand. The lights are broken. I spoke to the neighbors and they said the park is safe and people want to use it but it is completely annihilated.

Columbia Gardens

Karen Smulevitz, Lasonia Williams

Sign with park rules painted over.

Elmhurst Lions Field

Alex Naughton, Willie Truong

Field perimeter low areas pooling, others dry

Field is well used. Primary soccer field in satisfactory condition. Baseball diamonds in poor condition.

Holly Mini-Park

Rhea Farley, Pam Calvert

Missing picnic table bench.

Needs trash receptacles

Good basis: needs some neighborhood TLC.

Officer Willie Wilkins Memorial Park

Rhea Farley, Pam Calvert

Bathrooms locked, no hours posted. Park users say it's open 2-3 days a week but never on weekend, but cleaned

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every day. Play area being demolished and reconstructed.

All litter cans full to overflowing. Park users say cans are emptied 1 day/week.

Sobrante Park

Karen Smulevitz, Lasonia Williams

Trees and rules sign have graffiti.

Holes in the ground where sprinklyer heads may have been removed. Signs of underground leakage.

Playground surface has hole.

Basketball court—material surrounding electrical tower is unsafe.

Picnic table in rear broken.

Stonehurst

Rhea Farley, Pam Calvert

Locked. This park is apparently only available to Stonehurst school students during school hours.

Verdese Carter

Rhea Farley, Pam Calvert

Rec Center roof needs attention. Extensive glass in playground.

Needs drinking fountain & bathrooms/porta-potties

